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INCORPORATED 1853

By JOSEPH FREEMAN TUPPER

HARRY LAUDER

T is not my purpose to give a biographical sketch of the great comedian or to say what I think of him as a singer and actor. What I am concerned with is his firm belief in God and the confidence with which he looks forward to the life to come. I want to impress that upon others. That is why I write about it.

Speaking of the death of his son Harry Lauder says:-

"At times, the raging agony at the realization of my loss was almost too much. At times, too, during those first days, I almost questioned the justice and wisdom of a God Who would allow such a thing to happen.

"All this time while I had been raging against the cruel fates which had taken my son, there had been comfort and peace in store for me, and I had not known it. And that comfort and peace lay in my belief in God and a future life beyond this sphere.

"While the pain and grief had been blinding my eyes, God had been waiting patiently for the first sharp agony to pass away, and when it did he gently lifted the veil from my eyes and showed me the promised land beyond. I mean that suddenly I realized that I had not seen the last of John, and that we were sure to meet in another world.

"Oh, that I could convey unto you the healing balm that that thought was to my soul! I would that I could picture to you the joy of the thought that I was to see my John again at some future date, just as if he had simply gone on a long journey, and was waiting for his mother and me to come to him. And I brought his image before me, and imagined him holding out his arms to his mother and myself to fold us within his loving embrace, and in the joy created by that picture I was able to assuage some of my pain and distress, and return to an almost normal state of

"And because of the great comfort that my belief and faith in the future life have brought me, I have become humbly grateful and thankful that I never mocked the name of God or cast Him from me at any period of my life. Because I know, I am convinced, that he has helped me to bear this great blow by making my conviction that this life is not the end stronger than ever.

"And that is what every father and mother who loses a son must do-have strong, unbreakable faith in the future life, in the world beyond, where you will see your son once again. Do not give way to grief. Instead, keep your gaze and vour faith firmly fixed on the world beyond, and regard your boy's absence as though he were but on a long journey."

One sentence I wish to repeat. Lauder says: "I have become humbly grateful and thankful that I never mocked the name of God or cast Him from me at any period of my life."

I have yet to discover a man who ever found religion a burden to him or a hindrance to his career.

"Like a mighty army, Moves the Church of God." France, March 24th, 1018.

"We are like the trees planted in God's garden. The Divine Husbandman needs to graft, prune and spray His trees so that they will bring forth the best fruit. Some of the little pests which eat out the life of the tree are indifference, selfishness, unkindliness, worldliness, irreverence and dishonesty. The spray which kills these is the Holy Spirit.

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