

# HIS NEW JERUSALEM.

## The "Sons of God" Follow Dr Cyrus R. Teed.

He Says that He Has the Only Simon-Pure Religion Now in the World.

Cellibacy the Rule for Saints of the First Class in this Heaven.

In the pleasant suburb of Washington Heights an under-sized, smooth-shaven man of 54, whose brown, restless eyes glow and burn like live coals, is day after day seated in a cozy study, from which he directs the destinies of a "new race of men," the "sons of God," says the Chicago Herald. This man is Dr Cyrus R. Teed, the "Koreesh"—founder of a new religion and of a whole sociological and philosophical system. He purposes to launch out on a grand scale, to build the New Jerusalem and to gather there—on the southwestern coast of Florida—the army of his followers and the legions of new converts he has made.

It is on record that not long ago this man went out to California, called a public meeting of all the people he knew of, made an impassioned and eloquent address, setting forth his scheme, and within an hour secured subscriptions to the tune of \$60,000.



CYRUS TEED.

He is convinced (or at least says that he is) of being the reincarnation of the deity—the second Christ; that he is lawless, sinless; that he has found the second revelation, taking the place of the first, Christianity.

Dr Teed, himself, as the ideal "Man-God," the "Theanthropos" of his own mind, as the Christ became flesh once more.

How firmly convinced he is of the ultimate triumph of his new doctrine and of his own Christ-nature is shown by the fact that he has started a new era—the present year being A. K. (meaning Anno Koreesh) 51. For, as the Moslems date their era from the birth of the Korah and the Christians from the birth of the Savior, so do the Koreesh and the Koreeshans date their new era from his birth, 51 years ago. Koreesh, by the way, is Hebrew for Cyrus, the great Persian king, and the amazing new religion, therefore, takes its name from its founder.

A few details of the "Koreesh's" earlier life will be necessary. Cyrus R. Teed was born in 1835 in Walton, Delaware county, N. Y., but was educated in Utica, N. Y., and when a youth studied medicine in a college at New York city, where he graduated, the school of medicine he had chosen being the so-called eclectic. He returned to Utica and began to practice his profession, married and had one child born to him. His practice cannot have been a large one, since it left him, according to his own statements, plenty of time for private study and experiment.

How he made his "great" discovery and laid the basis to his self of today, had best be told in his own words. "In 1850," he said, "while purifying a chemical and electrical investigation in my laboratory, I made the discovery, probably aided by research and study in my profession, of the law of transmutation—a law underlying all chemical processes, by which elements entering into chemical combinations were interconvertible—gold could be changed into silver, mercury into copper, etc. I further discovered that the basis of what has been denominated chemistry is not chemistry, but alchemy, the mystical science of old.

"I discovered through repeated investigations that any atom of matter could be converted into corresponding energy, as zinc into zinc essence or zinc electricity, and by dint of the correlation of matter, gold into gold electricity, copper into copper electricity, etc., a process well known in alchemy. By submitting myself to tests of different kinds of electricity I could distinguish them, even when blindfolded, by the taste of the current, could tell whether it was gold electricity or silver electricity, etc.

"I recognized this law of transmutation and its correlation with the law of energy as a scientific fact, and I found that matter could be transmuted into energy, and energy into spirit. This important new truth became the basis of my whole system, religious, scientific and sociological. And the law of transmutation is what will produce a new race of men."

He has abolished the solar system and all the rest of astronomy. The earth, according to him, is concave, plate-shaped, stationary. Up above in the ether, a distance of exactly 400 miles, is suspended the luminous and half solidified body of the sun. That is the Koreeshan universe.

The stars, Dr Teed says, are mere specks of light reflected back into space, but not celestial bodies nor moving orbs. And he and the rest of the Koreeshan luminaries pride themselves vastly on this discovery. In Dr Teed's paper, the *Flaming Sword*, in an issue which appeared Jan 27 of the present year, Alice Fox Miller of Chicago writes an essay which puts the ordinary science and astronomy in juxtaposition with the Koreeshan article, and says of the latter: "After the wearisome and futile stretch of the imagination that was necessary in grappling with the old theory, it is joyful from its very definiteness."

By overcoming the sexual instinct man will become immortal, and for the present generation or two they will attain such longevity as that spoken of in the Bible, become as old as Enoch, Methuselah and the rest of them.

Well, after Dr Teed had made that "great" discovery of "the law of transmutation" and of chemistry being really alchemy, in 1850, he began to expound his doctrine in Utica and to further elaborate and develop it during many midnight vigils. He says that from that hour on his persecutions commenced.

His practice suffered; his friends began to look askance at him, and the churches—against which he has by this time accumulated a large amount of venoms—commenced to taboo him. So he went to Binghamton, N. Y., next, and tried practice there. It was not much different. Patients remained scarce. Next he went to Brooklyn, and didn't fare any better. He tried other towns and cities and finally struck Chicago. That was in the fall of 1853.

Here for the first time he began to make a public presentation of his new "science" and religion, and at 3 and 4 College pl, on the South side, he first started his "heaven." That was five years ago, and since that time he has harbored about 150 persons—mostly women—in the different abodes managed by him under the appellation of "The Heavens," a name, however, which he now disclaims.

At College pl he ran the "College of Life" for a time, and his peculiar views—or some of them at least—began to attract notoriety, but still the proselyting business flagged and languished, and a couple of lawsuits in which he became the defendant, due to the inability of several matter-of-fact husbands to see things quite in the same light as Dr Teed, did not make matters much better.

However, Dr Teed, aided and abetted by a band of faithful followers—mostly women—who poured gold into his coffers, continued to persevere the avowed tenor of his way. His influence slowly but steadily grew, as did the number of his adherents and disciples.

