

THE Canadian Union Messenger

"As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger."

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A STUDY IN CIVIL GOVERNMENT

WE have recently sent out one thousand letters to as many ministers of the gospel of various denominations in the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. In reply to these letters we have a number of postcards, letters, and notes written on the back of the circulars which we sent out. This variety of correspondence convinces us that there is great need of a better understanding concerning the principles of civil government and the relation which should exist between the Church and the State.

The language in which these letters were couched in many instances was far from refined, and the authors made no attempt whatever to answer the arguments which were presented in the matter which was sent to them. In nearly every instance the only argument (?) was an appeal to the prejudices of the vulgar by a weak attempt at cheap ridicule. To such we would like to say that ridicule is not reason, and a resort to ridicule is a confession that the one who uses it has made his weightiest argument.

In view of this we have thought best to give a brief study on the principles of civil government. This we will do in the form of question and answer.

Question.—What is sin?

Answer.—Sin is a transgression of the law of God.

Q.—What is a crime?

A.—A violation of the laws of man.

Q.—Is there any distinction between sin and crime, and if so what is it?

A.—Crime works an injury, either personal or real to the individual. The only

injury which sin works is of a spiritual character. It is in no sense an injury either to the person or to the property of the one who commits it, nor to any one else.

Q.—In what way is any one injured by sin?

A.—He is injured spiritually.

Q.—Can a spiritual offence be remedied by a civil punishment?

A.—No; because that which prompted the offence cannot be reached by outward punishment.

Q.—What only can satisfy the claims of a spiritual offence?

A.—The life-blood of the Son of God applied in living faith to the offender.

Q.—What can satisfy the demands of crime?

A.—Infliction of a penalty, such as a fine, or imprisonment.

Q.—Are all sins crimes?

A.—No; they are not, and should not be so regarded.

Q.—Where is the line to be drawn between sin and crime?

A.—It is to be drawn between civil and spiritual offences.

Q.—Can it be readily determined what constitutes a spiritual offence?

A.—It certainly can, by the rule given above. If the offence does not constitute a positive injury either to the person or to the property either of the person who commits it or to anyone else, it certainly is neither a civil nor a criminal offence.

Q.—Does Sabbath-breaking constitute a crime?

A.—No; there is a difference between Sabbath-breaking and bank-robbery, and

this distinction is so apparent that every minister of the gospel should be able to make it without having it pointed out to him.

Q.—Are criminals punished for the purpose of saving their souls?

A.—No. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved," except the name of Jesus.

Q.—Then why are criminals punished?

A.—To satisfy the demands of justice, and to protect society against crime.

————— PETITION WORK —————

MARCH first foots up 11,577 signatures to the petition against religious legislation, and I suppose more will come in.

One brother writes to this effect: "I have some blanks yet, and as it is liable to be some time before the proposed Sunday bill will be introduced I will continue the work, giving others an opportunity to finish the work. This will give me a chance to talk with the people on this important subject, and place reading matter in their hands." Others might do the same, and thus have the privilege of imparting light and truth to many who are not conversant with this question.

As strange as it may seem at this stage of the movement, that there are many people all through the land who are not informed respecting the issue before us. Could they have the privilege of becoming enlightened upon the question, thousands more would take their stand upon the principles laid down by Christ himself in Matt. 22: 21.

The petitions that have been filled represent all classes, various denominations, professors and non-professors from all parts of Canada.

An earnest church man told me a few days ago that he did not want to see any persecution in this country, but would like to see all the people keep the same day.

He said if the government would pass a law that all should keep Saturday, it would suit him just as well, and he would keep Saturday. This man expressed the sentiments of many others, which show a lack of understanding the Scriptures.

The Sabbath belongs to the Lord, and if it is not kept unto the Lord it is not kept at all, no matter how many laws the government passes. Sunday laws and the Golden Rule have nothing in common. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

W. H. THURSTON.

————— BOOK WORK —————

"The canvassing work is more important than many have regarded it. If there is one work more important than another, it is that of getting our publications before the people, thus leading them to search the Scriptures. How many there are among us who have committed the above statement to heart, but how few there are who have committed it to life. When committed to life, this important work will be participated in, and our publications will be placed in the hands of the people. Some are giving their whole time to this important work; some are devoting half time, and some less; while others are giving no time to it. It is true that *all* cannot canvass, but many can who at present have no part in it.

Young men who have the ministry in view can do no better than to take up this line of work for a year or two. Notice this:—

"Some men whom God was calling to the work of the ministry have entered the field as canvassers. I have been instructed that this is an excellent preparation if the object is to disseminate light, to bring the truths of God's word directly to the home circle. In conversation the way will often be opened for them to speak of the religion of the Bible. If the work is entered upon as it should be, families will be visited, the

workers will manifest Christian tenderness and love for souls, and great good will be the result. This will be an excellent experience for any who have the ministry in view. Those who are fitting for the ministry can engage in no other occupation that will give them so large an experience as will the canvassing work." Vol. 6.

Those who are called to the ministry will do well to heed this instruction; but if you are called to the canvassing work instead of the ministry, it will be better to continue right on in the canvassing work.

W. H. THURSTON.

FROM ELDER ANDREWS

158 New Britain Ave.,
Hartford, Conn.

DEAR friends in Canada,—

I take the opportunity offered by a few spare moments this morning to write to you *all* through the columns of the MESSENGER. Had I the time I would be glad to write a personal letter to each of our many friends, but this is impossible, so I hope that each one will take this as a personal letter; and I shall be glad to receive an answer from all who may care to write.

