## "Has God Lost His Grip On The World?"

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The following is in answer to a re- . The wrong shall fall, quest from one whose mind and heart has been very sensibly touched by a With "Peace on earth. Good will to since Christ came into the world, there remark made in one of the stores of men. does not at all understand God's deal- kissed plain of Judea. ings with human life

the public generally, with hopes that was not only and ideal of Heaven, but its thoughts may assist, to at least ana ctual goal to be fully realized in text gives the trouble precisely. some of the muddle of mind existing Tidings of Great Joy that was thus paths; whosoever goeth therein shall not Almighty, and Christ is only a

know not, and there is no judgment in Heaven in sin crooked paths, whosoever goeth there. joined in the chorus Neither is it sur peace among men and with. Himself, me tell you, the secret of the age is in shall not have peace

Sin: The Destroyer of Peace. to God in the highest, and on earth, hungry souls of men

song, and one well calculated to fill realized by the son's of men the world with a thrill of joy, that It was a peace with God; It was a history. Righteousness has exalted and plans are not ours in fact, they to make any confusion in it at all the passing years have added to, rath peace with nature by a life in har men and nations; has tamed the brute are very often the very opposite to er than diminished until tony, more or mony with its laws. Peace man with and savage nature in man, has curbed ours, but they never miscarry less the entire world of men is singing man, and nation with nation. Peace the passions of sin, and enlightened. There have been times and a number of the Christ Child, who was born in in the individual soul. Peace with and ennobled and civilized all that of them, when things in the world a stable, and cradled in a manger in conscience and a perfect victory over bave yielded to its influence. Look were as dark as they are at present

we are confronted with a condition of world of men war that has directly or to some de When Christ then came into the God to rule the world gree drawn the nations of the entire world He came to set up a New King | Might is Right and the sword is the bosom of the water does not tell Separation From God world into its bloody vortex

some faint hearts may "Something has the sea miscarried. One of the poets under: It is God's design and as sure as before God and man is cast to the and perpetuated its power by an iron world because men or nations will sound of the battle line will nomewhat the name conditions of de the sun in the heavens rises in the winds Her sacred treaties are only hand and a heel of steel, and that 1.1.2 go wrong and break the peace of the indeed rise the "Peace of which the pression of mind has said this "And in despate I bowed my head

There is no peace on earth 'I said

For hate is strong And mocks the song

seems to be the condition of affairs is thus a Messiah's Day however, we but in it truly so."

ent vision, even one of a brighter day other, peace with God the Father, and the welfare of the world, and forced

and said

God is not dead, nor doth he sleep

The right prevail.

And that is the message coming to as we are now confronted with?

i, therefore, ask you to get this-I therefore submit it to you, and to The peace of which the angels sang of truth in either of those ideas. degree, in clearing up the history of the world: The Good I select as a text for what I shall ginning of a gospel as "Broad as the Jew only one thing, that is The sins Ideals, and salvation is only a name "Isaiah 59 8 The way of peace they as the need of man, lost to God and lacking of peace, either the disquietude grip on the world today than when the

prising that earth takes up the strain and if that is lacking, man is respon. God has been through the ages past. and envelopes the world in a mantle of sible, and not God It has not been more than 1900 years song today, for it was a prophecy of

We all agree it was a wonderful that was, as yet, unknown and un is true

And yet while that song announced a | Look at it now carefully, and you as true today as it has ever been most thrilling fact, in both principal will notice salvation brought to us by The present world's war, the seem standing had passed away, that God we see the nations born into civiliza and prophecy, in this 20th century, the incarnation of Christ in human ing stone over which many are stumb had a grip on things, and made even tion, thus proving God's plans and when we might look for a world wide flesh, means a grave reality and is ling can be laid directly to Germany the wickedness of men to praise Him purposes are infallible and that civilization that would level down all expressed in The New Heaven. The having foreaken God. and during the Are we not told of a time when all everything is in harmony with Him strife and human conflict, and there | New Earth, The City of God set upon | past 40 years, she has been erecting the world was so sinful that only and His but man who alone is out of by have a universal peace on earth, earth to which God was moving the an idol, coveting a world dominion, one family was in any wise good because of sin

dom, one of Righteousness which was means to make it possible. With her that God had no grip on things I am, thus, not surprised to hear to cover the earth, as the waters cover it is "Me and God." Me before God. Again, we are told of a time when agining that Christianity has failed or live

