

# POOR DOCUMENT

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### A SERMON

By Rev. J. W. Wadman.

PREACHED IN THE METHODIST CHURCH, FREDERICTON, SUNDAY EVENING, AUG. 24TH.

(Abridged from a Photographic report by W. A. LeVine.)

In the young man Abalom's case?—2 Sam. 18 chap. 36 verse.

If I should ask this congregation the question to-night, what is man's most valuable possession? few persons would doubtless reply without giving the question any consideration whatever. I will supply an answer to the question by affirming that man's most valuable possession is himself, his being, his soul, for unquestionably, there is nothing so much important to a man as himself, whatever his endowments or position may be.

It is also certain that these are always associated with immortality. In this world we are placed for some special object, for some definite purpose, whether we fulfill it or not; but we must leave this world; our immortality is associated with our existence, since we cannot escape from it. It therefore behooves us to consider what are our relations and position to eternity.

As heretofore we have remarked, this life is one of probation and trial. In it we are surrounded by circumstances which influence us for good and evil; and between these two forces there is a constant struggle. Either the one or the other must prevail. It, therefore, remains for us to determine what part we are to take in the contest. We are, therefore, moral agents. Our probationary existence implies this; and this moral condition with its involved responsibility, brings us into relationship with God. Remembering this, and recollecting that we are placed in a world where we are surrounded by temptation; and remembering we are privileged to secure our reconciliation with God, we see our position has involved with it, a tremendous dignity. As a consciousness of this dignity many have never aspired; on the contrary, they are swayed by the impulse of the moment; their characters are formed through the influence of custom, and thus they are open to every temptation.

Men of the olden time were men of like passions with ourselves—assaulted by temptation, beset by affliction, or disciplined by adversity, and schooled by the vicissitudes, which make up our life; but they were virtuous men, and acted virtuously. In the great historical fragments, these characters are shining as stars of the first magnitude, and they will continue to shine through the circles of time.

Friends, while we have had virtue personified in living character, we have had vice incarnated. If I stand here and speak of Enoch's holy life, you might tell me of Noah's miserable drunkenness; if I tell you of Joshua's heroism, of the righteousness of Moses, of Daniel's temperance, of Christ's sinlessness, you may point to Absalom's devilishness, and to Peter's lie; but these are given for our instruction. We are to regard these characters as silent teachers.

I shall not confine my remarks to-night to the history of Absalom, he who had the beautiful hair, and who plunged into such open wrong doing. I would call your attention to those critical periods in a young man's history, when he is surrounded by circumstances which lead him into temptation, which assail his virtue, his truthfulness, his honour and his manhood. At the period when a young man leaves home, he has many temptations to shun.

I speak to many here to-night, perhaps, from whom the pleasures of boyhood days have passed away. We have chosen a profession, trade, or business by which we mean to earn a respectable, if not a successful livelihood; the realities of life have already broken in on us; perhaps temptations, have already cast their insidious net over us. All our early home training, our early home influences are to be tested, or if we are at home, we do not feel its influence as when we were smaller and younger; or it may be our home is not here. Away on some distant hill, or in some distant valley; we have left it to go forth in our early days to battle with life. How innocent were we then. We came to the city, entered ourselves into a store; or bound ourselves into apprenticeship. We make the acquaintance of persons we did not heretofore know; temptations of different kinds present themselves. We find temptations making an insidious attack upon our virtue; evils omnipresent; the emissaries of the devil are always at their posts, doing their hellish work. Friends I ask you, is not this a crisis, a momentous period in every young man's history.

Furthermore, look at a young man in relation to Christian truth. He may have forgotten the lessons taught him by his parents, and in the sanctuary. He meets

with a great deal of false religion, religious hypocrisy, false profession of religion,—people who promise to do what they never do. He next meets with the sceptic, whose arguments strike hard against the foundation of moral belief; his faith gives away, and he is thrown on the troubled sea of unbelief where there is nothing but tempest.

