

NOBLE WORDS OF A NOBLE BISHOP.

There are few who have not heard of the great Apostle to the Indians in the United States, the noble Bishop Whipple, of Minnesota. The following is taken from his address to the convention of his diocese in July or August last. (The italics are ours.)

"I have gone in and out among you 33 years, some of my dearest friends have been the most advanced men in the Church, while others whom I dearly loved have been men of the most evangelical school. I have always frankly given my fatherly advice to the clergy as to the best way to win lost souls to Jesus Christ, to break down these walls of separation between Christians, and present this dear Church as a home which will satisfy the longings of every Christian heart. I have never interfered with the rights of pastor or people. I have never tried to make my opinions the law of the Diocese. I believe in the witness of The Catholic Church to the validity of all Christian baptism in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost. I believe that the Holy Ghost has blessed the preaching of Jesus Christ crucified by our separated brethren in the ingathering of multitudes unto Him, and He has honored their labors in the salvation of men. I have always kept in my heart a sweet faith that the prayer of Our Blessed Lord will be answered, and that all our kinsmen in Christ will be One. I believe that ours is a pure branch of the Catholic and Apostolic Church; I believe in her Creeds, in her Sacraments, in her Orders, in her Worship, because I believe in Jesus Christ. I love her as a child loves his mother. I have never had any longing for other pastures; I have never had any entangling alliances; I have never meant to speak a word which would sound harsh or unkind to any man who loves Jesus Christ.

But because I do long to break down every hedge in the Lord's garden, I will not add to "the faith once delivered to the saints" the definitions of any party and so frame shibboleths which many a child of Israel cannot speak. I have tried as your Bishop and pastor to live by that law of Divine Charity which can always say "Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth."

The Providence of God compelled me to make my home in Faribault. I cast my lot in with brothers to found a school to train men for the sacred ministry. No Bishop of this Church has ever carried heavier financial burdens. No man has more gladly given his life for this work; no one has ever heard one murmur from my lips. These years have been as days for the love I have had for these earnest men who without our aid could not have become ministers of Christ. No school in America can point to a truer body of men, of larger sympathies and more devoted lives, than the sons of Seabury.

In many a Convention address I have told you that *I will never be the head of a Divinity School which represents any party.* The Church is entering on the battle for the last time. Every form of unbelief will be banded together against Christ and His Kingdom. The keenest intellects the world has ever seen will marshal their oppositions of science, falsely so called, to gain-say and deny the revelation of God. The leaders for Christ in this battle must be large hearted scholars, men who are free men in Christ because His truth hath made them free.

Most of the divisions which have marred the Church and brought sorrow to her Lord have come from *party strife* and the lack of charity and love. Even when no open division has come, hearts have been bruised and lives have been marred by the sad record of narrowness and prejudice. I can remember when a Pusey was refused license to preach in Oxford, when a Maurice was deposed from King's College, when Hampden was denounced as a heretic, and Temple branded as an unbeliever. I have

lived to see Pusey revered by all who love devoted lives hid with Christ in God, and to see Maurice beloved by all generous hearts who believe in the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God. I have lived to hear the greatest scholar in England do justice to Hampden, and I have lived to see all men rejoice that the Church could call the great hearted Temple to be the Shepherd of the millions of London. I can remember when our dear Church was torn with strife over the ordination of the holy Arthur Carey. I remember when the sainted Muhlenburg was deemed an impracticable enthusiast because of his teaching about free churches and the reunion of all who love Jesus Christ.

I am aware that many of the most stalwart representatives of party do believe implicitly that their definitions are the expression of the Catholic faith or of Evangelical truth, but I find that in the past it has been fierce loyalty to the *opinions of party which has rent the Church of Christ* and often deluged the earth with the blood of martyrs. Latimer, Ridley and a host of others died as martyrs of Christ because they could not accept definitions of the sacrament of the Supper of the Lord which they believed to be idolatrous. The cruel persecutions of our own New England were all for opinion's sake.

There have always been two classes of Christian men; the one magnifying the blessed Orders and Sacraments of the Church because they are the gift of Christ and his channels of grace; and the other magnifying the personal faith of the sinner in Jesus Christ and the renewal of the Holy Ghost, and seeing in Sacraments witnesses of the love of the Saviour. Both hold *opposite sides of Divine truth, and ought to live together as members of one body.*

Strife is a great price to pay for the best results, but strife between kinsmen in the Lord's family is a grievous sin. If any man have a passionate devotion to Jesus Christ, if he has a soul hunger for perishing souls, if he holds the great truths of Redemption as written in the creeds, if he preach Jesus Christ crucified as the only hope of salvation, count him your fellow soldier. The deepest lines on my cheek and the heaviest sorrow in my heart have come from the lack of love.

