

THE PULPIT.

AN ELOQUENT SUNDAY SERMON BY THE REV. ROBERT COLLYER.

Subject: Leading Children Softly.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—The Rev. Robert Collyer, the oldest Unitarian pastor in Greater New York, preached in the Second Unitarian Church, Clinton and Congress streets, Sunday morning. His next appearance in that church was last fall, when he delivered an address on the late Rev. Dr. John White Chadwick, the former pastor, who had just died. The eloquent preacher took for his text: Genesis xxxiii:13-14, "The children are tender; I will lead on softly," and said:

It was one of the secrets of my craft, in the old days when I wanted to weld iron or work steel. If I began to hammer, to strike my heaviest blows, the iron would crumble before the start, the iron would crumble under my hammer, so that when it came to be tempered it would fly," as we used to say, and rob the thing I had made of its finest quality. It was the first condition of a good job to begin gently, later I could strike with a firmer hand, and in the end pour out all my might in a storm of sturdy blows; but if I began so it ended, as a rule, with a wreck. The perfection of the Nasmyth hammer lies in the blending of its gentleness and its ponderous might, so that it can come down as gently as a June shower or smite like a tornado, according to the need of the moment. So the skillful mechanic starts new machinery, a locomotive, a steam engine or even a sewing machine, gently. It is the same condition that the balance traw that the machine shall not tear away at first at high pressure. I noticed the same in the building up of a grand organ. The builder began gently in bringing out its harmonies, with some fine chords, made those true and went on to the others, and so wrought in to the end. Again an animal trainer while he smites the tiger with an iron bar, if he is wise talks to a horse, allures him, courts him and makes him his friend. We do not speak of "breaking" a horse, so much now; we "train" him.

So I love to note such things as these. I watch the perpetual advent of little children into this life of ours, and wonder how we shall deal with them in the one wise way which will weld them, shall I say, to whatsoever things are true and lovely and of good report, and shall we not to the surest purpose and aim them so as to bring out the whole power for good which God has hidden in their nature. There must be the right way, and I think this father said it when he said: "The children are tender; I will lead them on softly." They may seem crude, mere machines or little brutes; there are some men who seem by their actions to have each nation of a child's nature, and their eternal shame. Here is the principle: They are tender; we must lead them on softly. Solomon may slip in with his cruel maxim of "Spare the rod and spoil the child." He has no business about my place while my children are tender. I can no more be hard on them than Jesus could. If I hurt them in this evil way I hurt those who are of the kingdom of Heaven. My white hairs have brought me this wisdom: That the unpardonable sin is to be hard on a tender child. I do not wonder that the old grandfathers are so gentle with the second generation. He will not tell you, or himself, perhaps, why he is, but he would fain recall the passages of his fatherhood, but that cannot be done, so he chokes back the inextinguishable regret and humbly tries to get even through the over-measure. My good mother was something of a Spartan, a very gentle Spartan, with her children, but it was wonderfully beautiful to see her in her old age spreading her wide, grand, motherly wings over the children of the new day. She could no more be hard upon them, no matter what ranks they played, than your May in can be hard upon your May blossom.

It was the return of the heart to the soft answer, the sweet submission to the better plan, the vision of the infinite worth of gentle ways with tender folk, the endeavor, unknown to herself, to ease her dear old heart of that little pain there was from the old days, the feeling that perhaps she might have gone more softly once. These children are not things at all that we can turn out to pattern, but man beings, each one living to himself or to herself, holding a secret we cannot fathom, possessing powers perhaps we cannot even guess at—our children after the spirit; God's children after the spirit, entrusted to our hands and homes at, coming out of Heaven with hints of the angels in them, they may go back when their time comes as sealed ants. The boy may be the image of his father, yet totally different within. He vainly try in our children, sometimes, to see our image, we detect a quality or temper we never had. The Holy Spirit, which watches forever, acts and saves, by a law we do not understand, and we do not understand these tender natures until we know what these powers are which are working out of their sleep. My boy has a faculty which in thirty years may be a benediction to the main family, or may give first a stern vice to me, and may grow to be vice if I did not say, "The child is tender; I will lead on softly." He may born with an overplus of imagination and things that have no existence in seem realities to him; I imagine he is lying right and left, and then lead of a gentle guidance, through which he can find the line between fancy and thoughts. I give first a stern reprimand and then a sound whipping, as in a case where a father and son are alike, but with a difference. A father, a minister, has been drawn on his imagination, time out of mind, for matter for his sermons; the has come honestly by the faculty, he is not shrewd enough to see how far he can go with the being fond. The father prays for him at the family altar, as if he were a son of God, and helps to make him one through such prayers. "Gently," I would say, "pray for insight and foresight; this may be a rare gift you do not understand. The loftiest poet that ever sang may be but a vaster liar by his criterion."

