

THIS UNPOETIC AGE

COMMERCIALISM IS KILLING THE BEST OF MANKIND'S QUALITIES.

THE HEN'S WING AS A SYMBOL.

God's Wing is a Spiritual Life-Giving Wing and Can Save Even From the Hardness of Commercialism—How the All-Father's Love Can Vivify and Quickened Life If We Place Ourselves in Receptive Mood.

Entered according to Act of Parliament of Canada, in the year 1903, by William Baily, of Toronto, at the Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Chicago, July 5.—Under the homely and familiar similitude of the barnyard fowl the preacher illustrates the divine love and protecting care that encircle all who give to the Heavenly Father a childlike trust and confidence. The text is Matthew xxiii, 37, "As a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings."

This commercial age is brutally unpoetic. It has even carried its shocking innovations into the barnyard. We are now trying to hatch our eggs not into broods, but by the wholesale. We would change a hen's nest into a big, square wooden box and call it an incubator. We would have the oil lamp of the incubator do the work of the feathered breast and the outstretched wing. We would have the wire screen displace the sharp pointed bill of the barnyard mistress vehemently plunging right and left in defense of her young.

God's wing is a spiritual life giving wing. The warm feathers of the mother bird are absolutely essential for the development of the lives of her young. If it were not for the old hen's wing her chickens would freeze to death during the spring nights. They would sometimes be drowned unless her wing, as a water-proof covering, were placed over them. They would die from lack of warmth, even as a little baby would die unless the mother every night tucked him up in his crib or snuggled him up by her warm side in bed. Heat is life. Cold is death.

God protects us in a physical sense. Some time ago a gentleman, with his family, wished to make a journey to Boston. He hurried through his work that his vacation might be one of complete rest; but, try as hard as he could, he lost the desired train. A short time after the gentleman read the telegraphic reports that the train upon which he hoped to travel was wrecked in a collision and scores of people were killed. He immediately gathered his family together and returned thanks to God because he and his loved ones had been saved from this calamity. But why ought that man especially to have thanked God that day? Ought he not rather to be grateful to his Heavenly Father for caring for him and his loved ones every day? I never take a trip in my life, and I have traveled thousands and tens of thousands of miles, but I realize the innumerable dangers which everywhere beset me. One intoxicated engineer, one drunken switchman, one failure of the signal

lights to work, and death is ready to reach out her bony arms and hug the breath out of me. If you do not believe what I say, some night when traveling lie awake in your berth. Then listen to the rumbling in the distance coming nearer and nearer until, with one wild shriek, the limited shoots past and then realize the prevalent dangers. Then thank God that he cared for and protected you in a physical sense. The breaking of one wheel, the twisting of one rail, the sagging of one bridge girder, and your train would be derailed and all its occupants would be hurled into eternity. God's wing in a physical sense is over us. It is protecting wing. It covers us as a hen shields her chickens from the threatening hawk.

God protects us in a spiritual sense. The Bible says, "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted beyond that you are able, but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." What does that statement mean? Simply this: Here is a man whose whole nature is gnarled and twisted by sin. He is by a corrupt past a drunkard, a libertine, a thief. He wants to get under the protecting shadow of God's wing. When he arises in the morning he kneels by his bed and says: "O God, I am awfully weak. I know not which way to turn unless I look to thee. Save me this day from the wine cup. Save me from the vile pitfalls which are yawning at my feet. Save me, O God, save me, save me!" Will God answer such a pleading prayer as that? Oh, yes. God says to this moral cripple: "Come, my child, come under my wing, my protecting wing. I will surround thee with holy companionship, I will shield thee from they sight the buzzards and the hawks and the serpents and the rats of sin which would destroy your life! Come, my child, come. Come under the shadow of my spiritually protecting wing. My friends, some of us have been trying to resist temptation in our own strength. Will you not depend upon the strength of God? Will you to-day, as a Christian, accept God's protecting wing against your besetting sin? That wing is a pledge that God will not allow your temptation to be stronger than you shall have power given to resist it.

God's protecting wing is one of Christian fellowship. An old homely proverb says, "A hen will make just as much noise and scratch just as hard for one chicken as she will for ten." That may be true. Such actions upon a part of the feathered bird might be very exasperating. But one of the most ridiculous sights to me is a great, big fat hen strutting through the barnyard followed by one wee, little chirping chicken. Better for that little chicken to be killed and the hen go about her legitimate business of laying eggs for the breakfast than for the mother bird to continue to waste her energies upon the one offspring. The natural brood for a hen is not one or two chickens, but eight, nine or ten or even thirteen chickens. Every would-be sitting hen if left alone nearly always lays thirteen eggs for her nest. She wants a large family. A large family is good for the hen. It is good for the chickens.

What is the practical application of this simile? Why God's wing is a plain under which not only one Christian can find rest, but many Christians. God's children are going to find safety and protection under God's wing because they will work together and live together and have their hearts beating together and, as it were, snuggle up together and keep each other spiritually warm. They will be together as close as fellowship as the chickens are close together under their mother's wing. If you lift up a hen who is covering her little ones at night you will be surprised how many chickens her small area is able to shelter. The reason each chicken is pressing close against the other chickens as well as against its mother's breast.

God's wing often protects his children best when they themselves are enveloped by total darkness. The little chickens, running to the warning call of the clucking hen, answer for the most part to the blind obedience of faith and love. When they crawl under the overshadowing and enveloping covering of that wing they can see nothing. Under that wing is total darkness. When the chickens are truly under that wing they leave all and trust all to their mother's care. It is because these chickens stay in total darkness under that wing that they often escape the searching eye of an advancing foe.

