

## SERMON ON THE BIRDS

REV. BENNETT PREACHES SPECIAL DISCOURSE SUNDAY.

Feathered Neighbors Teach Us Numerous Lessons, One Being Habit of Industry.

The Rev. George H. Bennett preached a special sermon last Sunday taking for his theme, "Birds Our Benefactors and Schoolmasters," the purpose being bird protection. In discussing the subject Mr. Bennett held that the birds teach us many valuable lessons, and hence they are our schoolmasters. The sermon follows: Behold the birds of the heaven! Our feathered neighbors are very close kin to ourselves. They are creatures of the same Creator, and recipients of the thoughtful care of the same Heavenly Father as ourselves—your Heavenly Father feedeth them."

The birds are our schoolmasters. They teach us many valuable lessons. They do not sow, nor reap, nor gather harvests into barns and granaries, as we do, nevertheless they teach us the habit of industry, for every bird labors from sunrise till sunset in the search for food provided by divine providence. The robin which draws the earthworm from the sod, and the sparrow which hunts for seeds among the weeds by the roadside surely are examples of industry to all the "lords of creation."

The birds use the knowledge and power they possess and take care of themselves, and perform a very notable and worthy work in the world, while a good many men waste their knowledge and power, never return to society any worthy service for what they get out of it, and are merely parasites upon society living off the toil of other people.

The birds are our benefactors. They render valuable service. Society depends upon agriculture for its daily food supply. But agriculture has its problems. One of the chief problems in agriculture is the destruction of the weeds which infest all cultivated lands. Among the most active and efficient checks upon the overwhelming crop of weeds which annually menaces the farmer are the birds which eat the seeds of the weeds. The birds attack these enemies of the farmer at a vital period in weed life, the seed time. One seed may produce a weed which will yield fifty thousand seeds. So the work of the birds becomes easily apparent.

Fifty species of our native birds live chiefly upon the harvest of weed seeds. It is not uncommon for the crow blackbird to eat fifty seeds of the smartweed, or for a field sparrow to eat one hundred seeds of crabgrass, or for a tree sparrow to devour seven hundred seeds of pigweed at a single meal—while a snowflake has been known to eat a thousand seeds of pigweed at a single meal. Our native birds thus attack more than sixty species of noxious weeds. Investigation has shown that the birds eat an average of a quarter of an ounce of weed seed daily; and upon this basis, and with a fair estimate of the number of birds to the square mile, it is calculated that in Iowa alone the treesparrows annually destroy 875 tons of weed seed.

When the boys fare forth to shoot birds let them remember they are making war on their best friends. Thirteen quail examined had eaten 5,582 weed seeds. Several mourning doves were examined. One had devoured 7,500 seeds of the yellow wood sorrel, another 6,400 foxtail grass seeds, and another had eaten 9,200 seeds of several kinds of weeds. The cherry "Bob-white" of the quail, and the soft cooing of the dove ought to turn the heart of the hunter from slaughter to praise and protection of these little toilers.

Another serious problem in agriculture is the destruction of the horde of insects which prey upon orchard, forest, and field. But in solving this problem the birds again come to the assistance of society. Many species of birds live upon the ground. Their food consists largely of insects found on the furrowed field, or in the grass, or among the leaves. Other species, like the swallows and flycatchers, spend their lives on the wing or watching from some isolated twig, and so destroy the insects which swarm in the air. And other species still, like the warblers and woodpeckers, devour other kinds of insect pests which inhabit the trees. So the bird hosts advance to three grand divisions upon the armies of insect pests. Fifty-one species of our native birds feed chiefly upon hairy caterpillars. Thirty-eight species feed upon plant lice. A scarlet tanager was observed to eat gypsy moths at the rate of thirty-five per minute for eighteen minutes. A pair of warblers picked up 3,560 plant lice in forty minutes. A red-winged blackbird was examined which had eaten twenty-eight cutworms at a single meal, yet the farmers drive the blackbirds from their cornfields!

