

OUR LIBERTIES

"Thus saith the whole congregation of the Lord, what trespass is this that ye have committed?"—Josh. 22:16.

This was the speech which the children of Israel made to the children of Reuben and Gad and half of the tribe of Manasseh when they built an altar by the Jordan, a great altar see too: why was not this alright? Did not these folk have a right to do as they wanted to? They were living in a free country. Beloved, my thought on writing this is to express myself concerning the question of freedom. We hear many of God's servants say that our job is to preach the gospel and so many folk are saying that, "We have our rights, we are living in a free country." Now, the question today is, "What are our rights, also our obligations?" We hear repeated, so many times, that no one has a right to interfere with our personal liberties. Beloved, there is no such thing when life comes to its last and truest analysis. The children had a right to inquire concerning this altar. We cannot lift a hand without affecting somebody. Life is much more subtle, delicate, sensitive, responsive than some of us have ever imagined. It is of consequence to this old world what even the very least of us think or do.

The universe is a great heart, filling all things and hearing all things and wondering all things concerning its inhabitants, its population and its interests. We have seen this proven even in this generation.

Friends, there are common rights entrusted to us; they belong to every man, but no man, even the talented coin or currency maker has a right to exercise his talent without permission from his government. Why? Because it would intrude on the rights of his fellowman, and God will judge us: We will condemn or we will commend ourselves according to our attitudes.

Again no man has a right to alter or palter with the language of a country. Herein the law is sound and good for we have no right to misrepresent anything by our language or our privileges. God has said, "Let your conversation be yea and nay and no more." Let the heart speak with sincerity and frankness so that even children can understand the words you speak as to their moral import. There is no right to trespass. Why not recognize this in morals? We recognize it in the footpaths, currency, in documents, their clauses and agreements. We have a right, by law, to appeal when one of these is broken. Why not go into the region of morals?

There is no right of drunkenness. May not a man get drunk when he wants to? I say, "No!" Not when society is right. No man or woman has a right to breathe an unsavory breath in the common air. No one has a right to be under the influence of alcohol in public, or a right to go home to their family drunk. By doing so he offends the honor of our land, the womanhood of the world and the delicacy of childhood. He must be and appear in public, arrive home, approach his children sane, upright and straight.

Beloved, there are no such rights in the narrowest sense of the term. You may say, "Why?" I say, "because there is no self—self was destroyed when Jesus came into this world." We cannot maintain that there is a self; a self interest, self idolatry, self trust." "No, sir." For in Christ every man is part of every other man. We are members one of

another, so therefore, beloved, we cannot do the above things or many things such as polluting the air in trams, public places, cars, buses with smoke of the weed, or poisoning our body thereby, handing down to our children defects which are caused by same.

Beloved, we have a right as did the children of Israel to inquire into these, and protest, and more than that, I believe that God requires of us to do so and if we do not take heed and act I believe that the blood of many of our fellow-men will be upon our hands for we are our brother's keeper. We can side-step or duck as much as we like, but there is a day of stock-taking and judgment and we may have the Judgments of God upon this day if men, the children of the house of God, do not take a more active part, and furthermore in closing I believe that it is up to the children of the house of God to investigate our common schools, colleges and other institutions that our children may not be corrupted by unsound teaching, corrupt reading and other methods. Again our laws or I might say the privileges that our country gives of breaking the Sabbath, corrupting the marriage laws, violating the very moral state of our countries, not only allowing these things to be but promoting, upholding and advocating these evils, all for tribute.

I say it is time the church awakened out of her slumber and begins to march and inquire as did the children of Israel. We cannot wait for things to adjust themselves for they will wax worse and worse for they are not of God but of the devil. So, therefore, if we ever expect to see our Sabbaths kept, rum shops closed, moral laws reinstated, it is up to the children of the house of the Lord. Christianity takes the oversight of the whole world. The Bible interferes with everybody and everything. The word of God will let nothing alone. Herein we find the inspiration of the Book. It searches into all interests and all claims and all institutions and all secret life by right. By what right? By the right of life. The sun does not ask permission to shine. It shines, and by so doing reveals dirt, dust, uncleanness. It does not create these but reveals them. It is even thus with the Sun of Righteousness. We really do not know how foul we are, our people, our laws, our deeds, neglect, morals, social life. We think that we are just about perfect. We talk of our freedom, our country and privileges, our advancements and many other things. But, beloved, turn on the great searchlight of righteousness and we find blight, corruption, destruction of our moral, our social life, yes, our home life. We even see the very air that God has given us polluted by sin, poison and destruction. We condemn other social orders, uphold our own. We think ourselves to be so good so long as we are walking with the Pharisee compared with those walking with the publican or sinner, but, beloved, the day is coming of which we are praying and looking for, when Christ shall leave His place of intercession and take the seat of Judgment, when all weights and measures shall be tested; all secrets shall be revealed; how shall we be found—short? Yet in closing we do not want that oversight which says, until the heart is pure the conduct cannot be right. Yet this is Christ's doctrine. This is the very meaning of the cross of Christ. He did not come just to remove a blot from the surface. He came to heal a wound in the heart. How can he get to that death spot? Not by waters of the river, not even the great torrents of Nia-

gara or the fountains of the great deep nor wars, famines or destruction.

Only one thing can get down there in that heart and work its wonder there by its sanctifying power and that is the precious Blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son that cleanseth from all sin.

REV. B. D. PRICE

THE LIMIT OF WISDOM

A Swiss paper observed that, "When you have a toothache, you go to your dentist. When you have a pain, you go to your doctor. When you need a pair of shoes, you go to a store. When you have any important affairs, you upset your routine and go to your banker, lawyer, notary, government office, or the principal of your children's school. But when you have something wrong with your soul, you stop going to church, stay at home full of bitterness, and wait for years for your pastor to call on you. When he arrives you heap reproaches upon him."

Well, you see, the carnal heart is like that. In matters where no moral issues are involved we use good sense. But where there are moral issues and where the soul's welfare is at stake we often show no sense.

To stay away from the church or to fail to pray or testify in the meeting when we need such help most is to depart from all we know of wise procedure.

A river becomes crooked by following the line of least resistance.

Some encourage us, and lift us up; others criticize and pull us down.

Daniel did not appeal to the lions because he was all "grit and backbone."

Team-work puts the job over.

A smile cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen. It is worth nothing until it is given away.

Sometimes the job seems wearisome; but, then, are you capable of filling one that isn't?

You can't win unless you know what you are striving for.

To learn anything, we need practice.

It is a good thing to lose patience with ourselves.

There is no way to honesty except through paying our debts.

We cannot think ourselves into perfection. We must act also.

Where the bane is, the antidote is.

Some act as if it yet remained for science to reveal the method of salvation.

The greatness of eternity is mirrored in the greatness of human nature.

Conscience hails us into God's presence.

The moral result is the essential thing.

The cure for every ill is always near at hand.

Divine grace makes the best of a man.

Everywhere in nature is found an upward gaze.

TWELVE THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. The value of time.
2. The success of perseverance.
3. The pleasure of working.
4. The dignity of simplicity.
5. The worth of character.
6. The power of kindness.
7. The influence of example.
8. The obligation of duty.
9. The wisdom of economy.
10. The virtue of patience.
11. The improvement of talent.
12. The joy of originating.

—Marshall Field