

THE PULPIT.

AN ELOQUENT SUNDAY SERMON BY
REV. I. W. HENDERSON.

Subject: Christian Character.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Preaching at the Irving Square Presbyterian Church on the theme, "Christian Character," the Rev. I. W. Henderson, pastor, took as his text I. Peter 2:9: "That ye may show forth the excellencies of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light." He said:

Character is determined in the terms of an exercised moral and spiritual consciousness. Character at its highest is conformity to the best moral and spiritual consciousness that is within us. It is both the consummation and the limitation of the will of man. It is not only a matter of the outward life but it is also the indication and the manifestation of an inward grace. Character is the sum of any man's characteristics of soul and social life.

Motive is, in the last analysis, more of account than the outward act. Feeling is a factor in the human life. Intentions must be counted. Desires may draw down or up. But with all these in the tally, you are what you will be. More than you will desire you will not become.

Character is not only what you wish you were, nor what the world thinks you are, nor yet what you consider yourself to be; but what you are. It is neither your reputation nor your record, save as those two align to the measure of manhood according to the rule of God.

Character is the mark of inner worthiness as well as the emblem of a good life before the open eyes of men. Character is not merely honesty, it is more. It is not only outward purity but also inward cleanliness of heart. It means not only to walk just within the statutes of the penal code, and just beyond the clanging iron of a prison door, but rather to love righteousness and to practice uprightness because they are right. Character is virtue, honor, integrity, godliness. It is deserved reputation and the glory of a well-spent life. It is a mark and the victory of moral worth. More to be desired is it than great riches and its ripe, rich, satisfying fruitage is peace and quietude of heart.

Christian character is conformity to the character of Christ. It is to bear the express image of the saving Son of God in the inner man and through all the problems of the social life. As the Saviour bore the impress of the divine will of our common Father; as the faithful Friend of men showed forth the mind and the manner of our God, so must we as true men and women, disciples of our Lord, be sealed with the evidences of divine guidance.

The highest character of this life and for the world beyond is that which finds in Jesus Christ the ideal and harmonious working of the will of man with the divine. Character, as we Christians view it, is concerned not only with the Christian's conduct, not only with his doings in the field of human action; but also with his truthness to his personality and to his God. Christian character includes, for it can never exclude, a due and a willing regard for man's obligations toward his Maker. It affirms the basic necessity for absolute and unswerving loyalty to self. It insists and asserts that motive is more than manner, while demanding that all social responsibilities be met squarely, honorably, manfully and in the fear of God.

The character of Christ is positive. Christ is remarkable not for the things that He refrained from doing but rather in His ideal in the acts of nobleness, virtue, good-heartedness which He did. His was no puny soul. Obeying the words that came out of Sinai's mighty glory, He went beyond them. Keeping well within the requirements of Pharisaic legalism, He pushed on and out and up, above and beyond and ahead of all the self-complacency and moral blindness of the ecclesiastics, and did things positive and powerful for men and for God. Feeling within His heart the call of immortal duty the Christ exemplified in His own life those qualities of character which have for all time secured Him in His proud place as the ideal man and proved to a multitude in this sad and sinning world His Godhood and His grace divine.

To you and to me the call comes down the centuries bidding us "to show forth the excellencies of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvellous light." Having accepted the Christ and been sealed with His love, we must bear in our lives the express image—that is to say the signet stamp, that is to say the character—of the Son of God.

The character of Christ presents to us a double study and preserves to us a two-fold duty and example. Within the characteristic attributes of holiness and righteousness are comprised all the qualities that pertain to the Saviour in His social sphere. Holiness toward God, righteousness toward self and society, these two are the broad truths that come to us from the character of the Christ and which summon us to show forth His glory and His love. Spirituality and morality. A sanctified sense of oneness with the Father, a courageous determination to stand square before society and upright at the bar of his own conscience, these are the two great lessons for us from the character of Christ, and the mighty truths within which all else in the world of human conduct is embraced.

To be holy is to be sanctified—that is to say pure. Not merely purity before men but a radical purity that really goes back to the root of things and that enables the man to be fit, through the grace of God in Jesus Christ, to stand before His Father and His Maker and be glad. Purity is not merely a matter of soap and water but of inward wholesomeness. Christ cares not whether your hands are dirty with the molder's clay. He does weep over a soiled and sullied soul.

"What an antiseptic," says Lowell, "is a pure life." What possibilities indeed for good and for uplift, and for God are ever within its power.

