# Man's Strange Ignorance of Self

Sermon Written for The Sunday Oregonian by Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn

personal happiness and success begin with self-knowledge, a knowl-edge that is at once accurate and exhaust-ive. If we are to make the most of ourselves, we must know what we cannot do, we must know what we can do, and we | we know the possibilities that lie hidden must know what gifts we have for doing under some of the most common of his that appointed work. Ignorance of these things means at best a partial success. what is more probable, failure. And yet, strangely enough, having sought out this is the man who asserts that the many secrets, having made many inventions, man returns to confess that he yet to be discovered, with energies today is unable to search out the secrets of his unsuspected. We must not think that beown soul. Though his age be four-score cause we have found medicines in the years, the wisest man has only begun to bark of trees, and fires stored in the learn skill in carrying bimself when he anthracite, and how to control electricity, begins to die. Looking backward to early life, what man can honestly say that den energies of the earth. Indeed, we at 20 he knew what work was to be done in the world, just what part of that work he was fitted to undertake, what was his as was Columbus of the continent on strongest faculty, what the line of least resistance, and where was the one path of hill and vale and mountain he did not appointed for his feet. And if the youth knows but little about himself, how much less do other men know, whether those men be friends or enemies. Your friends have no exhaustive knowledge of you, for their very affection will lead them to overestimate your stong points and un-derestimate your weak ones. Your ene-mies do not know you, because their very dislike will distort the facts in the case, and lend a twist to the judgment. Your parents do not understand you, for though the mother linger long over the crudle and pore over the child's face and try to imagine what thoughts and secrets are hidden behind that mask of flesh, the parent can no more tell what is going on behind that face than a watchmaker can tell what the wheels and escapements are within a case whose maker is unknown to him,

Some One's Knowledge Needed.

But life cannot be inid out on lines of uncertainty and ignorance. If man is licular germ, found himself entirely ever to find peace and prosperity, some- ignorant of some of the simplest facts one must know him with a knowledge of the human body. And with that disthat is exhaustive. Looking toward the child, the parent can abide the ignorance A biologist has been studying with his of the babe because if the child does not | microscope the influence of the diseases know the way home, the nurse does know of childhood and flith diseases upon the school, if the boy is ignorant of he discovered that these diseases stunted knows. Ignorant of acids and al- side, and thus dwarfed the growth of the kalls, we rest in the chemist's knowl- child. And biologists look upon this as edge. Ignorant of the laws, the merchant important beyond all compare. can depend upon the knowledge of his cells, stunted by disease, explain the low sail away in perfect peace, because, if we confidently to the time when these dis-are ignorant of the chart and compass, eases of childhood are to be exterminated the captain knows the course in which he is salling, avoids each hidden rock and taller and stronger, and women to follows the path which leads into the har- stronger and more beautiful. And this bor. And David affirms that one being prophecy is not based upon the mere there is whose knowledge of man is not rhapsody of the poet, or the dreams of partial and fragmentary, but intimate and the enthusiast, but upon the hard facts complete. If for the body the X-ray of science. At last the time is come when has drawn apart the heavy curtains, and ignorance concerning the body is becommade the fiesh transparent, and shown ing wisdom, and with wisdom is coming all the inner secrets of the physical harp strength and beauty, hitherto unexampled that the physicians must keep in tune. we can also say that the light of God strikes the soul through and through,

#### A Reason of Hope.

The religious man is a pilgrim, journey ing across the desert over hill and through forest. But the traveler cannot escape from the presence of God. He goes before to build booth and shelter from the heat, and follows after to guard the pilgrim from enmity and danger. Then the figure changes. The soul is a book, and God is represented as an author. Man knows other men as a chance reader looks upon the outside of a volume. But God knows these tablets of flesh and tect. The builder draws his model. He ner, also, ended his career without shows you every room and hall in the knowing that he had discovered a new house in his plan all the parts are set continent. Savonarola died without up before they are builded. And man's body, it is said, is fearfully made, "and in the overthrow of slavery of thought the book of his knowledge all thy mem- and speech. But if the sons of power bers are written." Then, searching for one more figure, the poet likens man unto | we need not be surprised that the coman exile. Once this transgressor dwelt mon people are ignorant of themselves. in his Eden. His life was a paradise of Mucaulay says that whatever he read beauty and delight. Tempted, he cats of carefully he remembered accurately, the forbidden fruit. Then, branded as a Lingering over the poem with care, he thief, the angels with the flaming sword henceforth remembered each line to drive him forth from his garden of hap- the very end of life. Hearing a great piness and scourge him on the swiftest cration, years afterwards he could reship across the sea. But though his peat it. He tells us that he never forflight is as it were upon the very wings got a face nor an event, nor a page of the morning, io, the great God is in advance of the fugitive. He tays his hand But he also says that this power of upon the transgressor with the grip of an officer. "If I ascend up into heaven, God every peasant, as well as scholar. He is there." If a suicide I descend into the | thinks that the difference between his grave, God is there. In all the universe there is no dark corner whither I may escape from his presence. Unable to fice from God, David says, we may fee to him. Here is one August apple that for an We may escape his justice by seeking apple is supremely large, rosy and ripe. refuge in his mercy. We dwell, as it Here is another that, on this May day, were, in the very mind and heart of God. is scarcely larger than a marble, is Man is an insect, for one day apreading bitter and unpalatable. The difference its iridescent wings in the sunshine that comes from him with whom a thousand years are as one day. God knows man when he speaks of "the unexplored exhaustively. And that perfect knowledge, working with our knowledge that is fragmentary, is at once the guarantee of our present happiness and well being, and also the pledge of our future security and

