

God's Faithfulness

Sermon by Rev. W. H. Wallace, Pastor of Victoria Avenue Baptist Church.

I do set my bow in the cloud and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.—Gen. 9:13.

The flood was a judgment. The record of it is "written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come." When sin reaches a certain point it demands the interposition of God. It is so in individual life, and in the organized type of nations. "God is provoked every day." He is long-suffering and of great pity. He gives a thousand chances. He calls and calls again. He reproves gently. He chastens tenderly. He rebukes sternly. He smites severely. But the record of judgment passes into a record of mercy. Like all God's judgments this one was tempered with mercy. Noah built an altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt offerings, and the Lord "smelled a sweet savour and said, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every living thing, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seed-time and harvest, cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." God therefore formed a covenant with Noah, making the rainbow the visible sign of it. "And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud, and I will remember my covenant which is between me and you and every living thing of all flesh."

The Rainbow

What is it that makes the rainbow? A cloud or rain and sunlight. Every drop of rain is a prism. The prism divides the pure ray of light into its several parts. By mixing all the colors together we get white, also a pure ray of light. The rose in the garden is made beautiful and sweet by the sunlight. It takes certain hues of that light, and what it does not take in, it gives back again. Now that which makes it beautiful is not what it takes in, but what it reflects back again. The prism is even more unselfish than the rose, because it does not take any color to itself, but sends all the colors forth at different angles.

The rainbow is apt to be seen in any part of the world. Someone tells of seeing one in a crowded part of Old London; all of a sudden a rainbow of wondrously intense color and of unusually perfect form became visible, and changed the whole prosaic scene. Little knots of busy people stood to gaze upon the beauty of the gracious apparition. It is too bad that many fail to see the beautiful in Nature. Thomas Carlyle, dyspeptic and morose, once looked up at the stars and said, with a growl, "It is a sad sight!" But a little girl looked up at the same sight and said: "Mamma, if the outside of heaven is so fine, how very beautiful the inside must be!"

The rainbow is chiefly suggestive of thoughts either of mystery or of joy and sorrow. Mythology discerned a god in every wonder of Nature. To the ancient Greeks the rainbow was the visible representative of a golden-winged maiden who attended the Lord and mistress of heaven and carried their messages to mortals. Here in our text the rainbow is made to tell a story of God's love for all the world. Rude and distant tribes agree in the conception of the rainbow as a living monster. The Karons of Burma say it is a spirit or demon. If anyone meets with an accident, proving fatal, they say, (after seeing a rainbow), "the rainbow has devoured him." The Zulu ideas are much the same as these. To us the rainbow is a child of the storm—and it is very beautiful. It springs out of the conflict between light and darkness, and it is caused by the sun of heaven shining upon the fast dripping tears of earth.

Through the gloom and shadow look we On beyond the years; The soul would have no rainbow Had the eyes no tears.

An old couple, who greatly glorified God by their glad lives, were asked: "And have you never any clouds?" "Clouds!" said the old woman, "Clouds! Why, yes indeed, else where would all the blessed showers come from?" Again, let us not make the mistake that some folks make, by looking in the direction of the sun for a rainbow. God never puts a rainbow in the direction of the light. We always find that if the sun is in the east the rainbow is in the west. Hence the

old saying: The rainbow in the morning Is the shepherd's warning; The rainbow at night Is the shepherd's delight.

The Rainbow As a Sign

The rainbow suggests a symbol. There is a principle here the same as that in parables which take some object in Nature or some fact in the physical world to symbolize the spiritual truth or fact, and which are properly called symbolic parables. The rainbow had a fitness for the purpose to which it was applied, for after the appearance of an entire rainbow, as a rule no rain of long duration follows; and the darker the background the more bright does it appear. As such a sign no doubt Noah already knew it. A harbinger of the cessation of a storm was a fitting symbol of the close of that flood which was never to be repeated.

Very beautiful is the idea of God giving us something to look at, in order to keep our faith steady. He knows that we needed pictures, and rests, and voices, and signs, and these He has well supplied: the Sacred Book, water baptism, bread and wine, Sabbath rest, and house of prayer. All these have deeper meanings than are written in their names; by learning those meanings, and keeping them, we become rich.