Insect life lays an enormous tribute upon our country. The Hessian fly recently caused a loss of \$3,000,000 in one year in the state of New York alone. The total annual loss in timber, fruit, and crops has been estimated at \$800,000,000 in our country. But how vast must be the damage without the aid of birds! The Boll-weevil threatens the cotton plantations of the South. It is spreading at the rate of fifty miles a year. Thirty-eight species of birds feed upon this destructive insect—yet bird slaughter continues. The food of kingbirds consists of ninety per cent of weevils and other injurious insects. Robins eat ten times more noxious insects and seeds than seed and berries and fruits useful to man. The grosbeaks eat a few green peas, but they will rid your potatoes patch of Colorado beetles. The small damage done by a few species of native birds is vastly more than repaid by their beneficial service to society.

Behold the birds of the heaven! The Biological Survey reports that meadowlarks, which feed principally upon grasshoppers, save \$365 for every township of thirty-six square miles in Iowa, by protecting the crops. And it also reports that during a year in the state of New York the native birds destroy three million bushels of noxious insects which prey upon the orchard, woodland, and cultivated field. Yes, the birds are our benefactors.

But behold the birds of the heaven! They are also our schoolmasters. They are ever before us as examples of industry. But see how true the birds are to their native instincts. They live up to the light that is in them. But see how false we often are to reason and instruction, to conscience and revelation. The birds hear the call of nature, and their migration begins. One hundred and fifty-five species of warblers range from Argentine to Alaska. The black poll is the greatest traveler. It wings its way from Brazil to Alaska—7,000 miles. These feathered migrants do not follow the string of islands across the sea, but fly in a single night across the Gulf to Florida—a distance of seven hundred miles. How wise and beneficent is that divine providence which thus leads the little wayfarers across the pathless sea!

The birds are true to their instincts. They flee from their enemies and from danger. But men—they often are not as wise as the birds to avoid evil companions and bad habits. Too often do they rather cultivate evil associations and bad habits, and so run into danger. The prisons and asylums are filled with people who were not as wise as the birds, for they wilfully trampled upon both reason and instruction, conscience, and revelation.

Behold the birds of the heaven! They fill their places in nature with honor and distinction. True to its instinct, the bird builds its nest and cares for its own. It thus becomes an example to all men in courage and patriotism. But there is an increasing host of men who care for no one, and live for nobody but themselves—and are they not beneath the birds in courage and patriotism? But divine providence takes care of the birds, and they thrive and prosper, and all because they are true to their instincts and live up to the light that is in them; and so, divine providence can prosper mankind only as the voice of duty is obeyed.

### PASSING OF A PIONEER.

John Ridgeway Dies at His Home Near Buell.

John Ridgeway, one of the oldest pioneers in this section of the state, died Friday at the old Ridgeway homestead, near Buell. Mr. Ridgeway crossed the plains in the early forties with his parents, when but four years of age, his father settling on the Luckiamute river, near Dallas. In 1849 the family moved to a homestead near Buell, where two more generations of Ridgeways have lived since. He leaves two sisters, Mrs. Joseph Black of Dallas, and Miss Ridgeway of Buell, and three brothers, Henry of Salem, and Joe and Charles of Buell.

### SOLD UNDER THE HAMMER.

Big Ranch Near McCoy Goes to Satisfy Judgment.

By virtue of an execution and order of sale issued out of the Circuit Court last March, Sheriff Grant on Saturday sold the farm property belonging to A. M. Holmes, two miles south of McCoy, to satisfy a judgment of \$22,197.38. J. P. Rogers of the United States National Bank of Salem was the purchaser, his bid covering the total claim. S. S. Gordon was the principal creditor, he having a claim of \$15,000 against the property. The farm consists of 443 acres.

### New Buildings Under Way.

Harvey and Irvin Hoekel has completed the foundation for a bungalow on Birch street, between Main and Church, to cost when completed about \$1200. It will be 28 x 42, one and a half stories.