But it must be healthfully, honorably pure, with the richness of holiness all about it ere it can count for most and reap a heavy harvest unto God.

Righteousness is rectitude. That is to say, erectness. Righteousness is uprightness. Uprightness is straightness, moral rectitude. Righteousness means not only to pay your debts promptly, to keep well within the limits of the law, not only to respect the rights of others and the mandates of society through fear of the consequences of sin, but rather to seek to do good because it ennobles, to think of the needs of others because they are our brothers in Christ. Righteousness is uprightness in the home, in the church, in business, in politics, secretly, socially, in sunshine and in shadows, everywhere and at all times.

Righteousness is virtue. To be virtuous is to be a full fledged man. Virtue is vigorous with virility. Etymologically it is sprung from the loins of Latin manhood. Virtue is goodness which has stood the strain, which has weathered the trials of temptation, which has fought a manly fight, and won out. It is the glory of a good man's life. Virtue has grit. It is no weakness to be pure. True men do honor to a blameworthy name and only a fool will laugh at nobleness of heart.

Righteousness is justice. Legality and justice are not co-terminous. Justice is the ideal of law. Justice co-ordinates the right. The law often hardly approximates it. Justice enquires not what are my rights but what are my duties. The just man sympathizes with the longings and the needs of men and sustains their aims. The "legal" man may oft forget that God exists and right should reign that law may be evaded.

In the apocryphal Wisdom of Solomon we find these words: "Honorable old age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor is its measure given by number of years, but understanding is gray hairs unto men and an unspotted life is ripe old age." Virtue, justice, uprightness, these are the things that count for righteousness and the man of years is the man who is godly.

Christian character is the need and it should be the hope of us all. To the men who are Christ's is given the leadership of the world. Let the salt retain its savor and all the leaves its uplifting power. If we are Christ's let us show forth His holiness and righteousness. If we are to lead, let us be fit. It has been well and truly said, that "immoral life in one leader of the people is more pernicious than a whole street full of impurities in the lower quarters of the community."

Character counts. Christian character is the consummation of human power and of human beauty. To bear the impress of the character of Christ is to be worth while to men and to God. Holiness brings happiness. Righteousness is more of account than riches. Purity is peace. Virtue is vigor and strength and the mark of moral decency. Justice is profitable and well-pleasing to God. Moral rectitude and a holy life are the riches of the soul laid up in the treasuries of heaven. Character is good. Christian character is glorious. To "show forth the excellencies" of Jesus is the business of His church.

The Soul's Growth.

Temptations do not decrease, but rather increase, with the growth of the soul. The little man fighting his little battles wishes that he were a great man so that the more easily he might overcome them; but when he becomes great himself he sees that storms circle the higher altitudes that make the petty battles of the lower level seem insignificant.

Many seem to think that temptation lays its hands only upon our weak spots. But think a minute. Here is a lawyer who has little ability, seldom wins a case, always gets on the off side of a jury, and is notoriously incompetent to plot a case or plead it. Does that man know what it means to have a confessed criminal offer him a hundred thousand dollars to get him clear? Does he know what it is to have a princely fortune dangled before his face, in legislative halls, he will stand on the wrong side of the question for just one hour? He knows absolutely nothing about it.

So it is in the Christian life; the stronger we grow to be, the stronger will be our temptations. The nearer we grow into the likeness of Christ, the fiercer will be the onslaughts of the enemy. We cannot escape life's battles by moving into a different or higher sphere. Each stage or sphere has its own temptations. As Jesus was tempted, so will be His disciples. But, as He was made perfect through sufferings, so our trials, which are but for the moment, will work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.—Ram's Horn.

Winnowed Wheat.

A good man does good merely by living. You are not very holy if you are not very kind.

God often comes to visit us, but generally we are not in. What is each man but one little thread in the loom of God?

Bind together your spare hours by the cord of some definite purpose.

No grip is so hard to shake off as that of early religious convictions.

Our remedies frequently fail, but Christ as the remedy for sin never fails.

God's silences may be long, but they are never the silences of forgetfulness.

A little thorn may rend the finest fabric; so may a little sin mar the fairest soul.

There may be movement, but there can be no progress, in traveling without God.

Gratitude is the fairest blossom which springs from the soul, and the heart of man knoweth none more fragrant.

