



SUNDAY READING

SERMON.

Let The Light Shine.

A SERMON PREACHED BY REV. DR. ROBERT COLLYER, OF THE CHURCH OF MESSIAH, NEW YORK.

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father, which is in heaven.—Matt. v. 16.

I love to notice when I read this sermon on the mount, which we accept all around as the sum of all true preaching, that the Master has no word to say about the church we shall join, the system of doctrine we shall believe or the things we shall do that are now considered essential before this light He speaks of can shine forth in our life. And how this was not that they were all of one heart and mind in olden times any more than we are now, because we need not stay outside the gospels to find that they had their sects also—not so many of them, to be sure; yet He takes no notice here of any sect, but only of the light each man may reveal.

We easily learn also that they had their diverse systems of belief then and of usage and ordinance, on which these sects rested and turned, and where there were orthodox and liberal, high church and low.

But He has no word to say about the need to accept this system or the other before the light can shine. It can shine through all or apart from them all if they will but be true to the light.

They had their famous preachers, also, and teachers, but He does not say you shall go to them and light your lamp there; it is within them, lighted already in a glimmer or a glory, and what they have to do is to let it shine. And they were very simple folks these He had about him—in the main, poor men of a very limited education indeed, and who if He had asked them what they believed and why, would have halted and stammered and got the statement twisted all out of tune, on their uncounted tongues, and most likely would have mixed up the Bible truth with some of the common currency, just as such a man quoted the words from the Bible to me a good many years ago, "God tempests the wind to the storm lamb," and when I said that is not in the Bible, ruminated for a while and then answered, "Well, if it isn't ought to be," and to that I said "Amen."

A Simple Faith.

It is well worth our while to notice also that this gracious monition was given to men and no doubt women, too, who would be so full of care about their day's work of some sort, and their daily bread, that beyond the simple faith which would lie within the life they were living and the work they were doing on the land and water and in their homes, there would be no light in them save this, perhaps, that they must do as they would be done by and fall back for the rest on some such heart of grace as that we find in the good Dolly Winthrop in the story. "Ah, there's a deal o' trouble in this world, Master Warner, and things one can never make out the right on, and all we can do then is to trust. To do the right thing so far as we know and to trust, for if we as know so little can see a bit o' good and right we may be sure there's a good and bigger right nor what we can know. And it's the will o' Them above as many things should be dark to us; but there's some things as we never felt the dark about—they're mostly what comes i' the day's work." So they must think of what they had to do in this world put their life into that day by day and all the year round or they could not keep the home together and pay their way like honest men and good women.

When It Was Dark.

And in doing this who should know better than He did who was talking with them, and had lived in a home like theirs all His life, what a hard struggle it would be not seldom to make ends meet, and drive the wolf from the door in those evil and desperate times? How the light which was in them would be darkened by clouds of fear, when the harvest was scant and poor, and the lord of the land ruthless for his rent. When sickness invaded the home and it grew dark in the shadows of death. When the fishing was naught on the sea of Galilee, or the boat lay a wreck on the beach and the father and son down within the wild waters while the widow and children that were left wept for the sore desolation.

This He knew because He knew what was in man and man's life, and because He had lived in the heart of it for thirty years and had seen the pathetic sight He touches in a parable, where the poor house mother finds her experience lost in the mud floor, and rushes out crying to the neighbors and friends, "Rejoice with me for I have found the piece which was lost." All this He knew, the preacher with the divine heart and the light in it which has grown to be the glory of the world. Yet He said to them, "Let your light so shine before men that they may glorify your Father which is in heaven." And so this light, if we have caught His meaning, is not of a sect or system or a say-so of any sort. It is there by the ordination of God striving to shine forth through the thick incrustations that overlie the soul's windows or shining strong and clear from clean and strong souls; but whatever may be the estate of the glass, there is the light, and they must let it shine.

