

SCOTCH! HATCH! POTCH!

(Contributed by the "Groper.")

Robert Burns was quick to lash with rhyme the scheming hypocrite. Holy Willie's Prayer is a fair sample of the poet's ability in this regard.

HOLY WILLIE'S PRAYER.

O thou, who in the heavens dost dwell,
Wha, as it pleases best thyself,
Sends me to heaven, and ten to hell,
A' for thy glory,
And no for any gude or ill
They've done afore thee!

I bless and praise thy matchless might
When thousands thou hast left in night,
That I am here afore thy sight,
For gifts and grace,
A burnin' and a shinin' light
To a' this place.

What was I, or my generation,
That I should get sic exaltation,
I wha deserve sic just damnation,
For broken laws,
Five thousand years fore my creation,
Thro' Adam's cause.

When frae my mither's womb I fell,
Thou might hae plung'd me in hell,
To gnash my gums, to weep and wail,
In burnin' lake,
Whar damned devils roar and yell,
Chain'd to a stake.

Yet I am here a chosen sample;
To show thy grace is great and ample;
I'm here a pillar in thy temple,
Struggin' as a rock,
A guide, a buckler, an example,
To a' thy flock.

But yet, O Lord! Confess I must,
At times I'm fash'd wi' fleshly lust;
And sometimes, too, wi' wardly trust,
Vile self gets in;
But thou remembers we are dust,
Defil'd in sin.

Maybe thou lets this fleshly thorn,
Boset thy servant e'en and morn,
Lest he owre high and proud should turn
Cause he's sae gifted;
If sae, thy han' naun e'en be borne,
Until thou lift it.

Lord, bless thy chosen in this place,
For here thou hast a chosen race:
But God confound their stubborn face,
And blast their name,
Wha bring thy elders to disgrace
And public shame.

Lord, mind Gawn Hamilton's deserts,
He drinks, and swears and plays at cards
Yet hae sae mony takin' arts,
Wi' grit and sma,
Frae God's ain priests the people's hearts
He steals awa.

An' whan we chasten'd him therefore,
Thou kens how he bred sic a splore,
As set the world in a roar
O' laughin' at us;—
Curse thou his basket and his store,
Kail and potatoes.

Lord, hear my earnest cry and pray'r,
Against the presbytry of Ayr;
Thy strong right hand, Lord, mak it bare
Upo' their heads,
Lord weight it down, and dinna spare,
For their misdeeds.

O Lord my God, that glib-tongu'd Aiken
My very heart and soul are quakin',
To think how we stood groanin', shakin'
And swat wi' dread,
While Auld wi' hingin lips gaed sneakin',
And hung his head.

Lord, in the day of vengeance try him,
Lord, visit them wha did employ him,
And pass not in thy mercy by 'em,
Nor hear their pray'r;
But for thy people's sake destroy 'em,
And dinna spare.

But, Lord, remember me and mine,
Wi' mercies temp'ral and divine,
That I for gear and grace may shine,
Excell'd by name,
And a' the glory shall be thine,
Amen, Amen!

—Robert Burns.

It is remarkable that the average churchman should, more than any other, resent criticism. Fair criticism has a function to perform in church as well as state. We have a habit of judging by established standards, and the church standard is just about the most clearly defined thing under heaven. "The Groper" reserves the right to have a fair tilt at anything from Methodist and Presbyterian parsons to His Holiness the Pope.

Last week there appeared a letter from "Constant Subscriber" complaining of a reference made to the Methodist Church.

We have no wish to "malign" any agency for good, much less the largest church in Nonconformity. But "C.S." is clearly barking up the wrong tree. He has read more into the par than can, by fair inference, be found there. "Stabbing in the dark," of "belittling a Christian church," of being "unfair," "ignorant," "bigoted." Suppose we plead guilty and confess our wrong. What then? Will "C.S." forgive? Not if we know a man by the stuff he writes! Let us do it then.

There is nothing to withdraw. Much might be added. "C.S." asked for proof. He shall have it—by comparison. We shall avoid personalities.