My dear hearer, are you ready to trust God in darkness as well as in the light? You came to me the other day and said, "I cannot understand why this trouble was laid upon my door." Neither can I, my brother. I do not understand why God should have taken away from your side that young man just five months after he was graduated from the bar. He was a bright fellow. He was a pure boy. He was the child upon whom you set your heart to take your own place. You are in total darkness about this matter. So am I. But I do know God is good. I do know that God loved your boy. I do know that God loves you. Though under God's wing it may be dark—dark at times as in a dungeon—yet I do know that above God's wing is God's all seeing eye. What God did he did for a good purpose. Trust him, then, my brother. Trust him and have faith as a chicken under the darkness of the hen's wing trusts a mother's love.

I do not know why in your old age you should have lost your money, and now in your physical weakness you must work or be dependent upon others. From my standpoint you always seem to have been a faithful and conscientious Christian. I do not know why Ira D. Sankey, who has sung thousands upon thousands into the light of the kingdom of God, should in the evening time of his life sit in total darkness and as a blind man have to be led around, helpless as a little child. But I do know that "all things work together for good to them that love God." I do know his care will give us a peace that passeth all understanding

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Advertisement for Abbey's Effervescent Salt. Includes a portrait of a woman and text: "THE JOY OF PERFECT HEALTH, how slightly prized by its possessors and how eagerly sought for by the thousands of pale, sallow women who are a prey to chronic constipation and all the ills which follow in its train—Indigestion—Sour Stomach—Nausea—Headache—etc., etc. ABBEY'S SALT is nature's own cure for all these troubles. The simplest, safest, surest aperient; no pain—no re-action. Abbey's Effervescent Salt Gives Pale, Sallow Women the Glow of Health."

Advertisement for Weaver's Syrup. Includes text: "Weaver's Syrup Cures all humors of the blood permanently. No need to suffer with ERYSIPELAS SALT RHEUM BOILS ECZEMA FOR STREET WEAR. The Kilted Skirt—Grass Lawn is Being Revived. The kilted skirt is rapidly gaining ground, especially in figured fabrics, and linen, both plain and spotted, is extremely effective when treated in this wise. Grass lawn is also being revived. Last season an effort was made to put it in vogue, but it never succeeded. Now, however, Parisians have copied all sorts of beautiful oriental embroideries on grass lawn foundations, and this relief to the somewhat somber hues of the latter fabric has produced the desired smart effect. Grass lawn will therefore be a decided feature of the season. Taffeta tags and bows are also much used in close proximity to the old

Advertisement for John McConnell. Includes a portrait of a woman and text: "BLACK STRAW HAT. fashioned silken chenille fringe. In fact, trimmings alone offer a fair field to the amateur. There is a distinct fancy for hems of embroidery on frocks—that is to say, embroidery bought by the yard or woven into the material. Hats with cherries are very smart when the straw is of a light cream color. Many hats are trimmed only on the underside. The flat sailor trimmed with wings laid on flat or loops of ribbon brought up from under the brim is always smart, and in good taste. Such hats are prettiest in pure white, with an edge of color in velvet. The little toque bearing the single aigret is seen so much on all sides that it has fallen from popularity with smartly dressed women. It seems to be one of the necessary conditions of the summer hat of 1903 that it shall tilt up in the front. These shapes are very simply trimmed with a quill and a loop of ribbon or a couple of wings. The use of all black and all white costumes is increasing. The cut shows a picturesque hat of black straw. JUDIC CHOLLET. Lace Curtains and delicate fabrics are best washed with Sunlight Soap. No injury from scrubbing or impurities. It isn't always the man who has the most nose that knows the most. Some men are willing to look for work if they are sure they won't find it."

Advertisement for Farley's. Includes text: "READ and profit by so doing. For one week you can buy: 1 lb. Bulk Mustard, 25c 'Black Pepper', 25c 'Good Coffee', 25c 20 lbs. of Redpath Granulated Sugar, \$1.00 25 lbs. Redpath Yellow Sugar. \$1.00 FARLEY'S Cor. Colborne and Princess Streets."

Advertisement for Wall Papers. Includes text: "WALL PAPERS.... We carry a large assortment of the most Modern Patterns, and give you an exact estimate of what it will cost you to have your Spring papering done. Call and see our Large assortment. JOS. A. TILT, Next to Rankin House"

Advertisement for Baking. Includes text: "BAKING Give your wife a chance and she'll bake bread like that mother used to make. For rolls and biscuits—that require to be baked quickly there's nothing like Gas. THE CHATHAM GAS CO Limited. King St. Phone 81"

Advertisement for John McConnell. Includes text: "John McConnell, Park St. East. Phone 190. SOMETHING NEW IN ADVERTISING We have now on hand a lot of men's white canvas slippers at \$1.75, which we are bound to sell regardless of price. We offer them now at \$1.50 and we will reduce the price of them each day until all have been disposed of. SIGN OF BIG CLOCK. A. A. JORDAN E. E. Parrott. Benj. Rothwell. PARROTT & BOWWELL. If you want to buy or sell real estate, or to get a loan, or to insure your life or your property, or to have your accounts written up, or to have collections made, just interview PARROTT & BOWWELL. Office King Street, Opp. Market. Chatham."

Advertisement for Melchers Gin Distillery. Includes an illustration of the distillery and text: "The Melchers Gin Distillery, Berthierville, P.Q. Where Melchers RED CROSS Canadian Gin is distilled and Matured for years in Bonded Warehouses controlled by the Government. Melchers 'Red Cross' is the Only Pure Gin having its age guaranteed on every bottle by a Government stamp. BOVIN, WILSON & CO., Distributing Agents, MONTREAL, Canada."