An Argument That Appeals to the Heart.
The argument that goes right home to the heart, where all words fail, is the argument of the light shining clear through the windows of sincere and true souls, yours and mine, when we keep the glass sweet and fair. Then as I listen again, I see that gracious look my preacher casts on those who hear Him, and still note the emphasis He hides in the words, "let your light shine," and then it is as if He had said to them what He would say to us: You will go home from hearing this

word of mine to your fishing and farming, your vines and olives and flocks of sheep, or your business in the town over yonder, and for the most of you this is all you can do or ever will do while you live on the earth, and now the truth I would tell you is this: That you can let your light so shine there, on the land or the water, in your homes and in the business you have to mind, that you may live and pay your way like honest men and true, and good women and true, that there shall be a divine worth in, and for all time to come, and the word shall be said to you when your work is done, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord"—very little you may be able to do as you think of it, beyond what you must take hold of tomorrow, and the kindly and neighborly service also which comes with the day by day. But this world and your life, these are in our Father's hands as surely as the innermost and the uttermost heavens are, and you serve Him then as surely as the angels of the presence which stands about the throne, and so let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Keep the Light Shining.

And so it is once more that as I read this Word of the Master as it stands clear from the conditions we make for the shining, that we shall believe this or that as it is set forth in the diverse books, and do this, or that we are bidden to do, or the light which is in us will be not light, but darkness. I still hear the voice of Him who spake as never man spake, saying: Let not your heart be troubled about these contentions over this is the false, and that is the true, which vexed the world in my time as it vexes yours; thence is the light within you which was within me, the light which cometh down from heaven—now let it shine. It may be hard for you to keep the glass clear always, but mind the light. And there may be those who will say of you what they said of me that your light is not from heaven, but from the pit; let them say what they will, let it shine. That is what you are here for: to reveal the light which is in you, and you may think it is of no use and no one cares, and there are always those who love darkness rather than the light.

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so unto them. This is the law and the prophets. And if ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father in heaven give good things to them that ask him." This is your faith. And behold the fowls of the air, who sow not, nor reap, nor gather into barns, yet your Heavenly Father feedeth them while not a sparrow falleth to the ground with His will, and ye are more than many sparrows: this is your trust. And blessed are the lowly of heart, and blessed are those that mourn, and blessed the meek, and blessed the merciful, and blessed the pure in heart, for they shall see God; these are your beatitudes, and a good tree cannot bear evil fruit. This is your evidence. And now go home and let your light so shine before men.

Something to Do.

And I have lingered over this great and most pregnant monition of the Master as said, because it stands good for all time and comes home to us all. Down on the coast this summer I was watching a light from my window, when, as the word runs in my motherland, it was blowing great guns. It was not a great light like the Minot on that coast and that Sandy Hook our way, but a hand held the lamp we never see and always see, the hand of the republic, and the day's man of the republic was within the small sturdy tower. And as the sun went down the light flashed out, and at midnight, as I turned away from the window, there was the light shining clear over the dark waters. And I said, this is not something for the man in there to talk about, but something to do, to stand true to the light, while to let it go out or burn down dim, when the order is to keep it burning strong and clear, would be to lose his rank and number as one who had proven unfaithful to his trust.

And so I got a parable out of it all touching this gracious monition in the Master's sermon and how we must all mind the light not in another's way, but in our own, as the day's men of God and "it will be a good day for the world," a quaint old divine says, "when we once come to the conclusion that God cares a great deal more for the clear shining than He cares for what we say about ours being the finest and the best." And it is only a low light we have to mind, not a splendid glory like those we have seen. So was that in the sturdy little tower on the coast; but the man who had to mind it was as true to his calling and election as the day's man of the republic, as those are in the high places, and as they were on Cape Race, whose light and black midnight twenty years ago warned us away from the fatal shore. Indeed, I find that the men and women who grow dearest to me as the years grow from the few to the many are not those who challenge the world to admire and praise them, but rather those who have stood faithful to the low-lying light, as the man whose lamp I was watching is to those who live about the bay which lay beyond my windows, and have to look to him for help and direction when the need grows sore.

A Little Light That Burned.