It appears to us that the Christian church was founded on what one might term "dormancy in excelsis" her Master's, "I am the way." That brainy and courageous atom, St. Paul, overthrew the Athenian philosophy after a two months' bout on Mars Hill and carried the banner of the cross to the court of the Caesars. His was a cyclonic force directed by a mind "fully persuaded." Paul's stock phrase was, "I know." Wesley's motto and revolutionised a decadent England with the clarion note of positivism. This is the finding of the court of profane history. We opine that this perverse generation—the bugbear of parsons—the sorrow of saints—could be arrested by the voice of a "cable logger." It is always a black day for the people when the leaders "don't know" what they think. It's a case of blind men and ditches. That black day is to-day and the cardinal lack of "modernist" preachers is that they "don't know." The pulpit is the last place on earth for "don't knows." This "reverend agnosticism" is the outgrowth of higher criticism made in Germany, and palated in England. So here we are again "C.S." with empty churches and the reason. Methodism suffers no more than the rest. It will be a bad day for the world when the story of the Peerless One loses its appeal. Suppose it were a myth, far better pre- wrong thing strongly than the stuff one so often hears:—

"And the sin I impute to each frustrate ghost,
Is the unlit lamp, the ungirt loin,
Though the end in sight was a vice,
I say."

—Robt. Browning (not Burns).

OTAHUTI NOTES.

On Saturday last the Otahuti football team visited Waianawa and were outclassed, in what was described by various speakers at the luncheon as a mud scramble, by the home team by 8 points to 3. The game was interesting throughout and although Otahuti took the field with one player short they put up a good game against the heavier team.

Waianawa forwards are a good combination and had it not been for a very conspicuous player in a white sweater losing his equilibrium early in the game, would have been a more dangerous side; thanks to a very wide awake referee (Mr McDougall) the severe caution administered to two players had a marked effect on the play, illegal tactics disappearing.

Galt, Wilson, McLeod, and Lloyd and Lindsay were always in the thick of it in the forward division, while W. J. Steans was a prominent back, playing with his old dash.

Some of the Otahuti pack did not play with their usual solidness, being out of their element in the mud, which is an unheard of thing on the ridges. Donald, Grieve, and Dempster are worthy of mention, especially Donald, who had an utter contempt for the opposition forwards. McLeod, O'Connell, Lindsay (2), and W. McKenzie (in a new position) did exceptionally well.

Mr McDougall made a most efficient referee. The ladies of Waianawa supplied refreshments of a very high order, which were greatly appreciated.

There was a large attendance of the public, but the nationality of a small section of "barrackers" has as yet not been ascertained, but their only sentence, "Put in the boot" certainly did not sound British, and has rarely been used since the days of Attila, when it was a very common expression.

The Drummond v. Wright's Bush match ended a drawn game, no score being registered, the referee (Mr F. O'Connell) holding over his decision re a goal speculated from the field, until a ruling upon the matter is obtained.

There is no match next Saturday for Otahuti.

Drummond v. Calcium, at Calcium, and Waianawa v. Wright's Bush at Wright's Bush.

On Wednesday, July 7, there are two matches at Drummond Ploughing Match, Otahuti v. Drummond at 2.30 p.m., and Wright's Bush v. Calcium at 1 p.m.

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TULLY'S DRAPERY SUPPLY SALE,

NEXT NEWS OFFICE, DEE STREET.

IN REPLY.

FOR THE DIGGER.

A speaker at the Farmers' Conference recently took a view in regard to the relative working capacities of New Zealanders and the Home product that is seldom voiced: "Give me the new chum, even if I have to teach him," he said. "I would sooner pay him £3 a week while teaching him than give it to a colonial, for I know that he will be a man."—Local paper, 19/6/20.

For years the clouds of battle roiled—
And Wilhelm hurled in vain
His mighty armies in attack;
The Allies stood the strain.
And in that firm, determined band
Were counted men from Maoriland.

They went because the older land
Had sent a sounding call—
Forgetting self when days were dark
They gave up home and all,
And meeting danger fair and square
Far more than well they did their share.

From year to year they saw it through,
And in those grim old days
Of strife and sorrow, work and pain,
The cable sang their praise,
Until the time of gloom was past
And joy-bells rang for peace at last.

But hardly had the firing ceased,
And smoke clouds cleared away,
When rose a wild, straw-whiskered man
And had his little say:
"The fellows that I cannot stand
Are bred and born in Maoriland!

"Their ways are useless, mark my words
They ain't the proper stuff—
They want a bed for sleeping in,
Cow-byres ain't good enough!
They also wants a living pay,
Yet won't work twenty hours a day!

"The time has come to turn 'em down.
We'll get a new chum lot,
And while they're green and innocent
We'll work them pretty hot—
They'll have scant time to eat and sleep,
We'll drove the beggars just like sheep."

The wild, straw-whiskered man sat down
With sundry angry snorts.
The other men sat silent there,
Maybe because their thoughts
To distant graves had crossed the sea—
To Flanders and Gallipoli.

