## THE PULPIT.

AN ELOQUENT SUNDAY SERMON BY DR. CURTIS LEE LAWS.

#### Theme: Backsliding.

Brooklyn, N. Y.-In the Greene Avenue Baptist Church, Sunday, the pastor, the Key. Dr. Curtis Lee Laws, preached a strong sermon on "Back-The text was from Proverbs "The backslider in heart aliding.' led with his own ways. aid

e service of the Lord? • Do e service of the Lord? Do taber the day and hour burden of sin rolled off and when you could look first time into the face of ce and in His love? Do call how the whole world became more beautiful and heart yearned over your enemies as never before? on old man converted to

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iow, his esthetic nature had not been much cultivated, and he did not have an artist's eye. The morring after his conversion, when his wife came down to breakfast, he was standing at the dining room window looking at the dining room window looking out at the desolate winter scenery. He turned and said: "Wife, come here and look, come here and look; the very trees are clapping their hands in praise to God!" Ah, in the days gone by there has been many an echo of those words in many a heart

To me after I found God, the whole world was more beautiful; the sky was bluer, the grass was greener, the breezes were softer, the sun was warmer and all mankind were dearer

What is the meaning of all this? It means that I had found that which was the complement of my whole be-ing. As Augustine said: "O Lord, Thou hast made us for Thyself, and we are restless till we rest in Thee." It means that in God I had found the satisfaction which this world had never afforded me, for as the ocean only can fill the ocean's bed, so God alone can satisfy the mind of man. Blessed is the man who has been reconciled to his heavenly Father, who has returned like the prodigal to his Father's love.

Father's love. I turn now to the dark side of the picture. How few of us have kept this early joy, and have continued in this blessed peace? Of course you know the story of the lost chord? A woman, in the shadows of the twi-light, when her heart was sad, gently touched the keys of a glorious organ. Bhe did not know or care what she She did not know or care what she was playing; her fingers lingered idly but caressingly upon the keys. Sud-denly she struck a chord, and its won-drous melody as it filled the room was uplifting and transforming and heavenly.

It flooded the crimson twilight. Like the close of an angel's psalm, 'And it lay on her fevered spirit With the touch of infinite calm.

It quieted prin and sorrow. Like love overcoming strife: It seemed the harmonious echo From our discordant life.

It linked all perplexed meanings Into one perfect peace. And trembled away in silence, As if it were loth to cease.

Something disturbed this woman and called her from the organ. At As soon as possible she hurried back and began to play, but this divine chord was gone, and though she kent or playing she could not bring it back again.

How similar to our experience as the children of God and yet how op-posite! Many of us have lost our peace, our joy, our rapture, but bless God, we can all have this heavenly music in our souls again, if we are willing, for God is willing to heal our backsliding. Backsliding is so com-mon among Christians as to be almost

lagged behind, or, as the record says, "he followed afar off." When the company reached the judgment hall, John went in with Jesus, but Peter, straggling in late, dared not go there, but with shamefacedness sat out in the court and warmed himself by the fire. Step by step he had led to his own undoing. The servants jeered him and taunted him, until he grew profane and blasphemous, and de-clared that he never knew Jesus of Nazareth. Had he followed close to the Master, the presence of Jesus would have sustained and strengththe ened him, in the companionship of John he would have found courage, and he would have been saved from the influence of the evil company which proved his ruin. Is not this which proved his ruin. Is not this the proper diagnosis of many sin-sick souls among us? Is not this the exact history of your backsliding? You began by sheer neglect. You did not commit outward positive sins, but you neglected the means of grace. You were startled when you recog-nized the growing indigeneous to mean nized the growing indifference in your heart. Bible reading became irk-

heart. Bible reading became irk-some, and you no longer delighted in private prayer. In the meantime your devotion to business or pleasure caused you to give up the prayer meeting. Then you became irregular on Sunday evenings, and gradually you dropped out of all church attendance. In the meantime you were not sustained and cheered by the conscious presence of your Lord nor strengthened by the companionship of your fellow Christians. Then you Then you drifted out among unbelievers, and perhaps they have taunted you into denying your Master in ways which ten years ago you would not have dreamed of! Of course you did not start out to make shipwreck of your faith. You were hoodwinked by the devil. Even a fool would shup the devil. Even a fool would shun the first steps toward evil if he could see the end from the beginning. In our city there are tens of thousands of men and women who have drifted into sin and drifted out of the church. My heart yearns over these people, for they belong to God. They

have been redeemed by the blood of God's Son. They ought to be eating God's Son at their Father's table, but instead of this they are spending their all in riotous living, or it may be that the devil has already put them to feeding

swine. Now let us consider the result of Now let us consider the result of this backsliding. I do not mean the influence of backsliding upon others, though this is far-reaching and bane-ful, but the curse of backsliding to the backslider himself. My text says that the "backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways." "What-soever a man soweth that shall he also reap." The law of the harvest is a universal and unalterable law, but a considerable time generally but a considerable time generally elapses before a man eats the bread of his own sowing. I do not envy the backslider. By experience I know something of the bitterness of the agony which he now suffers or which the future holds in store for him.

