

Visitor Pulpit.

OUTLINE OF A SERMON

BY REV. I. E. BILL, ON THE OCCASION OF THE ORINATION OF W. M. WEEKS AS PASTOR OF THE GERMAIN ST. BAPTIST CHURCH, ST. JOHN.

On the 3rd day of March, 1829, an immense concourse of people assembled in the Baptist Church at Nictaux, in the beautiful valley of the Annapolis River, N. S. You ask what special object called the people together? I answer, a candidate for holy orders, with the dew of youth upon his brow, was to be ordained to the work of the Christian ministry. Three of the Fathers of the denomination and other delegates from the churches were present to aid the solemnities. One of the Fathers, who was the leader of the tribes of the spiritual Israel in his day, by the request of the candidate, was chosen to preach the ordination sermon. It was pleasant for him to do so, for he was instrumental in the young man's conversion; he had baptized and married him, and under his pastoral guidance the youthful candidate had been licensed to preach the gospel. Now that he was to be ordained it seemed especially appropriate that the venerable father should preach the ordination sermon.

The circumstances were all signally favorable. The preliminaries had been perfectly satisfactory. The Spirit's converting influences were descending upon the people "like showers of rain upon the new mown grass," and hundreds were seeking the great salvation. The preacher, therefore, was encompassed with influences stimulating and deeply impressive. He was fully equal to the demands of the occasion, and was clothed in all the authority of his divine commission. He selected for his text the words of the inspired Paul to his son Timothy.

"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them, that thy profiting may appear to all," 1 Tim. 4: 15. The preacher was the beloved and venerated Father Edward Manning, now with the glorified in heaven,—the candidate ordained stands before you now. The circumstances of the two occasions, in some respects, are dissimilar, but in their essential features are the same. It seems to me appropriate, therefore, that I should invite your prayerful attention to the same passage of the word of life.

This young man Timothy was regarded by the Apostle Paul as his own son in the gospel, and as such he loved him with all the intensity of a father's affection; but he was also the chosen of God to the ministry of salvation; young, but well instructed in the mysteries of the gospel faith. His spiritual father thoroughly understood the responsibilities of his high vocation, and he therefore addresses these two epistles to him as to his own son in the faith. Was there ever such letters written by mortal man? Doctrines as high, as deep and as mysterious as the perfections of the Godhead, and the attributes of eternity. Precepts that encompass every path of human life. Experiences that bring into prominence all the elements of the Christian warfare, and promises that constitute an immovable foundation of hope for a lost world.

The passage under consideration is a sea of matter in a mere drop of expression. It deals especially with the responsibilities of the Christian ministry. To this thought, therefore, I invite your prayerful consideration. 1st. "Meditate upon these things." The minister of Christ must make himself master of his divine mission. What is the nature of this mission? It is to unfold the Bible of God to man. Hence the absolute need of meditation—study. It is not a system of human science, philosophy, astronomy or ethics, which the gospel minister is called upon to expound or defend, but the grand truths and sublime mysteries of the heaven inspired Scriptures. What deep things are here regarding the existence and perfections of the triune Divinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—three in one and one in three. Without beginning or without end.

A Spirit infinite, eternal, and immutable in wisdom, power, love, holiness, justice and truth. The minister must meditate upon the heights and depths of this wonderful Being that we call Jehovah. His perfections must be studied in their nature and unfoldings, as containing the terms of all truth, and of all law, and all gospel. A mistake with regard to the Divine perfections is fatal to any conceptions which we may form of truth generally. There is a constant tendency in the human heart to circumscribe, and realize the God of the Universe, to see men speak and write of him as he were subject to after-thought, and even to change like themselves. They cannot see how a being can be self-existent, Omnipotent, and Omniscient; and therefore, they form systems of divinity to accord

with their own limited ideas of the God they profess to worship. If we would break away from all this narrowness of thought we must study God the eternal, in the light of faith's vision, and let our souls wade out into the great sea of this infinitude. Get right views of the Divine attributes, and you will not be likely to go astray in other matters. If you believe in him as grasping the two eternities with his wisdom, you will preach him as such—if you believe in him as the sovereign disposer of all things you will place man before his Maker in his true attitude of dependence,—if you regard him as the same to-day, yesterday and for ever, you will see in him a safe ground for human hope. In a word, if we so meditate as to obtain just conceptions of the great and universal Father, we shall come to him day by day with confidence, for all needful supplies.

