TRA WHENDERSON

Subject: "The Opportunities and Abilities of the Church."

Brooklyn, N. Y .- Preaching at the Irving Square Presbyterian Church, Weirfield street and Hamburg avenue, on the above theme, the Rev. Wemmell Henderson, pastor, took as his texts Jno. 4:35 and Mat. 28:20. He said:

It was Theodore Roosevelt who "The one thing supremely worth having is the opportunity coupled with the capacity to do a thing worthily and well, the doing of which in its vital importance touches the welfare of all human

Opportunity and ability-that is to say, the chance and the capacity All true success is a combination of these two elements in human life. Failure is a lack of either or of both. Without opportunity the man of capacity, of ability, of real worth is handicapped in the race of life. To be without the chance to do is to be doomed to failure, whatever may be our capacities or abilities for accomplishment. Contrariwise lack of ability shears opportunity of value. The mute, inglorious Milton of whom the bard so sweetly sang, was, and is to-day a man of power, of capacity, of ability, lacking in oppor-Not otherwise many a man has had opportunity standing at the door of his life beckoning to success who has shorn that opportunity of its value because he has had no abilify, because he has been unable to accept the chance that was presented to his view. If there is a sadder thing than a man of genius lacking in opportunity, it is chance awaiting the acceptance of incompetency. Ability needs opportunity in order to the exercise and the presentation of the powers of the human soul. Likewise opportunity is valueless without corresponding and sufficient abil-

As with the world so with the church of the living God. The church has ability beyond any force that works for righteousness and for God in the world to-day. But if the church has no opportunity for the exercise of her divinely granted capabilities for the uplift and the regeneration of the world her capacities are valueless. On the other hand, whatever the opportunities of the

church may be, save as she has the ability to do the work that God has given her to accomplish her opportunities are voided. The opportunities and abilities of the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us look for a moment at her opportunities. There are to be found to-day conditions that are at the first glance diametrically opposed that afford an opportunity for the church of the living God. The opportunity of the church is to be found in the lack of principle so largely presented in the lives of the leaders in our social life, as has been revealed in the recent and horrifying disclosures in our political and financial and industrial affairs. Another opportunity of the church is to be found in the ment, that are perdurable, can be seimperfect acknowledgment upon the part of men in all walks of life of their accountability to God and to the divine control. A further opportunity of the church is to be realized in the

present distrust in the finality of ma-

terialism as a method of life and pro-

gress which is increasingly common

in all grades of society and among all classes and conditions of men. We are growing to know that money in itself is of little value. We are maturing into a comprehension of the truth that wealth without character is a condemnation of its possessor. We are learning to grasp the fact that the things that are temporary are really transient; that the spiritual realm in the universe of God affords the greatest satisfaction to the soul, is most of account, lays hold upon eternity. Opportunity for the Christian church is to be found in that comprehension of the value of the eternities that is becoming increasingly the vogue. Men, multitudes of men, find that the life that discounts the relations of the human soul to its divine Creator is dissatlarations. The church has a glorious opportunity in the return toward God stood a simple table and upon it

isfying. They are critical of their own spiritual fitness, and of the church's. They are questioning the credibility and reliability of the church's spiritual concepts and decthis land. From sea to sea, from history of the world it has apthe truth of God. It is God's voice the glory of God?"-Pacific Baptist. in the language of the land and of the day. It is the message of the Almighty to the people. It cannot be denied. It will not be denied. There is a moving in the tree tops. The foot-falls of Jehovah are to be

Having considered in some fashion the opportunities of the church, let us consider now some of the abilities of that organization, instituted of God among men, into whose hands has been given the tremendous, divine task to transform individual lives and to transmute sinful, erring human society into the image of the heavenly democracy of God.

heard on earth. The signs of the

times, he who runs may read. Any

man with an open ear and open eye

and an open mind may hear, and see,

and satisfy his soul in the contempla-

tion of such revelations as are as

transcendent as they are immediate.

The abilities of the church are ties. Emmauel is with her, as that made it. He is present with truly as He was with Israel. God is thee, though thou be alone .- From in her midst. His presence inspires Egyptian Records.

her. His glory illumines her. God is with her. He constitutes that everlasting majority against which sin

cannot prevail. The abilities of the church are to be found also in her means, in her men and in her message.

The ability of the church is to be found in her means. The church has more means than ever before in all her wondrous history. She is the richest institution in the world. The organization of the church is tremendous. We are almost over-or-ganized. The church has an influence that is as far-reaching as her spiritual dominion and as effective, when applied, as it is widespread. Men may scoff at the church, they may laugh behind her back, but a militant and moving church, filled with the fervor and fire of the apostles, panoplied with the power of Jehovah, is a sight to strike terror to the heart of every evil man and band. Yea, and it does strike terror. The church may move slowly, as too often she does. But the church in motion is irresistible.

The church has the men. Never was her ministry more able, more intelligent, better educated, more cultured. Her spiritual possibilities through them are unsurpassed. When they gain the spirit of self-sacrifice of the Redeemer they will be invincible. In all the world there is no body of men better fitted to do the labor of blazing the trail for the world as we ascend toward God than the ministers of the church of Jesus Christ. There is no more competent leader-There is no body anywhere that can so safely guide. The church has the men in the pew as well. The day has passed when the pew was piously uneducated and religiously untutored. To-day the bulwark of the church is to be found in her enlightened laity. The minister no longer is the only superbly educated man in the community. The layman is as cultured as the priest. And it is well. The efficiency of the ministry ought to be enhanced thereby. And it is. No minister may reckon the stupendous reform that has been wrought in the world, for the good of the ministry as for the whole church of Jesus Christ, through the education of the pew. Such a pulpit and such a pew constitute a living factor that is constantly an effective asset to the work of the church of God.

