

— Editorial —

An Ordinary Day

In November, 1863, President Lincoln's secretary, John Hay, wrote the following entry in his diary:

"In the morning of the 19th, I got a beast and rode out with the President and suite to the Cemetery in procession. The procession formed itself in an orphanly way, and moved out with very little help from anybody; and after a little delay Mr. Everett took his place on the stand—and Mr. Stockton made a prayer which thought it was an oration—and Mr. Everett spoke as he always does, perfectly, and the President, in a firm free way, with more grace than is his wont, said a half-dozen lines of consecration—and the music wailed, and we went home through crowded and cheering streets" (Taken from William Roscoe Thayer, *Life and Letters of John Hay*).

Those half-dozen lines of consecration, so casually dismissed by Lincoln's secretary were the Gettysburg speech—one of the greatest human utterances ever made on the subject of equality and human freedom. What began, and ended, as an ordinary day for both President Lincoln and his secretary became one of the momentous days in America's illustrious history.

An ordinary day transformed! An ordinary day made extra-ordinary! It was this way with Moses at Midian. Tending a flock of sheep on the side of a craggy mountain was not unusual. But a bush burning with fire, with the voice of God calling from it, was unusual. Threshing wheat, hidden from Midianite eyes, was not unusual. But when an angel announced to Gideon, "The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour" it was unusual.

Most of our days are quite ordinary. The normal routine of living consumes our time. Dramatic events are rare and well-scattered. And it is good and wise on the part of providence that it is this way, but we never know when God may decide to give us a special assignment, pour us out a new blessing, or permit us to experience a severe test to our faith. Nor do we always, at the time, correctly evaluate our experiences for their true importance in our lives.

Today is an ordinary day. God expects me to live it the best that I know. He wants me to live victorious over sin, conscious of the Spirit's presence, and sensitive to His guidance. But only time will tell how significant the events of this day really are and what meaning they have for the future.

RELIGION THAT GOD HATES

"I hate, I despise your feasts!" This was God's message to his Old Testament people through the prophet Amos. It was not because the people failed to keep the Jewish feasts, or to offer sacrifices, or were failing to bring in their tithes. Rather, it was because immorality and covetousness were tolerated on a wholesale basis. So it is even under the New Covenant, for Paul says, "Be sure of this, that no immoral or impure man, or one who is covetous (that is, an idolator), has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God (Eph. 5)."

YOUR HEART

You have a heart. If normal, it is about the size of your doubled-up fist. The average weight of the heart of a man over 20 is 10.59 ounces. Doctors calculate an increase of about one ounce for every 22 pounds of weight added to your body. If you have an average heartbeat of 72 a minute, your heart will beat about 2,500,000,000 times in a lifetime or 100,000 times a day. When you are resting blood is forced through your arteries at the rate of 55

feet a minute. When you run very fast, this is stepped up to as much as 450 feet. This means your heart may have to increase its normal 72 beats to as many as 200 a minute. Every day 9,000 quarts of blood are pumped through your heart. At top speed it can pump more than 16 quarts of blood a minute.

—Selected

A "COMMON" SIN

Men have a curious vanity in wishing to do some thing "out of the common." They wish to be distinguished in some way, even though, like Milton's "Satan," they can only aspire to "some bad eminence." A recent editorial in *Zion's Herald* pricks this bubble of distorted pride in the following ruthless sentences:

"Sin is the great leveler. It attrites the soul, taking off its fine edges and marring its delicate characteristics, and reduces all whom it touches to a coarse commonalty of being. There is nothing distinctive about sin. There is now no original sin, it has all been done so many times over by so many men. It is the most coarsely common thing in the world. If you would be distinguished, cease to be a sinner and become a saint. In sainthood there are all manner of possibilities of distinction. In the astronomy of grace there is room for any number of radiant stars differing one from another in glory. It is only black night of sin that is the same and indiscriminate—the galaxies which stud God's heavens have all their peculiar charm, their individual glory. Be a star, and not a shadow; shine for God instead of being lost in the abnormality and anonymity of sin."—Selected.

TRUST IN THE LORD

Trust God's wisdom thee to guide;
Trust His goodness to provide;
Trust His saving love and power;
Trust Him every day and hour;
Trust Him as the only Light,
Trust Him in the darkest night;
Trust in sickness, trust in health,
Trust in poverty and wealth;
Trust in joy and trust in grief;
Trust His promise for relief;
Trust Him living, dying, too;
Trust Him all the journey through.

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