

BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC

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FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1926

SENSATIONALISM IN PULPIT AND PRESS

"We came, we listened, and we went away disgusted."

That, in a nutshell, is our own review of a sermon delivered in Birmingham a week ago last Sunday night by Dr. William M. Holderby, Chicago preacher, who has taken upon himself the task of reforming the world. Let us admit, however, that his plan to institute family worship in the home is a good one; we believe that anybody, to be happy, ought to set aside a certain portion of each day in quiet contemplation, in sincere seeking of understanding, about the things that the Bible records and the manifestations of a Divine Creator. Our disgust with Dr. Holderby's sermon is caused by the things which he said; by the picture of life that he painted, against whose background he tried to prove the necessity of family worship.

It is part of our business, in the course of a day, a month, or a year, to scrutinize closely the journalistic and literary efforts of many people; we have read newspapers, books, and magazines of all kinds. We have seen the English alphabet abused in order to portray some author's twisted and dwarfed mentality; we have also seen this same alphabet glorified when inspired men and women have truly set down beautiful thoughts and observations which they have drawn from life. But we never have read in one hour and five minutes so much information about the so-called "rotten things in society," as we actually heard Dr. Holderby set forth on that Sunday night, two weeks ago.

There is much discussion among the clergy today about the way in which some newspapers, magazines and other periodicals chronicle the affairs of mankind; the clergy's reasons for such discussion are based upon the simple, accurate knowledge that much actual GOOD is prevalent in the affairs of society, and that, therefore, GOOD things should be recorded instead of the evil that may be manifested in human acts.

As a humble member of the vast newspaper fraternity that has sprung up in this world, we wish to acknowledge that the press has done much harm in chronicling evil things, but it also has done much good. The same acknowledgment, we think, might be forthcoming from the clergy.

Would it be at all out of reason for the observation to be made that the average pulpit of this country—especially the high-powered metropolitan ones—are as guilty of belling forth the evils of society as the average newspaper? Is there any foundation for the statement that the clergy of America is as guilty of depicting evil as the screaming headlines of a sensational newspaper?

Personally, after hearing Dr. Holderby's remarks here, we are inclined to believe that at least some newspapers and some clergy have been tarred with the same stick of lurid sensationalism—in which large congregations and immense circulations are synonymous words.

On the other hand, we are truly thankful that there are some newspapers and some preachers whose deportment embodies something of those qualities of meekness and humility, truthfulness and accuracy, tolerance and understanding, that go to make up Christian living.

A FEW POINTS ON ANNEXATION

Next Monday, April 5, residents of Birmingham and adjacent territory will be given a chance to fix—for a while at least—the boundaries of this village. Aside from the usual duties of placing into office the township officials for the coming year, the voter will be handed fourteen other ballots, each ballot being for some specific piece or parcel of land under consideration for annexation.

It is a most difficult matter for the village officials to go into details regarding the merits or demerits of each of the annexation propositions; however, in a public statement last week, the village commission went on record as favoring the general annexation plan which, we presume, embraces all the fourteen various parcels of land.

The only reason for calling this annexation subject to the attention and decision of the voters next Monday is to determine, as far as possible, just what territory Birmingham will be called upon to serve in the dispensation of its public utilities. It is common knowledge that the greater the amount of anything purchased the smaller will be the cost of each thing that is purchased; for the same reason it is cheaper per taxpayer to serve with public utilities 10,000 residents than it is to serve but half that number.

Next Monday's annexation propositions present two things to consider, one for the present residents of Birmingham, the other for those who live in territories included in the annexation projects. For Birmingham people the question is: will we be compelled to help pay the cost of public improvements in any subdivision territory that may be annexed? And to this question our village officials reply "No!" They say that any subdivision of property in Birmingham is compelled to install, at his own cost, the improvements necessary to make a lot suitable upon which to build a home. Certain other improvements are paid for by special assessment against the abutting property, a small part of which is assessed against the village-at-large.

