

THE DAILY NEWS

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DAILY EDITION

Monday, March 3, 1913.

A QUESTIONABLE METHOD

In his sermon last night on the social evil, Rev. Mr. Kerr created an unusual flutter of excitement among the congregation by his distasteful reference to a certain individual who, he said, had created a heinous sin and who was sitting at that very moment in the congregation. No doubt the reverend gentleman thought he was adopting the strongest and best method of accomplishing a certain object, but it is not likely to meet with the approval of most of those who were present. It is at least difficult to understand why such personal references were necessary or what good will result. The church is understood generally to stretch forth a welcoming hand to sinners, but when sinners find that they are to be made the object of a personal attack when they attend divine service it will not be long before they will give the churches a wide berth. When the matter was referred to Mr. Kerr he said that he was perfectly confident that not one person in the congregation other than the man himself knew to whom he referred. Nevertheless, there are many who have picked out in their own minds the person who was assailed. As there was probably more than one sinner in the congregation it is evident that the reverend gentleman's method is likely to result in much harm. Not only has the preacher probably lost the opportunity of further influencing for good the person he had in his mind, but he is likely to arouse at least a suspicion concerning others who may not always have led the straight and narrow path.

WHY WAR WILL END.

W. Morgan Shuster, who was Treasurer-General of Persia for a time, spoke in Ottawa on international peace. Mr. Shuster is skeptical about abolishing war by the use of international police, and thinks that peace will come eventually through education and the force of public opinion. This, he says, is the way most of the peace societies are working. The abolition of international war will come through the gradual decline of feudal nonsense, and the substitution for it of modern common sense. When a government makes the welfare of its own people its chief concern, it has little or no cause for conflict with another government having similar objects. For instance, there could be no greater patriotic aim in the United States than to give New York City an excellent police system, and to provide comfortable, sanitary homes for all its people. No other power on earth desires to prevent Americans from doing that thing, or from educating the people or improving the agriculture of the United States, or doing any other useful thing. In short, no nation on earth is interested in preventing any other nation on earth from seeking its highest good, misunderstanding, or from old feudal misconceptions of the duties of governments. Hardly any good or useful thing that a government can do will bring it into conflict with any other government. The common interests of nations are a thousand times more important than their conflicting interests.—Toronto Star.

A TERRIBLE TALE OF BRUTALITY IN BOKHARA

Ever since 1868 Bokhara, a country lying immediately north of Afghanistan, has been a Russian province. It is governed by Russia, possesses Russian garrisons, a Russian railroad and no one is allowed within its border without a Russian passport. When Russia assumed suzerainty over Bokhara it was understood that there would be some compensating advantages to the population, which is composed of the most part of Muslims.

They were to be civilized, if not indeed won over to the sort of Christianity that passes as religion in Russia. It must be said that in the forty years of the Russian occupation there have been few complaints from Bokhara. Whatever has happened there appear to have suited the people, or rather that portion of the population that otherwise would have attracted attention by protest. On the part of outsiders there has been no protest for the passport rule kept out travellers who might give an unfavorable opinion of the Russian regime.

A Russian Muckraker

A few weeks ago there was heard in certain Russian newspapers the first cry from Bokhara, and it was an exceedingly bitter cry. A Russian traveller had been through the country and on his return he sought to rouse his fellow-countrymen to the cruelties practised there. Since a very small percentage of the Russian people read the newspapers and since the censorship is still strict we may safely conclude that people in Canada and in other parts of the world will be talking about the situation in Bokhara before the people of Russia are aroused. In either event talking is not likely to do much good.

However, in view of the fact that the atrocious cruelties which the Russian traveller, Alexander Petkoff discovered, were not in the majority of cases practised by Russian officials, but by native authorities, there is some prospect that Russia, having little to gain by their perpetration, will forbid them and will thus seek to show herself the friend to her charges, the Bokharians.

Torture and Execution

Mr. Petroff happened to be in an hotel one night when he was awakened by screams from an adjoining room. He found out that the room was being used as a local court of justice. By bribing the sentry he secured admission while the trial was going on. The trial consisted of torturing a poor wretch accused of petty theft. One by one his fingers were twisted until they broke. As the eighth bone was broken he confessed.