The future holds in store for him. Now let us consider God's attitude to the backslider. He yearns over His wayward and wandering children, and longs for their return. The pic-ture of the father in the parable of the prodigal son is the best descrip-tion of God in the whole Bible. And is not the picture of the reduction is not the picture of the prodigal son the best description of the backslider that you know of? In the heart of God there is an abundant welcome for every returning backslider, and the church of God ought not to be less hospitable than the heart of God.

If again I may use the Apostle Peter as an illustration, we may surely learn from his restoration that unworthy Christians may become worthy Christians, that weak Chris-tians may become strong Christians, and that our very failings may be-come stepping stones to success. After his experience, Peter was too After his experience, Peter was too humble a man to praise himself; but ali of us know that the Master took him back to His heart and immedi-ately intrusted him with the interests of His Kingdom. This weak and halting and backsliding man was des-tined to become the leader of the avertise in devotion and subsiding and backsliding. Backsliding is so com-mon among Christians as to be almost universal. Of course, there are dif-ferent degrees of backsliding. Some have gone only a little way, while others have gone so far that the re-turn will be difficult, but thank God. me that God can take the weakest of me that God can take the weakest of us and make us strong and powerful, if we will only give ourselves to Him. I close with these words of invita-tion from my Master. My first word is to the Christians within the church who have grown cold and neglectful: Our Master is anxious to forgive us and to have us start afresh. Let us be done with indolence and indifference, and serve the Lord with joy and and enthusiasm. My second word is to the Christians who have fallen into sin and drifted out of the failen into sin and drifted out of the church: Your Lord stands with open arms and pleads with you to come back to Him, and the church wants you back. If you will forsake your sins, no one will remember them against you. Come, and you shall save the gold ring and the best robe, and we will kill the fatted calf in our rejolcing, and in most of our churches rejoicing, and in most of our churches there will not be a single pharisaical elder brother to begrudge you the welcome you are receiving. My last word is to the men and women who have never yielded their hearts to the love of God, nor sur-rendered their wills to the will of God: The Father has a royal welcome for you. It was for your sake that God sent His Son into the world. John 3:16 is the Master's message to you. If you do not remember the beautiful words, hunt them up in your long-neglected Bibles, and then come, come, come.

"HATS OFF IN CHURCH." Abnormal Creations The Cause of

The Present Movement. New York, Special .-- "Hats off in

church" promises to be the cry to women in the near future, and Rev. Charles B. Jefferson, pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle, has sounded the first note of warning in a little publication issued under church auspices.

In this he says:

"The present bonnet or hat is abnormally immense, and the discomfiture of worshipers whose vision is impeded is correspondingly great. What to do with the women has been a problem in churches throughout the country.

"In theatrical and operatic circles it is counted bad form for a woman to sit with her hat on. It does not require the gift of prophecy to say that the time will come when Christian women in the church will be equally considerate."

Dr. Jefferson remarked that he was prepared to join any concerted effort among clergymen which might result in removing their hats in church.—Baltimore Sun.

Whether the Biblical requirement that a woman have "her head covered" refers to her hair or her hat may be a question for the excepte. But on the size of the "covering" any old layman may freely express his opinion. If a woman's hat is so big that it eclipses the preacher and the whole front of the church, it is time for a mere man to register a kick. We are not quite ready to advocate the excommunication of the woman with the big hat, but our minds are made up on the hat itself. If some way is not found to reduce the size of women's hats, the magazines will soon have a new answer to the question, "Why men do not go to church."

If a woman must have a hat on at church, why should she not have a "church hat," that will admit of an occasional glimpse of the pulpit at least by the man or woman who sits behind her? If her "street hat" should cover all-out-of-doors, it would be practically harmless, but she ought to keep it out of doors. We believe we speak for the suffering "brotherhood of man," when we say that the men stand ready to put up the 'dough'' far an additional hat to be known as the "church hat." The investment will pay large dividends.

