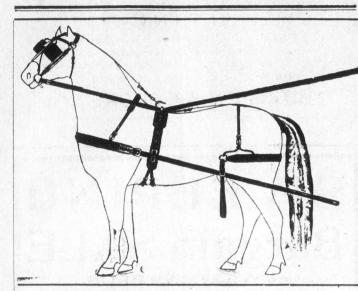
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if he doesn't properly discharge his

ONE ELDER BROTHER

HE WHO WAS ANGRY AT THE KILLING OF FATTED CALF.

NOT OUR ELDER BROTHER.

the Smiles of the Father Forevermor -A New Light Thrown on the Gospel Sunday Sermon.

Chicago, Feb. 1.-In this sermon Pastor Talmage, while not excusing the prodigal, throws a new and searching light upon the character and conduct of the elder brother of the famous parable. 'The text is Luke xv, 28, "And he was angry."

Who was the prodigal's elder bro-ther? "I know who he is," answers some one. "I see him almost every day of my life. He is the honest, upright son who stays at home and gets no credit for being good; he is the respectable plodder of the family who does most of the hard work in who does most of the hard work in the office, in the store and on the farm and then has the extreme plea-sure of seeing all the young girls run after his dissolute younger brother merely because that brother is driving fast horses and sowing his 'wild oats.' The elder brother is the son who is always sober and yet receives he not one extra dollar from his parents as a reward, while the his parents as a reward, while the drunken son of the family is continually receiving extra money to get his clothes out o pawn, so that he may have another start in life. The elder is the 'good boy' upon whom the mother depends to help give his sisters new dresses for the winter parties, yet he never has a party given for him. He never had a fatted calf killed that he might entertain his friends, though for years he ted calf killed that he might enter-tain his friends, though for years he has cared for the cattle by day and has seen that they were properly milked at night. He is the 'good boy' who never had a fine ring put on his finger. The folks laughed at his horny fingers, which were knot-ted from handling the plow and wielding the hoe and the ax His feet were never neasured, for dancing feet were never measured for dancing slippers because his sandals were al-ways soiled and dirt begrimed. He was always working in the fields. The drunkards, the profligates, the midnight carousers, the libertines and the associates of lewd companions are the ones who, when they reform, have the smiles and the dancing parties given to them, not the elder bro-thers who have never done any

wrong."

But neither of the brothers is por But neither of the proteins is por-trayed as an example. Both were bad, though in different ways. We easily see the faults of the younger brother; they were open and scandal-ous; but the faults of the elder bro-ther, being decorously covered up by duting conduct, are not so easily recognized. In estimating character on God's lines we have to ask not only what a man has done, but what he is. Meanness and unbrotherliness and cruelty in the heart deface a man's character as indelibly as open iniquity. They make men. as Christ said, like "whited sepuichres, which indeed appear Le utiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones and of all uncleanness." Therefore I place my chief emphasis upon the sinful life of the elder brother, to show that the so called respectable sins of self righteousness are of all sins the most to be dreaded and that it is the duty of the preacher to warn his hearers against them.

The elder brother is the modern that it was the basic Cod that he is dutiful conduct, are not so easily re

The elder brother is the modern Tharisee, who thanks God that he is not as other men. He complacently looks upon the drunkard and the social outcast and the pauper and says to his friends: "Just look at me. I never had any more advantages than those people have had, I was of a highstrung, impetuous nature, yet I never would let my evil desires get the better of me. I have never been drunk. I have never reben drunk. I have never run up a bill I was unable to pay. I never was a frequenter of the clubs, nor a convivial associate of midnight carousers.

But, my pharisaical friend, though yet there are more ways than one of breaking the moral and the spiritual Shylock, the outraged Jew. may have been legally an honorable man, but in the sight of God and of the community in which he lived Shylock was a fiend and a murderer part. Like a panther crouching the long grasses of the Airi-praise, waiting for the time he could spring upon a helpless ante-lope, Shylock was longing for the when he could lay Antonio a

corpse at his feet.

Elder brothers, you have no ground for pride if the restraint that has kept you from prodigality is itself a defect of character. It is true that you have not gone off as a prodigal into a far country of sin. You have not given a midnight banquet not given a midnight banquet and started your young friends on the path to a drunkard's grave by teaching them how to bury their lips in the red poison of the wine cup. You may have been too stingy for that; you may have been so mean and stingy that there is no fear that you would drink a glass of wine or smoke a cigar unless some one else paid for it. It is not principle that saves some men from going to de-struction by the broad highway of dissoluteness, but penuriousness.
They hold on to every dollar they have and are too stingy to spend a and are too stringy to spend a cent. They keep their money as long as they can and never give a cent to a friend unless they make that friend give them a first class security and pay full interest. But, my so called respected to and upright pharisaical friend though your constants. No office-holder should be a big gun friend, though you are not a prodict he doesn't properly discharge his duties.