Next morning as Mr. Petkoff was driving away he passed the market place and saw the victim of the previous night. He was being executed. He was bound, but refusing the adjurations of the executioner to look up, the man kept his face down, and the swordsmen could not for some time strike the fatal blow. Before he did so the man's face was slashed out of recognition. Finally the executioner made a feat. The man ducked his head and when he looked up the descending sword caught him full in the throat and severed his head.

Torture for Every Offence

Horried at the spectacle Mr. Petkoff decided to investigate the administration of justice in Bokhara, and what he discovered subsequently formed the substance of his disclosures in the

Russian press. He found that under the Russian regime the old savage methods of punishment remained in vogue, and that even though the Russian officials did not personally witness the tortures they were well aware that they were going on.

They were simply bribed by the local authorities to close their eyes. For every offence there was some penalty of torture, granted not according to the heinousness of the crime, but according to the prosperity of the prisoner. On the payment of fines torture sentences were remitted. A man sentenced to have his ears twisted off could escape on payment of \$25. He could save his eyes for \$150. In every case the judge simply put the fine in his own pocket, though it is supposed that afterwards he would have to "split" with the accomplice who laid the charge.

Death for Infidelity.

Prisoners who have no money at all are beheaded or are hanged "Russian" fashion. That is to say, they are strung up for a few moments, taken down, flogged, strung up, taken down and flogged, and hung up for the third time. Women guilty of infidelity are killed. A favorite method is to tie them in a sack and throw them off an 80-foot parapet.

Sometimes a faithless husband is killed, but only if his wife happens to be the daughter of some influential citizen. It is estimated that every year 7,000 persons are tortured in Bokhara and that 700 die under torture. In view of the fact that the total population does not exceed 1,000,000, it would appear that the horrors of the Putumayo and the Congo are equalled if they are not surpassed, in a country that is supposed to be under Christian government.

VENERABLE CLERGYMAN FALLS TO HIS DEATH

Halifax, March 1.—Venerable Archdeacon J. A. Kaulback, of Truro, one of the best known clergymen in Nova Scotia, was killed on Tuesday evening in Truro. After dinner he left his residence to see a man at the central engine house, about one hundred yards distant. He intended entering that building by the door at the side, but walked past the door in the darkness about twenty feet to the hose tower in the rear. In this tower two feet above the ground is a window swinging on hinges. This he opened and stepped in and fell ten feet to the concrete floor. Two hours later the janitor went below to attend the furnace and found the dead body of the archdeacon. No inquest will be held. He was about 75 years of age.

TALMAGE PAINTINGS SOLD

Twenty-Six of Collection Auctioned Off for \$298,000 at New York

New York, Feb. 28.—Twenty-six paintings of the John F. Talmage collection were sold for \$298,000 at auction here tonight, the sale going on record as notable for the total price for such few pictures. Two Romneys commanded the highest prices. "A Lady of Quality" brought \$40,100 and "Portrait of Lady Elizabeth Twicken" \$32,000, both going to dealers.

The only real record breaker of the evening was the Turner, a little water color, "Fueelin, Lake of Lucerne," painted in 1840 for

the father of John Ruskin. It went for \$14,100, the highest ever given, as far as known, at a public sale in this or any other country for a water color. A Coro "Le Sentier Au Printemps," was knocked down for \$30,000.

WILL NOT AFFECT DISSOLUTION PLAN

St. Louis, Mo., March 1.—The order of the California railroad commission denying the application of the Union Pacific Railway for a 99-year lease of the Benicia, cutoff between Oakland, Cal., and Sacramento will not affect the government's plan for the dissolution of the Union Pacific-Southern Pacific merger, Attorney General Wickersham said today.

"The California decision," said Mr. Wickersham, "is a local matter and the government plan for the dissolution will not be changed."

John G. Milburn, counsel for the Union Pacific, however, stated that the matter would not again come before the court, thereby indicating that the Union Pacific would not submit an amendment to its plan.

The dissolution plan is now under consideration by the three circuit judges who heard the arguments yesterday.

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