Children are tender we must remember as we try to educate them. We had had a light on a wife's better man than Mrs. Barbauld; but she is so eager to make a very remarkable man out of her little nephew, tries Aiken, that she educated him of his mind into idiocy. So good parents, who would shrink from laying any burden on their children's backs, do not hesitate to lay burdens on their heads and brains. They urge them on their heads, or permit their teachers to do this, until the poor young things are more in wealth of life and life's than their education will ever afford. Lead on softly in these things of education. If your children

want to rush ahead at a pace which will leave them leamed but invalids, head them back; a true education is not a long fever. Here and there a child may need to be urged on a little, but I frankly confess that under the high pressure of our public schools I would take the children's side in their little plots to stay away a day from school when they have been hard at work for many days. I like to plot with them; their success pleases me more than their failure.

In the culture of the heart, also, we must lead on softly. I can no more believe that hard and cruel thoughts of God will be good for my children than I can believe in hard and cruel words and blows, and I have no doubt there are more so-called infidels made, and confirmed to that end, by fathers who thought they were doing God's service than there are of any other type. Such thoughts may be but theology to the father, but they are very often grim, hard, real biting torment to the tender child. It shuts out Heaven and opens hell to him; it is cruel as the hissing and biting of serpents to some delicate small souls. I suffered more agony at one time in my childhood when a revivalist got hold of me and made me believe I might wake up in hell when I laid my poor little head on the pillow than from any other thing that ever struck me. There lies the way to do a fatal mischief, the way the seeds of infidelity are sown in many a noble nature. It is simply the revolt at the resistance to, and the rejection of, a God their nature is too large and sweet and tender to tolerate. If in these early days there is no day star of a lovelier light, no dawning of a better day, no chance for that soul to pass into the kingdom until it has passed out of the world.

When we quote the Scripture: "Train up a child in the way he should go," we must still take heed to our ways lest we think more of the Scripture than we think of the child—fix our mind and purpose on the other rather than the child, and of the way and train him for what he should be at forty rather than what he must be in childhood and youth. We must answer for what is written in the book of the life of our children. I must lay the patriarch's gentle purpose to my heart: "The children are tender; I will lead on softly," for these are my care, who also have the long hard journey before them.

If this is true of the shadow, how true it must be of the light. If ours is a hard and poor lot, no man or woman, father or mother, need ever fear the children will fail to look backward to the early years with a tender love, if by all the means in our power we make good for them the patriarch's purpose. I think, indeed, our love for the old home is very often deepest and purest in those who have had to face the hardest times if we have fought through them in this bright, good way, and led the children on softly. There were homes in this country fifty, sixty, seventy years ago bare of all things save this one secret—they are the dearest places on the earth to-day in memory of men and women who have everything now the heart can desire. And when we have done this, what better can we do than put the whole wealth of our endeavor in trust into the hands of God.

"Thou Art My Light." A touching incident was narrated by Dr. R. F. Horton on the second Sunday after his return from months of treatment by a celebrated German oculist. He was waiting in the oculist's consulting room, not knowing whether or not the remainder of his life was to be passed in darkness, when he put his hand into his pocket and drew out his little Bible—not to read it, but to see if he could. As he opened it his eyes fell on the text:

"For Thou are my lamp, O Lord; and the Lord will lighten my darkness." "I had not been aware of the very existence of this text," he said, "and I do not know who but an angel could have led me to it; but I felt that, whether I received my sight or not, those words were enough for me, and from that time I seemed to know that I should continue to proclaim the words of this blessed Book."

Duty Above Life. Life is a matter of very small account to any one in comparison with duty-doing, whether a man realizes this truth or not. Whatever is worth living for is worth dying for, if dying be an incident to its pursuing. When the Roman General Pompey was warned against the danger of his returning from Egypt to Italy, to meet a new trouble in his own land, his heroic answer was: "It is a small matter that I should move forward and die. It is too great a matter that I should take one step backward and live." Life is never lived when it is held dearer than duty. He who would tell a lie in order to live is willing to pay a great deal larger price for his life than that life is worth to himself—or to others.—H. C. Trumbull.

Gentle Speech. A single bitter word may disquiet an entire family for a whole day. One surly glance casts a gloom over the household, while a smile of sunshine may light up the darkest and weariest hours. Like unexpected flowers which spring up along our footsteps, so kind words, and gentle acts, and sweet dispositions make glad the sacred spot called home. No matter how humble the abode, if it be sweetened with kindness and smiles the heart will turn longingly toward it from all the tumult of the world, and home, if it be ever so humble, will be the dearest spot beneath the circuit of the sun.