Furthermore, look at his relations as a servant. At first he knows nothing about business; but does what he is told, and at last his eyes are opened to see the monstrous deception in which he and others are engaged; that is if he is placed where business is not carried on upon righteous principles.

Is not this a crisis in a young man's history? Friends, I am not dissatisfied with this present world, forbid that I should advise myself a "grumbler." I believe there is more Christianity in the world, in the present day, than there ever has been.

I have anxiety for the maintenance of virtue among our young men. What a small percentage of young men appear to take any interest in our Church, I am referring to the young men of our own Church in Fredericton, as well as to those of other Churches.

Religious books are discarded, while those of an immoral character are easily circulated. No one must conclude from what I have said that I think Fredericton is more immoral than any other city. No—a thousand times no. I would like to see an effort put forth for the suppression of vice, and for the exertion of those places in Fredericton which are more destructive than the most miserly run shops. I appeal to the churches of Fredericton, and to the Young Men's Christian Association, which does not deserve the name of Young Men's Christian Association. What is it doing for the salvation of our young men?

What places have we for our young men in this city which they may go during their leisure hours? We require a public reading room or parlour. I call the attention of this congregation to this great question. The young men need sympathy; they need help and encouragement. Can we not sympathize with them? Can we not pray for them? Can we not be more practical still, by erecting a reading room or parlour, where young men may spend their time profitably? At the present we have no such places; and I appeal to you in behalf of the young men, that there should be some self-denying effort made to provide such a place for such a purpose.

There are pugilistic as well as genial dispositions, and a young man sometimes requires the former. There are times when a young man needs to say "No" right out, like the man of the frothy ale, and there are times when he needs to say "Yes" and make it ring like the blast of a trumpet. We need help, encouragement, prayers. Dear friends, christian friends, fathers, mothers, sisters! In the interests of the young men of this city, I appeal to your kind sympathy, your christian benevolence. Help us, encourage us in this good work. Time alone, if nothing else, will prove to you the wisdom and sincerity of this request, as well as, I trust, prove to you the truth of that good old Bible, in which it has been declared, "Inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

BRITISH COLUMBIA LEGISLATURE.—The Victoria (B. C.) *Colonist* says: The constituencies have done their duty. They have returned a majority of members to the House to oppose the Local Government. At the very best the Government can count but four members who were elected to support them. The names of the quartette are Messrs. Beaven, Hedges, Hett and Galbraith. All the rest are Oppositionists or Independents—most of the latter possessing strong leanings towards the Opposition. Under these circumstances how can Mr. Beaven and his associates have the assurance to ask His Honor to longer accept their advice? How ask him to sanction the continuance of a policy which there is every reason to believe the members will reverse at the earliest possible moment? How expect him to take their counsel at this supreme moment when the dry-dock languishes, the island railway trembles in the balance, and a horde of Chinese are preparing to rush in and colonize the public lands? A writer in the *Post* of Tuesday, who said that Mr. Beaven had lowered himself in the eyes of his friends by the pertinacity with which he held on to his portfolio in the face of defeat, spoke with earnestness and truth. The *Post*, it appears, supported Mr. Beaven in the belief that he was "an honorable politician." The scales have now fallen from its eyes and it holds in him an officer who retains his grasp on the public purse in opposition to constitutional law and precedence for the sake of his salary—the mere last of gain. Mr. Beaven may not be aware of the fact, but the constitution stands in the way of the successful consummation of his plans, and places large powers in the hands of the Lieut-Governor.