And as I think of these faithful in a very little, one comes out from the mist and silence of years who has moved on these many years to the land where there is no more night and no more sea. He was in my old mother church and always said one prayer and talk, one very simple story with very much endeavor to get it out about what lay in his heart, and we all knew it word for word before he began; and then, no matter who was the preacher, he would go quietly to sleep, as a child will the moment we gave out our text, and sleep right through the sermon, while even in the prayer meetings, when the rest were very wide awake, indeed, he would go to sleep

A FREE GIFT! — FOR NOTHING!

Write your address clearly on a post card, and we will send you, postage paid, and without any charge, ONE COPY of our book about Gloves (just published): "HOW TO PUT ON A KID GLOVE." It will interest you and cost nothing. Also Please Note,—with every pair of Gloves ordered by post between this and XMAS, we shall enclose (without charge) one of our New Patent Glove Button Hooks.

"Write your Address Plainly."

W. H. FAIRALL,

DRY GOODS IMPORTER, SAINT JOHN, N. B.

and wake up now and then and say Amen. But it is in all the world he could have found an enemy, a thing you could not imagine, he could not have got one other man to believe that old George was not sincere and true as the saints of God are, while he was the one man everybody ran to in their troubles, and would be like to meet him half way coming to look them up and help them, and he was not a rich man, but his hand and heart were always open, and his time seemed to belong to all the folk within hail of his home—managing small estates for widows and orphans, the president of the temperance cause in the valley where, in the meeting the speech he never did make, touched you more potently when you knew the man than the choicest eloquence of other men, and the wildest fellows in the shops would be ready to sign any pledge when he would look at them out of his soft, brown eyes and plead with them that they should quit drinking with such a tender pathos that they would break into tears and swear mighty oaths that they would drink no more, and then ask him to forgive the swearing, and he had a pony he had raised himself and trained so resolute to have his own way and stop when it pleased him that the president of the society down the street would have told him I think to try the whip. Ah! but the light shone so clear in the good old man's heart and life and he had stood by it so loyally through the eighty years' hearing and heeding the monition to keep the glass clear and mind the light.

Material Evidence.

And so, as I read the words and think of the sight I saw in the summer atwart the bay, the truth touches me we may all take to our hearts from the sermon and the parable that this light may well shine first of all on, and then from the work we have to do in this world in which we are all co-workers together with God when we create and do not destroy true wealth and work as his workmen, who need not to be ashamed. In that lovely and restful seclusion we found just now in the heart of the bonnie greenland there was not the least need for me to sit down with the husbandmen and ask them what light they could shed for me on fair farming, the light lay on the farms wherever we might wander, on the grass, in the meadows, and the growing corn, and the trees in the orchards and the flowers in the door-yard the mother and daughters tended, and the sweet and simple homesteads.

It is the simplest truth we can take to our hearts when we begin where the Master began for proof and evidence. The light shines on and from the work we have to do first, no matter how near it may be to the base line of our life or how high it may reach toward the stars and the sun. Is it hand work? Very well; head work, very well; work the world calls noble, very well; work the world deems humble, very well; the day's work of the carpenter's son, making ox yokes and plows with his father, Joseph, very well, or this matchless sermon on the mount, very well. Here is the law and the testimony he made good that we shall mind the light, where our life lies and our task.

And we shall do this for our own sake, for as the hand we never see and always see lay within the oil of the flame and the glass, the man I may never see must mind in that lighthouse or he loses his rank and number. So, for our own sake, we must let this light shine before men lest we lose ours. And as he can never know what worth lies in the clear, shining, save by faith, no more can we. If my dear old friend could have dreamed that forty years and more from the time we met I should pay my poor tribute to the light which shown for us on the Tacony, in this word to you he would have said, "What have I done that my name should be mentioned in the imperial city long after I have vanished out of the world. I could not help it. There was no merit in it. I only did as the Master said that which it was my duty to do." "True," I must have answered, "but you saw to the filling of the lamp and kept the glass clean and fair, as we all must who would enter into the joy of the Lord."

Keep the Lantern, Too.

