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EDITORIAL

## ECONOMICS IN THEOLOGY.

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**A** CHICAGO Evangelist, Billy Sunday by name, has published in the press of his city an essayette, which, though certainly not meant to be a treatise on economics, nor a confirmation of economic teachings, least of all an endorsement of scientific or Socialist political economy, has its center of gravity in economics, Socialist economics, at that.

Evangelist Billy Sunday has plied his apostolate of saving sinners in several cities. According to him his exhortations to the wicked to mend their ways, while uniformly successful, have not been uniformly cheap, or costly. On this head he furnishes what may be termed a price list. Here it is:

City.	Cost per Sinner.
Atlanta .....	\$75
New Orleans .....	78
Chicago .....	395
Boston .....	450
New York .....	545
Indianapolis .....	620

Of course, Evangelist Billy Sunday does not mean to convey the idea that the moneys, under the head "Cost per Sinner," were paid out to each sinner, as an inducement, or reward, least of all as the sinner's market price. Even the robustious treasuries of the mercantile agencies called "Foreign Missions" would be bankrupted in no time were "gentle convertite" to be bought for an average of \$390.50. The idea that the above list means to convey is the cost of exhortation in different localities. And therein lies the economic value of Evangelist Billy Sunday's "price list."

Capitalist politicians, echoing the teachings of capitalist professors of economics, delight in stating the small money-wages of the workers abroad, in rolling off

their tongues the high money wages of the workers in this country, and then contrasting the two sets of figures; whereupon, turning a somersault in the air and gleefully clapping their heels in the transit, “point with pride” at how much better off the American workingman is. The fallacy of the “reasoning” transpires with singular clearness from the Evangelist Billy Sunday’s “price list.” As well “reason” that the exhortation which costs \$545 per sinner in New York, or \$620 in Indianapolis is of superior woof than the Atlanta exhortation which nets as low a figure as \$75 per sinner. The texture of the exhortation is the same in both towns, equally close or equally loose, equally serviceable or equally shoddy; but the cost of living of the exhorter, and the store rent in and from which the exhortation is retailed, differ in different towns.

From all of which it appears that theology is not above economics, and, furthermore, is pivoted on material necessities, like all else that is man’s, Evangelist Billy Sunday’s included.

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