We left Fredericton on January 16 for this city, our new field of labor. It was one of the hardest tasks of my life to leave the friends and the work in the Maritime field. The last meeting we held in Fredericton will long be remembered by me. The church was filled, and I believe there are a number of souls in that city who will yet take their stand for the truth, and will be found in the kingdom of God as a result of the effort that has been put forth there.

Since coming here the health of our children has greatly improved. Especially is this so of the little one. For this we feel very grateful.

The past week I received a letter informing me of the death of Sister Smith of Summerfield, N. B. In the death of Sister

Smith and that of her mother, Sister Freeze, which occurred last October, the Fredericton church has lost two valuable members, and the conference has lost two who by their prayers and their means were its staunch supporters.

It is a pleasure for us to be back among old friends and relatives, and I feel that the change is in harmony with the mind of God; yet the people and the work in Canada are very dear to me, and my prayers will ever ascend to God in behalf of that field and I shall watch with interest every evidence of the advancement of the cause there. The work is fast closing up, and if faithful we shall soon greet each other in the jasper-walled city. Brethren pray for us.

W. R. ANDREWS.

FROM THE FIELD

GALT, MAR. 1, 1906.

TO THE MESSENGER,—

We are glad to be able to report progress in our work in Galt. The Lord helps us daily. We are therefore of good courage. The church services are well attended. We have been enjoying our Sabbath-school lessons each week, and find in them food for thought.

The medical work is now on a sure footing, I think. The work done has met the approval of the doctors as well as the patients. New patients are being added to my list from time to time. I praise the Lord for the way he leads, and trust him for all things.

ANNIE JOHNSTON.

OBITUARY

WILSON.—Died in Chatham, Ontario, Feb. 16, 1906, of pneumonia, Andrew Wilson, aged 89 years. Brother Wilson was not a member of the church, but has kept the Sabbath for about three years, and was a regular attendant at meeting.

He leaves, to mourn his loss, a wife, one son, and four daughters. His wife was unable to stand the strain of watching by his bedside, and she now lies very seriously ill. She also has passed the three

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EUGENE LELAND, Editor.

TO OUR READERS:—

When requesting change of address, be sure to give both old and new address.

In case the paper is not received promptly, notify us and another copy will be sent.

A blue pencil mark here indicates that your subscription has expired.

Entered as second-class matter.

score and ten mark.

We laid Brother Wilson away to await the coming of the Life-giver, when the grave can no longer hold His people. Just a little more waiting and watching, then no more tears, no more parting, the Christians hope, blessed hope! Then we shall know as we are known.

Words of comfort were spoken by Rev. Mr. Hodgins (Episcopalian) from 1 Cor. 15: 22-58.

ALICE A. CRACKEL.

OFFICE NOTES

A meeting of the Ontario Conference Committee is called to meet at Toronto the 8th inst.

For some reason we cannot explain our Testimonies Series B. No. 7 have not yet reached us.

Brother Frank Lane of the London, Ontario, church, spent last Sabbath with the Toronto church.

Elder Thurston writes that the Jews as a people will present a protest against the proposed L. D. A. bill.

The new 1906 Year Book is now in stock. Every worker and church officer should have one. Price 25 cents. Order of this office.

Here is what a canvasser writes,—“Send me an armful of Guarantee Books.” Our canvassers take orders on these books; you see how well they are doing.

A letter from Brother Skinner says that there are twenty-two thousand Jews and some Gentiles who are prepared to sign the petition in opposition to Sunday legislation. Good for Montreal.

A pack of about twenty letters that the students at Lornedale Academy sent out to the ministers in this province has just been returned from the dead letter office. This indicates that the work was done thoroughly and in good time. These letters were not claimed.

We thank our brethren for the liberal response to the call for an offering for the Religious Liberty work. From letters received, we are certain that our people did not all understand that this money is to be used in Canada. Not a cent of it will “cross the line.”

We have just received a small stock of “Hymns and Tunes” bound in cloth, known as the thin paper edition. We are much pleased with it. It is a smaller book, and yet it contains all the hymns found in the old book, and they are numbered the same. Price 75 cents.

Mrs. C. O. Hickok writes,—“I arrived here (Bracebridge) Tuesday evening. Early the next morning I got my books and went to delivering. I delivered all but six that day, and took two more orders. I had some precious experiences, and was treated like an old friend returned.

Report of the Canvassing Work for Week Ending Feb. 23, 1906

Name	Place	Book	Orders	Value	Value Miscellaneous	Orders	Delivered
G. W. Sowler,	Toronto, Ont.	B. R.	13	28.50	.50		11.50
A. M. Taylor,	Galt, Ont.	P. P.			11.		2.
* Mrs. R. Barnett,	Woodstock, Ont.	Grt. Cont.	25	68.75		22.30	
Mrs. C. O. Hickok,	Bracebridge, Ont.	Grt Cont.	1	2.75	1.25		51.50
J. Pengelly,	Shelburne, Ont.	C. K.	30	34.75	42.50		2.25
H. D. Carr,	Lorne Park, Ont.	Grt Cont.		5.75	4.50		8.50
John McEachern,	Lorne Park, Ont.	C. K.	3	3.75			
Totals,	6 Agents,		30	\$51.25	\$10.90		\$30.50

* This report was made up from an order for books; reports not received.