We sleep in peace in the arms of God when we yield ourselves up to His Providence, in a delightful consciousness of His mercies; no more restless uncertainties, no more impatience at a place we are in, for it is God who puts us there and who holds us in His arms. Can we be unsafe where He has placed us?

THANKFUL FOR THAT.
Mother—Did the lady thank you for giving her your seat in the car?
Boy—No; but she stepped looking at me so fearfully cross.—Detroit Free Press.

TYNER'S DYSPEPSIA REMEDY.

A Guaranteed Cure—Many Have Dyspepsia and Don't Know It.

If you suffer from Dyspepsia or Indigestion in any form, such as gas, belching, bitter taste, offensive

bad breath, dizzy spells, sour stomach, heart flutter, nausea, gastritis, loathing of food, pains or swellings in the stomach, back or side, deep-seated kidney or liver trouble, then they will disappear in a short time after taking Tyner's Dyspepsia Remedy, made especially to cure Dyspepsia, Indigestion and all Stomach Troubles, even of the worst cases. Tyner's Dyspepsia Remedy expels the gases and sweetens the breath. It cures Sick Headache, Colic and Constipation at once. Druggists or by express 50 cents a bottle. Money refunded if it fails to cure. Medical advice and circular free by writing to Tyner Remedy Co., Augusta, Ga.

Did you ever hear of a man falling in love with a woman's intellect?

A WOMAN'S KIDNEYS.

Women have so much to do, so many pains to suffer, so many critical periods to go through, that it is important to keep the kidneys well and avoid the backache, bearing down pain, headaches, dizziness, languor and other common signs of weak kidneys.

Mrs. Charles F. Smith, of 22 Boyden St., Woonsocket, R. I., says: "My kidneys were weak from childhood, and for eight or ten years past my sufferings were terrible. My back was very painful and I had many annoying symptoms besides. When I began taking Doan's Kidney Pills I weighed only 120. To-day I weigh 165, and am in better health than for years. Doan's Kidney Pills have been my only kidney medicine during four years past. They bring me out of every attack."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Immense Size of Mexican Ranches.

Ranches in Mexico are of no mean size. Ex-Gov. Terrazas of Chihuahua has 17,000,000 acres. The Zuloaga family is said to hold 5,000,000. Properties of 1,000,000 and 2,000,000 acres are not uncommon. Among the Americans who have large ranches may be mentioned Fleming & Ross the Riverside Cattle Company, with 2,000,000 acres and a fine herd of Herefords; Phoebe Hearst of California, who has a magnificent place west of Minaca; the Millers, and the three Mormon colonies. Gordon, Iroquois & Ferriss, a Canadian Company, have 1,000,000 acres; Lord Beresford, a relative of the Admiral, has a large ranch where he raises fine horses; another Englishman, named Ironstead, owns a large property. Smaller places of from 40,000 acres upward are numerous. The price of land now runs from 50 to 75 cents gold per acre, with a strong tendency to rise.—Modern Mexico.

Joshua's Limit.

In the staging of one of his earlier plays, Joseph Jefferson, accompanied by a friend, attended a rehearsal, at which a lively disagreement arose between two of the actresses as to the possession of the centre of the stage during a certain scene. While the manager poured oil upon the troubled waters Jefferson sat carelessly swinging his feet from the rail of an adjoining box. The friend could stand it no longer.

"Good lord, Jefferson!" he exclaimed, "this will ruin your play. Why don't you settle matters. You could if you only would."

Jefferson shook his head gravely, but with a twinkle in his eye. "No, George," he replied, "the Lord only made one man who could ever manage the sun and moon, and you remember even he let the stars alone."—Harper's Weekly.

They Used the Tub.

Douglas Watson believes that it is the environment of a man that makes him clean or unclean, as the case may be.

"It is all very well," he said, "to say that people don't take a bath because they don't like to. The reason they don't use the tub is because there are none in the house. Now I am building small cottages for poor people and each one has a bathtub. Now we will call on those people one day and see that I am right."

Mr. Watson went to one of these cottages and found that the bathtub had been carefully packed with earth, and a lovely garden was abloom with fuchsias and geraniums.—San Francisco Chronicle.

A WINYAH BAY RELIC.

The Old Prince George Church in South Carolina.

At the head of Winyah Bay, in South Carolina, stands quaint old Georgetown, wrapped about with its mantle of historic associations.

Visitors to the town will be shown many Colonial landmarks, chief among which is the old Episcopal church, Prince George Winyah.

