

A New Year Sermon

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These are the days of old December, Days we all should well remember.

The word "remember" is used in the scriptures of the old and new testaments more than one hundred times in exhortation or command. "Remember the Lord thy God," "Remember the Sabbath day," "Remember the words I spoke unto Moses," "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth," "Son remember, truly we can not live without memory. At least we cannot be conscious that we are living.

It is memory that enables us to know ourselves. It links us to the past and enables us to say "yesterday, or last year, we were in such a place and heard, or said, or did such wonderful things." They are usually wonderful things in memory, because fancy and imagination are the prism through which the lights shine into our memories and the rainbow hues make all look as wonderful! Did you ever hear or read of a man without a memory? Poor fellow, he doesn't know himself—his name, his home, whence he came—he is worse than the usual insane person, for he is without personality.

Memory enables us to recognize our friends and to treasure home, family and friendship, love and happiness. Memory gives continuity to life, linking days and seasons and years together, grouping persons and places and events into moving picture plays or experiences; and so it becomes the living art gallery of the soul. Again, memory records the thoughts, sayings, readings, histories, philosophies, truths or falsehoods of life, and so becomes the library of the soul. And again, memory stores away the sensations, the moods, the passions, the emotions, the hopes, the longings, aspirations, ambitions, even the fancy sketches and imaginations and so becomes the great food reserve or gallery of the soul.

Memory is the treasury of the aging or the old, but the young are constantly engaged in gathering and compounding surprise packages for their own old age or for the entertainment of others in all the years of the future, therefore, we should cultivate memory.

Memory has these two functions, the collecting and storing part, and the recalling and reviewing part. In our secular education today, entirely too much emphasis is laid upon the "recall" powers of the mind and not enough emphasis laid upon the storing power of mind. Now we do not need to train to recall things in life for when the necessity really comes we will find ourselves willing or unwillingly recalling everything of importance in our experience. A drowning man is said to recall in a moment all the history of his life. Of course the mathematical power to recall names and dates and numbers and prices, etc., has a commercial value in business life and therefore this special education,—but the great need of our life is to know what is worth while to store in our mind, so as to produce the greatest joy or happiness in all the future. The great Master teaches us to "take heed of what ye hear!" "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear!" Now this selective principle of the mind is the great thing in education. Not how much shall we see and hear and read and study, but what is truly worth while. There is entirely too much of this disposition among us to run about and see and hear and know everything—it is a great evil. By such a process the foolish vain-glorious, weak and sinful things of life soon come to dominate over our minds and life is stored with evil and not good. It is a foolish teaching that "we must know evil in order to avoid it"—of course, it involves the difference between theory and experience. But we forget the balancing truth: "That sin is a monster of such hideous mien, that to be hated needs only to be seen, but seen too oft we grow familiar with her face and first endure, then pity, then embrace!" We want to kick out of our memories everything ugly, everything hateful and everything bad. Right here I would have you appreciate the difference between a good memory and a poor or bad memory. It does not depend, as we are so commonly taught, upon the power to recall, but it is the quality of the material we have in our minds. The possession of good thoughts, of wholesome truth, of beautiful and loving scenes and associations, this constitutes good memory. In a word, a good memory is the memory of good, just as a bad memory is a memory of evil. The process of remembering is simply a review of the mind.

How important then what we put into the mind. We should choose good friends and shut out evil enemies. We should look at things beautiful and refuse to see things monstrous or ugly. We should listen to sweet tran-

speaking voices and refuse to hear discordant, noisy, violent tones in life. "My mind to me a kingdom is" and I will people it and rule it for God and happiness. "My mind to me a garden is" and I will plant it and cultivate in it what I like.

"Let us gather up the sunbeams Lying all around our path Let us keep the wheat and roses Casting out the thorns and chaff.

"Let us find our sweetest comfort In the blessings of today With a patient hand removing All the briars from our way. Then scatter seeds of kindness For our reaping bye and bye!"

This week we pass from the old year to the new. What shall we carry with us? The old year has had its disappointments and sorrows, we will not carry these. Certainly December has had its foggy and awful cold, but we will forget all these. Let us try to carry the beautiful pictures of the hearth and the snow, together with all the joy of the Christmas season through January and all the New Year. Remember it is the forgiving love of Jesus Christ that covers up and hides away forever all our ugliness and sin, so let us try to forget all the evil by a careful remembering all the good

BRINGS 4 NEW ONES



Chauncey Olcott

No performance of Chauncey Olcott's would be complete with the usual store of songs, and this season Mr. Olcott will sing four new ones which are: "That's How the Shannon Flows," "Macushia Ashore" (Pulse of my heart), "I'll Miss you old Ireland God Bless You, Goodbye," and "The Irish Girl I Love and she's Just Like You." The above were written by J. Kieran Brennan, Alfred Dubin and Ernest R. Ball, who have written Mr. Olcott's songs for several years, and they are bound to please as well as the old songs so well remembered by all his admirers. Mr. Olcott's engagement is for Friday, Jan. 2 at the Grand theater.

of life. Heaven will be furnished with all the beauty, all the goodness and all the love of earth.

"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."

Happy New Year to all!

Henry Turner was found dead at his farm near Prineville Christmas day. He had been dead several days. Mr. Turner was 67 years old and was born and reared in the Willamette valley.

The Coos river ranch homes belonging to Anson O. Rogers and T. F. Hauschildt were consumed by fire Saturday a dinner of the contents in each residence destroyed. The losses amount to \$10,000, with no insurance.

Articles of incorporation have been filed for the Oregon Fisheries company, with headquarters at Oregon City. The company will engage in operation of fleets on the Columbia river and eventually in deep water fishing off the coast of Oregon.

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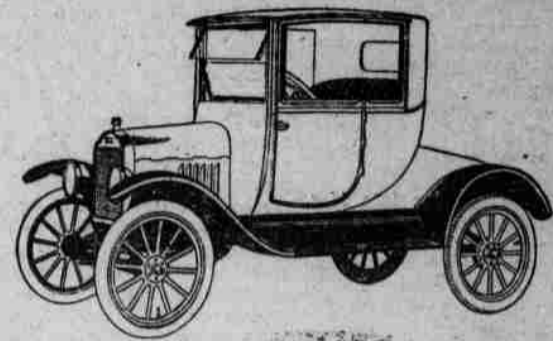
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