

Carleton Sentinel Supplement, August 6, 1898.

Covetousness.

EDITORS SENTINEL:

The following address was prepared and read at the Y P S C E, Greenfield, by the leader of the meeting, Miss Evangeline Kinney, on the evening of July 31st. Because of its practical worth and timely suggestions we would ask space in your valuable paper for its insertion.

The evils of Covetousness, Exod 20:17, Luke 12:13-21. In the scripture lesson before us this evening we first see a disagreement between two brothers, always an unpleasant sight. One of them comes to Christ and calling him Master asks him to speak to his brother concerning the matter in dispute. Here Omnipotent wisdom and tact were shown when the Master did not settle the actual trouble by a word of command, but he spoke to them in such a way that each would see his plain duty before him and be led to settle the matter amicably between themselves.

"Take heed and beware of covetousness," was the simple commandment enjoined. This done the difficulty would vanish.

The covetousness forbidden is sinful. The desire of that which belongs to the neighbor, if it develops into activity, will secure its end even though it tramples on every just law of God and man, and even though the desire does not ripen into action, it has a bad influence because the covetous man is thoroughly unhappy while envious of his neighbor, and does not enjoy his own present possessions.

If the evil of covetousness is supreme in a man's nature it means the destruction of all the commandments. If the heart is set on anything of God's creation and not on its maker he has violated the first commandment and the other nine will follow broken in its train.

Covetousness is often disguised and known by many plausible names such as business, competition, or self preservation. The fact is it is seldom seen except in disguise, for everyone will readily concede it is a sin we never hear acknowledged; but it is none the less an active agency in evil, and the tenth commandment "Thou shalt not covet etc." is just as appropriate in the latter part of the nineteenth century as it was when thundered to Moses from Mount Sinai.

But this commandment is not directed against a God implanted tendency in man's heart to acquire. It does not forbid him to desire what is therein mentioned, it only forbids desire fastening upon wrong objects; in the sinful ignoring of the rights of his neighbor.

Let us look at some recorded Bible instances of covetousness. Take the case of Achan. After God had so wonderfully given Jericho into the hands of Joshua with instruction that all the silver and gold, the brass and iron vessels, were to be consecrated to the Lord and come into His treasury. We see disaster come upon Joshua and his three thousand men before the men of Ai, the next town they undertook to capture. Joshua was completely prostrated at the defeat and enquired of the Lord why it was so that they the people who had been brought over Jordan should be destroyed by the Amorites. The Lord told him that Israel had sinned, that some one had stolen of the things at Jericho. The lot fell upon Achan who confessed to Joshua that when he saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment and two hundred shekels of silver and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, he coveted them and took them and hid them in the earth in the midst of his tent. For this covetous act Achan, his sons and daughters, his oxen, asses and sheep, were all consumed with fire. Thus the Lord dealt with the sin of covetousness in that day.

Then look at the covetous heart of Saul. When David first became an inmate of Saul's house he was beloved by him and was set over the men of war, but "when David returned from the slaughter" of the Philistines and the women came out of all the cities of Israel singing and dancing to greet King Saul with tabrets with joy and with instruments of music and said, "Saul has slain his thousands and David his ten thousands," this was more than the king could bear. He was greatly displeased and said "they have ascribed unto David ten thousands and to me they have ascribed but thousands and what more can he have but the kingdom?" Did not Saul display here the sin of covetousness? He desired the glory and honor himself which the people were giving to David, and from that day forward he eyed David with suspicion and bitter hatred, even going so far as to try to kill him with his own hand.

Also note the covetousness displayed by Ahab. A king with all that wealth and position could give coveting the small but well-loved inheritance of his neighbor Naboth. He, with his wicked queen, secured the coveted prize, but with what a curse was it accompanied!

But has the last vineyard been coveted? Human nature is remarkably alike always and everywhere. Even in this day we see in some of the older countries population driven off the little farms that have been in families for generations, to make room for deer and game that the nobleman may have an ideal country seat. Isaiah's woe to "them that join field to field that they may be alone in the midst of the land" shows how common similar practices were in his day. And possibly they are not quite unknown even in this land.

Again notice the covetousness of Annanias and Sapphira when they sold their land to bring the price to the Apostles' feet. Part of the price was kept back and followed by a lie to the Apostles. We are all familiar with the terrible result—both falling dead immediately after they had told the lie. Covetousness is here met with in apparently good people. "Take heed and beware of covetousness."

