

A BISHOP'S STORIES.

Dr. G. F. Browne Recalls Episodes of a Long Career.

Because his career has covered such a wide range of interests—university life, fishing, mountaineering, social, court, church life, and politics—and because he possesses that keen sense of humor which has led him to seize upon the lighter side of his one year's recollections, an anecdote, and story, the reminiscences of Dr. G. F. Browne, formerly Bishop of Stepey and Bristol, are the most entertaining ecclesiastical memoirs published in recent years.

He tells with glee, for instance, how one little mite of Stepey, to whom he had spoken, referred to him as "im with the tight legs," while when he went to Stepey, "feeling very queer about my bishop's hat," he was greeted by three factory girls in feathers, one of whom, with a well-aimed air of having been struck dumb, exclaimed in a tone of sympathetic admiration, "Oh, my boy, what a lovely hat!"

His Mother-in-Law's Rebuke. A keen fisherman, Dr. Browne frankly tells how the pursuit of salmon once led to friction with his mother-in-law. For hours he had tried to catch a "perfect fender," and his mother-in-law, who was "with all her charms, of an imperious nature," met him as he entered the house after eleven at night.

She had sent my wife off to bed, and, stamping in her wrath, finished me off, very staccato, with, "Why—didn't you cut—the string—and let—the wretched thing—go?"

King Edward's Story. Talking of his Cambridge days, Dr. Browne says that the rough-and-ready joke and repartee was worth many votes at the county election. One year the Lord Royston of those days, who was an undergraduate, was the candidate for the county.

"He was supposed," says Dr. Browne, "to have got into not quite the right kind of difficulty over his horse—say Orinoco, for want of a more correct name." In the middle of his speech an opposition farmer shouted out, "Ow about Orinoco, my lord?"

"Wait till I have finished and I will tell you." At the finish of the speech the man who wanted to know about Orinoco was pushed to the front looking very hot and silly.

"You want to know about Orinoco?" "I do, my lord." "Well, it's like this—Orinoco's a boss and you're a hass!" The roar of laughter with which this sally was received rings in my ears still. It was scandalously audacious, ludicrously unfair, and it took just because it was.

Once told this story to King Edward, an old friend of Lord Royston, at Biarritz. He laughed heartily and told an excellent story in reply, as he always could do. A certain peer, who had just succeeded an excellent father, and was not a man of careful life, was making a speech on some local public occasion. He had had a little too much, shall we say, cider. He told his audience he hoped to walk in his father's footsteps. "You'd better learn to stand steady in your own, my lord!"

Decorations for Women.

A decoration exclusive to women is the Imperial Order of the Crown of India. This was founded by Queen Victoria, and is bestowed upon the wives of the Indian Viceroy, upon certain of the native Indian princes, and very occasionally upon noble women connected with the Viceroyal Court.

Lady Randolph Churchill is one of the best-known women who have been the recipient of this coveted decoration. The Order was instituted by Royal Warrant on January 1st, 1878, and the first investiture took place on April 29th following, when twelve ladies in all were decorated amid scenes of pomp and ordered splendor such as had rarely been witnessed in Great Britain.

The insignia of this coveted Order is very beautiful, consisting of the Royal Imperial Cipher, V. R. L. in diamonds, pearls, and turquoises, with an oval ornamental border of pearls, surmounted by the Imperial Crown. The ribbon is of light blue watered silk, edged with white.

Puns on Tomatoes.

The punster is irrepressible; he even indites his jokes on tomatoes. An epitaph in Waltham Abbey informs us that Sir James Fullerton died "fuller of faith than of fears, fuller of resolutions than of pain, fuller of honor than of days."

There is another of Daniel Teas: "Though strange, yet true, full seventy years was his wife happy in her Tears."

This was written of an organist: "Here lies one blown out of breath, who lived a merry life, and died a Merdeth."

Another says: "Here lies Thomas Huddleston; reader, don't smile, but reflect as this tombstone you view, that Death, who killed him, in a very short while will hilled a stone upon you."

Saved the Situation.

Some time ago a local corps in England was reviewed by Sir Ian Hamilton, and there is a story told that one of the officers was mounted on a horse that had previously distinguished itself in a bakery business.

A wag in the crowd is supposed to have recognized the horse, for he shouted out, "Baker!" The officer promptly stopped dead, and nothing could urge it on. The situation was getting painful, when the officer was struck with a brilliant idea, and remarked, within hearing of his steed: "Not to-day, thank you."

An Ancient Device.

Aesculapius is reputed to have written comic songs to promote digestion in his patients. Protecting River Banks. Western river banks are protected from erosion by mattresses of willows held down by weights of stone.

OUR GREAT CREATOR'S "UNSPEAKABLE GIFT"

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Dec. 19.—Pastor Russell preached a Christmas sermon here to-day to a very attentive audience. He was based upon the text "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift." (2 Corinthians 9:15.) He said in part:

There is an appropriate general god cheer of the Christmas season. The happy custom of giving tokens of love and friendship prevails wherever the story of Jesus has gone. Surely this is just as it should be.