It is a noble structure built of English bricks brought from the mother country, and, notwithstanding its great age, is in a good state of preservation today.

The church records, handed down from Colonial days, show that "this parish was taken off St. James Santee" by act of Assembly in the year 1721. The building was completed in 1736, its communion plate dating from the same year.

The edifice stands within a peaceful old churchyard whose crumbling gravestones, quaintly carved and inscribed, possess a fascinating interest for the visitor.

An ancient brick wall, overrun with English ivy, surrounds the sacred precincts, and live-oaks, venerable and gray bearded, stand sentinel.

The old style, high box pews, with seats on three sides, are still in evidence.

Tradition says the British stabled their horses in the building during the Revolution, using the pews for stalls, and marks of horses' hoofs may be seen in the wood at the present day.

Not many miles distant from Georgetown is the historic St. James Santee district, from which this parish had its beginning.

The old church building of Colonial days is no longer in existence, but upon the site held in sacred reverence a handsome modern structure has been erected, and among the treasured possessions of the church are a venerable Bible and prayer-book the gift of Mrs. Rebecca Motte, of Revolutionary fame.

The Bible is a ponderous tome that can scarcely be lifted in one's arms. A British officer carried it off to England as a trophy during the war, together with prayerbook and altar service. Some years later they were exposed for sale on a London book-stall, and were purchased by an English officer who had known Mrs. Motte in America, who restored them to the church from which they had been taken, and in which they are still used in the services.—Four Track News.

HER LITTLE PLAY.

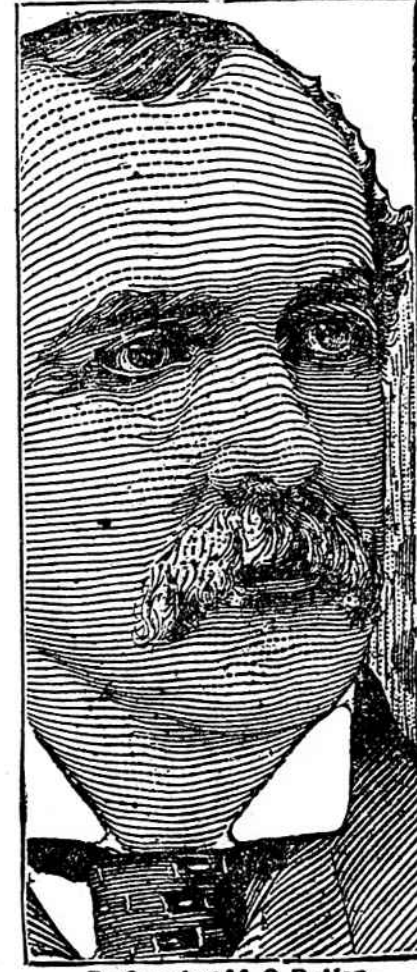
"You know that original Florodora sextet?" inquired the chorus girl.

"Yes," answered the manager wearily.

"There wasn't a chance on earth for me to get into it."

This is what got her, however, a desirable engagement.

UNITED STATES SENATOR FROM SOUTH CAROLINA PRAISES PE-RU-NA.



Ex-Senator M. C. Butler.

Dyspepsia is Often Caused by Catarrh of the Stomach—Peruna Relieves Catarrh of the Stomach and is Therefore a Remedy For Dyspepsia.

Hon. M. C. Butler, Ex-U. S. Senator from South Carolina for two terms, in a letter from Washington, D. C., writes to the Peruna Medicine Co., as follows:

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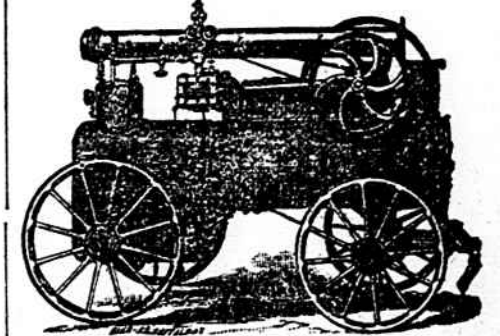
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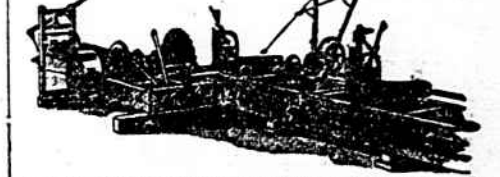
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(At 43-106)

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