### Port Said.

Port Said is distant by sea from Alexandria about one hundred and forty miles. The port is purely the recent creation of human ingenuity and labor; and the town which has sprung up behind it, though numbering now at least ten thousand inhabitants, is not less the creation of the Port. As M. le Masson, the French engineer, observed, it is a port "contre nature." At this Mediterranean extremity of the canal, indeed, the prospect might well have daunted the heart of the most courageous of projectors. The problem was to get depth upon a comparatively shallow, sandy coast; and this was practically attained by commencing the work on a sand bank twenty-six miles from the mainland. The long bank or belt of sand, extending from the mouth of the Damietta branch of the Nile to the Gulf of Peshinun, is described in Mr. Wylie's map as being of fine grey sand, five feet only above low water mark, and varying from 109 to 164 yards in length. Behind this irregular barrier is the shallow lake of Menzaleh, through which it was, of course, necessary to make an artificial channel for the canal. The first thing to be accomplished, however, was to construct the foundations for the future lock to be named after the then Viceroy, and then to project into the sea the two enormous breakwaters or moles which form the outer port and protect it against the constant tendency to the accumulation of sand, which, as it is, demands constant dredging. The spot chosen on the sand bank or strip of what is locally known as "sah," is described as little more than five hundred feet wide.

The plan of the engineers was simple! At first a light framing of piles was run out, on which a crane and trucks laden with loose stones travelled, and in a short time a fairly substantial pier that served as a landing stage for materials and machinery was constructed. Here was, in fact, the great workshop of the undertaking throughout the ten years of its construction. Encouraged by this success (says Mr. Fitzgerald) a bolder work was ventured on. Out in the bay, at nearly a mile distant, long piles were screwed into the sands, and an oblong island was then formed with stones, the space between this island and the wooden shore pier being gradually filled in. Every day the piles settled firmly in their places in spite of the storms of the bay. This temporary structure was carried out to a distance of about three hundred feet, and it was not till three years before the canal was complete and ready for opening that the work was seriously resumed and the breakwater joined to the pier. Two officers employed by the British government to examine the port describe it as formed by two rough, narrow and low breakwaters, enclosing an area of some four hundred and fifty acres, with an average depth of only thirteen or fourteen feet of water, except in the ship channel (about three hundred feet wide) leading to the inner basin, where the depth is from twenty-five to twenty-eight feet. The western breakwater which extends for 1,940 feet at right angles to the shore and is slightly curved to the eastward towards its extremity, was commenced in 1860 and carried out about 1,300 feet; beyond which point and at short distance from it was deposited a heap of stones that was surrounded by iron piles, and from its detached position was called "the island." The work was then left untouched till 1866, when the breakwater was joined to the island, and it was continued to its present length and finished in 1868.

From the mainland to the island the breakwater is formed on its inner side of a bank of rubble stones, surmounted by a promenade, over which the spray breaks with a very moderate northwest wind and on the outer or sea front of concrete blocks; but beyond the island to its termination it is entirely constructed of large blocks of artificial stone, composed of one part of French hydraulic lime with two parts of sand, and some of which were transferred to it from the breakwater. The latter, which is also constructed of large masses of concrete, is of more recent construction, extending to about 6,920 feet, and converging towards the western harbor. Such is the harbor of Port Said. It cannot, according to these authorities, be considered as a harbor either in respect of extent or depth of vessels of large tonnage and great draught; but, slightly improved and well maintained, it has, as we have seen, nobly served its purpose. Near the commencement of the West Mole is the lighthouse, the tower of which, composed of a solid mass of concrete, is 150 feet high, lighted by an electric light flashing every twenty seconds, and visible at a distance of twenty miles. Three other light houses of the same height, though differing in construction, have been erected along the coast between the fort and Alexandria. It is interesting to know that the solid blocks of concrete or artificial stone so extensively used here, and more trustworthily become firmer and more laborious by

reason of the seaweed upon them. Port Said is described in the latest edition of Mr. Murray's invaluable "Handbook of Lower and Upper Egypt" as now regularly laid out in streets and squares, with docks, quays, churches, hospitals, mosques and hotels and all the adjuncts of a seaport, and with the most easily approached and safest harbor along the coast. Fresh water is supplied to it from Ismailia, that now famous half-way house of the canal voyage. The town no longer presents the same busy appearance it did when it was the headquarters of the engineering works; but the increasing traffic through the isthmus always imparts a certain activity to the place.

