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DR. BROWN WAS IN EVIDENCE.

Contented Himself With Merely Defining His Legal Rights.

AT EVENING SERVICE.

He Made a Plain Talk to the Young Christian Endeavorers.

BAY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE.

The Minutes Show That They Had and Still Have Full Power to Investigate.

According to the programme announced exclusively in THE CALL, Dr. C. O. Brown surrendered the pulpit of the First Congregational Church to Professor R. R. Lloyd yesterday. This he did of his own volition in deference, as he publicly stated, to the wishes of his friends. He made it clear at the same time that he did not propose to relinquish in the slightest degree his legal rights to his position as pastor, and that he reserved the right to occupy the pulpit at any time he felt disposed to do so.

There was a good attendance in the morning, though a considerable portion of it was composed of strangers, drawn thither by the original announcement that Dr. Brown was to preach. Dr. Brown stated that he thought there was the usual attendance of members, while those who are opposed to the pastor claimed that there was a falling off.

Dr. Brown opened the services in the customary manner and also announced the hymns. There was a brief consultation between him and Professor Lloyd, at the conclusion of which the latter offered up prayer, in the course of which he said:

Bless our pastor. Help him in this his hour of trouble, when people seem to be trying to destroy him.

Dr. Brown announced that the regular weekly meeting of the Young People's Society for Christian Endeavor would be held in the church at 6:30 o'clock. He also announced that on Wednesday night there would be a meeting in the church to decide upon the passage of the resolution adopted by the joint committee. "This notice," he said, "is given according to the constitutional requirements of this church." He added that he had a few words to say of a personal nature and then spoke as follows:

I have reconsidered my determination to occupy my pulpit. This action was taken on the advice of two or three kind friends, who are near to me, and whose full confidence I have. But in so doing I surrender none of the legal rights I possess. I retain the right to return to my pulpit whenever I choose, and until then I shall personally—the church will not—invite some friend to preach for the church.

In view of the fact that for thirty-six days the daily newspapers have devoted a page or more to my reputation I do not wonder that some of these people have lost their confidence in me.

I do not want to create any dissension among the people of my church, and it is simply out of regard for them that I have determined upon my present course.

In deference to my friends I shall invite my friend Mr. Lloyd to supply my pulpit from time to time, until the tribunal shall pass upon the terrible things that have been said about me.

I am glad to see that the church is not to be empty, as some were sure it would be by the announcement that the pastor would preach.

From this point Professor R. R. Lloyd led the services. His discourse was what he termed an expository sermon and was based on the first four verses of the first chapter of St. Luke. It was divided into four heads, as follows: The writer, the sources, the manner and the motive.

Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, her daughter Hattie, Mrs. Brown and Valentine Brown were among those in attendance. But neither Mrs. Stockton nor Mattie Overman was visible.

Some time ago it was stated that when Dr. Brown and Mattie Overman made the trip to Tacoma in company the minister procured a ticket for Miss Overman, representing her to be his niece. Inquiry at the railroad office elicited the statement that there was no record to show that any such representation had been made.

YOUNG ENDEAVORERS.

They Have Dr. Brown as a Guest and Are Addressed by Him.

Dr. Brown attended the meeting of the Christian Endeavorers last night at the First Congregational Church, and assured them that he still felt that his life was consecrated to God. The young people made no comment, although at the close of the meeting several of the leading spirits expressed surprise that Dr. Brown should have insisted on being with them under the circumstances.

The society has taken a very decided stand. When Dr. Brown announced his intention of occupying the pulpit, a large proportion of the society felt that it would be unwise to even meet in the church and arranged to have their meeting at the residence of Miss Myrtle Simpson on Leavenworth street. But when the fact that Professor R. R. Lloyd was to preach Sunday's sermon was given out, this project was given over.

There was a meeting of a portion of the society yesterday morning. It was there brought out that the organization felt it indelicate, under the circumstances, for Dr. Brown to preach until he had cleared himself of the charges now pending, although they were desirous that he should have every chance to accomplish this end.