### No More Smoke.

The Pennsyllvania Railroad has begun a campaign of education with its enginemen and firemen. Any competent fireman knows that bituminous coal will burn without smoke if the fire is kept bright and level over the whole grate by the addition of small quantities at regular intervals. By this method less coal is needed to keep up steam pressure. The foul gases are burned, the passengers are pleased, money is saved, and the company can afford to develop intelligent supervising officers in order to reach the men. A spirit will thus be fostered among employers that will make the present improvement and reckless firing seem almost criminal. Of course, electric motive power, were it not still in the costly experimental stage, would at once dispose of the smoke question. The electric locomotives have not yet demonstrated qualities of stability in long-distance transportation, and the freight business must for some time to come be handled by steam locomotives. Meanwhile the present example of



Years' Standing. ") was afflicted for two years with catarrh of the throat. At first it was very slight, but every cold I took made

it worse. "I followed your directions and in a very short time I began to improve. I took one bottle and am now taking my second. I can safely say that my throat and head are cleared from catarrh at the present time, but I -till continue to take my usual dose for a spring tonic, and I find there is noth ing better."-Mrs. W. Pray, 260 Twelfth St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

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#### Here and There.

It takes a broad-minded man to sec the good in a narrow-minded one. Many an education is obtained at

the expense of common sense.

Don't mind the number of irons you have in the fire-mind the fire. and you make paupers; lend it and

you create enemics; hoard it and you imperial year soul. Many a man who has always guard-

ed the door of his lips will look sma'l when the door of his heart is opened



What fates impose, that men must need abide.

Dealers & Ginners save money. Order Bagging, Bag-cloth, Cotton Ties direct from Factory. Brokers wanted everywhere. Margolius Company, New Orleans, La., also Norfolk, Va.

The world doesn't know that a lot of people who criticise it are living.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflamma-tion, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25c a bottle

The man who talks the loudest is getting the worst of the argument.

Do not force yourself to take offensive (and harmful) drugs-take Garfield Tea, Nature's Herb laxative; it corrects consti-pation, purifies the blood, brings Health! Confidence is that which prompts a

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THE TEETH Paxtine excels any dentifrice removing tartar from the teeth, besides destroying all germs of decay and disease which ordinary

turn will be difficult, but thank God, not impossible. First of all, let us consider how

First of all, let us consider now men become backsliders. The word itself is significant. To go forward requires effort, to go backward re-quires no effort at all. In the Christian life, if you cease to go forward you will inevitably go backward. This backsliding always begins in the heart. We may go on for a time in the outward performance of duty, in the ceaseless round of Christian activities, while in our hearts these things are growing more and more distasteful. The heart may therefore be in wrong relation to a given thing, while our actions may be perfectly exemplary. But God knows that that man is a backslider, and he knows it mat is a backshoer, and he knows it himself. Whether others know it matters very little. But after a time all men will know it, for the back-slider in heart generally becomes the backslider in life. It is very hard for men to continue long in hyporisy. Ordinarily a man's outward life is the expression of his inner life. expression of his inner life. A man's character may be better than his reputation, or a man's reputation may be better than his character, but ordinarily reputation and character agree. monds in the rough.

is in the rough." constantly say of the man who with his tongue, "Well, you he is very hasty and impetuous, iten says things which he does mean." But God says these have their origin in the heart, ains kno and not from the heart flow outward. our conduct becomes bad, it is and stiders in our hearts. Then had leads to worse. Like Peter, we begin "to ioliow the Lord afar off." and this in-evitably leads to the denial of our Master. You remember that when becau e we have already been back Master. You remember that when the Master was taken captive He was immediately forsaken by His apostles Then began the procession from Gethsemane to the judgment hall. The Master walked alone His weary way. He trod the wine-press alone. The shadow of the cross had already fallen athwart His pathway. But after a little while two of the apostles summon up courage and follow the company. One of these was John, and he walked as close to Jesus as he possibly could. But Peter did not have the courage to do that, so he ise.-MacLaren.

#### Joyful Service.

Blessed is the Christian who works Elessed is the Christian who works cheered by the sure hope of his Mas-ter's final victory. He cares little for the tears now, for he can look forward to the hour when he shall come to the harvest home, bringing his sheaves with him. He bears eas-live the noise and the wounding of the bettle for he hears prophetically the battle, for he hears prophetically the music of victory, and knows that he follows a Captain who has never known defeat, and that the joy of victory, like the joy of harvest, shall more than compensate for all life's weary toil and all earth's strife and conflict.

### Great Expectations.

the Pennsylvania Railroad, since it will be observed by other railroad and manufacturing companies, will work mightily for the clarity of the Man is the only animal that will

nation's skies .- New York Times.

Before marriage a man will go through all sorts of contortions rather than let his sweetheart stoop over to pick up her own handkerchief; after marriage he'll sit clamly in an armchair and watch her move the piano about the room .- Detroit Free Press.

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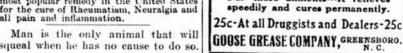
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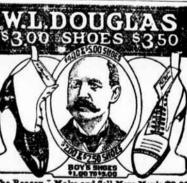
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