Two years ago the whole "heaven" was moved out to Washington Heights. A tract of fine land and residences, comprising eight and one-half acres, and situated on 19th and Oak, was put at the disposal of himself and the minor saints and angels. It is a fine property.

Dr Teed, or "Koreesh," resides in the "Mansion," a spacious, well-built old homestead, formerly the property of a wealthy family, surrounded by broad, shady verandas and magnificent grounds thickly studded with old trees and made attractive by green plots and flower beds. With him in the same fine building live some of the prominent angels. There are seven cottages besides, in



which other members of the Koreeshan community live, and one office building—formerly a huge barn—in which is the printing office.

This printing office yields the main revenue. In it are printed the *Flaming Sword*, a weekly paper, which is kept by every Koreeshan and by several thousand who read it from curiosity or because of a half-hearted sympathy with its doctrines. Dr Teed, of course, is the editor.

They believe in a union of church and state. The celibate state (enjoining strict chastity on its members) is the blessed one, and celibate members alone are admitted into the heaven or home here below. Those married believers who wish to join must hereafter live strictly separate. There are at present some 110 living in the home at Washington Heights, of whom 20 are rosy-cheeked children, said to have all been adopted by the unity, who are instructed and taught the rudiments of an education in a schoolroom on the upper floor of the Mansion. The majority—about three to one—of the inmates are women. Those that could be seen were, without exception, unattractive in looks, rather pale and unhealthy it would seem, and wore a cowed and timid expression in their faces.

The sexes lead a separate existence, even their meals are served separately. There is, according to Dr Teed, community of goods.

Dr Teed is addressed with awe and trembling.

It ought to be stated here, as additional information about his personal history, that he was educated as a Baptist and affiliated with that denomination in his youth. But, he says, "If my critical analysis of the church and all its ministers I have never found and one who was the image of God, the likeness of the deity. Man born from God as the result of the vitalizing and impregnating power of God, must be different from all the ministers I have ever known."

He was ordained a minister by the Shakers in Pennsylvania, and subsequently ordained himself—as above stated—as the "Koreesh," the Christ become flesh.

The unmistakable influence which Dr Teed undoubtedly exercises over women is easily enough explained by his extraordinary claims of divinity, by the perseverance with which he sticks to them, and by his hyperbolic, flowery manner of speech, full of imagery and metaphor and the wildest flights of fancy.

But as to his latest plan. Some time ago an elderly German, Gustav Dammkoehler, a convert to the Koreeshan faith and a man of some wealth, ceded to the Koreeshan unity a tract of 360 acres on land at Estero, Lee county, Fla., lying along the Estero creek and two miles from Estero bay, on the southwestern coast of Florida, under the 28th degree of latitude. Other members of the sect furnished enough money to buy up adjacent land to make it an even 1000 acres.

The exact point where this property is situated is 10 miles below the railroad terminus of the Southern Florida line, 24 miles southwest of Fort Myers, and about the same distance due south from Punta Haza. On this ~~large~~ tract the new home of the great majority of the Koreeshans is to be established under the name of the New Jerusalem. That, at least, is the intention of Dr Teed, provided, of course, he can find enough believers to settle there. His ultimate project is to buy up a tract six miles square, or 36 square miles all told, on which he means to have a city of 8,000,000 faithful Koreeshans.

To carry out this project in its entirety will not require much—only \$200,000,000 or so. That is a fair estimate made by Dr Teed. For that amount he would guarantee to put up, brand new, this whole city of 8,000,000 souls.

### PRIZES FOR CROWING COCKS.

One Has a Record of 337 Crows an Hour—Training Methods.

A curious poultry show is being organized in Paris. The principal feature of it will be a championship competition for crowing roosters. That is to say, the bird that crows the loudest, the longest and the greatest number of times in a given period will take the prize.

The champion cock of France is a little bantam hailing from the neighborhood of Sensing. He is on record as having crowed no less than 337 times in one hour.

Training requires a great deal of care, especially just before competition takes place, since, unless proper precautions are adopted, the rooster is apt to exhaust his voice before the tournament.

The training consists, as a rule, in placing the candidate for honors in a cage in the midst of a circle of other cages, each containing a cock. The one in the center sends a loud strident note, and thereupon those around him respond and the contest is kept up, the birds each endeavoring to outcrow the other.

Crowing birds of this kind being large prices, in some cases as much as \$400 and \$500.

See "Melody" on page 32.

### True Love.

"No," admitted a man the other day, "my wife never tells me that she is fond of me, but she always prepares the kind of dinner I like best."—[Answers.

## OFFENSIVE ECZEMA

Suffered Terribly. Doctors and Medicines Useless. Cured in Four Weeks by Cuticura.

There is a boy, fifteen years old, born in Flaktil, portrait (below), who had the eczema so offensive that I could not stay in the room with him.



The poor boy suffered terribly. His feet were so sore, he could not wear any shoes, and had therefore to stay at home from school. When he put on a pair of dry stockings in the morning they would in one hour be saturated with moisture and very offensive even in the coldest weather. His disease began to spread over his body, especially his hands and fingers. The cracks on both his hands became stiff and as useless as two withered sticks of wood. It would be useless for me to try to tell the suffering this boy endured. I took him to two different doctors, both gave him lots of medicine, but all to no use. He grew worse. I therefore despaired of ever having him cured. One day I saw the great benefits promised to those who would use CUTICURA REMEDY. I went right away to the drug store and bought them. However, I used them according to directions and today I say truthfully to all the world that my son is entirely cured, thank God and thank the discoverers of CUTICURA REMEDY. They cured him in four weeks as sound as a gold dollar.

JOHN SAYAGE,

Flaktil Village, N. Y.

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