The rainbow is more than a symbol, it is a token of a covenant, and the covenant is that there shall not be any more flood to destroy the earth, and the token of the covenant is the bow in the clouds. But the phenomenon has actually no existence unless there is an eye to see it. Until man looked upon it, not only with a seeing eye, but also with a believing spirit, its real existence as the token of the covenant was no more capable of proof than is the presence of Christ in any church at any moment. It is a quaint idea of the Rabbins that in an age conspicuous for righteousness the rainbow is not visible; the virtuous, they say, are a sufficient sign that God remembers His covenant. And truly it is man's mercy to man that is the most eloquent witness of the Divine love.

For what purpose then was the bow set in the cloud? The great purpose was to be a witness to God's faithfulness. The God whom the Bible goes on revealing and unveiling more and more is a God in whom men may trust. None of the heathen could trust their gods. The Bible tells men of a God they can trust. That is the difference between the Bible and other books, between the Christian religion and all other religions. And what a difference!

In Calvary's awful scene, we behold the Divine faithfulness. Clouds of sin have risen from the earth; a shoreside ocean of despair has covered the life of man; but God—the faithful God, the covenant-keeping God, the God that remembers His promise of mercy to sinful man—He has not forgotten; He is keeping His word of grace, and the clouds are shot through and through with the power of Christ, the sun of righteousness.

Living at the North Pole

Storker Storkersen, who was left in the Arctic by Stefansson, when the latter became ill with typhoid fever, to drift across the North Pole on an ice field has just arrived in New York. He with four men, sixteen dogs, four sleds, ammunition and rifles, drifted on an icefield seven by fifteen miles in area, upon which they had established their camp for seven months. This was done for the purpose of testing whether there is any current in the Arctic sea and to find out if these was undiscovered land. He satisfactorily settled there is no current and that the movement of ice packs is due to the wind.

Having lived in the North for two years, Storkersen has learned the Eskimos' modes of living and has in many cases improved upon which accounts for his party returning in the best of health.

The party did not carry an abundant supply of food as both the men and dogs lived on a diet consisting of seal and polar bear meat. Fresh water could be obtained from the sea ice, the ice of the seasons before, and the last winter's snowfall melt with the first thaw of the spring, and the salt brine, which has frozen at a temperature of about 28 degrees above zero, becomes separated from the fresh water part

of the ice and drips down through the ice cake. Seals and bears were abundant; killed and secured ninety-four of the former and six of the latter, so we were not short of meat to help eke out the rations we brought from shore. Ducks, gulls, loons, beluga whales, white-fox and periodically several kinds of land birds were seen. In the water was an abundance of small fish, shrimp and whale feed.

No sign was seen of the land, although our drift took through the territory where Keenen Land was supposed to have been seen. We got soundings of 2,970 metres and no bottom.

During the summer our camp was on an old ice floe, seven miles wide north and south, and at least fifteen miles long east and west. I would have been willing to stay one or two years on a "floe" of this kind, provided I had kept my health and our ammunition lasted. I consider this method of exploring the sea ice in this region the best that has been tried yet. A party being landed with a suitable outfit of provisions, instruments and so on) 200 or 300 miles of land on an ice floe could collect a great amount of valuable information from the still unexplored Arctic regions.

In August and September I developed an acute attack of asthma, which made me decide to return to shore after the freeze up. The safety of the party depended on me, and I considered it best to land them ashore while I still was able. The trip to land was accomplished in thirty days without any difficulty.

The war in Europe was one year old before Storkersen heard of it. He had never seen an airplane until recently, when he was given a ride in one by Captain Kindly, at McConnell's request. He is now a flying enthusiast, and considering flying as a means for future explorations.

Motoring as an Exercise

Most motorists do not consider automobiling as exercise, providing there are no tires to change en route and one frequently hears the opinion that the augmenting use of motor vehicles has materially reduced the opportunities for exercise that is so necessary to the physical well-being.

A well known writer on scientific subjects, Dr. Henry Smith Williams, writes in a recent issue of Motor, takes exception to this general view and states that automobiling is beneficial and shows accruing benefits under three heads—physical, mental and volitional. He proceeds to point out that in addition to the exercise, the motorist has been in the open air, "buffeting the winds, inhaling ample quantities of oxygen to meet the increased needs of the accelerated currents of blood corpuscles; and that digestion and assimilation are thereby facilitated through former inaction progressively are in increased measures oxidized and eliminated.

The doctor supports his conclusions in part as follows: "It is the muscles of the chest, together with those of the chest and abdomen prominently and habitually suffer. When you drive a car 40 or 50 miles over average American roads, or a fraction of that distance in the city, you give your arms and torso a course of purposeful calisthenics that rebounds directly to the benefit of your muscles and arteries and heart and indirectly, but no less significantly, to the benefit of your digestive apparatus and organs of elimination as well as the nervous system."

