

# PRESS COLUMNS MEDIUM BY WHICH MINISTERS VOICE THOUGHTS OF BETTER THINGS

Roosevelt is Held by Dr. Avison Worthy Representative of Isaiah, the Prophet Statesman, and Sage of Sagamore Hill is Called Creator of New Americanism—Small Affairs of Life Are of Highest Moment, Says Father Buck—Work of Christ Is Seen in World Today, Declares Rev. H. E. Pemberton of Friends' Church—War and Pestilence Should Not Destroy Faith, Asserts Rev. Mr. Anderson—To Give Up Faith in God Does Not Lessen Mental Perplexities, Is Thought Contributed by Dr. Kantner—Faith of Guizot is Cited by Rev. Leland W. Porter.

The Statesman presents today a number of sermons from ministers of the Gospel in Salem, and hopes that in a way these concise contributions may take the place of the church services now under the ban caused by the epidemic. It is desired that the ministers continue to reach the people through these columns as long as the ban is on. A starter several ministers were invited to contribute today. Hereafter any minister may invite himself. The only conditions are that the sermons be confined to about 500 words and that they contain nothing controversial or of denominational doctrine.

### MANHOOD

By DR. R. N. AVISON, pastor of First Methodist church. I will make a man more precious than fine gold—Isaiah 13:12.

Dying, Horace Greeley exclaimed: Fame is a vapor, popularity an accident, riches take wings. Those who cheer today will curse tomorrow. Only one thing endures—character.

These weighty words remind us that life's one task is the making of manhood. One thing is indispensable to success—personal worth. Manhood has not Emerson said that civilization cannot be measured by broad acres, great factories, extensive commerce or strong banking institutions, but by the kind of man it produces? And in our text the prophet reminds us that in the thought of God manhood is the most commodity that outweighs all.

The making of manhood has dedicated the resources of the universe. Measured by this standard our nation looms large. Call her honor and the list is such as to cause a loyal heart to throb with a purpose and patriotism. In the list of the nation's great names she has a secure place than that of Theodore Roosevelt, the Sage of Sagamore Hill, and the creator of the new Americanism with its pas-

sion for righteousness and universal justice and brotherhood.

Isaiah, the prophet statesman, has not had a worthy representative in the annals of American history, or one who stood more consistently for the realization of the ideal of the text. What he was in himself and claimed for his own nation he would make the common heritage of the race. Is there any wonder that he is mourned by all, regardless of age, rank or nationality. It is fitting that at the new-made grave of this friend of man should stand uncovered the distinguished representatives of the nations of the world.

"God give us men; a time like this demands strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands. Men whom the lust of office does not kill. Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy. Men who possess opinions and a will. Men who have honor; men who will not lie. Men who can stand before a demagogue and scorn his treacherous flatteries without winking. Tall men, sun crowned, who live above the fog. In public duty and in private thinking."

(By REV. J. R. BUCK, pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic church.) "Diligentibus Denu omnia cooperantur in bonum."

(To them that love God, all things work together for good.) Rom. 8:28.

The story is told of a good old French priest, who, when dying was attended by a brother priest about to enter the pulpit for the usual sermon. The brother priest asking the dying man to suggest a subject for the discourse, immediately the old priest replied, Mon Pere, tonnez contre le monde. "Father, thunder against the world."

The advice was good, yet thundering against the world may not always be the best means for effecting the desired result. It is a sound

principle that men are more powerfully and permanently affected by truths which they have made their own through meditation and reflection, than by words however strong and powerful, coming from the lips of another. Hence the present time is auspicious for practicing such meditation.

What is the world or worldliness? It is as Newman says, "a bad imitation of polished ungodliness," and we have, but to read with attention and reflection to almost any "society novel" the better sort to see, drawn to the life, the struggle for wealth, or for title and place, or for admission into the favored circles of a class one imagines to be above his own. To say nothing of the free rein given to the baser passions, held in check by no other motive than that of fear of being found out and disgraced.