The Sabbath-school teachers, who all belong to the Christian Endeavor Society, were in attendance with their classes in the morning. In the evening they assembled in the large schoolroom for the weekly endeavor meeting.

The surprise was very general when Dr. Brown, his wife and son entered. Dr. Brown took a front seat. Mrs. Brown and her son were seated in the body of the room.

Miss Simpson presided at the meeting. She had not intended to lead, but she consented to do so as soon as she understood that Dr. Brown was not to occupy the pulpit and would probably not be present at their meeting.

As is usual, the latter part of the meeting was given up to those who wished to consecrate themselves to the work of the society. One member thought the habit that some had of consecrating themselves to the work at each meeting was hardly necessary. When all had spoken who wished, Dr. Brown arose.

His statements were particularly significant by his position.

"I am quite in accord with our brother who thinks one consecration only is necessary," he said. "I consecrated myself to the work of this society long ago. I have never felt that I have failed in the obligations I then took. If I had done so I can assure you I would not be here to-night. I believe honestly and with my whole heart that my life has been consecrated to Christ."

He spoke of the work he hoped to do and assured his hearers that it was not till they should devote themselves to the work of the Savior that they would realize how sweet and how full were the lives of those thus consecrated. Then a large lady arose and quoted from the Sermon on the Mount:

Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.
Blessed are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.

A song and a few addresses followed. The audience was preparing to disband when Dr. Brown again arose and called out:

"I wish to make an explanation."

There was an instant hush. The explanation was not what was anticipated. He explained that all were invited cordially to attend the regular evening service in the upper part of the church.

There was an assembling in little groups before the light was turned out. Some indignation was expressed at Dr. Brown's having attended the meeting when he knew the feeling of the majority of the society.

"I was surprised," said the president, "to see him. But, then, I just said to myself, 'he's only our guest, now,' and I went on with my work of leading. You see it was different from what it would have been if we had felt that he was to really be over us all."

There was nothing in the evening service at the church that suggested even indirectly anything in connection with the trouble. Dr. Brown and his family occupied a rear pew on the center aisle. The church was not well filled.

At the conclusion of the service Dr. Brown remained standing in his pew and held an informal levee. As the congregation filed past him, large numbers stopped to shake his hand warmly and make some encouraging remark. There were others, though, who passed him coldly. They looked over his head or at the other side of the church. It was noticeable that Dr. Brown made no mistake in those to whom he proffered his hand.

THE COMMITTEE POWER.

Ministers of the Bay Association Establish Their Authority in the Case.

The committee representing the Bay Association, in spite of the fact that it formally adjourned last Monday night, will in all probability ask Dr. Brown to furnish them with such proofs of his innocence as he might possess. This action is due to the fact that the committee has just discovered that it has certain powers which, under the circumstances, cannot be overlooked, even if it does force Dr. Brown to go against the advice of his attorneys.

On January 13 Rev. Dr. Brown asked the Bay Association to appoint a committee to investigate the charges that had been made against the moral side of his life. The request was promptly acceded to, and on the following Wednesday night the reverend gentleman spoke to his congregation as follows:

I have asked the Bay Association, which has not the same ministerial membership as the Bay Conference, to appoint a committee whose character will be above suspicion to canvass the evidence and to do that in connection with the standing committee of this church, and to make a report to the public, which they will be asked to accept till the close of this case in court.

This I have done without the slightest hint from any one that there was a demand for it from any member of this church. Some words have been reported to me that some one had said something ought to be done. No one has approached me with any demand that there shall be an investigation. I understand the temper of my people, and I know that these reports are untrue and an injustice to you.

I know what my rights are in the case, and shall proceed in this matter on the full limits of my rights, as I do now in placing the matter in the hands of the standing committee appointed when no passions had been aroused in the church—in asking that they shall take charge of the documents and statements that affect my reputation, and give forth to the community such a statement as they may deem proper to make public, withholding such portions as might be improperly used.

The joint committee, or board of inquiry, as it was called, held four meetings, finally deciding that the Bay Association committee was not intrusted with any authority to act in the matter. The standing committee then expressed confidence in the integrity of their pastor and asked the public at large to suspend judgment until after the Davidson trial. With this resolution, which was published in THE CALL of January 28, the joint committee was formally dissolved.