## Man's Ignorance of His World.

How the fullness of God's knowledge will be fuller if we consider man's ignorance. Indeed, we see our own world physical through a glass darkly. Some of our scholars think that we will soon exhaust the treasures of the world physical. One wise man rises up to tell us that we are reaching the limit of food production. Another says we are wearing out the soil of the temperate zone. Mr. Gregg, the Life" deciares that man is a prodigal, wasting the treasures of the earth, and that we are now in sight of the end of means the best possible in relation to vicinity for days, this bird, beautiful his noblest song, the artist paints the fellows as God knows them, what harsh- hidden treasure is in their children, if of his bounty is upon our right hand, the rapidly,

Text- For we know in part." I Cor. xill:9. | climate and vegetation. That there have been and might be again conditions that uprising." Pa. 139. been and might be again conditions that OUBTLESS we are all agreed that would convert the ice-clad regions into blooming paradise, and at the same time would moderate the fervent heat of the ing is impossible with God, but how little natural laws." But Professor Dawson was president of the Society for the Advancement of Scientific Research, world is packed and crowded with riches we know anything as yet about the hidhave only scratched the surface of the earth. We are as ignorant of our world whose shores he landed, but whose riches understand even in his wildest dreams,

#### Man's Ignoarnce of Himself.

Knowing little of his world physical, how little does man know also of his own body. Once it was supposed that scientists had numbered the bones and nerves and found out all the secrets of the flesh and sinews. But now, every day emphasizes some new discovery, that reveals our real ignorance. physician was making a photograph of his little child. When the plate was developed, strangely enough, it showed the face thick with some form of rash. At first the man did not understand the meaning of the singular event. But when three or four days had passed by the child developed a dangerous form of disease. That which the eye could not see, the light detected. The physician, supposed that he had mastered all of the phenomena in connection with that parcovery comes another far more striking Looking toward the growth of cells. During his investigations in books, the teacher the cell, closed it as it were upon one Going down into the ship, we average stature of men. Looking forward eases of childhood are to be exterminated. the scientist declares that men are to be

#### The Terra Incognita

But how much less does man know even of his own mind. Even great men are ignorant of themselves. What lender or hero or reformer has been conscious of his own power? What martyr during his lifetime has had the remotest appreciation of his future influence? The Italian poet dies in exile, suffers a broken heart, and is quite unconscious of the fact that when centuries have passed all will confess that the great Florentine, in writing his "Paradiso," has given form to the Italian language and ushered in a new literature. The great Genoese suspecting that he had inaugurated understand so little of their influence. with which he had charged his mind, memory is within the possibility of memory and the memory of the stonecutter who cannot even read is a difference in the stage of development. is a difference in the stage of development. That is what Emerson means riches of the human constitution." Despite the schools and colleges, mentally, the race is still in its childhood.

Ignorant of His Nobler Impulses. Man knows still less of these divine hints and suggestions found in his nobled impulses. What ingenious youth but passes under the influence of hours of transfiguration? In these hours of upheaval and disturbance what resolutions he makes, what vows he pecords, what waves of exaltation pass over his soul! What possibilities of happiness and character! In these moods he trembles, and is afraid of my imagination. his own powers. Hearing the song of manger, he keeps all these things hid-

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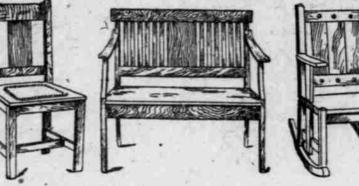


solid cak, aquare and round-top Extension Dining Tables. Losy are of the finest kiln-dried, quarter-sawed golden cak, with plane finish, of \$, \$ and 18 feet in size.