And the church has the message. And it is not a new one. We may restate it. We may redefine its essentials. We may clothe it in the vernacular of our land and age. We may readjust it to the changing life to which it speaks. But it is the same old message. The message of salvation from the dominion and the grip of sin through the grace of God as it is revealed to a world in thrall through Jesus Christ our Lord. The world needs it. The world wants it. The church has it. It is her mighty asset. The church not only has the message. She is the message. She not only has the truth; in a sense she is the truth. If she is not she ought to be. There is no need for new truth. There is no call for a new gospel. The necessity is of man's responsibility to God to the world to-day. We must lead man to see and to know that God is as truly the captain of our souls as He has been of our fathers' in the ages past, and that peace, quietude, contentcured only through complete obedience to His holy will.

These opportunities and these abilities are dependent upon the spirit of fidelity to the Spirit of God that possesses us. Dominated and controlled by the spirit of the living God-the church, translating desire into energy, may lead humanity to the promised land of the new dispensation and follow our Saviour into the confines of the spiritual kingdom of God. Without the spirit opportunity and ability are helpless.

The church must accept these opportunities since she has received these capacities. The world is her field. And the world is needy. The hearts of humanity are warming toward God. It is her prerogative, her duty to reveal Him, to direct humanity to Him. She cannot be neglectful. She will not be. Trusting in the power of omniscience and relying upon the energy of divine love the empowered church .will accept her God-given opportunities and measure up to them. For the church must be faithful to God or die. The church was not born to die. The church is immortal.

Daily Life Glorified.

Last Sunday morning in unnumbered churches throughout the land that is characteristic of the lives of bread and wine. Men were partaka host of God's children throughout ing of the Lord's Supper. Christ had touched commonplace things and lakes to southern gulfs, materialism made them holy. Most memorials is palling on thoughtful wanderers are evidence of striving after the unfrom God, the truth is appealing and common as the worthy - the tomb with such force as seldom in the upon the mountain-top, the obelisk, the pyramid, the vast building or the pealed. To be sure this appeal is great institution. Not least of the along new lines. It is suited to the lesser lessons taught by that simple needs and the demands of this day | meal is the worth of common things. and of this generation. It is not There is no meal but may be made an yesterday's appeal, it is to-day's. But hour of thanksgiving, no honest toil it is real. It is vital. It is compell- that cannot become worship, no ing. It is heard. It will bear fruit, smallest deed to which highest mo-It will be the leaven in the meal tives may not add glory. The Lord's that will perfect society and make it Supper gains its glory from its referpalatable to thoughtful men. It is ence to Christ; why not "do all to

The Quietness of Power.

One of the impressive things about the greatest engines is the silence with which they do their work. The stars rushing through space with a force we cannot even imagine, do so in silence.

The same thing may be observed in regard to the work which is done in the world. The most powerful is always very quiet. The great spiritual ministry of the Christian Church is carried forward with very little noise. Noise is not the same as work; frenzy is not power. - Friendly Greetings.

The Heart is Known.

Lord of mercy, most loving, at whose coming men live, at whose goodness gods and men rejoice! Sovereign of life, health, and strength! commensurate with her opportuni- The heart of man is no secret to Him

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Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children teething, softens thegums, reduces inflammation, allays pain, cures wind colic, 25ca bottle

A woman's organization in Sweden is called the "Dammklubb." There are several in this country, complains the Washington Post, that are called the same thing by the husbands.

MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS.

Martin Luther said, "No teacher is fit to teach school who is not also able to teach music." So music went into the German schools four centuries ago, and so began the wonderful musical culture of the German people. The musical advantages and opportunities at the State Normal School at Athens, Ga., have been created because the public in Georgia prefers a teacher with musical accomplishments. There is no better instruction anywhere in common-school music teaching, sight-reading, chorus singing, glee club music, or on the piano, violin, mandolin, guitar, cornet, or clarinet. Prof. C. S. Stanage, Director of this department, is a very genius as a teacher, chorus master, and conductor of orchestras. Miss Clare Harden, his assistant, is a most accomplished pianist and a superb teacher of piano music. Charges are moderate. The School sends a special Music Bulletin upon application. The session begins September 3d.

USES OF NOSES. Teacher-"Yes, little ones; this is the elephant's trunk." (She proceeds to explain at length what the elephant can do with its trunk). "And now, children, you shall tell me what your nose is for."

Eliza Ann (aged five)-Us 'aves if to wipe, mum.—Illustrated Bits.

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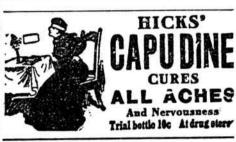
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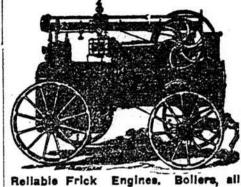
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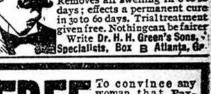
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