

SUNDAY READING.

CHRISTMAS.

The earth has grown old with its burden of care,
But at Christmas it always is young,
The heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair,
And its soul full of music breaks forth on the air,
When the song of the angels is sung.

It is coming, Old Earth, it is coming to-night!
On the snowflakes which cover the sod
The feet of the Christ-child fall gentle and white,
And the voice of the Christ-child tells out with
delight,
That mankind are the children of God.

On the sad and the lonely, the wretched and
poor.

That voice of the Christ-child shall fall,
And to every blind wanderer opens the door
Of a hope that he dared not to dream of before,
With a sunshine of welcome for all.

The feet of the humblest may walk in the field
Where the feet of the holiest have trod;
This, this is the marvel to mortals revealed,
When the silvery trumpets of Christmas have
pealed,
That mankind are the children of God.

—Phillips Brooks.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Dr. John Hall: The best way for a man
to get out of a lowly position is to be con-
spicuously effective in it.

Ram's Horn: Before we give up Christ
for the pursuit of riches, hadn't we better
ask a millionaire how much money it takes
to make one happy?

Rev. F. E. Marsh: But if men will not
have God's mercy in love, they must have
His might in judgment. He is almighty in
grace (Gen. xvii. 1), but He is also almighty
to punish (Rev. xv. 3).

Joseph Parker, D.D.: The great fight
of life is a contention between the material
and the spiritual. Goliath represents the
material; he is towering in stature, vast in
strength, terrible in aspect. David repre-
sents the spiritual; he is simple, trustful, re-
verent.

Rev. C. L. Williams: "Thou preventest
[precedest] him with the blessings of good-
ness"—Ps. xxi. 3. Because God has gone
before them, men find opportunities in their
path and possibilities of happiness open to
them. On all sides are evidences of his
provision and of the provision he has made
for all emergencies. His grace is far in ad-
vance of all human need.

Dr. Wm. M. Taylor: When we think
of the tribal inheritance of Judah, still in a
large degree retained by the Philistines, we
have a striking analogy to the heart of the
believer, wherein divers sins and lusts do
still contend for the mastery. Each of us
has his own giant to fight, and here, too, it
must be single combat, with no one to help
us but He who went forth with the stripling
David.

Rev. F. E. Marsh: Self-will, like the love
of money, is a root of evil. Self-will is a
blight that will turn the fairest spot on earth
into the foulest, as illustrated in Adam by
his sin marring his paradise. Self-will is
the forerunner of evil, as is seen when Cain

brought a self-conceived sacrifice to God
and was rejected in consequence. Self-will
is a hot bed where any kind of evil will grow,
as is manifested in the lives of the antedilu-
vians.

Rev. James Millar: The other day a
friend passed on to me some literature in the
interests of the Society for the Preven-
tion of Vivisection. The contentions of the
society are that the experiments made upon
live animals, without the use of anaesthetics,
are unnecessary, are cruel to the subjects,
and demoralizing to the experimenter. Will
not some one start a kindred society for the
protection of men and women in the Chris-

tian church against the operations perform-
ed upon them by their fellow Christians?
How often the church society meeting is
turned into a dissecting room, and some
member operated upon with bared nerves
and fine sensibilities, while every one pre-
sent cuts and stabs with a bluntness and
thoughtlessness amounting to cruelty, and
tears and rasps the feelings of the poor un-
fortunate, with less than half of the mercy
that is credited to the vivisectionists. Our
Lord has written the constitution for such a
society in a sentence, "Whatsoever ye would
that men should do unto you, do ye even so
to them." And all the arguments of the
other society will apply literally.

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