2. We are to meditate upon God as he has unfolded himself in the mighty universe, which he has made. See in him the little atoms upon which we tread, and in the ponderous worlds, that fill the immensity of space.

3. Meditate upon him in his creative energy as recorded in the first and second chapters of the Book of Genesis. See the admirable arrangement, the mysterious combinations and the wondrous glories of the home which the Infinite has prepared for those who were made a little lower than angels.

4. Meditate upon Jehovah in his providential administration as riding upon the storm, guiding the tempest, and saying to the mighty sea, "Hither-to shalt thou come and no further, and here shall thy proud waves be staid." Think of him as directing alike the small dust of the balance, and the golden rays of the noon day sun—as pausing amid the rule of empire and the march of worlds, to whisper in the ear of suffering, bleeding humanity. "As a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." "I will be a father unto you, and you shall be my sons, and daughters, saith the Lord God Almighty."

Again, meditate upon the High and Holy One as he has manifested himself in the great work of human redemption. This redemptive plan was hid in the councils of the Eternal Trinity as we are assured "before the foundations of the world." Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself according to the good pleasure of his will. As we meditate upon this scheme of infinite mercy and sovereign love we shall see how gradually it was unfolded through the long lines of prophetic shadow, until the fullness of time had come. Then God sent forth his Son made of a woman, made under the law to redeem those that were under the law. What a sublime fact for meditation is that one central truth that shines amid the subordinate truths of Christianity, like the sun shining in the firmament amid the smaller globes of light that revolve around him. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him might not perish, but have everlasting life." In this one infinite gift we have the embodiment of all light, all purity, all knowledge, all truth, and all grace. "It pleased the Father that in Christ should all fullness dwell." He is the image of the invisible God—the first born of every creature. He is "God manifest in the flesh." Mystery of mysteries, the God dwelling bodily in human form,—the man lifted up into positive fellowship and identity with the Jehovah of the universe. Let your meditation explore this ocean fullness of redeeming love; follow the God incarnate from the manger at Bethlehem to the gory cross of Calvary. Trace his hallowed footsteps through the forty days of dark and terrible temptation. Listen to his first sermon as he opens the book and reads "the Spirit of the Lord God is upon me," and ponder the sermon upon the mount as he opened his mouth and taught his disciples, words, thoughts, and principles infinitely broader, higher, and deeper than any deliverance that ever came from mere human tongue or pen. Meditate upon his doctrines, precepts, promises; ponder his miracles, sufferings—and death. Think of his words and acts of deepest sympathy and love. Go frequently to the sepulchre. See the stone rolled away, and hear the celestial visitant saying, "He is not here, he has risen, come, see the place where the Lord lay." Meditate upon the risen, ascending, interceding and glorified Redeemer. See the results of all this in the descending Spirit, in the Pentecostal oris for mercy, and in the establishment of the church of the Living God as "the pillar and ground of the truth."

Meditate upon the onward march of Christianity under this glorious leader, amid chains and prisons, sufferings and death. Having started in her race at Pentecost, onward she goes as a thing of Night, Life and Love, proclaiming in her onward course, "peace on earth and good will to

men," breaking the chains and fetters of sin, binding up the broken heart, rolling back the tide of human woe, and pouring upon lost and suffering humanity the joys of eternal salvation.

Meditate upon the inspired epistles addressed by Paul and Peter, James and John, to the early churches. These epistles contain the doctrines, precepts, invitations and promises, which constitute the very life blood of the church. These are to the Lord's ransomed ones, what the vital current is to the human frame, life, strength, activity. Meditate upon the resurrection of the dead, and the final judgment, the immunities of heaven and the miseries of hell.

These my brethren are the momentous themes which ministers are to study by day and ponder upon their bed in the night watches; that they may be prepared to bring out of the exhaustless treasury things new and old, meat for the older Christian, milk for babes in Christ—warning for those, who are living without God, and without hope in the world. This inspired field for meditation is as exhaustless as the mysteries of the eternal ages.

All the treasures of human attainment in their highest form, and widest range, are not too great to be consecrated upon the altar of these unsearchable things of God. In view of them the great Apostle to the Gentiles exclaimed, "O, the heights, and the depths both of the wisdom and knowledge of God; how unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out." Meditate upon them in all prevailing prayer, and when the vision of the human understanding fails, let the faith of God's elect take a firm hold of these eternal verities, and let us rejoice to know that while at the best of this pilgrimage state we only "see through a glass darkly," the time is coming when, "we shall see as we are seen, and know as we are known."

