

so that the Lord may not have reason to say to us:

Wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked that thou cover him.

Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily; and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy reward.

It has been some time since the fearful storm that swept over a part of the southern coast of the United States and destroyed almost entirely the prosperous city of Galveston. It is not too long however to learn any lessons that may come to us out of this sad catastrophe. One thing that has impressed us is, how for reasons of profit or pleasure large numbers of people will in the face of most plain warning remain in places of great danger. We would think that had the people of this stricken city been warned they would have moved to the mainland or at least made some preparations for the salvation of themselves and those they loved. Not so, however. The hurricane signals of the government were sent out long enough before the storm broke, for every person to have sought a place of safety. But you say the time was so short, and they were not sure the storm was going to break upon that city. But that was not all. Fifty years ago a book was written that dealt with that part of the country; in this book we find the following paragraph.

Galveston Island, with all its boasted accumulation of people, habitations, wealth, trade and commerce, is but a waif of the ocean; a locality of but yesterday; a resting place for drift and sea birds, liable at any moment and certain at no distant day of being engulfed and submerged by the selfsame power that gave it form. Neither is it possible for all the skillful devices of mortal man to protect this doomed place against the impending danger. The terrible power of a hurricane cannot be calculated, much less resisted. Its strength is the awful power of combined elements, and the waters of the mighty deep are made a fearful and sudden engine of destruction. A part of the ocean itself, as it were, is lifted up and onward, and goes rolling, hurling and crashing over the low coast with all the conceivable fury and end of matter attributable to the final day, carrying devastation, death and destruction to all created beings, obliterating the works of man and frequently blotting out the low islands and coast altogether. I should as soon think of founding a city on an iceberg as on Galveston island, if I looked to its safety and perpetuity.

How these words of warning have proven to be words of prophecy! This book was written for that very part of the country, was in many of the homes that were swept away by the flood, and doubtless the paper on which this same warning was printed was wet with the water that carried with it so much of death and destruction, yet the people were

not warned. The very topmost part of the island only testified as to how high in some past time some awful storm had risen. The very earth on which the city was built to a depth of twenty-five hundred feet bore witness that it was not permanent. And yet today, because the situation is a fair site for business, the city is likely to be rebuilt. It is the old story of the house upon the sand.

It leads me to think of spiritual things. How deaf is the world to the fullest warning. With Bibles in almost every house in the land men and women go building in unsafe places. The foundation of Galveston was storm tossed and the storm came to claim its own. The foundation on which much of the world is building is sin laid, and sin will come to claim its own. Thousands of years ago the first sand foundation was laid by the evil one when he said, "Thou shalt not surely die." On this our first parents built their dwelling and sin soon came to claim its own. Other foundation can no man lay, than that is laid which is Jesus Christ.

The elections are over. It took three successive days to cover nearly all North America. Considering the large number of voters that went to the polls, under greater or less excitement during that time I think we must all admit that the ordeal was past through in a very creditable way, all things considered. An election always brings its accusations and counter accusations of dishonesty, more or less, usually less, true. Some one during the recent election very aptly remarked, "Truth crushed to the earth will rise again—after the election." Were we to believe all the things said by both sides during an election we would long ago have made up our minds that there was scarcely an honest man in public life. For my own part I feel satisfied that in proportion to numbers the breaches of trust in private business, are much greater than in the service of the State. This may seem strange, but the statement is borne out by the facts. You can hardly pass a week without the record being made of some one or more trusted employees of banks or similar institutions are found guilty of stealing large amounts of money. On the other hand though the state has to employ a small army of men to make, to care for, to pay out and receive in, an almost fabulous amount of treasure, yet a defaulter or embezzler is rare. I like to feel that we have honest men in office; especially when I can see splendid illustrations of their honesty every day. For instance, in a certain nation the two most important committees of the government for the past ten years have been in the hands of four men. It has happened that two of these men belonged to one party and two to another. These committees over which these men have had control have had in their hands the allotment of a larger sum of money than was ever controlled by any body of men in any nation at any time in the world's history. These men are today either poor men or in the possession of mod-

est incomes made from their own exertions; and so honest and so careful have their duties been performed that not the slightest insinuation or wrong doing has ever been made.

Within a week or two a certain public servant completed for his government a business transaction that involved the exchange of more than sixteen million dollars. This large amount of money was in his hands and at his discretion. Yet no one believes or has thought for a moment that he misused a single penny of it.

At the beginning of the Spanish American war two of the government's officers went out to buy war supplies. Having completed their purchases, spending nearly eight million dollars, they found that neither had the price of a street car fare home, and they walked.

In spite of all the political speakers say, there are honest men in public places and more today than ever before.

Speaking of honesty in private life, how many very good people are there who do not think it any harm to cheat a railway company, a street car company or any corporation that has a public franchise. These same people are horrified at the reported dishonesty of public officials.

A writer in a recent number of the *Universalist Leader*, narrates an instance like the following: In a certain city, at the adjournment of a large religious convention to which delegates had come from over a great part of the country, postors were displayed stating that unused portions of excursion tickets could be bought and sold. Now these tickets were of the non-transferable signed variety, known as "iron clad." Nevertheless the delegates to this great religious convention were found in the offices of the "scalpers" receiving instructions as to what answers they should make if the trainmen become inquisitive and practising so that they might forge with least liability of detection, the name of the original owner, doing at least two things punishable under the law of the state as felonies.

Another instance: A well dressed couple accompanied by a young girl, apparently their daughter, present their tickets to the gateman. The official glanced at the tickets and then with evident suspicion inquired the girl's age. The gentleman was embarrassed but finally acknowledged the girl was not quite sixteen. The couple were not willing to lie outright but they had intended it to be understood that their daughter was under twelve and thus secure ticket at half price.

"A true Christian can have but one standard of ethics. That standard must apply with equal force so his dealings with honorable men and with men who are dishonorable, with individuals and with corporations, with the grocer and the butcher who supply his table and with the railway company which furnishes him a means of transportation for himself, his family, and his goods. Jesus made no exception to the universal application of the moral law. Neither may we."