### How Caesar Found Water in Egypt.

The painful interest now attaching to the water supply of Alexandria has led Dr. Samuel Crompton to call attention to a passage in the writings of Lord Bacon bearing upon that subject, "Dig a pit," says the author of the "Novum Organon," "upon the sea-shore somewhat above the high-water mark, and as the tide comes in it will fill with water fresh and potable. This is commonly practised upon the coast of Barbary, where other fresh water is wanting." Lord Bacon refers briefly in confirmation to the experience of Caesar during the Alexandrian war. The incident is told with more detail in the "Commentaries" attributed to Hirtius. The General of the Egyptian troops was Ganymedes, who made great exertions to deprive the Roman troops of their water supply by the introduction of salt into the canals supplying the eastern of the quarter of the town held by them. When the brackishness of the water became insupportable, Caesar knew there was something not at all retreating to the ships, while others were afraid that such a step would lead to further mischief, since the retrograde movement could not be concealed from the Alexandrian troops. Moreover, the station were many inhabitants charitably supposed to be favorable to Caesar and his fortunes, but whose fidelity was not too much assured. "All who knew them," in effect says Aulus Hirtius, "will be convinced that they are the most suitable instrument in the world for treason." To allay the fears of the soldiers Caesar assured them that they could easily find fresh water by digging wells, since sea coasts naturally abound in fresh springs, and that even if the soil of Egypt differed from all others in that respect, there was the open sea and access by it to Parosionium on the left, and Pharos on the right, whence they could obtain supplies. He counselled them to abandon all thought of retreat, and to seek safety in victory alone. The soldiers were reassured by the words of their great leader. The centurions, having said all their other works, devoted themselves to the digging of wells, and the labor was continued by day and night. So vigorously, we are told, was the undertaking prosecuted, that during the first night abundance of fresh water was discovered. "Thus," said Hirtius, "the mighty projects of the Alexandrians were entirely defeated, and that without any great effort on our side."

It is probable that before many more years have elapsed an entirely new and more literal meaning will be given to the phrase "turning night into day." Geologists tell us that the coal beds are the stored up sunshine of past ages, and if we could only retain the superfluous sunshine of day to use as light at night we would have a more immediate use for the sun's rays in lighting up our nights, than in providing us with fuel. Certain guard posts about the walks of the Michigan Agricultural College have been coated with luminous paint, whose sulphide of calcium absorbs light by day to radiate by night with a purplish phosphorescent glow which becomes more visible in the darkness of deepens. The same material is used for illuminating clock faces, harbor buoys, etc., and is much used on English railways. There is no derth of practical applications. Suffering humanity has often experienced difficulty in finding its boots at the midnight hour for the purpose of quelling the unsolicited serenade of vagrant felines, but the application of this luminous paint to the uppers, all will be easy in the future. The paint is as yet too dear to bring it into common use.

Judge Wylie, who is conducting the Star Route trial, has a high sense of the dignity of the Court, and will brook no breach of decorum. But his strict discipline was forced to yield a little the other day—one of those blistering hot days that parboiled all Washington in its own precipitation. A sturdy Omaha Granger appeared in the box as a witness in his shirt sleeves. Bending his brows into a severe judicial frown, Judge Wylie demanded, "Sir, do you think the weather is unbecomingly warm?" "Yaas, sir," responded the prince of the prairie, perfectly unabashed, "it's purty warm;" and the Judge relapsed into indignant and disgusted silence.