> East and sets in the West in its daily scraps of paper, binding when they are millions of people were killed in cold, world journey "the Nations of this world agreeable to her purposes and brok cruel blood simply because they were. Bless your life so far as man is morning" are to become the nations of our on at pleasure

Lord and of His Christ And every knee shall bow and Of Peace on earth. Good will to men every tongue confess that Christ in I say, to some faint hearts this Lord to the glory of the Father There | may look upon it when the world of in her sin of coveteousness and ambi-That same poet naw a vastly differ men will be at peace, peace with each | tion has lighted a fire that threatens when the implements of cruel war will ! "Then pecied the bells more loud and be made into plowshares and pruning self against her in self-defense the Listenbooks, and the wild beasts and the first law of nature? lamb will lie down together

Perhaps some cay-"If that be true, of such a thing, when all history bears why is it that after all of these years record of the fact. is, and can be, such things possible every age, been an influence and

ent world's war. I do not doubt but us even today, amidst the world's I know there are those today who has done it wherever it has been given that the remark was one thoughtlesly conflict and carnage, from the angel's are writing, and others are by voice the right of way in mind and heart spoken, and I am sure it came from song to those shepherds who were asking: Has Christianity failed? Some and its principle incorporated in life. an unknowing mind, and one that watching their flocks on the stary, dew. are going so far as to assert-"God has lost His grip on the world." But there man has failed in his attitude toward is no truth, nor even the semblance it.

enunciated by the angels was the be- not have peace. That meant to the good man who died a martyr to His human race, and as deep in meaning of men are responsible for any and all No. no. God has no more lost of self, or disagreement among the words of the text were first uttered their goings, they have made their. No wonder then the heavenly hosts nations Let it be understood God wills to Israel in the midst of her sins Let

choir sang "Glory peace, as well as good news to the to make peace, not strife nor conflict, a great degree unconscious of it; yet

but peace

sin which is the destroyer of all peace | where you will and that he true and and yet it was most definitely proven

And whatever stands between her and her ambition must be ruthlessly

Has Christianity failed because she the remainder of the world to ally it-

That Christianity has, through

History also refutes that other The plain and clear cut words of the thoughtless idea. God has lost ifts

grip on the world setting up a kingdom of Righteous For Christ was sent into the world ness in the world, and we have been to all the while He has been at work As such, it was a prophecy of peace | The light of all history teaches that | We need only get beneath the surface

when the mist clouding our under

if you please, and all that is right one nation ruled the known world, that God has lost His grip on the Who knows but that from the blood

Rome ' Gone never to return

It is simply foolishness to even think world." And I, if I be lifted up from that; there was no taint of sin in his Justice, even to the weakest. We are beacuse we are right. Amen;

lowering toward Christianity, but excise his free agency, and he fell We can also point to the fact of our from the sufferings of the martyrs into sin which immediately wrought a greater need of God in our lives, as and the sacrifices of the faithful of wonderful change in his life, and has our soldier boys are having great the days of Reformation, began lits been the groundwork of all human ligious influence thrown about the true Church and faith that goes troubles since. marcing on to the final victory over sin and satan, and on which the sun of heaven never sets.

old story, over and over again-

and will always have a grip on the world, and controls its destiny

history God has had but one thing in to say "If then Christianity has not His mind; that is, the salvation of the failed, and if God has not lost His world, notwithstanding the sin in it, grip on the world, why does He not and every step in the world's history stop this cruel war? has been another step toward the

Can we not then see plainly that all of God's creation remains just as He made it, and fills the the place in His economy that He ordained to fill and that His plans to set up a Kingdom of goodness in the world is assured' Nature and her laws are today

what God made them in the begin The sun still shines the rain fails.