For the people who now live outside of Birmingham the question is: will my cost of living increase beyond what it would if I remain just as the resident of a subdivision? And the answer to this is self-evident, for, if there is any advantage in collective buying, then isn't it cheaper to obtain a public comfort and convenience along with a municipality that pools its individual resources? Isn't it cheaper, if one requires a road, a water main, a sewer, street lights, fire or police protection, to band to-

gether with many others in such purchase? It must be, or municipal government would be a flat failure, and people would not live together as a corporate body.

To those who live outside of Birmingham that familiar slogan, "eventually, why not now," is applicable. All this talk about "city improvements without any city or village taxes" is, to use the vernacular of the day, "apple-sauce." Those who live outside of Birmingham today may go on the theory that they can get along as individuals; however, past history has proved that such is not the case. Eventually every populated center must organize its own government; must create some sort of a board of directors and general manager that will administer to its collective public needs. If this were not necessary Birmingham, today, could dispense with its own government, leaving the individual residents to co-operate as best they could.

EASTER

Easter!

What a happy circumstance that the anniversary of the resurrection should come in the springtime of the year, when all nature joins in proclaiming that "Life is ever lord of death."

Wise were they who ordained that the observance should take the place of the oldtime festivals of the spring season, adding the hope of life eternal to popular rejoicing in the warmth of the sun, the beauty of the reborn earth and the promise of another season of bountiful crops, creature comforts and outdoor pleasures.

Even as Christ arose from the tomb on Easter morning, so do the plants break through their wintry garbs and the blossoms throw off their shrouds and shine forth in beauty. The whole earth breathes energy afresh and rejoices in the promise of a new life after the dark, cold, death-like months of the winter season. Even man becks himself with new clothing and surrounds himself with flowers symbolic of the occasion and of the season. It is the happiest, brightest, best day of all the year—Easter—not even excepting Christmas.

A GOOD TOWN

Going the rounds of the newspapers is advice regarding "Simplicity of a Good Town" credited to "unidentified exchange." It says much in a few brief paragraphs and is worthy of reproduction as follows:

Put a peg of prosperity into your community by staying with it.

Always greet your neighbors with a grasp of confidence. Criticize in the spirit of Godspeed.

Say a good word if it hurts. Remember that those who insist on hanging themselves will do it if given enough rope.

Give your neighbor a right to an opinion as long as he keeps it to himself. Discuss questions involving your better welfare instead of arguing with them.

Apply the Golden Rule regardless of consequences. Back up your churches and relative affiliations. You will feel better and besides are setting a good example for the young people.

Give the young people plenty of pleasure, but see that they know what they are doing.

Failures reflect on the entire town. See what you can do to keep your neighbor on top of the water. Don't let him drown.

Let's have more handshakes and arm in arm conferences with a good will parting. It adds to that day's events.

Let's break the shell and step out. The world is wondering what we are going to do next. Let's show 'em.

It isn't what a man earns, but what he gets, that counts.

Another thing that makes a lingering winter endurable to a man is the delay it causes in housecleaning.

Census figures reveal that there are 60,000 Germans living in France. Still, the ex-kaiser isn't one of them.

If we only could amend the gold standard to make the precious metal worth its weight in potatoes all would be well.

Pagan nations may, as suggested, show the way to peace, but they never will convince enlightened civilization it's the right way.

Vindication for women dieting to reduce is found in the prediction of a food shortage in 100 years. They'll find a race that will not shirk food.

FROM THE ECCENTRIC COLUMNS of Long Ago

Just Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make-Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today

43 YEARS AGO

Sunday fishing is the popular amusement this spring. It won't be long before the boys will be flocking to duck-on-the-rocks or baseball.

Mrs. John German of Frankfort, started for Missouri on Wednesday to meet Mr. John German. They will return in May.

"Work and Win," a new story by Horatio Alger, Jr., commences next week in the Argosy. It is one of the very best this Popular Author ever wrote. It is fascinating, instructive, and helpful, and will inspire courage, dignity, and noble resolutions. Every One Should Read It.

Signs in Canton, China. "Cat's flesh, one basin, ten cents. Black cat, one basin, ten cents. Black cat's eyes, one tail, four cents. Black cat's eyes, one tail, four cents."

In a Chinese city when a man goes out after dark he carries a paper lantern with his name and address both upon it.

Silks for crazy patchwork in 50c and \$1.00 packages. Elegant varieties. Yale Silk Works, New Haven, Conn.