### WAR IN EGYPT.

LONDON, Aug. 26.—The "Standard's" Ismailia despatch says that the first shell of the enemy's guns on Thursday passed a few feet over Gen. Wolsley's head, and took the leg off a horse ten yards behind him. The enemy throughout the fight declined to come to close quarters. Two gunners killed were struck down by shrapnel near Wolsley's position. The troops behaved well; they were all day without water or food, after marching ten miles through a heavy sand. The enemy's cavalry swept around the British right flank, but did not come within striking distance. The Egyptian fire was too hot for the Life Guards to cross the open towards them. The British passed the day lying down behind banks and in ditches. After the engagement Wolsley rode into Ismailia and returned later in the evening. Reinforcements arrived during the night, but the guns did not until early next morning, having had great difficulty to get through the sand. At daylight it was found to the great disappointment of our men, that the main body of the enemy had withdrawn. The Egyptian artillery fought well and fired more accurately than at Kaf el Dwar. The infantry were contemptible and the cavalry little better. Many of both those arms were observed breaking from the ranks and dispersing under our fire of shell.

The enemy's loss in the fight of Thursday with Gen. Wolsley is by some estimated as high as 400.

Lord Dufferin firmly maintains that the Turkish troops should only be allowed to disembark at Rosetta, Damietta or Ayouk; and categorically refuses to permit their landing at Alexandria, Port Said or Suez. Arabi Pasha's armored train left the position of enemy, at King Osman, at six o'clock Saturday evening, and advanced about 300 yards, when two heavy guns on the water works hill fired five rounds against the train. The shell fell in the enemy's trenches. The train retired without replying to the fire.

Ramses and Birket El Mahameh were occupied yesterday by the British. The losses were small on both sides. The enemy retreated to Lake Maxama. Large numbers of Egyptians are in tranching southward of Meke; apparently with the object of preventing a flank movement by the British. A small reconnaissance was made last evening in that direction, whereupon the enemy withdrew through the shallow parts of Lake Maxama.

A despatch dated Alexandria, Sunday evening, says: About 3 o'clock this afternoon, two heavy guns, recently placed beyond Waterworks hill, opened fire on the enemy on the left bank of Mahmoudieh Canal. About 20 rounds were fired. Several shells exploded in the midst of the enemy's entrenchment, causing considerably damage. The enemy replied feebly. At about 5 o'clock a conflagration was observed in the rear of the enemy's camp, about ten miles beyond Ramleh. The British man-of-war *Minotaur* shelled the enemy's outposts in the direction of Aboukir.

This afternoon shells appeared to burst in the vicinity of the enemy's position. The *Minotaur* fired with increased rapidity until sunset. The enemy's reply was weak. There was altogether very little activity in the rebel lines. The impression gains ground that the bulk of Arabi Pasha's men has been withdrawn from Kaf el Dwar.

It is reported that several staff officers have deserted Arabi Pasha and have given General Wolsley important information. Said Pasha went to Therapia on Sunday evening and informed Lord Dufferin that the Turkish Council of Ministers had resolved to publish a proclamation against Arabi Pasha and accept military convention with England, conformably to Lord Dufferin's proposal.

A despatch dated Alexandria, Sunday evening, says: At Meke, p. m., the Bedouins appeared in large force, within a short distance of the fort, where the Malta volunteers had been relieved by the Derbyshire regiment. After considerable firing on both sides the Bedouins retired. It is believed that many Bedouins were killed and a large number wounded. Our loss was one killed and one wounded. It is rumored that the Bedouins will attempt to enter the town to-night at Gabari gages. The barracks have been prepared accordingly.

Captain Baynes, of the Gordon Highlanders, died to-day of dysentery. The *Times'* Port Said despatch says the steamer *Calyse* arrived on Saturday with 150 Turkish troops and moved inside the inner harbor, when the Monarch at once sent two armed boats, covered with a Gatling gun from the Monarch, to learn their errand. The Turks stated that they were the annual relief for a Turkish garrison at some fort on the Red Sea. During the night armed boats from the British fleet cruised around with orders to prevent the Turks from landing. The *Calyse* entered the Canal on Sunday morning, a steam pinnace from the Hecla accompanying her with orders to prevent disembarkation of the troops.