the seasons come and go and the unibloom, and all of that sort of thing of things to be assured of it We must God's will and plans do not miscarry From the very spring time of man's ever remember. God's thoughts, ways in any of it, and Satan has not power We likewise can see an unity of purpose and plan from the light of

history We can see also an unseen hand behind our own lives and a power at work we cannot explain We see the effects of Christianity in the world and over individuals, and

and teaching Germany is destined by That torrest of rain and that flood of And pray what is sin that it creates and that He will from the wreck and water, and that ark eafely floating on such disaster in man's life, but Self ruin of the war cause to rise some

good Had God lost His grip. We can concerned God did not create him in . If we can believe the higher signs never fail and everything seems to but smile to think of it heart rending fallible nor hedge him about with an of Christianity we have reason to be | point to it at present as it was But where is the boasted insurmountable wall against sin He lieve there will be There was a time too when the ing being Thus delegating to him the nartired and the revulation to the called for during this great world's wicked hands of men were laid on the power and privilege to remain pure in suffering and arrange now going on struggle for the right that must and Bon of God, and He was nation to the life and heart as he came from that we hear of such a coal shall prevail in the end Cross of Calvary in effort to crush creative hand of their of the nations, when war shall liaving a confidence in ourselves, forever the Christ religion Had God as he willed it cease that war in the future will be as on the side of right, confidence in

lost itis grip? Had Satan prevailed? Remember please Adam was cre next to impossible tinto this end came I into the there was no taint of sin to come from and more, the lessons of Right, and of all battles, to give us the victory

and it is coming to pass every day. sin; and in that condition of inno- erhood of Man, and catching t times indeed were dark and Eden and given full opportunity to ex- one another.

created privileges, not that Christian. We are also learning charact ity has failed as a transforming pow- building, and that other great Wherever we look it is the same or over the mind and heart of man son of serving a common cause No. no. by no means is that true, we could mention others. That God ever has had, still has, neither can it be said to be true, until it has been truly and correctly have to do with the "Peace on Eart

tried and it falls. We need not then be even tempted

I do not for one moment doubt but that He could do so, and quickly I do not doubt but that He is doing so. but in His own way, and according to His own plans, having due regard to the free agency of man

therefore believe that God, by some means could alter the mind of Germany in her foolish delusion of world dominion But would it not be the destruction of man's free will? God deals with man in a different way than that, even thus He does

not force man into Sanity of mind. Humility of heart. Charity of action.

and wisdom of life But allows man to go on until he himself realizes his wrong, or works out his utter ruin and destruction from the effects of sin That is God's wise and just way, and the full free untrammelled use of free will given man in his creation

From that we can be assured that God is going to stop this world's war in His own wise and best way and plan of dealing with human life

You can then be assured He has His even on its every feature His hand is in every battle and He is at work. thing to His glory and the honor of We make a great mistake by im His great name just as surely as you

angels cang on that first ('hristmas

made him a free thinking and free act. We already hear the murmur of the langels' song, making all the sacrifices

ated from an uncursed earth, and As a world we are learning, more and above all, confidence in the God

Farther down the ages was a time cense and purity he was placed in spirit of the Christ of helpfulness t

and they themselves are giving mor Man alone is thus a failure to his beed to the claims of the gospel.

Notice, please, all of these this

Good Will to Men. It has taken a most beart-racking experience to do it, but it is certainly doing it, more and more

It is coming up from the blood of millions of men; through the mangled who have gone down beneath the ruthless torpedo of the sea, or the bomb from the air, the starving forms of millions in the war cursed zone and the ruin of a thousand cities and

and we are finding our way back to God, precisely as God's plan is in all His dealings with men

Let us then cease our complaints about Christianity failing, or that God's grip is lost, and see in this wat. and in all of our troubles and sore experiences the result of sin, and thus recognize the fact we have lost our grip on God, not He on us

Keep in mind the fact: He can do for us and in us, only as we allow Him so to do Hence if we will persist in going wrong. He will let us do it. even to our ruin and woe

But Christ came into the world to make peace and though in our human depression of mind and heart, we may be tempted to utter the first verse of the poet I quoted remember there is a brighter vision for us, as seen in that second verse, and taught from the "Peace on earth. Good will to

For when men cease to sin and allow God to have the right of way in mind and heart then will His Kingom come and His will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven

I cannot think I am overly optimistic when I say it is coming, and perhaps faster than we even dream.

