

Character

(This address was delivered before the B.M.E. Brotherhood by Stanley Drake.)

We have chosen for our subject "Character", which is of great importance to us as individuals. Our purpose is to treat this subject in a general way rather than to make a sharp analysis of it. Character is something which every person recognizes as a necessity. Character is what a man is—a man's real worth—his intrinsic value.

We will discuss our subject a little more fully under the following headings: Courage, Self-Control, Honesty and Cheerfulness. We will deal first with Courage. The world owes much to its men and women of courage. We do not mean the physical courage, like that of a beast, we mean the courage that displays itself in silent effort and endeavour, that which enables us to suffer all, for truth and duty; the courage to seek and to speak the truth; the courage to be just; the courage to be honest; the courage to resist temptation. Every step in the progress of our Race has been made in the face of opposition and difficulty, and it has only been achieved by men of courage and valor.

Our second thought is Self Control. He who can control himself can control others. No man is free who cannot command himself. The best government in the world is that which teaches us to govern ourselves. Self control is only courage in another form, but it is considered the essence of character. When we speak of strong men and women we think naturally of their physical strength, but the strong are those who exercise a constant control over their thoughts, their speech and their acts, and if we are to go through life, honorably and peaceably it appears to me that we must necessarily learn to practice self control and self denial. It is also essential to our character and especially our personal happiness to exercise control over our words as well as our acts for there are words that strike harder than blows. The wise man will restrain his desire to say a smart or severe word at the expense of another's feelings. Solomon says the mouth of the wise man is in his heart. The heart of a fool is in his mouth.

Our third thought is what I consider the most essential, that is Honesty or Truthfulness, which is the corner stone in character, and if not firmly laid in youth there will always be a weak spot in the foundation. The whole world stands in need of this solid virtue. Carlyle says "Make yourself an honest man and then you are sure there is one rascal less in the world." God looks only on the pure, not those with full hands alone.

Our fourth and last thought is Cheerfulness. Although cheerfulness of disposition is very much a matter of inborn temperament, it is also capable of being trained and developed like any other habit. We can encourage the disposition of looking at the bright side of things instead of the dark side. So far as can be learned from Biography, men of the greatest genius have been for the most part cheerful, contented men, not eager for reputation money or power. We must not however, look over the influences of the home upon the character. The home is the best school for character building, not only in youth but in age. The old and young best learn cheerfulness, patience, self control and the spirit of service and duty, at home. We must not forget, either to mention the influence of the woman in the home as a factor. The poorest dwelling presided over by a virtuous, thrifty, cheerful and cleanly woman may be made the home of comfort and happiness.

Work is also one of the best builders of practical character. It disciplines obedience self control, attention and perseverance, giving a man aptitude and dexterity in dealing with others and with affairs of the ordinary life. It also gives him skill in his own special calling. Work may

be classed by us as a burden and a chastisement but it is an honor. Nothing can be accomplished without it. It carries men and nations onward. It is the idleness that is the curse, not labor.

After we have summed all these items up we find that Character is just human nature in its best form. It must stand behind everything, the sermon, the poem, the picture, the play, none of them are worth a straw without it, so let us all strive for a character which we can thoroughly depend upon, which we know to be based on principle and on fear of God and it will surprise you the number of

BRANTFORD NOTES

Mrs. George Johnson is on the sick list.

Mr. Thomas Jones is still confined to his bed at this writing. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. Plummer is still ill at the hospital. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Mr. Payne has returned from Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mrs. Irene Stewart has returned from Detroit.

Mrs. Evelyn Morey, of Buffalo, is in the city visiting her mother. She intends to remain here for two months.

Mrs. Jes. Brown, of Hamilton, spent the past week with Mrs. Smith of this city.

Mr. Roy McTures has returned from Detroit.

Leonard Mallott met with a painful accident when he sprained his knee.

The colored people of Brantford wish the Dawn of Tomorrow God's speed, best wishes, prosperity and success.

SARNIA NEWS

Bethel A.M.E. Church, Sarnia was the scene of a religious jubilee, on Sunday, July 15th. It was the last Quarterly Meeting of this Conference Year. Rev. T. H. Henderson, the Presiding Elder of the 15th Episcopal District of the Canadian division was present with that rare touch for which he is noted, of spiritual and oratorical deliverance.

At the Love Feast at 11 a.m., he proceeded to instruct in the doctrine and discipline of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. His charge was firm and forceful on the principles that made African Methodism recognized as a medium of true Christian religion.

At 7.30 p.m., Mr. Henderson preached from the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles the 2nd verse. His subject was "The Ascended Christ, for He is the Christ We Need." "There amidst the palms of glory; here in every trial and temptation," was pressed home with spiritual fervor. "Amen" rang out from his hearers as they sat and listened, waiting for more.

Dr. Henderson was very profuse in his congratulations to officers members and Rev. Wm. F. Seay, pastor, for the many improvements made on the church and parsonage. With \$2300.00 worth of improvements made on church and parsonage, only \$600.00 remains unpaid.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow" is the living impression left upon the minds of all.

The Dedication of Bethel Church, will take place on July 22nd. All are invited to be present. Lunch will be served in the basement by the ladies of the Stewardesses Board, Sarnia, Ontario.

The reopening of Bethel Church, Sunday, July 22nd, was the spectacular scene of Gospel preaching, fine music and speaking by the representative of the clergy, members of parliament and citizens of Sarnia. The church was packed to utmost capacity,

the aisles were filled and many were forced to watch from the outside. The spirit manifested conveyed the idea that there is nothing left for Bethel but upward and onward strides to success.

Mrs. Mary Berry and son were visiting friends in the city. While here they paid a flying visit to her home in Appin.

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