Then we have the case of Judas, who for thirty pieces of silver was willing to betray

his Lord and Master. But that silver burned into his very soul, and in a short time we see him going out to hang himself. One thing we may depend upon both from these instances and others which might be cited from more modern history, and that is that even if the coveted article be obtained it brings no happiness and is sure to bring a just humiliation sooner or later.

Covetousness is at the heart of the great problems of our day. Here is found the cause of the conflict between labour and capitalist. Covetousness, which fills Spanish hearts has given the death blow to Spanish rule in Cuba. China the oldest existing nation is tottering to a fall because of the lack of true hearts behind her millions of hands. Why was it legal at one time to hold slaves in civilized countries? Simply because men's hearts were filled with covetousness. Their heads planned and their hands carried out the desires of the heart. So it is now with the liquor traffic. The heart is wrong and the head therefore plans and the hand carries out, and the result is misery and woe whereas it should be happiness and prosperity. In New York city, where this iniquity is made legal, we find seven thousand rum shops. But in the State of Maine and in Canada they have good liquor laws and what is the matter there? The same difficulty only in a slightly different form. They have good laws, but no good hearts to carry them out. Now, my dear friends in a short time you and others throughout our fair Dominion will have an opportunity of presenting yourself at the polling booths to say more emphatically than ever you have said it before. "We will drive intemperance from our land. Will you let this grand opportunity slip? Will you let the covetous, the unmerciful and the unjust liquor dealer, with his host of allies, proclaim to the whole watching world that Canada must and will have rum. Young men see that your hearts are right in this matter for as your hearts are so is the heart of the nation. The most important question for each of us is not, what position we hold, what riches or talent we possess but "what is the state of the heart?" for "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," the desire cometh and the hand carrieth out.

"Take heed and beware of covetousness for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things which he possesseth."

WASHINGTON LETTER.

[From our Regular Correspondent]

Washington, D C, July 29, 1898.

There is a difference of opinion in Washington as to whether the request of the Queen Regent of Spain, through the French ambassador to the U S, for the terms upon which this government would grant peace, was an honest effort on the part of Spain to secure peace, or a diplomatic trick on behalf of those powers which have recently made unsuccessful efforts to get President McKinley to make a definite announcement of the policy this government intended to follow in dealing with the Philippines. To the extent of replying, stating the terms upon which this government will make peace, the administration was compelled by international courtesy to treat the request as though no doubt of its honesty was entertained. Excepting the Philippines and the question of money indemnity, no official statement is needed as to the terms of peace this government is willing to make. Spain must give up Cuba and Porto Rico, and the Ladrone Islands to a certainty, and the chances are that she must also give up the Philippines. It is worthy of note that the only two Senators now in Washington—Morgan, of Atlanta and Foraker of Ohio—who are members of the committee on Foreign Relations, are both strongly in favor of the retention of the Philippines. The significance of these two men standing shoulder to shoulder on this proposition lies in their being radical representatives, respectively, of the democrat and republican parties, showing that partisan politics will not figure in deciding this question. Giving Spain our terms of peace will have no effect upon the active preparations to continue the war; they must be accepted before we stop fighting.

Secretary Bliss has created a new division in the Department of the Interior to be known as the Indian Territory Division, which will have charge of all matters relating to the new law for Indian Territory, which deals with the allotment and leasing of Indian lands, judicial and educational affairs, etc.

Except to the few who insist upon seeing hidden meanings in the words of Admiral Sampson and Commander Schley, showing jealousy and animosity, the official reports of the great naval battle in which Cervera's fleet was annihilated, received by the Navy Department and made public this week, are entirely satisfactory. Admiral Sampson says that his flagship, the New York, rendered no assistance in destroying the enemy's fleet, because unable to get within range in time, and gives full credit to the work done by the Brooklyn, Commodore Schley's flagship, the Iowa, the Texas, the Indiana, and the Oregon, not forgetting to give unstinted praise to the Gloucester, the unarmored yacht that knocked out the two torpedo boat destroyers. Commodore Schley's report to Admiral Sampson doesn't read as though it were written by a man with a grievance. On the contrary he heartily congratulates his superior officer and expressed his own pleasure that "I had an opportunity to contribute in the least to a victory that seems big enough for all of us."

Ex-Secretary Sherman says we should not ask Spain to give up more than Cuba, Porto Rico, and a coaling station in the Philippines to secure peace. Mr Sherman says if a treaty of peace is concluded that President McKinley will have to call an extra session of the Senate to ratify it at once; that it would not be proper for the President to agree to a treaty and allow its ratification by the Senate to be postponed until the regular session of Congress. The Senate has been called to meet in extra session to act

upon a treaty before, without the House, which has nothing to do with the treaties, being in session.

