

NO CHRIST IN THE PACT.

Christians Protest Chaplain's Peace Conference Prayer.

The Rev. W. S. Abernethy, pastor of Calvary Baptist church, where President Harding worships, has admitted in a letter to a fellow-Baptist, says Washington letter, that he was requested to delete the name of Jesus Christ from his prayer opening the Arms Conference. Copies of his communication and others that follow are now in the hands of five or six senators.

"Had I been left to my own initiative, I am very sure that I would have offered the prayer that I did in the name of Christ," declared Mr. Abernethy. "I was reminded, however, that the conference was not a Christian body, that there would be Buddhists and Confucianists present, and was told that it was the feeling that a simple recognition of the Duty would fill the requirements. I remembered that the prayer that Jesus taught, and which repeated from Sunday to Sunday did not contain his name, and yet it had the spirit of Christ in it, as we all agree."

Better Than No Prayer."

"I felt that it would be better to offer a prayer of recognition of God Almighty and a petition for guidance than to have no prayer at all. I therefore offered the petition as it was published in the papers. I do not believe I crucified my Lord, as I have been accused of doing."

"I am sorry that my brother ministers have spoken as they have. I feel very sure that if they had known everything they would not have judged me as harshly as they have."

Ever since the opening of the Arms conference, preachers and others have criticised Mr. Abernethy for leaving out all reference to Christ. Efforts have been made to ascertain the truth about the report that he had been asked to make no reference to Jesus. A week ago a local paper printed an alleged statement from Mr. Abernethy saying "there was absolutely no censorship of the opening prayer at the Washington conference on the limitation armaments. No one of the high officials connected with the conference attempted to dictate a policy."

It was this statement that started senators digging for facts. During the debate of the Versailles treaty one of the arguments against the pact was that it nowhere referred to God and no prayer was offered at the conference that brought it forth. President Wilson was charged with neglecting his duty to the Christian church because he did not insist on prayer at the opening of the Paris Peace conference.

The spirit of Mr. Abernethy's prayer is shown by the beginning and conclusion of it, which are as follows:

"Almighty God, we thank thee for the coming of this eventful day. We have seen it from afar and now we rejoice that it has at last dawned. May it bring forth untold blessings to a troubled world. O thou, Omnipotent One, today, as in other days, we believe that thou dost guide in human affairs. Thou hast made of one blood all nations that dwell upon the earth, and though we are of many races and many tongues, yet the interests of the few are the interests of the larger number."

"May we walk softly and humbly before thee this day and throughout the fateful days in this great conference. May we be intent on knowing thy will; and knowing it, may we have the courage to do it. And may it be that the findings of this conference shall be wise, so far-reaching and so beneficial that all mankind may take new hope and fresh courage. And to thee shall be the praise and the glory forever and ever, Amen."

The entire correspondence over the Abernethy prayer has fallen into the hands of Democratic and Republican senators. For a week or ten days most of the talk in the cloak rooms has been over the claim for Mr. Abernethy that his prayer was not censored or dictated and the letters written to him about it and his answers.

A prominent Baltimore business man wrote to Mr. Abernethy on January 6, saying in part:

"On the morning after your prayer at the opening of the Armament conference many ministers, including my own pastor, Dr. A. C. Dixon, criticised the omission of all references to Christ in the wording of your prayer. Other Baltimore ministers expressed the same thought, and this has become so generally a subject of discussion that I am taking the liberty of asking you whether your omission of all reference to Jesus Christ was accidental or intentional."

"If it was intentional, was it due to any suggestion or request to that effect? And if so, by whom made, or if you decided of your own volition to omit all reference to Christ, was it because heathen nations who do not recognize Christ were in attendance upon the conference?"

This letter brought out the admission of Mr. Abernethy. In the way of explanation he said: "If I could have the opportunity of talking with you on this matter face to face, I am sure I could convince you that I did not have it in my heart at all to dishonor my Lord Jesus Christ in the offering of that prayer at the conference. I have been very severely criticised for it by people from all parts of the

country, but they did not know the background of the situation."

On receipt of Mr. Abernethy's reply the writer of the original letter wired: "Questions raised in my letter of January 6 are so vitally important I am compelled to ask that you give me the privilege of publishing your reply of January 9, for sooner or later facts will inevitably come out and I am sure it is better that they should be published now. I cannot conceive that the Christian people of this country are willing at the request of any one that the name of Christ should be omitted from an opening prayer at a World's conference merely because there were at the conference representatives of non-Christian hands."

Calls It Insult to God.