CARMEL

Rev. McMullen occupied the pulpit on Sunday. Prayer meeting was conducted at Mr. M. B. Pittman's on Monday evening.

Miss Mae Clarke is spending the winter in Belleville. Mrs. T. Whitney was been spending a few days in our midst.

The W.M.S. held their regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. J. Reynolds.

Miss W. Reid spent a few days in Peterboro last week. Miss Martha Pitman, Foxboro, spent the week-end at Mr. Patterson's.

Mrs. F. Whitney and Miss M. Fairman visited at Mr. and Mrs. B. Clarke's on Friday last. Mrs. C. R. Foster spent the week-end at home.

Miss Mildred Jones visited at Mr. Patterson's one day last week.

IVANHOE

A circuit rally in the interest of the inter church campaign was held in Benish Methodist church on Tuesday last week. The speakers

at the afternoon and evening sessions were Rev. E. A. Whittam, of Colborne, Rev. G. C. McQuade, of West Huntingdon and the ministers of the Madoc district.

Miss Luella Benson, accompanied by Miss Gladys Chambers, of Belleville, spent Sunday at her home here.

A number from this place attended the tea meeting at White Lake on Monday night, and all report a good time.

The little daughter of Mrs. J. Wilcox passed away on Thursday afternoon. The funeral service was conducted at the home on Saturday by Rev. H. Hall, of Madoc, and interment made in St. Thomas cemetery.

MOUNT ZION

"Hello! Who said Mount Zion was dead or moved away? Nix."

Mrs. L. Parks, who has been away visiting friends has returned home. The annual meeting of King's cheese factory was held on Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Potter has moved on the farm recently occupied by H. S. Dafoe.

Mr. and Mrs. Bolton of the York Road visited the former's parents on Friday.

The heavy gale which passed over this place blew down Mr. W. Baker's drivehouse which was in the course of erection.

We are glad to report that Mrs. A. Chase, who had a very serious operation in Toronto hospital is able to be at home again and is gaining nicely.

Mr. H. S. Dafoe spent Thursday at his old home here.

Mrs. Norris Roberts and daughter visited at Mr. B. Way's on Thursday.

Mrs. T. Parks is quite ill.

Japan is Awake to Advantages of Music

Leaders Urge Musical Education of People to Further International Understanding.

Not long ago a cable from Japan announced that His Majesty, the emperor had conferred on the four young professors of the Musical Academy of Tokio the Sixth Order of Merit, and decorated them with the Order of the Sacred Treasure, in recognition of their services to musical education. That Japan is further taking a serious stand on the advantages to her, internationally, of having her people musically educated is seen from a recent issue of one of her most influential newspapers. A whole page is devoted to musical discussions under the heading, "We must have the Government music school here, (Osaka)."

The leading article goes on to say: "It requires no lengthy explanation to perceive what effect music has on the national thoughts and the social condition. To regard music as a mere idle pastime and leave its cultivation uncared for, is a grave danger to our country. According to Dr. Yostino, the rightful qualifications for membership in the family of world powers do consist, not in military strength nor in the expansion of economic power, but in the advanced civilization a nation possesses.

Human Arts. "The centre of civilization lies in the higher human arts, and at its very core is music. In Japan music occupies but a meager part of her civilization. Sometimes music is considered to be revolting to the Japanese civilization. The existence of such a feeling, quite contrary to the world's ideal, accounts for the occurrence of anti-Japanese agitation and racial discrimination abroad. That the Japanese cause an ill-feeling in western countries is partly because they do not get in touch with western families, and because they cannot come into spiritual conformity with the westerners. Proficiency in the foreign language and higher education alone will not constitute a passport to the foreign families.

"Only music helps them to get into a spiritual union with the foreign friends. Anti-Japanese feelings and racial discrimination might be mitigated if the Japanese were more conversant with the musical world. Indeed one of the greatest works Japan has to perform now is the promotion of a higher musical culture for the nation."

Miller's Worm Powders, being in demand everywhere, can be got at any chemist's or drug shop, at very small cost. They are a standard remedy for worm troubles and can be fully relied upon to expel worms from the system and abate the sufferings that worms cause. There are many mothers that rejoice that they found available so effective a remedy for the relief of their children.