News from Santiago is no longer censored, and we are beginning to learn that Gen Shafter's troubles over there are by no means confined to the yellow fever, of which there are more than two thousand mild cases in his army. Gen Garcia's going off with his men in a huff was absolutely unavoidable, inasmuch as he demanded what Gen Shafter had not the authority to give—official treatment that would have committed this government to a recognition of the Cuban republic. Gen Shafter has had, and is still having, trouble with both Cubans and Spaniards. He has found it necessary to tell the Spanish Civil Governor of Santiago that he was a "presuming rascal", because of his having made too free use of Gen Shafter's name in making changes in the civil employees of the town. So many of the Spanish officials of the High Court of Justice have resigned, refusing to serve under the U S military governor, that no business can be transacted until their places are filled.

Preparations for the conduct of the war have not been interfered with in the slightest degree by Spain's peace play. Reinforcements have still been hurried off to join Gen Miles, who made a successful landing in Porto Rico early this week, and as soon as they reach him he will proceed to carry out his plans for the subjugation of the entire island.

Centerville Items.

August 2, 1898.

The very hot wave that existed in other parts of the county passed over here last week; the thermometer registered 92 degs.

Mr H Peppers, late of McGill college, is in the village.

Dr Brown, assisted by Dr Beirsto of Lakeville, performed a very successful operation upon Mrs James Simonson, an aged lady, last week; she is reported as doing very well.

A very interesting and instructive temperance sermon was delivered in the Methodist church by Rev W Deware, to a full house of anxious listeners. Centerville will show itself in the temperance cause when polling day comes. It is to be hoped that more sermons similar to the one delivered on Sunday, will be preached in the near future.

Dr Brown is making very noticeable changes in his fine residence and office. The painter has been there some time working on the inside and now on the outside of the house.

S A Perkins has painted his building over which adds much to the looks of his place.

Business is dull those fine hay days, but, on a dark day, the merchants are kept very busy.

Mrs A C Gibson has returned from a visit to her sister Mrs Humble, of Stanley, Y C.

Mr Julius Garden spent Sunday in the village, the guest of R W Balloch.

Mr Harry Smith, of the firm of W F Diblee & Son, was in the village last week, on his return from up river.

D W Perkins, our veterinary, is as usual kept very busy.

R W Balloch and O M Sherwood are offering great inducements to those wishing to purchase ready-made clothing; it is well to call upon them before purchasing elsewhere.

Southampton Items.

August 1, 1898.

Our farmers are very active at the present time procuring their hay, which they say is double the crop of last year. The weather has been very favorable thus far and in consequence the hay is of the very finest quality.

The grain is also looking well, especially the wheat, which can be observed from the highway in many places, noticeably on the Oldham flat, which is a fair sample of the yield this year; in fact everything pertaining to the farm is flourishing.

Miss Carrie Tibbitts and Master Charles Fowler are guests of Mr and Mrs John Oldham, J P.

An ice cream social was held, a few evenings ago, at the home of Mr E Farnham, under the auspices of the Christian Endeavor Society, and many availed themselves of the privilege of cooling off after a heated day. The gathering was large and one would judge the receipts were the same.

The lap-streak flat (Susie) on last Thursday evening, broke the bonds of restraint and drifted into the beyond. Her descriptions are: square stern and sharp bow, about 20 feet long, presumably on her way to Fredrickton; any person seeing or knowing of the whereabouts of a boat of this description will please communicate with Mr John Oldham.

Will is, or will likely be, on the hunt again for more beef—it must be young and of good quality.

One of the pleasantest events of the season to the younger people, was the party given Thursday evening by Mr and Mrs Councillor John Oldham, for their daughter Nellie. The parlors of their residence are well adapted for such a function, and were brilliantly illuminated for the occasion. The music was inspiring. After refreshments were served, a number of pleasant games were indulged in. Many of the young ladies' dresses were very pretty, and floral appendages were abundant. About 20 couples enjoyed the pleasure of an invitation. It was a very enjoyable occasion, indeed.

Albion has what he considers a trotter but, on one occasion, he got left with the old grey.

There's some talk of an oyster supper in the new Hall in the near future.

OBSERVER.

A bust of Oliver Cromwell has been placed in the corridor of the British House of Commons.