We grant that England played her part
While War his thunder rolled,
And England's soldiers fought and fell
As Englishmen of old.
And all the wide world understood
The same old bulldog breed held good.

But those New Zealanders who lie
On foreign fields away,
Were mates and brothers of the men
Who labour here to-day.
One question rises: In the test
Were they less manly than the rest?

We should not worry at the roars
Of this indignant man;
Perhaps his brain is fashioned thus—
If so the kindest plan
Is just to let him howl away
And have his windy, futile "say."

—WILLIAM KIWI,
Southland, N.Z.

MARKET NOTES.

Invercargill, June 30th, 1920.

Messrs Bray Bros., Ltd., Auctioneers and Fruit Salesmen, Dee street, Invercargill report as follows:—

Potatoes.—Supplies are heavy and market weakened. The present price is 27 per ton. Onions.—Prime quality are selling at 12s cwt. Oats.—For fowl feed, 5s 4d to 5s 9d per bushel. Chaff.—Prime quality to 28 10s; discoloured, 26s. Oaten Straw.—25 10s per ton; damaged, 2s 6d per bale. Meggitt's Linseed Meal.—25s per bag. Oatdust.—6s per bag. Bran.—10s per bag. Pollard.—12s per bag. Fruit.—Supplies have been plentiful. Apples (dessert) 3d to 5d per lb, according to variety and grade. Cooking Apples, 2½d to 2½d per lb, Pears (dessert), 2½d to 4d per lb. Pears (cooking), 2d to 3d per lb.

General.—Lepp Salt Lick, 2s 3d per brick; wha'sale, 2s. Horse Covers (best American Duck), £2 15s to £3. Boots, 35s a pair. Honey in 10lb tins, 10s. Tea, in 5lb packets, 12s. Jam in glass pots containing about 2½lbs, 2s 6d per pot. Mutton Birds, 1s per bird by the kit. Furniture.—We make oak and rimu furniture to order. We use only the best of wood, and guarantee the workmanship. We have stocks of linoleum in the latest patterns, and a large supply of Seagrass Mats and Settees. We also stock bedding and kapok.

Land Department.—Houses and Farms for sale in town and country. Let us know your requirements, and we will look after your interests.

General.—We have for sale one five-seater 4-cylinder Buick Motor Car, in tip-top condition and running order. Any trial will be given. Price £250.

Special.—We have received a quantity of furs which we have instructions to auction. The furs are all in good order and condition, and the reserve price is very low. We shall sell the furs in our auction mart, Saturday afternoon next, 3rd July. For further particulars see our auction advertisement in the Invercargill daily papers, Friday night and Saturday morning.

LAND FOR SOLDIERS.

WITHDRAWAL OF ADVANCE.

CHRISTCHURCH, June 2.

At a meeting of the Christchurch branch of the New Zealand Returned Soldiers' Association the following motion was carried: "That this meeting of returned soldiers and their dependents expresses its strong disapproval of the Reform Government in withdrawing without due notice the advances made under Part II. of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act. It considers that the only equitable and honourable course open to Parliament is to make the benefits of the Act available to all soldiers at present entitled to them, and so avoid penalizing these soldiers who have had no opportunity of taking advantage of its provisions. It desires to point out that many soldiers have deferred making application, relying on the definite promise of the Prime Minister that 12 months' notice would be given if there were any curtailment of the Act. It further calls upon the Government to bear any loss incurred by those who entered into contracts and signed options prior to the announcement of the stoppage by the Hon. D. H. Guthrie, Minister of Lands."

The following motion was also carried: "That the Government again be urged to give serious consideration to the land settlement scheme submitted by the Returned Soldiers' Association, and so give evidence of their sincerity to settle all returned soldiers in the shortest possible time."

DUNEDIN, June 22.

At a general meeting of the Returned Soldiers' Association to-night, the following resolution was carried unanimously: "That this meeting of returned soldiers, having taken into consideration the statements of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Lands regarding the finance of the Dominion and the possible effect of the continuance of the present scheme of advances under the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act in further increasing the price of land, still considers that the only equitable and honourable course open to Parliament is: (1) To make the benefits of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act available to all soldiers at present entitled to those benefits, and so to avoid penalizing many soldiers who have but recently returned to New Zealand, or have lately completed their period of training under the Repatriation Department; and (2) to provide that any loss incurred in so doing shall be borne by the country as a whole."

Owing to the suspension of the Discharged Soldiers' Settlement Act the Returned Soldiers' Associations of the Dominion are passing resolutions asking that the Act be put into operation again.