It appears now, however, that the Bay Association committee did not fully understand nor appreciate their rights in the premises. When it came to getting directly at the facts in the case, according to a member of the Bay Association, Dr. Brown questioned their right to go that far.

The minutes of the meeting on January 13 tell a different story from this, however. The record was written by the secretary, Rev. W. H. Tubb, during the session, because, as he stated yesterday, he anticipated just such a misunderstanding as has now come up. That section of the minutes bearing directly on the latitude of the committee reads as follows:

Rev. C. O. Brown, D.D., addressed the association, closing with a request that a committee be appointed to investigate the matter now in the courts involving his ministerial career. On motion of Rev. J. K. McLean, D.D., Rev. W. D. Williams, Rev. W. C. Pond and Rev. H. H. Wikoff were elected to serve as said committee.

"I can appreciate a misunderstanding on the part of the committee," said Rev. Mr. Tubb yesterday, "though this does not in any sense alter the fact that they still have an official existence. I anticipated just some such trouble as this, and so took the precaution to write the minutes as the meeting progressed. The committee cannot dissolve until it has fulfilled the mission for which it was appointed.

"Dr. Brown asked for an investigation, and the committee has full power to act—in fact, they can only do their duty by going ahead. They have full right to demand of Dr. Brown such evidence as he might possess which bears on the case, and they cannot adjourn until this has been done. A few days ago Dr. Williams asked for a copy of the minutes, which I furnished him. Whether he has brought this matter before his associates or simply allowed it to drop I am not prepared to say.

"If I was Dr. Brown I would do one of two things. I would demand instantly a thorough investigation or else I would call everything off and continue to brazen the thing out to the end. His policy is suicidal, and I am afraid he will realize that only when it is too late."

Deacon Barnard was asked, on Saturday, for the records of the joint committee and other documents from the Bay Association. Particular inquiry was made concerning the copy of the minutes of the last-named institution, which Dr. Williams said had been turned over to him.

Deacon Barnard picked out the paper from a pile of others and made a movement as though to deliver it, when it occurred to him to look it over. This was the first time he had ever read the document and his face showed plainly the surprise he felt.

"This is very peculiar," he said, and he immediately folded up the paper and refused to allow it to be read. He refused to discuss the paper at all, except to say that there was a mistake somewhere.

The committee has the power to open the case at any time, and it is understood that a meeting will be held to-night to discuss the situation.

MRS. COOPER'S CLASS.

The Attendance Was Larger Yesterday Afternoon Than Ever Before.

The attendance yesterday at the Bible class conducted by Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper was very large, in fact larger than any of the members remember it to have been before.

"It was a most beautiful lesson," said one enthusiastically. "There were between three and four hundred here." No resolutions were passed whatever.

"I would not allow such a thing," Mrs. Cooper explained. "I wish only kindliness and harmony to exist here. Nothing has been said and nothing will ever be said, you may be assured, in our class."

In the lesson expounded by Mrs. Cooper she dwelt on the following points:

"True faith overcomes all obstacles." "There is hope for all men." "Human forgiveness is the type and assurance of divine forgiveness." "Jesus was always speaking words of hope and cheer."

She said that people who watch for the evil all the time are not likely to discover the good, and as illustrations she spoke of those who watch for evil in children, servants and neighbors, and of those who criticize books harshly. "All this," she said, "distorts and twists the judgment.

"The rudest hand can pull down and destroy; it does not require much skill to do this. It is easier to criticize than to commend. It takes a master hand to point out the beauties rather than the defects.

"Max Muller says: 'It is the heart that makes the true critic, not the nose.'

"But the power of good," she continued, "is present to heal, in spite of all carpers and quibblers, and all power for good is of God, no matter who is present hence; one with God is always a majority."

TIRED OF STRUGGLING.

Louis Evian, an Aged Frenchman, Poor and Depressed, Tries to Take His Life.

Louis Evian, a lodger at the Sutter-street House, presents a pitiable spectacle as he lies on a cot at the Receiving Hospital. His face, white from loss of blood, expresses the hopelessness of a man at the end of his resources.