It is God's prophecy and His words

Let us then continue to sing the

our nation, as doing what God decrees.

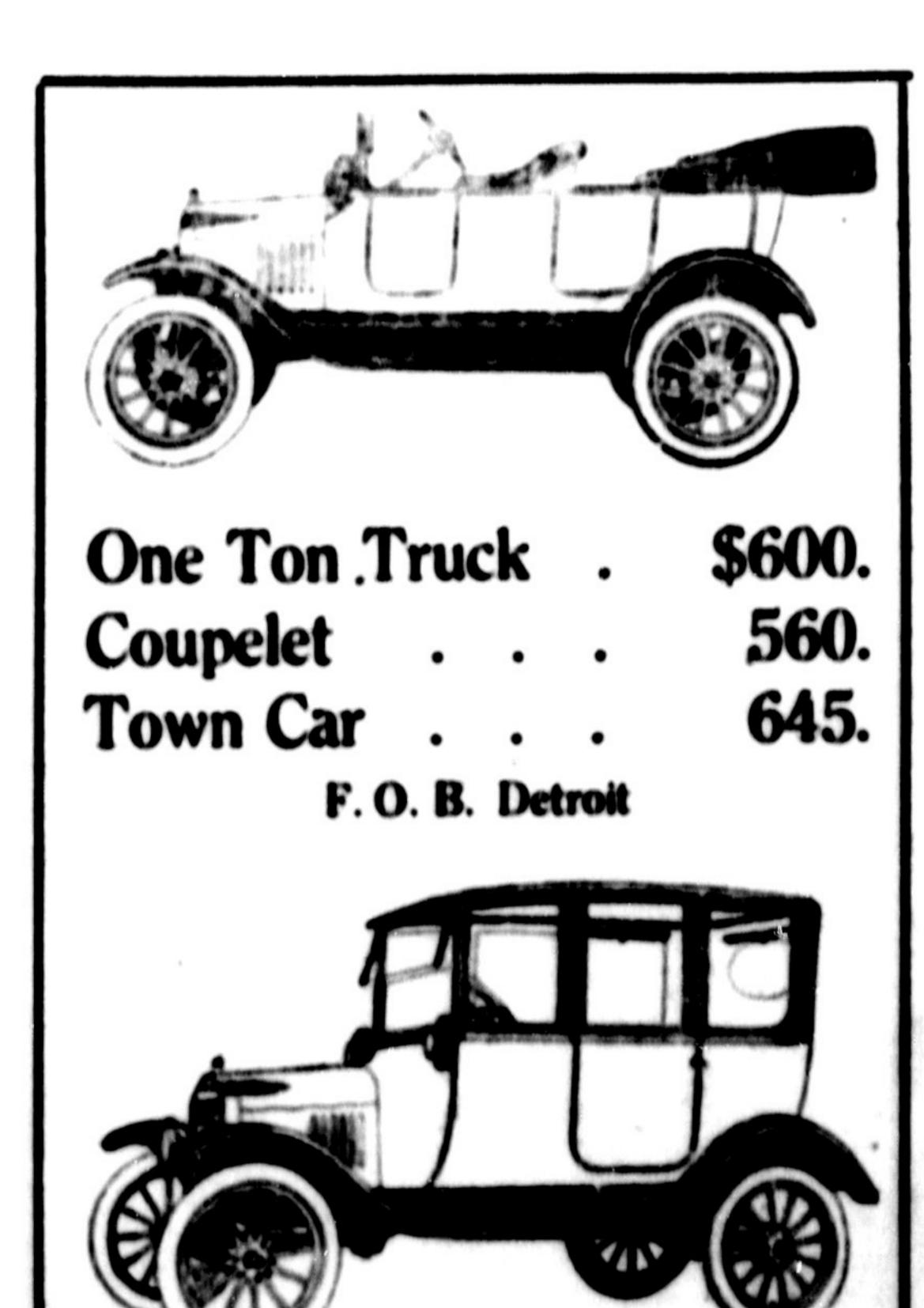
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