

strut about the stage and repeat 7,956 words.

It is want of spiritual appreciation which leads the materialist to speak of a soulless earth, looked down upon by a godless heaven, and to say:

"I saw a socket where an eye had been,
And I heard the moans of a fatherless world."

Who would rest in a mis-called gospel of despair, when Christ reveals a God of love, and offers to believers a heaven of light?

ABOUT THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT.

"Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head and honour the face of the old man."—Leviticus xix. 32.

One of the most noticeable defects of our present life appears to be the disappearance of respect on the part of the young for the authority of the old, and, no doubt, this defect will do much in lessening and hindering the growth of national life and national happiness. The well-doing and prosperity and happiness of a nation depend upon its family life. Wherever this is pure, and animated by morally protected and educating influences, so that it might build up the character of the young, there it is serviceable to its purpose and helps to build up the state and gives the latter its proper place amongst the nations of the world. Such sanctifying influences has our God Himself invested in the family life. The relation of parents to their children, and children to their parents, is a relation ordained and willed by God, and is not at all instituted by parents for the furtherance of their own purposes. Therefore, the Lord has given a commandment, and this commandment has received a promise from Him, that He might reveal to all His own will and pleasure in the commandment, and His blessings to those who fulfil it.

It is not the age in itself which strengthens the parental authority or demands the respect for the aged, but it is the Divine Will alone, created in the relations of parents to children, and children to parents, an ideal image of that relation which the Heavenly Father desires to have with all in heaven and on earth that are called His children.

And that the wrath of God will come upon all who disobey this Divine Will, that, with the defiance of parents and the aged, the offender shall receive everlasting punishment, of this there is no doubt; for our God is a holy, a just God, who will visit the sins and punish the transgressor.

But neither is there any doubt that God will bless with His richest blessings all those who keep His commandments. It is a mystery to many how a people like the Jews, who are without a country, restless and always persecuted, yet are able to improve their condition comparatively a short time, while others, even if they would employ the same zeal and talent, cannot do it. A Jew may settle down in a foreign country, may begin poor and humbly, yet he ascends step by step upon the ladder of success, his means increase, his reputation and respect is a matter of fact, the once poor Jew becomes a rich man, he gives others in the same condition in which he once was the opportunity to follow him in his steps. We believe that the secret of the success of the Jew lies in this fact, that God's Word and blessing are still working in the individual of that nation, which, though it sinned once greatly against God, yet always kept the Commandment of the Lord to honour father and mother, and this obedience is beyond doubt a source of blessing for the Jew. Every one who knows something about the Jew will admit that the most tender and loving bonds unite the Jewish families, and that in the relation of the young to the old amongst the Jews is given to us an example which is worthy of our imitation, and deserves our highest admiration. And for this respect and care for the parents and the aged the Lord fulfills His promise according to His own word. How different it is in many families of the whole of Christendom! In recent years Christian charity has opened a new field, or rather was compelled to do it, by establishing homes for aged people, to give shelter, food and raiment to lonely and poor people that they might be able to spend the evening of their lives without cares and sorrows. There the flame of Christian love has to brighten

many a dark spot in the sorrowful heart of the inmate; many sad things of the past have to be blotted out by the kindness of the Christian people, and many things, which heartless and dishonourable children occasioned, have to be made good by the good-will and love of Christ's followers. Oh, the complaints, the tears, the injustices and the sighs of many of these unhappy and homeless people; what a sad story do they tell about disobedient, heartless and selfish children! In many cases the Christian mind is enraged on account of the cruel acts and speeches, with which the children's duty of thankfulness is denied and the responsibility for the comfort and happiness of the parents is refused by many a child. Such children will not be blessed, but rather God will in His own time punish them according to His law. Even if the parents were peculiar in their ways, and perhaps unkind to the child, that would not in the least release the child from caring for and loving the parents. What a sad and unhappy condition there must be in a family when that tie of love is loosed which is ordained by God to unite parents and children unto death!

Wherever the Divine thought of this relationship is lost, wherever the thought of God and His will with regard to this family tie disappears, there is the best, yea, there is all and everything, gone, and the bonds which ought to be between child and parent must lose themselves in the heart of an ungrateful and unloving child.

But this harm will not remain to exert its poisoning influence in the home alone! It goes out into the life, it disturbs the right relations with our fellow-men; it disturbs the peace of the outer world as it has disturbed the peace of the home. Opposition against the parents will develop into an opposition against the lawful authority, in fact against all who by virtue of the 5th Commandment are entitled to respect and love, that is, those in authority in Country, Church and School. And inasmuch as a child is disrespectful at home, so it will act outside the house. Disrespectful in words and acts, many of the children usurp mastership where learning is