II. Give thyself wholly to them. It is not enough that we meditate upon these great things of God, they must be unfolded, proclaimed, and propagated to the ends of the earth. This means entire consecration of body, soul, and spirit to the grandest mission that ever engaged human thought or devotion. Have you the gift of language or of tongues, natural ability of the highest order, erudition of the greatest extent, the power of eloquence or oratory the most commanding, lay them all down at the feet of the crucified Redeemer, and say in the language of holy Paul, "God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world." These wondrous themes of salvation are worthy of the researches of Newton, Bacon, Locke. The matchless eloquence of Pitt, Burke, Fox, Webster, and of the missionary toil of Carey, Swartz, Williams, Judson, and all others of like zeal for God, and for souls. Nay, more. The unfolding and propagation of these messages of God, demand the consecration of all gifts human and divine. Let the tongue, the pen, the press, be employed here. Come with all the gifts, with all the graces, and with all the elements of influence, and of power, and place them upon the ministerial altar as a sacrifice well pleasing to a holy God.

This mission of the ambassador of Christ begins in the consecration of the heart in the work of regeneration by God the Holy Spirit. Let no man intrude himself on this holy ground who has not felt the renewing and sanctifying power of the truth in his own soul. An unregenerated ministry is the curse of the Church and of the world to-day. It is the blind leading the blind and both will fall into the ditch! "The husbandman must first be made a partaker of the fruits."

This consecration is strengthened and made manifest in a divine call to the ministry. God forbid that the time should ever come in the history of the Baptist denomination when the work of the Christian ministry should be regarded as a mere profession to which men are trained: the same as they are educated for: the law, for medicine, or any other mere secular vocation. Do any ask what is a divine call to the ministry? I answer it is not a vision, a dream, a fancy, but an inward experience so powerful and resistless as to crucify the soul to all worldly honors, riches, pleasures, and so fix the mind upon the redemption of a world lost in sin, that no other calling, however high, no other vocation however lucrative can satisfy the aspirations of the man upon whom God has laid this awful necessity to preach his gospel. "If I do this willingly I have my reward, but if against my will a necessity is laid upon me, yea woe is me if I preach not the gospel." A mere man-made ministry is a nuisance in the church and a blot upon the creation of God. It damns a thousand and where it saves one. Let the soul first be sanctified and energized by the power of the Holy Spirit, filled with an all-consuming flame of love to God and the souls of men, then may we hope that such an one will

be to the world what "the man sent from God whose name was John," was, a bright, burning, shining light.

III. That thy profiting may appear to all. This is the grand motive power that should guide the minister of the sanctuary in the discharge of his high and holy duties, not that he may become learned, wise, and popular—not that he may have ease, luxury and pleasure, but that he may place stars in the diadem of that Saviour, who wore a crown of thorns for him, and that like his divine Lord he may preach the gospel to the poor, heal the broken hearted, preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind; to set at liberty them that are bruised, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.

That thy profiting may appear to all. What a world of meaning is here! The rich in their palaces of wealth—the poor in their humble abodes—the wise in their researches for knowledge—the ignorant in their superstitions—the moral and self-righteous—the publicans and the sinners—the well in their full tide of worldly enjoyments—the sick on their beds of suffering and death—the beautiful girl in her bridal dress and the widow in her habiliments of mourning—the family sharing in the father's toils and blessings and the fatherless in the dependence of childhood, must all receive anxious attention and prayerful sympathy of the minister of him who went about constantly doing good. Like Paul we have to say, "I am a debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians; to the wise and the unwise, so much as in me is I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."

"That thy profiting may appear to all." All of every class and every condition of human existence. Selfishness has no place here. The broadest charity, the deepest love, the tenderest sympathy are all called into vigorous action in the prosecution of this mission for Christ and for deathless souls.

Up, then, minister of God, time is flying; the judgment is hastening on; eternity is at the door. What is to be done must be done quickly.

It affords me great pleasure to be with this old mother church to-day. She has passed through her fiery trials, but her Lord has known how to deliver her out of temptation. During the seventy years of her existence she has frequently been in the furnace heated and scorched, but she comes forth to-day without so much as the smell of fire upon her garments. The last painful experience you had was the departure of your loved pastor Carey to another sphere of labor; but our covenant keeping God has brought another to fill his place, upon whose spirit we pray the dews of heaven to descend, and whose ministry we trust will be a rich blessing to you, to the city, to the province and to the world. Amen!