The *Times'* Alexandria, correspondent telegraphs: Abdel Russak and four other staff officers escaped from Arabi. They were well received by the Khedive. It appears they have been some time in communication with the Khedive, though members of General Stone's army. They were entrusted by Arabi with the defence of Tel El Kibir, but abstained from making earthworks. They escaped and went to DeLesseps and asked of his assistance to get away. DeLesseps tried to dissuade them, accusing them of want of patriotism. They finally sought Rear Admiral Heskins, who forwarded them to Alexandria.

When the mounted infantry charged to Mahameh, Sir Henry Havelock Allen showing the way, the enemy dashed into the lake and swam for safety. They were plied with our rifle bullets as they dived and floundered.

A despatch from Ismailia says that Ehad Teheony examined at headquarters reports that much suffering and insubordination prevail in the Egyptian army. The difficulty of dragging supplies over deep sand is very great; but few miles can be made daily. The weather is somewhat cooler and the health of the troops excellent. The glare on the sands at noon is terrible.

A despatch to the *Times* from Ismailia says an officer has arrived here from the Governor of the district between Sunkia and Massowah, on his way to the Khedive to declare his loyalty.

The Mohammedan High Priests held a meeting here at which several influential natives were present. The Priests abjured them to remain loyal to Arabi Pasha. The native Governor has ordered their arrest.

It is stated that the British intend to cut two dykes near Meke, so as to flood a portion of the dry bed of Lake Maxama and prevent any attack from that side. The garrison at Meke was re-inforced to-day, in consequence of the Bedouins having formed a camp on the opposite shore of Lake Maxama.

The latest despatch Tuesday from Egypt was to the effect that Arabi had attacked the British position at Kassari; but had been repulsed with heavy loss. The British lost 120 men.

LONDON, Aug. 29.—General Wolsley telegraphs from Ismailia: I have just received news from the front that General Graham was heavily besieged last evening by a large force of Egyptians. The British cavalry from Mahameh went to his assistance and he had a brilliant success, taking 11 guns. Only a few British were killed; over 100 were wounded. I am about to go to the front.

General Wolsley telegraphs from Kassassin Lock: Major Gen. Graham, commanding this post, was attacked yesterday evening by about 12 guns and eight battalions. Our men behaved extremely well and inflicted severe loss on the enemy. At first Graham had but five guns, two and a half battalions and a small detachment of cavalry and mounted infantry. Being reinforced by another battalion he attacked the enemy in front whilst the 1st cavalry brigade, under Col. Sir Baker Russell, charged them in the back, inflicting a considerable number. The cavalry were handled by Major Gen. Drury Lowe. General Graham's dispositions were all that they should have been. His operations were carried out with the coolness for which he has always been well known. Arabi Pasha was on the field during the action. The cavalry charges were by moonlight, but were unable to secure the rebel guns, which the enemy withdrew during the night. They left, however, all their ammunition. Our killed are: Surgeon-Major Shaw, six marines, artillerymen, one infantry sergeant, wounded, one major, two captains, two lieutenants and 50 men.

It is reported that an officer of the Guards, who participated in the fight at Kassassin, is missing.

Sultan Pasha has arrived at Port Said. It is understood that he will install the representatives of the Khedive in districts successfully occupied by the British, as his influence with the natives is great. Hopes are entertained that this will do much to wards the pacification of the country.

Says the *Athenaeum*.—The trick of amity and good breeding has been lost; the charms of an excellence that is unobtrusive are charms no more. We write as men paint for the exhibitions; with the consciousness that we must pass without notice if we do not give way to excesses in the matter of color and subject and tone. The need exists, and the world flows to it. This little volume of "Eighteenth Century Essays" might easily be described as a protest against the necessity and the submission. It contains ample proof that it is possible to be eloquent without adjectives, and elegant without adoration; but to be brilliant you need not necessarily be extravagant and conceited; that without being manful and sentimental it is possible to be pathetic; and that once upon a time a writer, to prove himself a humorist, had no occasion to be a jack-pudding likewise.