

WEEKLY SERMON.

Mr. Silcox Talks on the Great Refusal—Central Church Crowded—Significant Questions by the Retiring Preacher—Parting Words of Advice.

In the Central Congregational church of Winnipeg Sunday evening Rev. J. B. Silcox, preached the last sermon in his series to young men, the subject being "The Great Refusal."

And Jesus looking upon him loved him, and said unto him, one thing thou lackest; go, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come follow Me. But his countenance fell at that saying, and he went away grieved; for he was one that had great possessions.—Mark x:21-22.

The striking sermon thereon followed. On the contrary He pointed out to him the broad and lofty lands of duty and service. Jesus said to him: You are conspicuously rich. You have great possessions, prominent position. Renounce it all for my sake and the Gospel will call you to have and give to the poor. Use your wealth, not for yourself, but for humanity.

As Moses turned his back upon the court and crown of Egypt to champion the cause of oppressed humanity, so renounce thy rulership, disembrace thyself of wealth and be free for service of a higher kind. Live the divine life and render to humanity the divine service that thy talents and My grace fit you for. Take up the cross and follow Me. My mission is to bring the world back to God, and up to holiness. My mission is to lift up humanity, making yourself with me in service to man and in service to God.

Thus Jesus answered the young man's question. He asked the young man to do a great deed for Jesus; he asked that he should be a martyr. He said: "I will follow you, but I will not follow you to the point of death." Jesus did not repress his ambition. He clarified it, elevated it, put it on a divine plane, struck it through with a divine motive. He tried to make him ambitious, to render service to humanity. He tried to teach him to

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POSSIBLE GREATNESS. The greatness of the demand that Jesus made was a tribute to the possible greatness of the great man's nature. No other religion asks so much of a man as the religion of Jesus Christ. The demands of the gospel reveal the infinite possibilities of our being. We should be grateful that God has said "Go on unto perfection." It is a tribute to the possible greatness of our nature that we have been bracketed with the name of the infinite and eternal God.

The young man wanted to do a heroic thing. Jesus showed him how he could do it. He showed him that the incident is that the young man did not rise to the occasion, but lapsed back into stagnant common place mediocrity. Napoleon said the French revolution was an open path for talent. Jesus showed this young man an open path for talent, for heroic service to God and humanity, and what makes the story so inexpressible and so noble is that the young man sank below the great occasion. He missed the heights of character and service he was capable of reaching. His feet were on the threshold of boundless life, he stood at the golden gateway of the kingdom of God, and with its splendors beckoning to enter in. He was obedient to the heavenly vision, but would not follow the call of the cross, and so lapsed back into a life of sordid worldliness lost to use and name and fame.

"Blot out his name then record one lost soul more. One task more untried, one more footpath untrod, one more devil's triumph and sorrow for angels."

What is it to fall in life? To die early is not to fall. "We live in deeds not years." She passed away in the morning of her radiant young womanhood, but her life was not a failure. From service here she passed to higher service beyond. What is it to fall? To be baffled and overcome in a noble purpose is not to fall. The soldiers who were defeated at Thermopylae fought as bravely and are as worthy of honor as those who conquered at Marathon. Those who have attempted great things for God and have failed are not less noble than those who have succeeded. It is rather to be chosen than victory as an ignoble pursuit. As Browning says,

"Better have failed in the high aim as I Than vulgarly in the low succeed."

What is it to fall? To fall is to be less and do less than one is capable of doing and doing. To fall is to fall below the divine possibilities of our God-given nature. To fall is to aim at less and achieve less, and be content with less than we are capable of being and achieving. To fall is to be content with common-places, mediocrity when we might have attained eminent superiority. To fall is to lower your standard to the level of the world's maxims and customs, so that instead of seeking the approbation of God, you feed your soul on the "mean stimulants of vulgar praise." The only failure that a man needs to fear is the failure to be steadfast in the purpose of seeking the approbation of God, who sees to be highest and best purpose.

