

used freely for present comforts, without regard to the image afterwards to be carved from the residue. Had the thought of his god been present to his mind, he could have modelled a better image, without having robbed his fire. He could have worshipped his image before it was carved into clear outline. The thought of his god from the very beginning would have served him well. It would have made his fire burn more brightly. It would have given relish to his roast. It would have given place and pleasure to his god. But alas! there is now but a meagre spoil out of which to shape his image. The heart and body of his cedar tree have already been consumed. The mere fragments remain which choice abandoned and which engaged no thought or care of the would-be-worshipper. This residue is now surveyed and measured. It can make but a poor image. It cannot by its imposing features inspire heroism or nobleness of worship. It is but a residue and the measure and worth of the worship to be lavished upon it. It is not only the last but leanest portion of the cedar. And now that the worshipper has roasted his roast, and is satisfied and can say "Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire," he is thrown in upon himself to consider what must come next in the programme of life. His eyes turn in upon a hungry and desolate soul. His thoughts turn in, to find there a solitary spirit longing for the companionship of higher forms of life. The trembling soul is surrounded by impenetrable darkness. He has not known his God long enough to form a firm and truthful friendship, and that life which seemed so rich and full of enjoyment is now threatening to be dark and desolate, and furnished with no certain hope of better things.

As we look into daily life we shall see the working of that principle of idolatry in many forms.

1. In regard to the periods of life there is great danger of robbing God of the best of our days. In the opening years man is possessed of rare qualities for worshipping and serving God. Our Lord gave ample testimony of the precious quality of childhood when He commended the simple faith and love of children and made them the examples of humility and trust. There is a sweetness and freshness in the young and tender life. It is guileless and simple in its ways of working. The heart can then most easily entertain thoughts of God and cherish His love and light. But if this simple and pliable nature fails now to find its object of worship, and service, how soon those receptive faculties become engrossed with other things? No-