While some may have been injured by receiving, bounties, but few, if any, have been other than blest in the giving of them. Herein we see corroborated our Saviour's words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." In proportion as we attain Godlikeness, in proportion as the Spirit of Christ dwells richly in us, in proportion as we possess the Holy Spirit, in that same proportion shall we appreciate more and more our Lord's statement.

In our dealings with God it is necessary that we realize our dependence, our own insufficiency, and His greatness and beneficence; and that we learn to go to Him as His "dear children," to whom He delights to give His favors, and who receive them and appreciate them with gratitude of heart. In every sense of the word we are debtors to God and always shall be, and we never dispute the obligations under which His mercy and loving kindness have placed us. The sooner we realize this fact, the better will it be for us.

Some possessed with a false pride declare that they are favored of God or man—that they pay their way and wish always to do so. As respects our dealings with our fellow-men, something of this "spirit is not worthy; but the entire proposition is inconsistent with our relationship with the Almighty.

As we did not create ourselves, neither can we maintain our being, as the Scriptures assert: "In Him we live, and move, and have our being." (Acts 17:28.) This would have been true of us whether born in an angelic plane or as perfect human beings; for we could not have created ourselves, directly or indirectly, through the arrangements of His providence in nature, God was responsible for our birth; and He is the Provider for His creatures on every plane. The fact that He causes His aim to abide upon the just and the unjust, and sends His rain upon the evil as well as upon the good, and thus provides for the world of mankind that in general is in rebellion against Him and His authority, and that He has created the laws of nature are autocratic and that the results could not be otherwise than they are.

Rather, as the Scriptures show, the mercies of God scattered broadcast tell of a provision on our Creator's part for the necessities of His creatures. That He allows these laws to be interfered with at the pleasure of man, and permits adverse conditions upon our race He fully explains to be because of its sinful, rebellious attitude, because the sentence, the curse of death, has been justly pronounced against mankind, and because He sees a way by which present lessons of adversity and tribulation may be made instructive as respects "the exceeding sinfulness of sin."

"All Taught of God." Two of the great lessons for us to learn are (1) our complete dependence upon God, and (2) His loving kindness and tender mercies over all His works. But these lessons can be learned only from one standpoint and by one class. Those who view matters from the outside only will surely misunderstand, misinterpret, many of the operations of Divine providence.

The secret of the Lord is with them that love Him, and He will show them His Covenant—His future plans, His agreement. (Psalm 25:14.) In order to see, to understand, to appreciate them we must accept certain matters by faith: (1) "that He is"—that there is an Almighty Creator; (2) "that He is the Rewarder of them that diligently seek Him." (Hebrews 11:6.) Seeking the Lord diligently, we find in the Bible that which commends it to our hearts as well as to our heads.

But right here we are beset by a danger and a difficulty; for while it is possible to receive great assistance from fellow-believers in the understanding of the Divine Word, yet there is much danger of our becoming even more confused by such assistance—by the creeds and theories of men, particularly those handed down from the Dark Ages. What, therefore, we receive from men we must accept tentatively—for examination, for proving and testing by the Word of God. Thus we "try

the spirits" or doctrines, as the Apostle admonishes. (1 John 4:1.) Thus we permit God to be His own Interpreter and to make the matter plain to us. These teachers who refer us to the Word of God, who point out to us its harmony with itself and with reason, giving the citations and showing the relationship between text and context—these are the teachers who are really helpful. All others are apt to be injurious, whether they address us orally or in print.

"Every Good and Perfect Gift." "Only after we have been for some time in the School of Christ can we comprehend the force of the Apostle's words, "Every good and every perfect gift is from Above." (James 1:17.) Then we begin to look about us and find that these good and perfect gifts, and very few of them perfect, purely good. Everything connected with our present condition is imperfect. Even the sunshine and the rain, which are common to all the creature's, are evidently not furnished under perfect conditions.

Imperfection seems to be written upon everything we have, as well as upon ourselves; but are deprecating. The Bible explanation of this state of affairs is that, while God's work is perfect (Deuteronomy 32:4), our race to-day are not really samples of His workmanship, but are degenerate fallen, imperfect through the original sin of Father Adam and its entailed weaknesses and blemishes upon his posterity. The good and perfect gifts of God and these good and perfect gifts of faith—only by those whose eyes of understanding have been opened to see by faith Jesus, the great Redeemer. By faith this class see accomplished in His due time His great work of Redemption, the wiping away of all tears from off all faces and the re-establishment of everything on the plane of perfection—the destruction of death and everything connected with it, and the establishment of perfect life conditions, such as God has promised.