Am I here to speak to you Sunday by Sunday, then the best I know it is only as when one playeth upon an instrument some pleasant or sad tune, if I have to say with a poor old man I heard of, mind the light and let the lantern go—when the lantern and the light are each essential, the man and the word. Are you in the store, the workshop, the market, on the farm, in the home, in the study, in the studio, in the school? Is it a poem through which the light will shine as a picture, a book, a lesson, an invention, a ledger, a wagon wheel, a horse well shod, a stone wall, a business that touches both the poles, everything, anything which creates and does not waste and destroy labor is prayer? The light shines on and from what we do when the loyal heart is in it, and the faithful hand and the Lord and Master only set his seal on the divine sermon as it stands in the sacred Gospels for all men to read, because he made the truth he tells, and the light that shines in and through it all on the noblest and best we can be and do, real to us, and true as the way of truth and the life.

This light which shone so strong and clear from the Master's heart as He sat on the hillside and still shines so strong and clear, came to Him from the fountain of light, the Father of lights, the primal source, the sun which lights the sun, and tips the glow worm with its lambent lamp, and thence comes our light, or should come, and we only follow Him truly here in when we follow Him to the fountain, the Father, the eternal, immortal and invisible, who is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

Your Boy or Girl

WILL WANT
WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY
AND YOU WILL WANT
PROGRESS.
\$3.95 FOR BOTH.

THINGS OF VALUE.

The devil's husks never make anybody fat.

For Cholera Fellows Speedy Relief stands ahead of all other preparations.

It anything will make a wise man of a fool, silence will do it.

Fellows Dyspepsia Bitters is not a new remedy. It has been known in this country over fifty years.

Self conceit is a rope that the devil never lets go of.

No other preparation combines the positive economy, the peculiar merit and the medicinal power of Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Marry in haste and you will find no leisure for repentance.

"IN THE SOUP" denotes trouble. But the Kerr Vegetable Soup Packet causes trouble in soup making to disappear, and makes a popular and cheap dish.

It does not hurt a belle to have her ball dress shot with silver.

WILMOT SPA WATER has been known for fifty years as beneficial in Stomach, Bowel, Kidney, Rheumatism and Skin troubles. It is a delicious table water.

The person who is too good for any use is good for nothing.

There's a Bridge of Sighs at Venice.

At Montreal a Bridge of Size; But Puttner's Emulsion is the Bridge of Health.

Which all sick men should prize.

Don't try to kill a fly on your neighbor's head with a hammer.

Do you know why Royal Belfast Ginger Ale is the best? Because the Wilmot Spa Mineral Waters are its base, and lime juice and pure extracts are used. All Grocers and Wine Merchants.

Preaching that is aimed at the head hardly ever strikes the heart.

Success treads on the heels of every right effort; and though it is possible to over-estimate success to the extent of almost deluding it, as is sometimes done, still in any worthy pursuit it is meritorious.—Samuel Smiles.

Seeking happiness simply to have it is a very bad kind of selfishness.

Lessive Phenix is the magic solutive before which all dirt and stains disappear. No woman who has used it would be without it. It is so effectual. It does so much. And does all perfectly. First it takes the place of the common washing powders, with their injurious chemical properties. It makes the wash easy. You don't require soap. It makes the water soft, and it makes everything you wash as clean as a new pin, more it restores faded colored goods. Try it upon your flannels, cottons, and anything washable.

We quarrel when things do not go to suit us and complain when things do not come to suit us, until we learn just how to gather them in going and coming.

RODGER MILLER Esq., manager of the Evans Bros. Piano Company, Ingersoll, Ontario, writes:—"I cannot just understand why you have not bought K. D. C. before our Western people are this. I am fully convinced that you have the best medicine for dyspepsia ever offered to the public and that it will do all that it is claimed for it. Last week when on my way for the East, I was approached by two different parties who wanted some as they were astonished at the result of a trial package. It seems to me any smart level-headed man ought to sell this medicine like hot cake."

INSTRUCTION.

Spelling

Punctuation, use of capitals etc., are all learned in the new system or "Business Writing" 50 lessons by mail \$2.

SNELL'S BUSINESS COLLEGE, Windsor, N.S.