Short Mocker Sermons. Kindness makes kin. Faith gives fiber to life. Blessed are the buoyant lives. The selfish cannot be sanctified. Purity does not rest on a plebiscite. It takes more than a syllogism to save men. Hot air is always succeeded by a cold wave. Deeper science is the cure for scientific doubt. There are a lot of people who would rather gather to-morrow's thistles than to-day's figs.

Responsibility. The effort to shirk responsibility is one of the characteristics of our time. Instead of recognizing the fact that sin makes a fool of a man, too frequently we place the responsibility of our sinful and licentious lives upon the law of nature or the influence of society. A man comes into the world by himself and by himself he must stand in judgment before God and bear his own burden of guilt or glory.—Rev. S. G. Neil, Philadelphia.

What Brings Hope. It is necessary to distinguish carefully between submission to the will of God and to an inevitable fate. The one brings hope, but the other despair.—Presbyterian Record.

Timely Fashion Hints

New York City.—The loose coat suits certain advantages over every other sort and is greatly in vogue at the



Embroidered Waists. Women who are skilled in embroidery are employing their talent for the decoration of shirt waists and tussore silk is a most effective medium. One such waist recently embroidered by a clever artist is a pale blue green in tone and sea weed is the decorative motif, being carried out in shades of sea green and pale pinkish brown. The waist buttons in the back and the front, cuffs and collar are embroidered in the sea weed design.

Novelty in Linen. A novelty in linen is the three-quarter coats of all-over broderie anglaise. One of these seen recently was belted at the waist line and was fastened with large black velvet buttons. There was a touch of black velvet ribbon on the front of the blouse, and the gauntlet cuffs were edged with velvet.

Tulle Hats. Very fascinating are the black and colored tulle hats on broad foundation. The shapes approximate to the small, short-back sailor, and the tulle is put on in huge ruches and rosettes.

Fancy Blouse Waist. The waist that has a chemisette effect makes one of the smartest and best liked of the season, and renders possible many attractive combinations. This one is adapted to almost all seasonal materials and would be equally effective in soft silk and soft wool, with the chemisette either of lace or of embroidered muslin, but, in the illustration, shows pale green messaline satin combined with ecru lace over chiffon only, and trimmed with bands of taffeta. The long lines given by the box pleats at the front mean a slender effect to the figure, while the shirtings

A LATE DESIGN BY MAY MANTON.



the centre as best suits the individual figure. The coat is made with fronts and back and includes the regulation sleeves that are full at the shoulders and which are stitched to simulate cuffs. The quantity of material required for the medium size is three-and-sevenths yards twenty-seven, two and one-eighth yards forty-four or one and three-fourths yards fifty-two inches wide.

Hats of the Season. Straw leads the way, and there will be much clip as the season proceeds. The fashionable straw is hard and somewhat rough, made up in broad pleats, and the shapes in these do not yield to the head. Tricorns and those with the sides quite distinct, one turning up, the other not, are features, says the London Queen. Roses and violets blend well together. It is fascinating, entirely composed of flowers. The hats that Marie Antoinette is represented as wearing at the Trianon have been revived, encircled with roses, and those are often large, some after the turn-down mushroom order, some flowing outward at the side. Some of the turned-up brim of toques are covered with close-set roses, the leaves of the flowers employed for the crown, and many are ruffled from the head by a double row of roses at the back. We have roses of every hue, possible and impossible—the milliner is no botanist.

The Belt Craze. No accessory of dress is made more of lately than the belt. The craze for ribbons is partially responsible, but every variety of linen belt and girdle is also being shown. A new idea is to have a matching stock and belt in two colors of linen. Blue and white is the prettiest combination, but all colors are to be had.

MINOR EVENTS OF THE WEEK

WASHINGTON. Russia and Japan agreed to open the peace conference between August 1 and 10.

Morgan H. Bench, United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, tendered his resignation and it was accepted, to take effect August 31.

For the first time in the history of the Government, Congress will not be asked at the next session to make good any deficits. A law was passed last winter providing punishment for officers who made any contracts or obligations for future payments in excess of appropriations. The act is being strictly observed in every department.

The foreign diplomats called upon Secretary Hay to congratulate him on his return to his duties and his recovery from his recent illness.

President Roosevelt has named Colonel Winfield S. Eagar, of the Second Cavalry, now in Philippines, a brigadier general.