In my life as a Bishop of the Church, I have never known of trouble between pastor and people, or alienation between brothers which the love of Christ would not heal.

God has never given to any Diocese a nobler field; no Diocese in America has shared so largely in the bounty of His children. No Diocese has a more blessed record of Mission work in its red and white fields, and in no Diocese in America is the Church more respected and loved by those without her fold. It is due under God to Christian love, which I have tried to make the bond of all our work.

When I came to this Diocese there were three warring tribes of heathen red men; there were sad divisions within and without the Diocese among Christian men. Every Bishop selects his own seal; I selected a cross with a broken tomahawk, with the motto "*Pax per sanguinem crucis.*" I have tried to live by the motto which I made the motto of the seal of the Diocese. I have passed my three score and ten and am living on borrowed time, the gift of our loving Heavenly Father. These may be my last words; they shall be "Love one another."

I believe in my heart that if this love shall make all men take knowledge of us that we had been with Jesus, and compel them to say, "see how these Churchmen love one another," we may, in God's hands, be His instruments to heal these divisions which have rent the seamless robe of Christ. And when I plead for love, I plead for love for all who love Jesus Christ. Shall we not claim as our own kinsman, Carey, the English cobbler, who went as the first Missionary to India, and translated for them the Bible; Morrison, the first Missionary to China; David Livingstone, the Scotch piece weaver, who died for Christ in Africa; the Moravians who

offered to be sold as slaves if the King of Denmark would only let them go and tell the poor black slaves in the West Indies of the love of Jesus Christ? We may and will, in love, witness for the blessed truths we have received from the Primitive Church, but we can never forget that there will not be one in that white robed throng who shall sing the praises of the Redeemer who is not our kinsman in Jesus Christ.

A few words and I have done. My noble hearted assistant is breaking from overwork. No man can bear for a long time the strain of such unending toil. If you would save him to the Diocese and the Church, you must relieve him now. The only possible relief is in the division of the Diocese.

New York has five Bishops, and its territory is only about one half the size of Minnesota. The details of the division are for you to determine. Either of the divisions will enlist all the energies and tax the strength of the most heroic man. *The Church is Divine*, but its corporate existence is measured by the laws of the commonwealth.....If my own support stands in the way of division, I will gladly resign. I am still able to tell the story of God's love. I am sure there are places which will accept me as their pastor, if I am an old man.

God knows how I have loved you! For my mistakes and failures I humbly crave your pardon, as I hope for forgiveness of God.

What Scientists and Others Say of the Bible.

A correspondent of the *Inter-Ocean* who has read one of Ingersoll's lectures, has collected the following utterances of scientists, statesmen, and thinkers in regard to the Bible:

SCIENTISTS.

"The grand old book of God still stands, and this old earth, the more its leaves are turned over and pondered, the more it will sustain and illustrate the sacred Word."—*Prof. Dana.*

"Infidelity has, from time to time, erected her imposing ramparts, and opened fire upon Christianity from a thousand of batteries. But the moment the rays of truth were concentrated upon their ramparts they melted away. The last clouds of ignorance are passing, and the thunders of infidelity are dying upon the ear. The union and harmony of Christianity and science is a sure token that the flood of unbelief and ignorance shall nevermore go over the world."—*Prof. Hitchcock.*

"All human discoveries seemed to be made only for the purpose of confirming, more and more strongly; the truths contained in the sacred Scriptures."—*Sir John Herschel.*

"The Bible furnishes the only fitting vehicle to express the thoughts that overwhelm us when contemplating the stellar universe."—*O. M. Mitchell.*

"In my investigation of natural science, I have always found that whenever I can meet with anything in the Bible, on any subject, it always affords me a fine platform on which to stand."—*Lieut. Maury.*

"If the God of love is most appropriately worshipped in the Christian temple, the God of nature may be equally honored in the temple of science. Even from its lofty minarets, the philosopher may summon the faithful to prayer; and the priest and the sage exchange altars without the compromise of faith or knowledge."—*Sir David Brewster.*

I have not space to quote from Agassiz, Hugh Miller, Prof. Airey, Sir William Thompson, Faraday, Silliman, *et al.*, who not only loved, read, and revered the Bible, but great scientists as they were, spoke brave, true and glowing words in defence of the Book of books.

STATESMEN.

"There is a book worth all other books which were ever printed."—*Patrick Henry.*