

may be to open up some old wells that have been closed by the enemy.

These old wells that are being closed by the enemy may be some old bibles, old family altars, old secret chambers, old district prayer meetings. It was after the death of Abraham the father of the faithful that the enemies tried to close the wells; and so in like manner after the death of the aged parent in the home, some family altars and secret chambers are closed; or after the death of some faithful elder some district prayer meetings have been closed. Are we determined as Isaac was to have the wells opened? Is there no faithful son in the old home who will keep the old wells open? Is there no faithful member of the church to take the place of the good old elder and see to it that the district prayer meeting is not closed?

The Philistines would say: "We shall not spoil Isaac's tents. We can let him have his flocks of sheep and his great herds of cattle, for if we only succeed in closing these wells we have ruined the man." So the enemy says about us. He is quite willing to allow us to have possession of our houses, our lands, our raiment, our gold and silver,—in fact all that constitutes a south land—if he only succeeds in depriving us of springs of water. Let us see to it that we have an open bible in the home, that we have a family altar, and our district prayer meetings. Isaac did honour and justice to himself in opening the wells as often as his enemies closed them: and he did honour to his aged father who handed them down to him. Let us do honour to the names of those who handed our privileges to us by keeping the wells open.

You will remember that it is said the Philistines closed the wells with earth. Is it not so with us? The wells are being closed with what is of the earth earthy. This is an age of wonderful activity and great competition. It is an age when business must be pushed with great vigilance and determination or we shall be left behind in the race. It is also an age of many amusements and much pleasure-seeking. Now it is to be feared that if we do not exercise eternal vigilance, the old wells around which our fathers were in the habit of gathering their children at stated seasons will be closed. Let us keep the wells open and even hold by the old names because of, if for no other reason than the sacred associations which cluster around them and the hallowed memories which they recall.

It might have been more difficult to open up the old wells than to dig new ones, but Isaac might have said: "I know what kind of water is in the old wells, but I know not what might be in the new; and besides I delight in the associations of my boyhood which are recalled by these old wells." There are old associations of the days of youth brought fresh to our memories as often as we gather around our family altars or enter the secret chamber. Let us keep the wells open. The day may come to many a youth, when on some western prairie or on the street of a strange city, like