The Navy Department changed the name of the Great Lakes cruiser Michigan to Wolverine.

OUR ADOPTED ISLANDS. Governor Carter, of the Hawaiian Islands, mailed his resignation to President Roosevelt from Honolulu. He has been in cable correspondence with the President regarding his retirement and has received permission to go to Washington, D. C., for a personal interview.

The three editors of the Renacimiento, in Manila, the most influential Filipino organ, have been arrested on the charge of libeling Col. Baker of the constabulary, whom they charged with cruelty in the Cavite campaign. The three men are the survivors of a set of agitators who followed Aguinaldo with a portable press on which they printed a revolutionary organ.

A. M. Brown, the Republican nominee, has been elected sheriff of Oahu County, Hawaiian Islands.

Enrique Dugabob, leader of the insurrection movement in the Island of Samar, was killed, together with thirty-nine of his followers, on June 4, according to advices just received from Manila.

DOMESTIC. Train robbers made an unsuccessful attempt near Puyalup, Wash., to hold up the North Coast limited, but were frightened away before getting at the express safe.

Murder in the first degree was the verdict in New York City against Edward Pekar, who in April beat to death aged Sarah Rosenberg.

The United States Circuit Court of Appeals of Indian Territory held the tribal tax of the Choctaw nation collectible.

The American Dental Trade Association, at Frontenac, N. Y., elected W. M. Herritt, of Indianapolis, Ind., as president.

Trouble over Pattie Rogers led to the fatal shooting at Raleigh, N. C., of Deputy United States Marshal John Dockery by Policeman Isaac Rogers, the girl's father.

After killing her twelve-year-old daughter, Mrs. Alois Shields, despondent over a long illness, committed suicide at Findlay, O.

The New York City Health Department's report shows 2000 babies are born every week in New York.

The charge of embezzlement against George F. Clewell, former Secretary and Treasurer of the Federal Trust Company, at Cleveland, Ohio, was not sustained, and he was acquitted.

The property of the International Packing Company, at Chicago, Ill., has been ordered sold under foreclosure to satisfy claims of \$3,977,000.

A system of child slavery was revealed in Chicago, Ill., the children being used as kitchen drudges.

Alterations to be made to the new Hall of Records in New York City will cost nearly \$1,500,000.

Experts believe the gas gusher recently struck at Butler, O., will be the greatest producer in the world, over 1,000,000 feet a day being sent out now under tremendous pressure.

A posse of miners chasing Jack Plummer, who had killed a fellow-miner, came up to him near Mason, Mo., and riddled him with bullets when he refused to surrender.

A society to be known as the Sons of the G. A. R. has been formed at Denver, Col., to perpetuate the name of the Grand Army.

Affairs of the People's Home Purchasing Company came to an end at Paducah, Ky., by the arrest of its active head, J. S. Bordeaux, charged with violating the State banking laws.

FOREIGN. The British House of Commons, at London, England, rejected a proposed vote of censure on the Balfour Ministry in connection with the army stores scandal by a majority of seventy-four.

A report comes from Frankfort, says a special cable dispatch, that the crown of Norway has been offered to Count Elemer Louyay.

Russia's reserves in St. Petersburg and Moscow are getting ready to take the field.

Germany displayed willingness to make concessions to France in order to turn her angry attention to England for trying to embroil them in war.

Women Cross-Examiners.

Women seem to do everything nowadays, but I doubt your ability to defend a case like this, where everything depends upon the cross-examination," said Judge Emden at the Lambeth County Court recently, to a woman who appeared in person to defend an action.

"Women," the Judge added, "are not good at cross-examination, although they may be good at altercation."

The action was then proceeded with, but the defendant lost her case.—London Mail.

No fewer than 1,086,670 copies of the Scriptures were circulated in China last year. N. Y.—26.

FITSpermanently cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer, 24 trial bottle and treatise free. Dr. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 931 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

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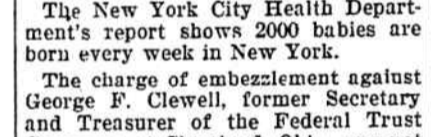
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Truths that Strike Home Your grocer is honest and—if he cares to do so—can tell you that he knows very little about the bulk coffee he sells you. How can he know, while it originally came from how it was blended—or with what—or when roasted? If you buy your coffee loose by the pound, how can you expect purity and uniform quality?

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SOLD BY GROCERS EVERYWHERE WOLSON SPICE CO., Toledo, Ohio.

Millions of People across the Atlantic have ruined their teeth and their digestions by a diet of hot bread and candy washed down withiced water.—London Telegraph.

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