IDEAL OF CHARACTER. To this young man was given a vision of splendour. An ideal of character and service stood out before him clear and beautiful and strong. Jesus showed him an open path to high and honorable manhood. He offered him a place in his cabinet and kingdom. The task of God for which he was born was waiting for him. There was before him the crowning opportunity of his life. Jesus was calling him to the highest service his nature was capable of engaging in. And the young man, in the great crisis of his life, failed, because he sank below the demands of Christ, and below the possibilities of his divinely endowed nature. He was disobedient to the heavenly vision. Years after, he could take up the lament and say,

"I had a noble purpose and the strength To compass it, but I stopped half way, And wrongly gave the first fruits of my toil To objects little worthy of the gift."

for men. How many follow Jesus in this respect? Too often we reverse and follow in the footsteps of the world, but we weep and agonize and almost die to win and save money. When Christian men and women manifest as much zeal in saving money as they now manifest in saving money, we will see a revival of religion outshining Pentecost.

Jesus was not the young man's money. The church has sometimes missed this truth. It has shown more eagerness to get the man's money into its treasury than to get the man's soul into God's kingdom. Paul understood the true object of Christian effort when he said, "I seek not yours, but you."

We cannot disguise the fact that in the heart of this young man the love of money was stronger than the desire for eternal life. His possessions were wealth to him. They were not a hindrance to Christian life and service. Wealth, honestly acquired, or legitimately inherited is a power, and may be made a power for good and God-consecrated wealth is consecrated talent. It is a power harnessed to service. Jesus revealed this young man to himself. The day he stood face to face with Jesus was judgment day to him. He gained an insight into his own heart and motives that day, such as he had never had before. He discovered that there was a sinful selfishness at the heart and core of his life, of which he hitherto had been unconscious. He expressed a desire to inherit eternal life, but he knows now that he is not worthy of it. His selfishness is higher than eternal life. It is the love of this present world.

If there is any latent good in the soul, Jesus is quick to see it and bring it out. If there is any latent evil in the heart, Jesus is quick to bring that out. In His presence all deceptions vanish, masks fall away, and men see themselves as they are. It will to know our real state, for as Augustine said, "What thou art in the sight of God, that thou art." There was much in the young man's character that was beautiful and commendable, but he was not humble. What he was not religious culture, for he had been educated in the Scriptures. It was not morality, for he had kept the commandments of the law. He was not a hypocrite, for he had not pretended. He lacked the absolute unconditional surrender of himself and all he possessed to Jesus Christ. He was not willing to make a complete consecration of himself and all his powers and possessions to the service of God and humanity. He was not willing to serve Christ when service meant the abandonment of his wealth. He went part of the way toward the Christian life, but he stopped short. He was not a "good Master," but when the test came he refused to allow Christ to be Lord and Master of his entire life. He was not willing to choose something less and lower and therefore made the great refusal. There is a world of difference sometimes between a desire and a choice.

CLAIMS ENTIRE CONTROL. Jesus will test every profession of friendship and loyalty we make to Him. He will not receive empty compliments and professions. He will test the sincerity of the entire life. Unless you are prepared to kneel before Him and commit to Him yourself, your wealth, talents, ambitions, purposes, every thing you have and are, you cannot be His disciple. You must be ready to give yourself to Him as the soldier gives himself to his sovereign, as the bride gives herself to her husband. There must be no reserve of affection or loyalty, or service. Jesus will have the whole heart, the whole life, or none of it. He has said "If ye love me, keep all that I have commanded you, that ye may abide in My love, and that My love may remain in you, and that ye may be My disciples." We must be ready to say

I will do what you want me to do, Lord, Over mountain and plain and sea; I will do what you want me to do, Lord, I will be what you want me to be."

HIS FIRST SPEECH.

Dr. Daniel Takes Part in Debate on the Address.

And Explains What Struck the Liberal Party in St. John—Meeting of the British Empire League.