Worldliness may be described as the habit of measuring and appreciating things as they appear to our senses; and our passions; unworldliness is the habit of viewing things as they are in God's sight, so far as the truths, which we know by reason and revelation, enable us to do so. Now by reflection in the light of God's revelation we learn that many things which are commonly esteemed great—great wealth, learning, titles and distinctions, are in His eyes of no account whatever, only in so far as they are used in His service and according to His will. While on the other hand very small things, if done in full and explicit submission to His will, are of the highest value.

The struggle for a truly democratic world today, bears silent witness to the growing conviction that a man ought to be judged by what he is, and not by the rank he holds; and though there are and always will be large numbers of parasitic persons who are ever ready to attach themselves to the biggest man within reach, according to their various conceptions of bigness, sensible men are disposed to recognize—even apart from specifically religious considerations—that it is earnestness of ef-

fort rather than brilliancy of success which must reasonably claim respect.

As soon as we recognize that this present life is but a preparation for eternity, and that our eternal destinies depend neither on the cut and quality of clothes, nor the complexion and features, nor on outward and visible success, whether military, social or political, nor on intellectual abilities, but simply and solely on the will (aided, of course by God's grace), it becomes evident that the apparently small affairs of life are in fact the highest moment. For by exercising the will about these, it becomes gradually trained to a readiness for more conspicuous heroic actions in case an occasion for them should present itself.

### AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

(By REV. H. E. PEMBERTON, pastor of South Salem Friends' Church.) Text—Genesis 4:9. Cain was the first fruit of the race after the fall because of sin. The same sinful nature has been manifest ever since. Jude refers to this in the 11th verse of his epistle. Also 1: John 3:12. This man Cain gave out just what he had on hand. Others do the same. He preached a gospel of selfishness, murder, greed and materialistic egoism, and from that day until now much of man's doings have fallen in the above class. Think of poor sinful men building a tower to heaven and God. (It was never finished) This was to have been a paved street to God, some other way than God's way, to gratify self interest, so there is ever in the carnal man an attempt to justify self and blame another for all of one's troubles. The principle is working out in personal, feudal, national conflicts and even in world's war. This long black list has no end. And when a call to duty comes from God and humanity, hear the answer, am I a keeper? My brother's? How we attempt to avoid responsibility.

II. How grateful all men should be that in the fulness of time another son was born who was Jesus the Christ. Angels announced his birth. The very poor and the very lowly were the first to welcome him. All difference of class and nation and tongue is taken away where He, the Christ, is worshipped. At 12 years He was disputing in the temple with the doctors. And when a man of 36 began his life work, the like of which was never known, was baptized of John, made wine of water, drives money changers from the temple, teaching as he goes, he heals the sick; one of fever, another of leprosy. The blind, the dumb, the impotent, the demoniac and all sick were made well, even to the withered hand. He paused in His sermon to feed multitudes. He calls children and blesses them. Then after all this He was betrayed and led away to be crucified, giving his life for the sin of the world. But the grave could not hold him. "He ascended upon high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men," so in Christ all may be restored.

III. Is Christ at work at present? Yes: He saw the need and came to the task. He heard the cry of the world and said, "Come unto me for rest." First, rest of soul to the individual through faith in Him. Any poor soul may find rest here. What a list of those who have obtained spiritual rest. Does this include you? You can't run away from your need. You can meet it. Second, in acts of mercy I see Christ at work: Asylum for all weak. The strong and wise reaching out to the poor. I see it in the coming together of the leaders of great nations to plan for mercy, justice and truth. The Christian people of America are called upon today to pray to this end. The conflict is between Cain and Christ. Let us pray "Thy kingdom come."

So died one of the great men of France, leaving this statement of his beliefs to his family for its inheritance. Such an impressive statement from one of the greatest scholars of the world at the close of his life becomes of great interest to all who are endeavoring to discover where they stand in the matter of their own creeds, to ascertain truth, and to live in its light. This man believed he had found the secret of life in the simple faith which he received in his childhood home and which he retained through his long, useful and busy life.—From the editorial page of the Minneapolis (Minn.) Daily Journal.

### PREPAREDNESS

(By Rev. THOMAS ANDERSON, pastor of the First Presbyterian church.) Text—Zachariah 1: 5. "Your fathers, where are they? And the prophets, do they live forever?"