25 YEARS AGO
If you are in need of a sunbonnet call at Mrs. M. H. Pike's.

Miss Emma Blakeslee is home from Ypsilanti for a week's vacation.

Miss Carrie E. Mitchell is now ready to supply the popular demand of angel's food cake at 25c and 50c for the benefit of the Presbyterian Investment Society. Please leave orders at Mr. Mitchell's home on Woodward Avenue.

Miss Daisy Bonfield is home after a two-week's pleasant visit with relatives and friends in Ontario.

A pleasant party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Bunyan of Bates street, New York, and will be followed by a most enjoyable time. Guests were present from Troy, Detroit, and Birmingham.

Master John W. Crawford, Jr., a specimen of young America, a ten pound lad, arrived at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Crawford in Southfield last Wednesday morning and from all appearances has come to stay for a long and happy life. We hope so.

Carriage painting wanted—Carriages painted and striped from \$3.50 to \$12 each. J. D. VanEvery, Birmingham, Mich.

Miss Egin of Ypsilanti is spending

ECCENTRICITIES

Being a few stray notions by G. R. A. Sometimes they are common notions when they meet popular approval; then, again, they are quite new and original. However, this column will attempt to give you a few of the latter kind of eccentricities—those that we think are really funny.

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Few towns can boast of large trees. The very center of their area, did you ever stop to realize how much Birmingham owes to its trees? Right now, at the Maple and Woodward avenue crossing, splendid trees are standing in front of our public library; how barren this much frequented spot would be without them.

Let's remember that these trees, descended by the winning of Woodward Avenue, in the transition of Birmingham from old type village to the modern suburban community, are to be kept as much of the former as possible will be retained; that, we believe, is the sincere desire of all local citizens.

Fred Kemp, known among his associates as "Freddie" or "Lefty," has been appointed local agent for the American Express Co. The Eccentric congratulates him on his promotion and hopes that he'll evolve as many funny stories about his new connection as he did with the old Grand Turk. We know, however, when he writes his autobiography, that he may look back on his presidential suite in the American Express Company's palatial office in New York and will reminisce about the "old days in Birmingham."

Wiley Bell, village commissioner, the father of an official move here to the city of Detroit, is now in the city. That's a fine idea along our streets. That's a fine idea along our streets. That's a fine idea along our streets.

Rose, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Muri H. DeFee, of Charlotte, is a student at the University of Michigan. She is the daughter of a very new hospital in the role of embryonic nurse. In a letter which she wrote to her mother last week, which was published in her dad's newspaper, the Charlotte Republican, this young woman very humanly sets forth some of the very Christianly human tendencies of patients at the hospital. She points out, especially, the happiness which little children experience when something is done for them by

IF IT'S BIRMINGHAM or BLOOMFIELD HILLS SEE WALSH, JAMES & WASEY

THE only developments ever offered in this community with pavements are our Quorton Lake Estates and Birmingham Park. Make your selection of a home site today. A few second mortgages are available in our developments for those who wish to build this spring.

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Margaret Crawford
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this week with her cousin, Mrs. N. T. Shaw.

A genuine surprise party occurred at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Campbell of Maple avenue east Friday evening last. It was given in honor of Albert's birthday which was on the Saturday following. Just how old Bert is does not matter as he failed to tell us, but that he may still have many birthdays is the wish of hosts of friends. Refreshments consisting of ice cream, cake, oranges, etc., were served and the large number of guests present all declared that it was one of the happiest evenings spent in many a day.

The telephone business is constantly increasing. We are informed by Miss Florence King that one day last week she had 43 messages with local residents who daily drive into Detroit to their businesses; there certainly must be something about Birmingham and vicinity that repays them for the grind of driving back and forth. What is this "something" that attracts them here? Isn't it the fact that Mother Nature still holds sway out here; still finds a place to push up through the earth her manifestations of flower, plant, and tree life? Let's try to retain this attraction, even though we are destined to greatly increase our population. Let's refuse to cover all of the surface of this community with concrete. Let's save room for many flower gardens—let's allow people the privilege of giving expression to an age-old instinct, that of "getting back to the soil."

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