Ask for Minard's and take no other.

dealings with your debtors and your employes. You may be a peddler of evil reports and a nurderer of your neighbor's reputation. You may be delity often intrenches itself in the neighbor's reputation. You may be one of those keen, cold automatuns without one drop of human kindness in your heart. You may be so merciless in your dealings with mankind that you will not stop for one moment to consider the sad causes which led your friends into sin or into financial difficulty.

Satan is no nearer being a Christian gentleman for dressing himself

tian gentleman for dressing himself in broadcloth. The hangman's noose is no less fatal for being deftly placed about the doomed throat by white fingers a-glitter with diamond rings. Because you, oh, elder brother, stay at home and live under your father's roof, that is no reason why you may not be living 10,000 miles away from your father's love. I do not believe there is a more contemptible character painted in all the word pictures of the Bible than this cold blooded, unforgiving, sneering, carping elder brother, who was ready to take every advantage he could over his fellow men if he could only do so without disobeying the letter of the law. Instead of being drunk with wine he was intoxicated with self conceit and selfishness. Instead of being a begger or earning his breach the total in broadcloth. The hangman's noos

rightful inheritance to this lazy spendthrift, this boon companion of dissolute characters. If he has spent his all, then let him starve. That is just what he deserves. He has no right coming back, to be a vampire upon my property." So the selfish elder brothers in many of our large churches refuse to let the prodigals come among them and will not allow them to be received as equals in their Father's house. They seem to think that the advent of the poor and outcast means their own social extinction and their spiritual debase-

Where can the despicable pharisa ical spirit of the clder brother be found more conspicuous than in some es? "Oh," say the well dressed young girls of that class, "you are not going to put that poor girl in our class. Why, it will ruin the whole class! You can't expect the daughters of millionaires to associately with rewise civils with severe sides." daughters of millionaires to associate with sewing girls even in a Sunday school." Where can you find a more despicable, pharisaical spirit than in the missionary life of some of our large city churches? There are many large and wealthy churches that are supporting missions in the foul slums of the city, yet whose members would not for one instant allow the poor to sit in their own pews or kneel at their communion

pews or kneel at their communion tables.

The elder brother never longs to satisfy the divine cravings of his fa-ther's love. I have no sympathy with some of the excuses that are with some of the excuses that are made for that prodigal son. I have no sympathy with those who declare that young men are led astray into the far country of sin because they have generous impulses and abnormal affections and therefore cannot say no to the tempter. That prodigal was an ingrate, contemptible, dissolute rake. No man is large hearted who will take a friend to a No man is large dissolute rake. No man is large hearted who will take a friend to a saloon or open a bottle of wine at a club when in order to do it he makes his own children go hungry and dress in rags. No generous hearted young man will go into the far country of sin and recklessly squander his money when at the same time he knows that his old father is weeping at home, with his eyes a foundain of tears; but, though that younger son was a self-ish, despicable character, the elder was just as despicable. When the elder brother heard the music which he had not been selfish and would not have tried to stab the old man to the heart. Did he not say in effect: "Yes, we shall drive that dissolute debauchee back to his swine

small elder brothers and sisters to get that elder brothers and sisters to feel that it was necessary for Jesus Christ kind of a son, he would have seen what joy came into the father's heart at the return of his repentant son. He would have immediately said: "What difference does money make if I can make father, hanny?" Are with the avertistic into the marriage banquet of the Lamb? If that elder brother had been the right kind of a son, he would have seen what joy came into the father's heart at the return of his repentant son. He would have immediately said: "What difference does money make if I can make father happy? Away with the question of dollars and cents if my brother's return is only a true return." So every Christian to-day, if he is the right kind of a Christian, does not thin's about the social condition of thin's about the social condition of think about the social condition of his repentant fellow man. He immediately says, when the publican bows at the me-cy scat: "Oh, the joy and the rapture of heaven. Oh, the look of triumphant love which is upon my Divine Father's face. Oh, the celestial music which in great tidal waves of sound is rolling through the golden boulet ards of the New Jerusalem. Oh, the angelic voices in heaven which are everywhere shouting the glad tidings: 'The prodigal has returned! The prodigal has returned to his Father's house!' "There ought to be joy on earth as well as joy in heaven over one sinwell as joy in heaven over one sin-ner that repenteth. There ought to be the same joy whi h the good shepherd felt when he found his sheep that was lost; the same of which the one frantic wife experience. enced when she re overed th piece of silver, which was part o

her wedding dowry.

The elder brother's conduct a'so shows a lack of faith in his father

pew and behind the church pulpit. Some church members, and some ministers of the gospel, are only theori, ing when they profess to be-Some church members, and some ministers of the gospel, are only theori ing when they profess to be-lieve that Jesus Christ can pardon sin. They profess to believe that Christ can transform the seven iled Marys into the Marys who are willing to sit at his feet and worship, but these skeptical elder brothers go forth into the great, wide, sinful world and by their practical behavior scatter their ideal spiritual theories to the four winds.