PROVERBS TO BE REMEMBERED. "Dear counsel, bad breath, indigestion and headache easily cured by Hop Bitters." "Study Hop Bitters books, use the medicine, be wise, healthy and happy." "When life is a drug, and you have lost all hope, try Hop Bitters." "Kidney and urinary trouble is universal and the only safe and sure remedy is Hop Bitters—rely on it!" "Hop Bitters does not exhaust and destroy, but restores and makes new." "Ache, Biliousness, drowsiness, jaundice, Hop Bitters removes easily." "Bells, Pimples, Freckles, Rough Skin, eruptions, impure blood, Hop Bitters cure." "Inactive Kidneys and Urinary Organs cause the worst of Diseases, and Hop Bitters cures them all." "More health, sunshine and joy in Hop Bitters than in all other remedies." Hop Cough Cure and Pain Relief is the best. FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

Str. Soulages For Washademoak and Intermediate Points, WILL LEAVE INDIANTOWN On the following days, viz: TUESDAY, THURSDAY & SATURDAY; AT 10 O'CLOCK, A. M. Returning will leave COLE'S ISLAND, MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY; AT 8:30 O'CLOCK, A. M. CARL & VAUGHN, Agents, Indiantown, St. John, April 12, 1881.

MISS ADDIE FITZGERALD, Who has lately graduated as a VOCALIST, under the able tuition of Prof. S. Mazurette, of Detroit, will continue to give instructions in the art of VOCAL CULTURE, Piano and Organ, Address: 521 Union Street, near Golden Bell Corner. Miss FitzGerald is open for an appointment as soprano in church.

CUSTOM TAILORING. I have just received and have now open for inspection my spring stock of CLOTHS, in which will be found the latest patterns in ENGLISH, SCOTCH, and CANADIAN Tweeds. TROSERINGS, SUITINGS, DIAGONALS, AND FANCY WORSTED COATINGS, &c. All of which will be made to order in the LATEST STYLES, At the Lowest Possible Prices. AND A Perfect Fit Guaranteed. Also in Stock a full line of Gents' Furnishing Goods, HATS, CAPS, TRUNKS, VALISES, &c., &c., &c. At less than City Prices. C. B. Pidgeon, Main Street, INDIANTOWN.

The Greatest Blood Purifier EXTANT IS GATES' LIFE OF MAN BITTERS BUT FOR CHRONIC DISEASES THE INVIGORATING SYRUP SHOULD BE USED IN CONNECTION. Norton, King's Co., N. B., Aug. 2, 1879. C. Gates, Son & Co.—Sirs,—This is to certify that I have been afflicted for over twenty years with liver complaint, and have tried different doctors and preparations, and was treated by an Indian Doctor, but all to no good effect until a year ago I commenced taking your Life of Man Bitters, No. 2, and Invigorating Syrup, No. 1, using your Nerve Ointment and Acacia Liniment externally, and with God's blessing I can candidly say that I have not been so well for twenty years as I am at the present time, and would heartily recommend your medicine to all suffering from liver complaint and impure blood. You are at liberty to use this as you deem best for the benefit of the afflicted, and I will give further particulars to any one wanting to know about them. MRS. RACHEL MCCREARY. SOLD EVERYWHERE.

J. R. CAMERON HAS REMOVED HIS LAMP & OIL DEPOT Ennis & Gardner Block, PRINCE WILLIAM ST.

J. & J. D. HOWE, MANUFACTURER OF SETTEES, Church Furniture. Made to order. PHOTOGRAPHS furnished on application. ESTIMATES made from Architects' Drawings. All work warranted. WAREHOUSES: Market Building, Germain Street. FACTORY: East End of Union St., St. John, N. B. 1881.

Special Announcement. NEW GOODS. SPRING, 1881. JAMES S. MAY, Merchant Tailor. Would announce to his Customers and the Public that he has opened a Splendid Lot of Spring Goods. Consisting of ENGLISH and SCOTCH TWEED, FINE DIAGONALS, SPRING OVERCOATS, &c., and a Large Variety of PANTALOON GOODS, which have been selected with care, bought close and on the most favorable terms. Cash Customers would find it to their advantage to call and examine. mar 2 48 King and 64 Germain Streets.

