

PREACHING

On a certain occasion Gladstone said, "One thing I have against the clergy, both of the country and in the towns. I think they are not severe enough on congregations. They do not sufficiently lay upon the souls and consciences of their hearers their moral obligations, and probe their hearts and bring up their whole lives and actions to the bar of conscience. The class of sermons which I think are most needed are of the class which once offended Lord Melbourne. He was seen coming from church in the country in a great fume. Finding a friend, he exclaimed, 'It is too bad I have always been a supporter of the church, and I have always upheld the clergy, but it is really too bad to have to listen to a sermon like that we have heard this morning. Why, the preacher actually insisted upon applying to a man's private life!' But that is the kind of preaching I like best, the kind of preaching which men need most, but it is, also, the kind of which they get the least."—Publisher Unknown.

TACT

Wesley and a preacher of his were once invited to lunch with a gentleman after service. The itinerant was a man of very plain manners, quite unconscious of the restraints belonging to good society.

While talking with their host's daughter, who was remarkable for her beauty and who had been profoundly impressed by Mr. Wesley's preaching, this good man noticed that she wore a number of rings.

During a pause in the meal he took hold of the young lady's hand and, raising it, called Wesley's attention to the sparkling gems. "What do you think of this, sir," said he, "for a Methodist hand?" The girl turned crimson.

The question was extremely awkward for Wesley, whose aversion to all display of jewelry was so well known. But the aged evangelist showed a tact which Lord Chesterfield might have envied. With a quiet, benevolent smile, he looked up and simply said, "The hand is very beautiful."

The young lady appeared at evening worship without her jewels, and became a firm and decided Christian.—Selected.

SOMETHING OUGHT TO BE SAID

Quite true but you are not the one to say it.

When you are ignored and slighted.

When you are misjudged and misrepresented.

When you are agitated or in a hurry.

When you are actually cursed.

David was fleeing from Absalom when Shimei "of the house of Saul" came forth on the hillside over against him and cursed David and cast stones at him. Of course David and his valiant soldiers felt this insult keenly. Finally Abishai could stand it no longer, and said, "Why should this dead dog curse my Lord the king? Let me go over I pray thee and take off his head." To this David replied, "Let him alone, and let him curse, for the Lord hath bidden (permitted) him. It may be that the Lord will look upon mine affliction and that the Lord will requite me for good for his cursing this day." Magnanimous! God sometimes steps aside to see what we will do. If we defend ourselves, He will give us the job and we will have a hard job of it. The quickest and surest way to get victory over annoying things is to be willing to let them continue as long as a merciful God will permit.—Rev. E. E. Shelhamer, Sr.

PRESS ON

No mortal man ever spoke to you as the Holy Ghost will speak, if only you have ears to hear.

Moses was in the mount forty days, but in the wilderness forty years. During the rest of his life he was busy working according to the pattern shown him in the mount. Imitate his example. In the time of temptation press steadily on and do everything just as you saw you ought to do when you were most blessed in your soul, and when nearest to God.

It is only by walking in the light that you can gain or keep the evidence of your acceptance with God. Many who were once clearly justified have lost the joy of salvation, and they do not know how they lost it. They are not conscious of having committed sin. The loss was occasioned by their failure to go on in their experience.—B. T. Roberts.

DIVINE GUIDANCE

In crossing the Atlantic a writer noticed a ship had two compasses, one halfway up a mast, the other at the wheel. The lower compass was affected by the steel in the framework of the ship. The helmsman steered by the higher one when the compasses differed.

"So it is on the ship which plows the stormy sea of life," says Amos R. Wells. "There is the compass of feeling, affected by all the chances and changes of the world around us, all the whims and doubts and variations of our souls. This compass is unreliable; it sends us on the rocks. But we have a higher compass—that of faith. It points steadily to the one true Star."—Selected.

THE BEST OF ALL

"The Lord stood with me." When John Wesley came to the end of his "unparalleled apostolate," Augustine Birrell beautifully described it, with his eighty-eight years behind him and over sixty of unremitting activity and service, he was not sighing nor longing for just one more year, one more of those amazing circuits of his. There was no hint of the best of his life being in the past. Not at all. Great as those triumphant years had been, these last hours of his were just as good as any. The best was right here now, and he closed it all by saying, "The best of all is, God is with us." And when Dean Stanley's devotion put up the tablet to the Wesleys in Westminster Abbey, he summed up all Wesley's life in these own words of his: "The best of all is, God is with us." And all the worst that can happen to us must be judged by that.—The Sunday School Times.

THE DIFFERENCE

A young woman was one day visiting an aged man, a friend of her father's, who had been associated with him in early life. The man had been one of those who had run after the world and overtaken it. All it could give he had obtained. Soon he inquired after the state of his friend, whom he knew to be in circumstances of far less external comfort than himself. As he listened to the story of his less-favored friend's patience in suffering, of the cheerfulness with which he could look forward to either life or death, the rich man's conscience applied the unexpressed reproach, and he exclaimed, "Yes, yes, you wonder why I cannot be as happy and quiet, too; but think of the difference. He is going to his treasure, and I—I must leave mine."—G. F. B. Hall.

THANKFULNESS

In our relation to God the spirit of thankfulness is not dependent on conditions of material prosperity or of freedom from trial. For whatever may be of our immediate experiences, God is always the good. His goodness is as manifest to the discerning eye in the discipline of sorrow and pain as in the affluence of pleasures and possessions. The call to thanksgiving is a call to earnest reflection on God's constant relation to us and to wider and deeper appreciation of His unfailing goodness. By thankfulness the soul is greatened in capacity of moral insight and feeling. As one grows in faith by trusting and in love by loving, so he grows in thankfulness by the exercise of his soul in grateful thoughts and emotions. "It is good to give thanks unto the Lord."—Philip S. Moxom.

YOUR SHIP

Guy L. Morrill tells of a Sunday-school class of boys who, for a number of weeks, had studied stewardship. As they came to the end of their study of this subject, their teacher asked them to write out what they thought stewardship meant. **One boy wrote this:** "Stewardship means that life is a great ship, loaded with a rich cargo of many things to be delivered to many peoples in many places. God is the owner, but I am the captain of the ship." How do you think of yourself? As owner or as captain of the things you possess? Are you delivering the goods?—Forward.

DEVIL-UTION

Said Dr. Sorokin, Russian exile and professor of sociology at Harvard, "The twentieth century has been the bloodiest century of twenty-five centuries studied. Its wars so far have killed and wounded more human beings per million of the population than any of the preceding twenty-five centuries. It has had more bloody revolutions with a greater number of victims than any of the preceding twenty-five centuries, with perhaps the exception of one. Instead of bringing man to a state of perennial peace, instead of making sacred the inviolability of his life and dignity, our home-centric culture treats him more cruelly, kills, tortures and mutilates him, to an extent unprecedented in all the preceding twenty-five centuries."

It looks as if someone has thrown a monkey wrench into the machinery of evolution! This world shows signs of Devil-ution!—The Pentecostal Evangel.

MY TAPESTRY

A tapestry of promise is woven in my loom,
The Creator of the pattern today is making
room,

For bright and radiant colors of promise divine
He bids me take the blessed threads and makes
them truly mine.

"As thy day thy strength shall be "this
thread of gold, so strong,

Is weaving with the silver, "He is my strength,
my song;"

A strand of royal purple brings "All sufficient
grace."

Lo! many threads are weaving now, in pat-
tern finding place.

Dear Lord, guide well my shuttle,

May all my weaving be

True to the pattern

My promise tapestry.

ADAH LYLE KIDDER