It is very kind of The Statesman to permit us preachers to speak to our congregations through the mediums of its columns. It becomes necessary, however, to limit us to about 300 words or the paper might not be able to contain all we have to say. Come to think of it, life is limited—only a little while to do our work, and say our say, and then pass on!

"Just as of old, the seasons come and go. Spring, with its flowers, and winter with its snow— But, oh, how we change as years come on anew!

The heart grows strange, that once was kind and true; And dear friends part while others pass away. But time rolls along today, just as of old!"

With the passing of recent days, some good has been accomplished, but the loss of many precious lives in war and pestilence has saddened this old world of ours. Then, too, many opportunities for victorious righteousness have been neglected, and a vainglorious conceit has unfitted us for the "fruitage of lasting peace. Many are saying, "I am here for war," and it is true. "Once with a few fellow students in college as we were fighting the battles of life together, we adopted this slogan: "Expect nothing, and you will not be disappointed." To us it meant be prepared for anything and you will never be surprised!

Now, no man knows what a day may bring forth, but we all know that "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." We also know that the only way to be able to resist evil successfully is to be fortified in good! The tree that is well rooted and grounded, having a heart of integrity and a body of uprightness, never fears the storm, but its strength rather glories in the struggle.

Such a tree of righteousness was Theodore Roosevelt in the midst of our American life. He was a warrior bold and a prophet true. He never feared to lead the way—God rest him and may his message and his name be never forgotten! The best way to overcome weakness, cultivate strength—"overcome evil with good" be prepared for death, cultivate life

and have the well spring of life through Jesus Christ bubbling up within your soul eternally. May your life be better than your father's, and may the prophets lead you home to God!

Look not mournfully into the past, it comes not back again, wisely improve the present, that is thine, go forth to meet the shadowy future without fear and with a manly heart."

### HAVE FAITH IN GOD

(By DR. W. C. KANTNER, pastor of First Congregational church.) These are the days when men's faith in God is keenly tested. The varied world and individual experiences of recent years, accented by the pestilence that is still smiting the world, have together served to shake not only that precious trust of many men in the Heavenly Father's continuing love and care, which is a glorious source of comfort to the pious, but in the minds of a few, even the belief in the existence of a divine being who has any interest in man has been trembling in the balance. And yet how infinitely poorer would such a loss of faith leave the world. For among the greatest treasures of the human soul there is none of greater value to man in the deeper experiences that come in some form or other to each of us, than an abiding faith in God.

To give up faith in God does not lessen our mental perplexities, does not solve any moral problems, does not alleviate the burden of our sorrow, does not make life's conflicts one bit the easier and in no way prepares us to meet life's responsibilities or eternity's possibilities.

Loss of faith in God is equivalent to spiritual bankruptcy. The individual may flatter himself with the thought that he has gained a great freedom by casting away his faith, but he has, instead, really become a spiritual pauper.

As the New Year stretches out before us how appropriately comes the Master's message to us, "Have faith in God."

If this year is to mean much for us we must meet its days with a mighty faith in an Almighty God.

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He has said, "As thy days, so shall thy strength be."

The demands of no day can be greater than the strength God gives us to meet that day. He will crown the year with His goodness in our personal experience if we but hold ourselves close to Him in a faith that does not fall in the hour of test. So when sorrow comes, when difficulties meet us; when the burdens are heavy and when duty sounds its trumpet call, let us remember His precious promises and trust His word who says—"I will never leave nor forsake thee." It is the loving heavenly Father who speaks thus—"Cast thy burden on the Lord and he shall sustain thee." Have faith in God.

## BE PRETTY! TURN GRAY HAIR DARK

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Almost everyone knows that Sage Tea and Sulphur, properly compounded, brings back the natural color and lustre to the hair when faded, streaked or grey. Years ago the only way to get this mixture was to make it at home, which is messy and troublesome. Nowadays, by asking at any drug store for "Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Compound," you will get a large bottle of this famous old recipe, improved by the addition of other ingredients, at a small cost.

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