At one time Evian was a prosperous tradesman, with a laundry on O'Farrell street and a bank account at Belloc Freres. This was all lost. A month ago his wife died. This was the crowning misfortune. Despondent though he was, he still sought employment. He is 62 years of age, and at every place he met the answer that he was too old. At last he decided to give up the struggle.

At 7 o'clock yesterday morning he tried to cut an artery in his right arm. To save the bed clothing from stains he stretched his arm over a porcelain vessel after having slashed it in several places. Then he awaited death.

But he had not cut deep enough. No arteries were severed, and he was discovered in his room at 11 o'clock, weak from loss of blood but still alive. An ambulance was at once summoned and he was sent to the hospital.

Fell From the Train.

John Rodden, a shoemaker living at 923 Harrison street, met with a severe accident last evening at the ocean beach. With a hundred or more people he rushed to catch the last train going to town. The train moved out of the depot before Rodden reached the platform and he made a flying leap for the step as it passed him. He missed his footing and was hurled to the ground. Both legs and knees were badly cut and bruised. The injured man was sent to the Receiving Hospital. It will be a week or more before Rodden will be able to walk.

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CRUSHED IN A SUTRO CAR.

Serious Accident on the Popular Line to the Cliff.

SEVEN PEOPLE INJURED.

One of the New Cars Jumps the Track at a Curve Near Thirty-Third Avenue.

RUSH OF TRAVEL CAUSED IT.

A Woman Badly Hurt and Several Others Cut and Bruised—Cause of the Accident.

There was a serious accident yesterday on the Sutro Railroad, a car jumping from the track at Thirty-third avenue. Seven men and women were badly hurt and others were more or less bruised.

Miss Emilie Sutter, living at 2718 Pine street, was sitting on the forward end of the car and was violently thrown off, her head striking the rail. Her skull was fractured and her body badly bruised. She was removed to her home in an unconscious condition, and at a late hour last night had not recovered her senses.

Mrs. J. Boucher of 718 Oak street, carrying her baby and accompanied by her husband, was sitting on the after part of the car. She was thrown off. Her left leg was hurt and she was otherwise injured internally. The infant was also bruised on several parts of its body.

I. Koshland of 808 Pine street had his ankle dislocated and fractured, also receiving other injuries.

Miss Horton of 3415 Point Lobos avenue was thrown to the ground and received cuts on the face and foot.

Miss Marie Leonhardt of 1314 Broderick street was slightly hurt by falling on the track.

With great crowds standing at every street crossing waiting for the cars that were already crowded to overflowing, the Sutro road from Central avenue to the Cliff House went through its first Sunday. From morning till night a mass of people surged around and piled in and out of those cars after making it impossible for one crowd to take the place of the other. The coaches would move off with their mass of passengers, slowly because the motorman knew the new machinery and stiff road curves would not stand any sort of speed. The nickel fare and the bright Sunday after weeks of cloud and rain drew the thousands to the warm, bright beach, the new baths and Cliff House.

About 1 o'clock in the afternoon car 40, overcrowded with passengers, went off the rails at the car house on Thirty-third avenue. The coach was bound towards the City and rounding the sharp curve at the corner of the Pythian Cemetery the forward trucks left the track. The car was moving slowly but it was on the down grade and the great weight of the load of passengers drove it ahead over the ties and into the sand. The people on the open portions and hanging on the outside were shaken off in all directions and in the panic those inside the coach making frantic and needless efforts to escape made the confusion all the greater.

By the force of the collision many of the passengers were thrown off and several were hurt, as already described.

Immediately the superintendent of the road, who was at the carhouse, telegraphed for Dr. Frank B. Petrie, the physician of the company, and for carriages for the injured people. Everything possible was done for the disabled passengers by the railroad officials, and upon the arrival of the hacks they were sent to their respective homes. Dr. Petrie by orders of Mayor Sutro visited all the injured passengers last evening.