When the reformed drunkard comes home, they cry out: "What is the good of letting that unprincipled loafer into the house? He is just like other drunkards. He is only repenting for a little while so that

good of letting that unprincipled loafer into the house? He is just like other drunkards. He is only repenting for a little while so that the morphism of the Bible than this cold blooded, unforgiving, sneering, carping elder brother, who was ready to take every advantage he could over his fellow men if he could only do so without disobeying the letter of the law. Instead of being drunk with wine he was intoxicated with self conceit and selfishness. Instead of being a beggar or earning his bread by tending swine he was ready to unkennel the bloodhounds of vindictive rancor, which would tear a repentant brother limb from limb.

The elder brother thinks that his Divine Father's house is not big enough to hold two sons. He feels that if his brother is allowed to come back the returning prodigal will crowd him out of some room which rightfully belongs to him. He says to himself: "There is that drunken loafer of a boy. He has taken his one-half of the property; now, he is coming back to eat up part of my rightful inheritance to this lazy spendthrift, this boon companion of dissolute characters. If he has spent his all, then let him starve. That is just what he deserves. He has no right coming back, to be a vampire upon my property." So the selfish elder brothers in many of our large churchers after the real way and of their single to be a vampire upon my property." So the selfish elder brothers in many of our large churchers after the law and the real way and of their size and of finding the willing arms of forgiveness held out to her by her elder sisters do not believe that a prodigal woman with a black past can ever, even by divine power, be changed into a sainted woman with a spotless future. The criminal has served his penitentiary term and is liberated from the stone cell. Is the great world at large ready to forgive him and receive him back into honorable employment if he repents? Oh, no! The elder, brothers and elder brother and of Chrisi to able to life the villed of the property." So the selfish elder brothe that saving hand?

The elder brother does not realize ully that his Divine Father is show ng more magnanimity in bearing with his respectable meanness than welcoming back the repentant welcoming back the repentant odigal boy. I feel sorry for the e who is married to a drunkard to a gambler or to a dissolute bman. That must be a crushing oss for a mother to carry sake of her children—to feel that for the baby's welfare she must associate with a man from whom the law courts of the land would give her courts of the land would give her a divorce if she only presented her evidence. But, though this may be true, I feel almost as sorry for a wife who has to live with one of those cross grained, snearing, irritating, fault finding, jealous husbands who are wearing out and sapping away the life and happiness of many a home. I mean a wife wife many a home—I mean a wife wh has to live with one of these heart less, brutal men who go around wit soft voices and smiling faces and ye are as merciless as a hornet thrusting a sting; I mean a wife who has
to live with a man who considers
every day wasted unless he is able
to overeach somebody and yet will
do the overreaching in such a polite
and deferential way that his victim
can say, nothing, and have not an say nothing and have no recourse to justice.

But, after all, the most impressive art of the elder brother's history is the abrupt way in which the par-able ends. There is no doubt the younger, son was forgiven. No doubt the repentant prodigal was able to enjoy the rest and the home plea-sures of the father's house. But how about the cruical soft artificial and about that cynical, self satisfied and complaining elder brother? Did he complaining elder brother? Did he ask forgiveness of his father? Did he go into the banquet where the feast was being celebrated? I do not know. I cannot tell. The parable ends with the earnost plea the father. We must take the rest as we will. Personally I have my doubts about the salvation of that elder brother. It is sometimes far easier fro the sinner down in the slums to come to Christ than for the ish, despicable character, the elder was just as despicable. When the elder brother heard the music which signaled the parental joy over the repentant prodigal's return when he saw the eyes of his father glistening with love and his cheeks flushing with a holy thankfulness, he would have rejoiced for his father's sake if he had not been selfish and would would be saying the saying the room, he found a sinful sister holding in her arms the head of the dying girl, and she was saying:

"Jennie, it is all right. Put your 'Jennie, it is all right. Put your ove and trust in Jesus. He died to the heart. Did he not say in effect: "Yes, we shall drive that dissolute debauche back to his swine trough. Then we can have the pleasure of seeing father again restlessly pacing the floor through the long, weary hours of the night."

If that elder brothers had the long is to the long in the long in the long in the long is a wears.

Mr. Moody tells the story of a soldier dying in one of the field hospi-tals of the Civil war. The soldier sent for his challain to come to help sent for his challain to come to help him in the hour of death. Mr. Moody said, "I wish I could help you die in leave, but Christ alone can help you do that." Then Mr. Moody read to mim from his Bible passage after passage until he came to one of the sweetest verses of all, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man te lifted up, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The dying man at that point cried: "Stop! Is have everlasting life." The dying man at that point cried: "Stop! Is that there? Oh, I did not know that was in the Bible. Please read those few words again." Then the dying man just pillowed his head dying man just pillowed his head it on that promise and went to sleep in the arms of Christ to wake amidst the hosannas of heaven. Elder brohers and elder sisters, will you nok to that cross to-day which I lift up? Will you hear the gospel in itation which is given to you to one into your Father's house? Will you he e and now sit down by Christ and by the side of your repentant, redigal brother?





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