Sessions Open at Court House

Six Criminal Charges Before the Grand Jury

The court room at the county court house was crowded with members of the grand and petit juries and with witnesses when the December general sessions of the county court opened this afternoon before His Honor Judge Deroche. The docket is quite a heavy one, with six criminal cases to come before the grand jury and the petit jury, should there be true bills returned, besides a list of civil actions. Dates were set for the trial of all the non-jury cases but one. The criminal cases are two assault and battery charges and four cases in which theft of whiskey from the G.T.R. is charged.

The foreman of the grand jury is R. F. Coulter of Stirling.

Judge Deroche addressed the grand jury on the cases to come before them:

Re. vs. Prosper Frchette, the charges being theft of liquor. Rex vs. Alfred Nicholson, charge of theft of whiskey from G.T.R. Rex vs. Logan, charge of theft of whiskey. Rex vs. Summers, charge of theft of whiskey. Rex vs. Lewis Loft, charge against Lewis Loft of assaulting and beating his wife. This case arose out of a dispute over whether there should be white or brown sugar used. They got excited, the husband is alleged to have pounded the table, the wife to have thrown a plate at the husband and that he used a broom and struck her and broke her wrist. The wife's parents laid the charge. The defendant is a medicine man on the reserve.

Rex vs. Stanley Caron, charge of assaulting and causing bodily harm to Mr. W. H. Ketcheson.

Late Harry Varnes

The funeral of the late Harry Varnes, who met death in Winnipeg, was held yesterday afternoon on the arrival of the C.P.R. train. The burial was under the auspices of the Masonic order, the services at the grave in Belleville cemetery being conducted by W. Bro. A. E. Thrasher of the Belleville Lodge No. 123. R. W. Bro. H. J. Clarke and Chaplain T. D. Ruston. The bearers were J. Canning, E. Naylor, J. Fletcher, R. Vivian, T. D. Ruston and Adjt. Goodnow.

ENLARGING OF BELLEVILLE

Editor Ontario. What about the Belleville Board of Trade Campaign? Does the town or city exist exclusive of the vicinity? Is it not true of every city that many good people, vitally useless lead in their town, shove their abode in the vicinity and do not some of the ablest men prefer to live out of the city? Therefore, should not the Belleville Board of Trade boost Belleville and vicinity? Does not the city make itself too exclusive? Whom does the city belong to, does not the country call it "our city"? Are they not really the backbone of it? Why then are they, the people of the country, so barred from any voice in their city? Would it not extend in all directions if the power in men and money that the country has in its length and breadth if it were harnessed in the interest of the city? And is there not strong young life waiting to be used and longing for an opportunity to be usefully employed? Let us wake up to the new responsibility and the times.

A Suburbanite.

Electricity Cures Sleeping Sickness

New York, December 11.—Application of electric needles to the spine cured a case of sleeping sickness in St. Mary's Hospital, Brooklyns. Miss Lena Pasco, 20 years of age, who has been in a sound slumber since last Friday morning, was brought back to consciousness by electrical treatment.

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The G. W. V. A. gratefully acknowledge the following generous contributions to the Xmas Tree Fund for the Kiddies of fallen and returned soldiers. Subscriptions received at all banks and G.W.V.A. Previously acknowledged. \$345 75

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J. W. Day 1 00
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J. A. Fleming 1 00
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Miss Nellie Smith 25
Miss Beattie Jones 50
Frank Symons 50
Ned Symons 50
Chas. J. Symons 2 00
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Totals to date \$451.75 Acknowledgements of contributions will appear daily.

Santa Will Be There

All the kiddies of fallen and returned soldiers are looking forward to the G.W.V.A. Xmas Tree on Dec. 23rd. A number of names of kiddies, amounting to 125 have been received to date. We are looking forward to a great number more. Do not fail to send the names of the kiddies in, so as they will receive a present from Santa Claus. Owing to the cold weather, the committee have made arrangements with the Griffin Theatre Co. to secure the theatre for the afternoon of December 23rd. The committee are making every effort to make this Xmas tree a success. Subscriptions received at every bank in the city and the G.W.V.A. headquarters. Subscriptions close December 15th.

UNION BOARD DISSOLVED.

Trenton, Dec. 9.—At a meeting of the Board of Education held here, it was decided to dissolve the Union Board into a High School and a Public School Board. This will come into effect the first Wednesday in February.

Corns and warts disappear when treated with Holloway's Corn Cure without leaving a scar.

A woman may say what she thinks but it's a safe bet she doesn't think what she says.

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