Shorthand

LADIES and GENTLEMEN desirous of obtaining a thorough knowledge of Shorthand and Typewriting and an acquaintance with the duties of a business amanuensis, should enter for our evening courses—in session every evening (Saturdays excepted), 7 to 9. Apply to

J. HARRY PEPPER,

Conductor of Shorthand Department,

St. John Business College and Shorthand Institute

COLLEGE

OF

BUSINESS

AND

SHORTHAND

Send for Circulars.

ADDRESS:
J. B. MCKAY,
KINGSTON, ONT.



EVENING CLASSES

Now open for the Winter Months,
Hours: 7.30 to 9.30.

Hundreds of young men have qualified themselves for honorable lucrative positions by attending the evening classes. Terms only one-half those for day classes. Circulars mailed to any address.
OLD FELLOWS' HALL,
S. KERR, Principal.
WILL WANT

SOME RARE BARGAINS THIS WEEK

Trustees' Sale OF TURNER & FINLAY'S STOCK.

As we have only a very few weeks now in which to dispose of the balance of the Stock we will offer RARE BARGAINS this and the following weeks. Our Stock of

Fur Lined Garments

is still large, notwithstanding the great demand we have had for them the past week, and at the prices we offering them they are certainly the Greatest Values ever offered in St. John.

Jacket and Mantle Cloths,

IN BLACKS AND COLORED, AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES TO CLOSE OUT.

Colored Dress Materials.

Ten Special Lots. Prices from 10c. to 30c. per yard, former prices from 25c. to 70c.

WE HAVE MARKED THE ENTIRE STOCK OF

French Pattern Dresses

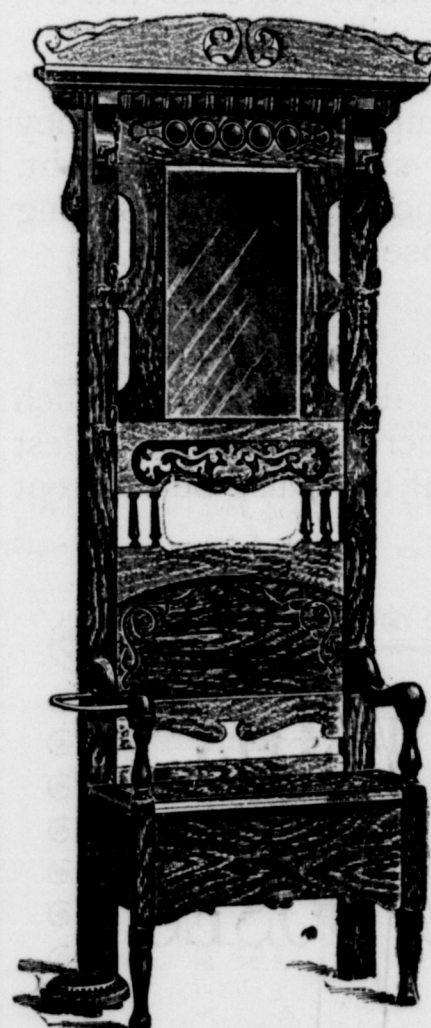
at less than one-half their former prices. Customers will find these Great Bargains.

Real Laces,

All Widths, in Black and White AT ABOUT HALF PRICE.

SAMUEL C. PORTER, } Trustees.
JAMES T. GILCHRIST, }

\$5.00 for a HAT TREE!



The few we are offering at that figure ought to sell them. Others at \$8.00, 9.00, 12.00 and 14.00, and better.

The one shown here is \$14.00—solid oak, with beveled mirror.

WE'RE SHOWING SOME NEW GOODS IN

FANCY FURNITURE

THAT WOULD MAKE

FINE XMAS PRESENTS.

C. E. REYNOLDS, - 101 CHARLOTTE STREET

Peri, Vesta, .. NEW ..

SILVER MOON, TROPIC, ORIENT FRANKLINS

—AND—

Other First-Class Heating Stoves, at

Kitchen Furnishing DEPOT,

90 CHARLOTTE ST.,

COLES, PARSONS & SHARP.