OTTAWA, March 15.—In the house this afternoon after routine Hon. J. Haggart resumed the debate on the address. The ex-minister of railways spoke with more than usual fluency and had his matter well in hand. The Alaska award was not, he said, what Canada expected, and it had not been expected that the government would make reference to British treaties and his claim that Canada should have the right to enter into commercial treaties on her own behalf. That right, Canada had long ago. (Cheers.) Mr. Haggart devoted the main part of his speech to the recent G. T. Pacific concessions and to the appointment of Blair as head of the railway commission. He denounced Blair's appointment in round terms. While the ex-minister was noted for his legal acumen, his management of the C. P. R. had shown he was far removed from being a practical railway man. It looked as if Blair was elevated to this high position by the government so that it would not have to meet his opposition in New Brunswick. (Cheers.) The road from Quebec to Moncton would never be built. He had so predicted last year, and now he reiterated his prediction. Haggart dealt with many other items contained in the speech and outside of it in a free and independent manner and made a strong impression.

He was followed at 4.25 p. m. by Hon. Mr. Casgrain, who dealt with general issues, more particularly in their application to Quebec province, and in the manner in which the government had so manipulated things as to deceive the French people. Quebec, he said, had grown tired of liberal pledges, and it would henceforth take no stock in them. Casgrain was in robust form and had the close attention of the house from start to finish. His criticism of the Grand Trunk deal was an especially able effort.

Bourassa followed Casgrain in a typical Bourassa speech, accusing the government of taking the people of Ontario rather than to the people of his own province. Bourassa once more reiterated his objection to Canada taking any part in the battles of the empire. The debate on the address was continued after dinner by Jabez Robertson, ex-minister of East Simons and Smith of Wentworth, who was followed by Taylor moved the adjournment. House rose at 10 o'clock.

NOTES. OTTAWA, March 15.—It is understood that the chairmanship of the committee on privileges and elections, which is vacant through the retirement of D. C. Fraser from parliament, will be given to F. B. Wade, member for Annapolis; that H. J. Logan of Charlottetown will succeed Mr. Wade in the chairmanship of the committee on privileges and elections, and that Mr. Ethier of Two Mountains will be elected chairman of the committee on expiring laws.

Anglin is a well known practitioner in the Ontario capital and a man of great standing in his profession. His name has been connected with the appointment to the bench for some time back. His father, the late T.W. Anglin of St. John, N. B., was speaker of the house of commons during the Mackenzie administration.

OTTAWA, March 15.—After routine as Dr. Daniel rose to continue the debate on the address, he was greeted with a tumult of opposition applause. He said the able addresses he had already listened to in this debate had impressed him with an overwhelming sense of the gravity of the issue. He could only put the fact that he had just arrived with a mandate from the people. (Cheers) Under ordinary circumstances a change of a constituency from one side to the other in a by-election attracts little attention, but in his case he felt that the result was such as to call for more or less remarks. Mr. Blair in 1900 had been elected by one thousand votes, minus three. A few weeks ago that majority had been turned into a minority of some 200. (Cheers.)

The doctor, in continuing his maiden speech, quoted in substance from Blair's denunciation of the Grand Trunk deal, and showed that the people of St. John had taken Blair's remarks to heart, and had voted accordingly. There had been no convincing reply to the remarks of the ex-minister of railways. The government had advanced various reasons for the overturn in St. John, but after giving all due credit to these influences he held it was the gravest issue of the Grand Trunk Pacific bill that had caused the great overturn. (Cheers.)

As far back as last August the merchants of St. John met together and asked themselves where would this maritime province come in. Dr. Daniel traversed the remarks of the Hon. Mr. Blair, and showed that the board of trade resolutions were introduced of party politics, and were introduced by solid liberals. The doctor read the resolutions introduced by D. J. McLaughlin and James F. Robertson, both strong liberals, and then proceeded to argue that practically the proposed transcontinental line would be of benefit to the maritime provinces whatever unless the government assumed absolute control of the route, and compelled the Grand Trunk to make its terminals at Canadian ports, and not to carry the bulk of Canadian trade to Portland, Me.



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as this giant Grand Trunk monopoly was held in the railway committee rooms today. All old officers were elected. Dr. Daniel paid a tribute to Bourassa's proposal of last session that the main ports of Canada should be nationalized. It was a policy that had been in the recent St. John election. (Cheers.) Dealing with the winter port business, the speaker stated that St. John had spent one million of its own money to provide terminal facilities for the trade of Canada and to provide work for their laboring men. This labor influence was on his side and voted for him in a large degree. (Cheers.) The doctor quoted at some length from the winter port trade statistics recently given out by Mr. Johnson, the dominion statistician, to show the great increase in this season's trade at St. John, and urged the government to take hold of this great matter in a purely national spirit.