"The request to omit the name of Christ could only, it seems to me, be construed by Heaven itself as an insult to Almighty God. If the omission of all reference to Christ has been accidental, it would have been regrettable and the country has hoped that that omission was accidental, but that it was not accidental, but purposely done at somebody's request, is a startling and amazing development which this country must consider. I beg, therefore, that you will wire me to collect the privilege of publishing your letter."

In response to this Mr. Abernethy wired: "My letter expressly stated that contents were confidential. Cannot for a moment agree to your proposal that it be made public. I believe you will not betray my confidence."

This wire was followed by a letter in which Mr. Abernethy said: "I believe, that I can pray in the name of Christ without mentioning the word. It was in that spirit that I offered the prayer I did. I am willing to bear the entire responsibility for it myself."

Notwithstanding Mr. Abernethy's insistence that his reply be held confidential, it was given to senators and became the talk of the cloakrooms. Reference to the matter was made in debate by Senator Watson (Ga.), Glass (Va.), and others.

The regular monthly meeting of the board of county commissioners was held Monday. No business of any importance, aside from the regular routine, was transacted.

Too Much to Expect.

We note that Secretary of War Weeks has put the official O. K. on the new Pershing cap for officers. But how is a second lieutenant going to get a mere Pershing cap on his head? —The Kansas Legionnaire.

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NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all persons interested that pursuant to an order signed by His Honor, W. H. Townsend, Presiding Judge, issued in the case of Bamberg Banking Company, Plaintiff, vs. J. Sam Morton, et al., Defendants, in the Court of Common Pleas for Bamberg County, the undersigned will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, for cash, on the first day of May, 1922, between the hours of 11 and 12 o'clock a. m. on said date, at Bamberg, South Carolina, two (2) car loads of tile, situate on lot in said Town of Bamberg, near the right of way of the B. E. & W. RR., and near the lot of Bamberg Potato Curing Company, the said property having been attached as the property of the Defendant, J. Sam Morton, in said cause.

S. G. RAY,
Sheriff for Bamberg County,
April 13, 1922. 4-27-n

ORDER OF NOTICE.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT.

EASTERN DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

In the matter of Rosa M. Krawchek, Bankrupt.

On the 14 day of April, 1922, on reading the foregoing petition, it is,

Ordered by the Court that hearing be had upon the same on the 26 day of May, A. D. 1922, before said Court at Charleston, in said District, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, and that notice thereof be published in The Bamberg Herald, a newspaper printed in said district, and that all creditors and other persons interested may appear at said time and place and show cause if any they have why the prayer of the said petitioner should not be granted.

And it is further Ordered by the Court that the Clerk shall send by mail to all known creditors copies of said petition and this order addressed to them at their places of residence as stated.

Witness the Honorable Henry A. M. Smith, Judge of the said Court and the seal thereof, at Charleston, in said District, on the 14 day of April, A. D. 1922.

RICHARD W. HUTSON,

5-11-n Clerk.

And Then He Heaved a Sigh.

"I found a letter in a woman's handwriting in your pocket this morning," she began angrily.

"But what—where—why—I didn't know—did you open it?" he asked in confusion.

"I did not. It was the one I gave you to mail yesterday."

Good News.

Clara was entertaining a caller. It was growing late. Her father called her upstairs from the room above.

"Hasn't that young man gone yet?" he demanded.

"He's almost gone, pop," she replied happily. "I expect him to propose any minute now."

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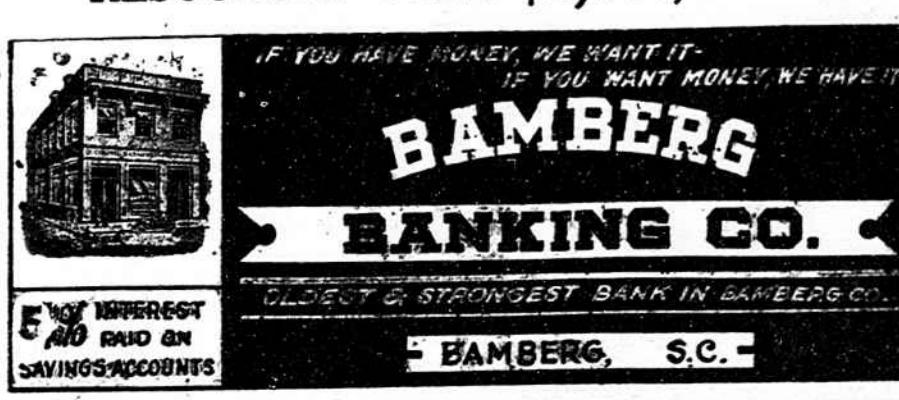
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