

Calling back to us through the ages, this is his warning in language indicative of deep, painful, solemn earnestness, "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart and in the sight of thine eyes; but know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment." Here it is that we may find in the gate of a city a figure of life itself. All the glory of a splendid archway, its rich and costly ornamentation, the vistas of courts and palaces, galleries and temples revealed through the opened doors of a city entrance, may be a symbol of the beauty and symmetry of every true and noble life. And at the gate, the voice of wisdom is ever calling. It is as if Solomon, looking back over his life, recalling all its weaknesses and all its failures, would impress this great truth, that only as one from the beginning of life, the gate of an earthly career, heeded the voice of wisdom, entreating him most earnestly, could he remain steadfast amid temptation and grow richer every day in the experience of the virtues. All the possibilities of honor and true success were dependent on what response the soul of man would make.

What we need most of all to learn is that every day, every hour of our lives, wisdom is urging us listen to her call.

There have been periods in the history of mankind when special heralds have arisen. There have been times when men have felt themselves inspired to a divine mission of rousing their fellow-men to repentance and duty, even as in the history of Florence, four hundred years ago, the voice of Savonarola, passionate with that earnestness which knows no failure, rang through the great cathedral, "The sword has descended. The scourges have commenced. The prophecies are being fulfilled. O Florentines! now is the time to shed rivers of tears over thy sins. Repent! Offer up prayers! Be a united people!"

Here was one whose deep eyes pierced the veil of what seemed to him corrup-

tion. He dared single-handed to gather the populace about him and sternly preach purity and repentance. But merciful, pitying, and tender, infinitely more powerful than the call of the white-robed monk of Florence, was the voice of Him who in the last day, that great day of the feast, stood and cried, saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink." This was the Saviour of men. He is Himself the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Through Him one may find entrance to a better life. He is the door. Strive to enter in at that gate.

"Thou art the Way: to Thee alone
From sin and death we flee;
And he who would the Father seek,
Must seek Him, Lord, by Thee."

The call of wisdom being a universal call, being made in all stages of human life, and representing the voice of the Lord Jesus, entreating us to make our lives more like His, we find in the gate of an ancient city a figure of that time when earth shall be more like heaven. Hebrew prophets and psalmists ever represented the New Jerusalem in language suggestive of the holy city on Mt. Zion. The golden gate of the temple, the beautiful gate of precious Corinthian brass and exquisite workmanship, the massive gates of the city wall—all might picture in some sense the perfection and strength of the coming kingdom. But they were all imperfect symbols. Then it was that the thought of the Seer of Patmos, reaching out to that time when

"Heaven shall open wide
Her ever-during gate, harmonious sound
On golden hinges moving,"

found expression in the words of Revelation: "And the gates of the city shall not be shut at all by day, for there shall be no night there."

In the beatific vision of the celestial city, the beloved disciple beheld twelve gates of pearl, "every several gate of one pearl."

"Thine ageless walls are bonded
With amethyst unpriced;
The saints build up its fabric,
And the corner-stone is Christ."