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as the birds of paradise, never came divinest face, and, listening to a seven-

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NO. 681. This beautiful Dressing Ta-ble would make glad any woman's heart. The top of the table is 26 inches from the floor-just right for using a chair; wood is golden eak finish, high-ly polished. Mirror is French hevel plate. Isa% inches. Regular price is \$35; Fair imagural special is

\$20.00





\$41.00

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NO. 878. Made of golden oak, hand polished. 16x16 inches, very neat in design; regular price, \$5; In-

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teachers understood their pupils, if mer- angel of his goodness stands at our left

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hand. God himself encamps round about those that love him, and makes all events

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### A SPINSTER'S TRUST. Maidens With a Contempt for Fall-

ing In Love. Pittsburg Dispatch.

There is a Spinsters' League in Bris-tol, England, it owes its existence to a visit which the secretary paid to a mid-land town, where she found such a league flourishing

When she returned to Bristol a meeting was held at which those present bethe road to happiness, and the follow-

that converts are not being made very

ence interprets unto men those rare the full brother to death. When you fellow, with finshing eyes and clenched unsuspected by our fellows and known and occasional hours when God overtures are awake, you read the book, you teeth, brushed aside boys much his spthe soul to enter upon the higher life, listen to the conversation of the periors in physical strength. The gentlesends intimations and prophecies of friend, you plan some enterprise. Fall- man, following the boy, meditated upon what man may be. But these are the ing half asleep, the book and the his extreme avarice, the eagle-like flash great hours, and elect, of life. Mis- friend and the new enterprise seem in the child's eye when he pushed his author, in his book on "The Enigmas of angels, he hides his treasures; like excitement man is scarcely responsi-Mary hanging over the child in the ble. He stirred in me a tide of feeling that heaved in my soul like a sea. hours of life man goes toward unconden in his heart. But when the cares In my highly strung condition I felt sciousness and death. Strange, thereof this world have increased, slowly as if it would be very easy to slough of this world have increased, slowly our bank account of soil and could not only have increased, slowly described by Wordsaway after that use language of this world have increased, slowly as if it would have increased, slowly thus as way, after that men are askamed of the scampered across the street to where a specific throw the same transmit the collaments of this world have increased, slowly that should use in sufficient to him and that they are proud of that which is best would not that they are proud of the manning of that which is best window with a little would not that they are proud of the manning reasons the street to where a specific throw of my sinful habits, to break away from my sinful habits, to break away from my sinful habits, to break away the manning of that which is best within the manner described by Wordsway was attent to him and that they are proud of they should turn to him and that they are proud of the manning reasons the street to where a woman sat in a window with a little would not that they are proud of they should turn to him and that they are proud of the manning reasons the street to where a window with a little would not that they are proud of they should turn to him and they they form my sinful habits, to break away them manning reasons the street to where a window with a little would not that they are proud of the form the would not that they are proud of they not the strength habits to him and they they are the strength habits the boy dropped his cranges

is fully awake. In sodden material

again. Not until years had passed, in fold hallelujah chorus, Handel sees the What enmities would become friendship! another state, did he catch another heavens open, and completes his sym-gleam of the iridescent wing, and then phony. The excited hour, the unreal a ferryboat, three or four small boys ments be reversed! To the end of life the for a moment. And this experi- hour? No! A poet said that sleep was fought over his hand satchel. One little great herolams among men will remain understanding, men sometimes despise only as shadows, mere figments of the fellows aside, the covetousness that would wide arth of ours which its present condition does not reveal to us; that the
present state of the world is by no song. But, though he lingered in that

In an hour of eastney the poet writes

the river's bank, he saw the flash of in these highly wrought hours and are fought and what victories gained by would flash the sword in his defense, protion to prepare the pathway. The angels
one who stands close beside us, whose
tecting him perhaps and lifting the shield of his mercy encamp behind us, to represent state of the world is by no song. But, though he lingered in that

the nobler moods. They explain them brain. Later, when sleep becomes com- make him a miser. Suddenly the gentle- selves. "My people know not, they do by saying "that speaker works upon plete, then you are dead, and book and man changed his man by saying "that speaker works upon plete, then you are dead, and book and man changed his mind, and decided to not consider," said the Lord. But God of the boy's miserable home. Taking the | reads all the writing on the hidden page. coin, the child dashed up to the fruit This explains the difference between his corner, exchanged it for two oranges, judgments of sin. Little wonder that he man. "As physical scientists," he says, brightest colors and the sweetest song a mother's toner, you have taken the fore, the tragedies upon our streets of judged the little boy upon the street. Did derstand not the method of the campaign, "we must now be prepared to admit that are rarest and most exposed to attack. passion out of Patrick Henry's oraman. "As physical scientists," he says, "we must now be prepared to admit that are rarest and most exposed to attack. Only a few nests exist in a region being any the flash of the sweetest song a mother's tone', you have taken the passion out of Patrick Henry's oration: you h