James Mitchell will erect a bungalow with an addition thereto on Birch street, the same to cost \$1,000. He has completed the addition and will occupy it while at work on the main structure.

D. Y. Allen, who some months since bought the Thomas greenhouse at the corner of Jefferson and Mill streets and moved it to Birch street, is building another similar glass-house 16 x 64. He has 10,000 tomato plants and 17,000 cabbage plants ready for market.

John McBee has just finished a garage in the rear of his dwelling on Church street.

### Want Ad. Gets Results.

"Stop my want advertisement," said Mr. J. C. Macomber to The Observer. "It has brought me more orders than I have eggs to sell. When this rush is over I'll try it again."

## COLLISION ON HIGHWAY

Walter Mueller Suffers Injuries at North Dallas Sunday.

Walter Mueller, while motoreycling on the North Dallas road Sunday morning collided with an automobile on a sharp turn, sustaining quite serious injuries. Both automobile and motoreycle were speeding along at a rapid pace. It is said the auto turned to the wrong side of the road. The unfortunate Mueller was taken to the home of Mr. Mitchell, and a physician called. He was afterwards removed to the Dallas hospital. Mueller, in the fall, had several ribs broken, and his machine was demolished.

### CAPT. WATCHFULLY WAITING.

Dallas Company Ready, Although Order is Unlikely.

While Company L Third Infantry, Oregon National Guard, stationed in this city, is fully equipped and in readiness to move upon a few hours' notice, it is not probable that it will be called into service. The recruiting officers of the local company received many new applications for enlistment, provided the company is ordered into active service. Captain Staffin apprehending a crisis in the Mexican situation, has maintained a state of preparedness for some time past. The commanding officer, however, is still "watchfully waiting."

### Lewis Will Talk To Grange.

Officers of the state grange have invited State Engineer Lewis to discuss the proposed constitutional amendment providing for the issuance of state bonds for the construction of irrigation, drainage and water power projects, and for clearing logged-off lands, at the meeting of the grange at Monmouth, May 19. He was asked to outline a feasible plan whereby the resources can be made available for use by men of limited means.

### Undergoes An Operation.

Mrs. Harry Blodget of Airtie is an inmate of the Dallas hospital, where she underwent a surgical operation on Saturday, from the effects of which she is rapidly recovering. Mr. Blodget accompanied his wife, and is still in the city.

### Prepares For Fair.

Preparations are under way in the farming districts of South Polk county for exhibits at the county fair to be held at Dallas in September, the Oregon State Fair, and the Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915. Children have formed industrial clubs for county fair work and are also working to secure prizes at the State Fair.

### HEARD IN DALLAS

How Bad Backs Have Been Made Strong—Kidney Pills Corrected.

All over Dallas you hear it. Doan's Kidney Pills are keeping up the good work. Dallas people are telling about it—telling of bad backs made sound again. You can believe the testimony of your own townspeople. They tell it for the benefit of you who are suffering. If your back aches, if you feel lame, sore and miserable, if the kidneys act too frequently, or passages are painful, scanty and off color, use Doan's Kidney Pills, the remedy that has helped so many of your friends and neighbors. Follow this Dallas citizen's advice and give Doan's a chance to do the same for you.

E. L. Sperry, carpenter, 318 Maple Street, Dallas, Oregon, says:—"My back and kidneys bothered me for quite awhile and I was advised to try Doan's Kidney Pills for relief. Short use rid me of the trouble and not a sign of it has ever returned. It is several years since I took Doan's Kidney Pills, but I haven't forgotten how greatly they helped me."

Price 50c. at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Sperry had. Foster-Milburn Co., Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

## KILL THE CATARRH GERM—USE HYOMEI

It's the direct-to-the-spot method—you breathe it. Do not delay and continue to suffer from catarrh, head colds, bronchitis or sniffles. It is not only needless and annoys your friends, but dangerous to your general health. Begin the Hyomei treatment at once. It is one of the easiest, quickest, and surest way to clear the head and quickly and permanently banish catarrh.

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