THOMAS L. HAY, DEALER IN Hides and Calf Skins, SHEEP SKINS AND WOOL, RESIDENCE—59 WAREHOSE STREET. Where Hides, Skins and Wool of all descriptions will be bought, for which the highest market prices will be given. A GENTS WANTED for the Best and Cheapest Selling Pictorial Books and Bibles. These are sold by the cent. Boston Publishing Co., Boston, Pa.

GEORGE WOODS & CO'S CABINET ORGANS AND Pianos, With New Orchestrian Attachment, Which plays correct Music of any variety and so simple that any one can play without instruction. Prices low to suit the Times. Harper's Bazar Patterns, a full assortment, every Pattern a Complete Suit, Only 25 Cents. WILLIAM CRAWFORD, General Agent, 4 Charlotte St., St. John, mar 10

ALBERT RAILWAY. 1880. Summer Arrangements. 1880. ON and after THURSDAY, the 17th June, trains will leave Hopewell Corner at 8:30 A. M., arriving at Sullbury at 8:35 A. M., connecting with accommodation train from Point Du Chene to St. John. Returning, will leave Sullbury for Hillsboro and Hopewell Corner at 11:15, after arrival of Express from St. John. A. E. KILLAM, Managing Director, Railway Office, Hillsboro, June 15th, 1880.

SELECT SCHOOL, No. 27 Peters Street. PRINCIPALS: MISS DUVAL and MISS ALLEN. MISS G. A. LOCKHART, B. S. Mathematical Department. THIS School completes three courses of study Primary, Intermediate and Classical. French, Drawing and Note Singing are included in the Intermediate Course. EXTRAS: German, Painting in Oil and Water Color, and Art Needlework, Instrumental Music. Three or four boarders can be accommodated. Further particulars made known on application, personally or by mail, to MISS DUVAL, No. 27 Peters Street, St. John, N. B. feb 12

PROVINCIAL Building Society ESTABLISHED 1870. Monthly Investing Shares Yielding Six per cent Interest, per Annum, Compounded Monthly. THESE SHARES are designed for the investment of small sums, monthly, in such a manner as: 1. To secure the investor a remunerative rate of interest. 2. To encourage the habit of laying up money for future requirements. The shares are cash and are purchased by the payment of Two Dollars, as a deposit, and One Dollar monthly for forty-eight months. When paid up they can be withdrawn in Cash, together with interest on the several instalments, at the rate of Six per cent per annum, compounded monthly. Thus the holder of cash shares (for example) will receive in cash \$500.00, at maturity of his shares. Applications for shares may be made at the Office of the Society, No. 120 Prince William Street, at the Bank of New Brunswick, where full information will be furnished. F. S. SHARPE Secretary, WILLIAM F. SMYTH, President. 17 oct 28

Intercolonial Railway. 1880. WINTER ARRANGEMENT. 1881. ON and after MONDAY, the 29th November, the TRAINS will run daily (Sundays excepted) as follows: (WILL & KAYN ST. JERRY) Express for Halifax, 6:00 A. M. RAILWAY ST. JOHN meeting at Lunenburg with accommodation for North 7:30 a.m. 8:00 a.m. Accommodation for Point du Chene 11:45 a.m. 11:50 a.m. Express for Sussex 5:00 p.m. 5:05 p.m. Express for Halifax and Quebec 7:35 p.m. 7:50 p.m. On Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday a Pullman car for Montreal will be attached to the Express leaving at 7:35 p.m., and on Monday, Wednesday and Friday a Pullman car for Montreal will be attached at Lunenburg. WHEEL ARRIVE: Express from Quebec, by connection with Pullman car at Montreal, with 11:00 p.m. Express, 7:30 a.m. 7:35 a.m. Express from Sussex 8:00 a.m. 8:10 a.m. Accommodation from Point du Chene 2:30 p.m. 2:35 p.m. Express from Halifax and Point du Chene 8:45 p.m. 8:48 p.m. The Express Train from Quebec runs to destination daily morning. D. FOTTINGER, Chief Superintendent, Railway Office, Montreal, Nov 29th 1880. HUCKEY BELL POUNDY Sole of Fine Sugar and the best quality of Flour, Meal, Beans, etc. 174 WATER ST. Halifax, N. S.