The car was not badly damaged, and by inquiry among the passengers themselves it was learned that most of the persons hurt received their injuries by wildly jumping off when the car left the rails. They scrambled from the plunging coach in a confused and frightened body, and in the words of a bystander, "They fell every way."

"I exceedingly regret the accident," said Mayor Sutro to a CALL reporter, at the baths, "but we have been handicapped all day by the difficulties of a new and untried road, new employes, etc., and also by the terrible crowds of people who all came down upon us at once. They would crowd the cars beyond their capacity, and the trainmen could hardly handle the coaches. We have been as careful as we could, but you see the thing occurred."

CROWDS AT THE BEACH.

The Unusual Rush to the Home of the Seals.

At no time within a year has there been such a rush of people to the ocean beach as there was yesterday. As early as 9 o'clock in the morning the cars of the Sutro, the Cliff House and Park and Ocean lines were crowded with people bound for the oceanside. With the advance of the day there was an increase of travel. The cars of the new line were not only crowded to their capacity, but venturesome men and boys clambered up the sides and rode on the roof, and so great was the weight on them that roof supports creaked and at times it seemed as if they would be crushed in.

At each terminus, as soon as an outward bound train reached it, there was a struggle between those who wanted to land and those who wanted to get aboard. It was pull, haul and crush and many who wanted to get off were actually forced to fight their way through the crowd wanting to get on. For a time it was apparent that there was a reversal of the railroad rule, "all the traffic will bear," for the cars would not bear the traffic; that is there were not cars enough to accommodate the crowds.

At the Park and Ocean terminus, when the 3:15 train from Stanyan street arrived, there were more people waiting to get on board than could find room. In the efforts of the outs to get in and the ins to get out men struggled to pass each other, women were pushed aside, and many of them had their wraps torn from their shoulders and skirts torn and ruined. Two of these were so much frightened at finding themselves in such an uncontrollable crowd that they fainted and had to be carried away.

Fully 2000 persons were on the five cars that left the depot at half-past 3 o'clock. The little but powerful locomotive snorted and puffed as it pulled out with its heavy load and ran along well enough until it passed the life-saving station, when the dead weight commenced to tell and the train came to a dead halt. It was backed down and a fresh start made, with no better result. It was backed down a second time when more steam was put on, but it was a steady and a hard pull to get around the curve on to the track that lies eastward. From that point to Strawberry Hill station the rise is a gradual one and that station is 232 feet higher than the curve.

Once more the train backed, and as it rounded the curve on its backward trip those who were on the rear car and those who were on the side steps were horrified to see another train coming full speed out of the tunnel under the main drive to the great highway. On came the train with unslackened speed and still backward continued the former train. Men, women and children in the last car of the forward train feared a tail-end collision and became almost panic-stricken. Men jumped off the train in the most reckless manner, falling over one another; women screamed and a few took chances and sprang from the moving train. Others who wanted to throw themselves from the car were with difficulty restrained by strong men, while others were so paralyzed with fear as to be unable to move.

Suddenly, while the confusion was at its height, there was a warning whistle from the engine of the rear train, shrill and quick. It startled those in the front part of the forward train who were not aware of what was going on in the rear. The airbrakes on the forward train were applied, and the two trains came to a dead halt only about a block apart. None of those who sprang from the train were hurt.

Then the second train followed the first, and the locomotive, drawing its own load, attempted to push the forward one, but hauling and pushing were too much for it. When the forward train was half way up the grade the engine puffed and puffed, and with every revolution of the wheels the advance slackened, then the wheels churned the track, and the train commenced to back slowly, pushing the rear train down the grade until the airbrakes were again applied.

Finally the rear train ran back to the life-saving station, the locomotive cut loose from the train and waited for the former train which was backing down the grade. The rear locomotive was coupled on, and the one pushing and the other hauling the heavily laden train was taken over the grade, when the rear locomotive returned to its waiting cars and the other train went on and landed its passengers at Stanyan street, all thankful that nothing more serious had occurred than a delay of half an hour. From this point there was another crush to get into the street cars.

Car No. 40 of the Sutro Electric Road Leaving the Rails at Thirty-first Avenue.
[Sketched by a "Call" staff artist.]

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