He was proud to belong to a party that had never run down Canada. (Cheers.) In regard to the property that existed in Canada, he reminded the house that if it was due to the fiscal policy of the present administration, that fiscal policy was introduced by the conservatives in 1870. Dr. Daniel took the line that if we were to make our own treaties, as the government demanded, it might be better to wait until such a time as Canada could support its own navy as well as army. Canada could not afford to become a second Pan-America. (Long cheers.)

Chas. Marcell congratulated Dr. Daniel on his maiden speech, but regretted that he had not told him as he was elected. It looked to him as if St. John was afraid that the transcontinental trade would go to Portland, Maine, and Halifax. St. John's verdict was a verdict of panic. (Opposition cheers and laughter.) While he voted in the same position as Australia, and he thought perhaps this proposal went a little too far. J. T. Small of Toronto felt that the mistake Canadians would be to do something for naval defence, and pointed to the contributions of other British colonies.

Mackenzie Dowell suggested an amendment to the resolution, stating that the question of naval defence deserved the most earnest attention of parliament. This passed, as well as a resolution in favor of state owned cables connecting the British Empire, and another congratulating Sir Frederick Borden on his appointment to the imperial defence committee.

NOTES. Mr. Daniel has given notice for Friday of the following inquiry: MacLaren of Huntington will move the house into committee on Monday on a resolution to prohibit the importation, manufacture and sale of cigarettes in Canada. Much regret is expressed here over the death of ex-Governor McInnes at Vancouver, an old member of the commons and later of the senate. The annual meeting of the Canadian branch of the British Empire League

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of Dr. J. C. Watson.

AN EARTH Struck St. Monday Two Distinct Shock for a Time Ta Excitement the

At a few minutes past morning the uprisings of this city ended from their shock. Two or three recollections of m quakes have been were so slight that not quite sure who or not. This was woke up the people, it shook it, it caused no small ness. Between five and two the first shock Sun office it was with it a slight heard. This latter for perhaps ten or fifteen minutes. It was a brief interval, but reckoned by some was felt. This was the first and not able.

D. L. Hutchison, Observatory told the twenty years connected with the vice no earthquake recorded here. In his own office he has a record of the shock was a would be made. Hutchison thought the instrument show some record would be such that were very rare indeed several reported from the past few years.

Within a few hours the telephone following the clear points of "Oh, my stress. It was wild up here. The shunters were dropped, and the tried to walk and staggered. Nearly a lot of people were and they said of elements in their ho I don't hear of a was about ten o'clock. The shish preferential trade would merely consolidate the empire.

Russell, M. P. of Halifax, seconded the resolution, which he held, were a unit in acknowledging the merit of the Chamberlain policy. He agreed, however, with what Mulock had said, and believed that the question as it affects the motherland. MacKinnon, M. P. of Charlottetown, submitted a resolution in favor of Canadian contributions towards naval defence. He believed he should have a squadron of our own somewhat on the same lines as the Australian squadron. Tarte thought we are already doing a good deal for our empire. We are not exactly in the same position as Australia, and he thought perhaps this proposal went a little too far.

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WHO IS HE? NEW YORK, March 16.—James S. Miller, a drugist boarding on Putnam avenue, Brooklyn, who states that he has a wife and child residing at or near St. John, and has been a drugist in St. John, Montreal and other Canadian cities, figures unpleasantly in the sensational suicide by carbolic acid of Mabel L. Ames, a handsome eighteen-year-old amateur in Brooklyn. Miller was employed as drug clerk in a store where the girl bought supplies, and admits acquaintance, but denies improper intimacy, or responsibility for the suicide. The police authorities are rational, and say the girl was under hypnoic influence. A letter written by the suicide says: "My accuser calls me a horrible name; I die hoping he may have some news to tell me the night before she was found dying on the street.—Globe.

Belting, Good Je

W.H.