Those whose eyes of understanding have to some extent been opened see more and more of the riches of God's grace, and appreciate more and more all His gifts and favors, especially the great gift, the unspeakable gift, mentioned in our text. What this gift is the entire Scriptures set forth in various passages. (Eph. 1:3-14; Luke 12:32); and although generally disowned by men, and "counted fools for Christ's sake," they are rich in that they have become, in advance of the world, the recipients of God's favor by His gift of faith. They may think of themselves as being possessors of life eternal—because of their joy and confidence in Him who has promised.

That is a superlative blessing of eternal life in the spirit, and, "far above angels, principalities, and powers." Those who attain that blessing will indeed be "partakers of the Divine nature." (2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 3:2.) Surely "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." (1 Corinthians 2:9.) Those who have now accepted Christ as their Redeemer and their Bridegroom possess already all the riches of God's grace that centre in Him; and when He shall appear, they shall be made like Him, sharers in His glory. "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift!"

"More Blessed to Give." God Himself is the great Pattern set before us in His Word. In proportion as we have received of God's gift and have appropriated it, in the same proportion are we so privileged to be so "taught of God" as to become more and more like Him in spirit, disposition—desirous of giving—generous. Since God will create in the image of Adam, all men would have possessed this generous disposition had it not been for the fall of Adam; and we find that the fall has especially blighted some of the children of grace—especially those who have been trained in the School of Christ.

For we are to remember that God's Message and His drawing power affect the less honorable of mankind. (1 Corinthians 1:26.) The opportunity is afforded for the Lord to demonstrate the power of His grace in the transformation of character. But so surely as have become God's children, recipients of His blessing and His instruction in the School of Christ, this quality of benevolence will grow in us; and the more ripe we become as Christians the more will it abound in our thoughts, words and deeds, and in every condition, save Particulars, basement in one for 16 head cattle, first class water. Convenient to church, school, grist mill, blacksmith shop and store God orchard. For terms apply G. W. Henderson, Latta. s16-w/1

"Through Jesus Christ our Lord," is the Apostle's statement. The gift is not offered to us by the Father directly, but through the Son. To those whose eyes of understanding have been opened, the Apostle says: "This is the record, that God has given unto us eternal life, and this life is in His Son." He who has this life in His Son has that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (1 John 4:12.) Other Scriptures inform us that this life is merely reckoned to the Church by Christ in God. But any gift that is not by the Father, and is not by the Son, is not His gift. It is not His gift if it is not by the Father, and is not by the Son, is not His gift. It is not His gift if it is not by the Father, and is not by the Son, is not His gift.

The Unspeakable Gift. Both Jesus and the eternal life which the Father has provided through Him are unspeakable in the sense that it is impossible for us to present fully to others the richness and the glory which inhere in both. Who can describe life eternal on either a spirit plane or as restored and perfected humanity? It is beyond all the powers of our mental comprehension. Even the thought of it can only be imperfectly communicated and imperfectly grasped. It must gradually dawn upon us, grow upon us in appreciation and comprehension. Similarly, the wealth of grace Divine represented in our Lord Jesus is unspeakable. We cannot tell it; and the natural man cannot receive of the things of the Spirit of God, neither know them.—1 Corinthians 2:14.

Only those who are especially favored of God can get even the first glimpse of the riches of God's grace in Christ. If this glimpse be appreciated, it leads to clearer and still clearer views; for all who will appreciate His gifts as our Lord Jesus did, will refer to us to the Word of God, who point out to us its harmony with itself and with reason, giving the citations and showing the relationship between text and context—these are the teachers who are really helpful. All others are apt to be injurious, whether they address us orally or in print.

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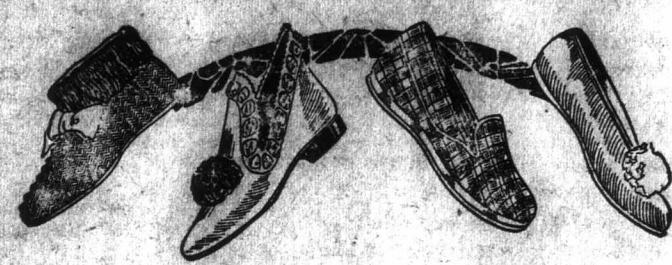
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Picton to have Intermediate Hockey Picton Hockeyists met in the Public Library last Wednesday night to organize for the season. It is proposed to continue intermediate hockey which proved so satisfactory last winter. Officers were elected and steps taken to secure a trainer. The following officers were elected: Hon. President, H. B. Bristol; Hon. Vice-President, S. B. Gearing; President, T. O. Crandell; Vice-President, W. H. Nettleton; Secretary-Treasurer, W. S. Hubbs; Executive Committee, Messrs. S. Burns, W. Reid, G. Way, W. Pope; Patrons, B. R. Hephurn, M.P., H. H. Horsey, Jos. Redmond, W. J. Carter, A. J. Cundick, I. F. Fraser, R. Davidson, W. Boulter, S. G. Smith, P. Devers, Capt. Heffernan, R. E. Wright, Geo. Wellman, H. B. Tully, Nelson Hudgin, P. McManus.—Picton Times.

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