

MEMORIAL SERMON.

For President McKinley by J. J. McCaskill, Fort Kent, Me., September, 1901.

"For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord."—Luke 1:15.

These words were spoken by the angel who heralded the coming of John the Baptist. "Great in the sight of the Lord." When you ascend a mountain peak and look down into the country below that country of hills and valleys seems a level plain, your eye does not note the fact that one hill rises a little higher than another or that one valley sinks a little lower than another. It is all a dead level in your sight. But though God is so high and we so low, the country beneath Him upon which He looks down is not flattened to Him as it is to us from an elevation. There are great men and small men in His sight—the eyes of the dead, they run and creep through the whole earth, say the prophet, and the maker of proverbs adds that the eyes of the Lord are in every place keeping watch upon the evil and the good, marking the perfect man and holding the upright, declaring beforehand regarding the wilderness prophet, "He shall be great in my sight," saying regarding the patriarch, "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God and escheweth evil," saying regarding this man whom the world calls "great," "I have found none like him who works faithfully before me," and of that man whom the world calls mean and low—a mere herder of cattle and keeper of sheep, "As a prince thou hast had power with God and hast prevailed."

The spirit of the world is wrong in its estimate of men. No word is more misapplied among us than that word "great." Every little man that makes a noise for awhile is dubbed a "great man" by us. The majority of persons are so much on a level and the level is so low a one that an inch or two above it seems gigantic. There is the world's estimate which is generally false, and God's estimate which is always true. There is a man's reputation as he is known among his fellows and there is his character as he is known to God, who searches the heart. There is the hypocrite who deplores the house of the widow and the orphan and for a pretense wraps himself about with sanctity or attends church to keep up appearances among his fellows. Man may stand in the light of the Lord—may stand that test as gold stands the test of the refiner's fire, and still be of small account among his fellows. And the opposite of this is true. God's estimate of greatness is not a man's position or his bank account, or even what he has done, but simply what he is in himself. Indeed God's nobility, they of whom the world was accounted worthy, were slain with the sword. Not always is the reputation and the character the same. Not always is man's estimate confirmed by God's. For not many "great" men are so many mighty, not many noble are called great in the sight of the Lord.

"A prince can make a better knight. A marquis and a duke above his might. Guide guide he finds it that the path of sense and pride of worth are higher stands than that."—Pope.

For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord.—Luke 1:15.

I think we may say with all reverence that these words of our text are historic, and that have found their fulfillment in the career of a distinguished statesman and martyred president whose life in such a tragic way is now ended—ended even as was the life of that lovely man of which our text was a prophecy, couched in a gloomy fortress at the northern extremity of the Dead Sea. His head was brought from there to the court of Herod on a platter to gratify the spite of a wicked mother, the whim of a dancing maiden, and the promise of a pitiful king. As that event in days gone by brought all good men into mourning, now the awful reality of sin is forced upon us, as it comes like a skeleton to another feast of peace and plenty, and strikes a blow not only at the heart of the nation but at the world's stock of goodness, when it claims this great and noble victim.

Devotion to duty! How grand a thing it is! We are often ready to praise a public man if he shows ordinary second-rate honesty in his public life, but are almost surprised if he does not regard his office as a light thing. Political dishonesty and that which at least common sense is five points to Dr. Brooks homely saying, "If you're a doctor, you're a doctor," said a man. "If you're a politician," said another. "If you're a politician," said a third. "If you're a politician," said a fourth. "If you're a politician," said a fifth. "If you're a politician," said a sixth. "If you're a politician," said a seventh. "If you're a politician," said an eighth. "If you're a politician," said a ninth. "If you're a politician," said a tenth.

"What a piece of work is man! For when he hath made him, little lower than God, and crowned him with glory and honor. Across his brow in living letters is the divine handwriting. Man is doomed unless he begins large. The only hope of a man is in a large beginning. Once a dog always a dog. What is before man in the way of destiny depends upon what is behind him in the way of origin. Man's present power and future hope depend upon the fact that he began a little lower than God. Why then should any man be other than great in His sight? Why should any man today fulfil a stagnant career? Why should any of us grovel and creep and crawl? Why art thou fallen from heaven, oh Son of the morning, child of infinite majesty? Why? Because of the presence of sin and the consequent loss of which we are warned and exhorted in our bibles till they turn and rend us. Yes, sin has cast such a shadow over human life that God is hidden. And man has gone out from God's side with the stars of Cain and the park of the beast upon him, and ever since that time his own seems to have been to retain these tokens. He has given diligence to remove the divine image and put in its place the stamp of demerit. So that now in place of the divine likeness and divine fellowship we have the sad refrain:

point the infinite life of God. Man is not altogether man until he is born again. By that I mean that he must have a conscience toward God before he can have a conscience toward his state, toward society, toward his fellows. A man cannot be great if his aims are small. If your highest aims are but to get on in the world, to live happily, no matter what between God may have given you to use, you are essentially a small man. A man living for these perishable things which John Bunyan is like a spider spinning its web out of its own substance and catching nothing in it but a wretched prey of poor little flies.

The wilderness prophet, fearing not the face of man because he feared God, bows down in humble submission to Jesus Christ. "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Son." "He must increase, but I must decrease." "A man may receive nothing except it be given him of God." How like him in this spirit of majesty and of gentleness is this man whom we mourn? "It is God's will that we be done, not ours." And in that manly spirit, who in the course of his life, murmuring with his dying accents the words, "Nearer my God to Thee, Nearer to Thee."

And David lamented for Abner, saying, "Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?" Should Abner lamented and weep for the children of iniquity who defile their hands with sin, who wrought this thing? In ancient days when one chief wished to assure another that he came in friendship, and not to harm him, he held out his hand, and if the rival chief wished to be understood of both is dastardly. What of this man? We have a law, and by that law he ought to die for the raising up of a human being, who has been the ruler with a handshake, and the method of both is dastardly. What of this man? We have a law, and by that law he ought to die for the raising up of a human being, who has been the ruler with a handshake, and the method of both is dastardly. What of this man? We have a law, and by that law he ought to die for the raising up of a human being, who has been the ruler with a handshake, and the method of both is dastardly.

Devotion to duty the first. The second is devotion to God. In the last analysis the man who is great toward men and things only is like one who stands upon a small elevation and looks out upon a narrow horizon, and who is great toward God has reached a splendid elevation, looks out upon a wide horizon and touches at every

not his arms, nor he that gathereth sheaves his bosom. "Let us move upward. Working out the beast. And let the ape and tiger die." "Let us work out the 'creed of creeds.'" "In loveliness of perfect deeds. More strong than all poetic thought." "He shall be great in the sight of the Lord." St. Luke goes on to give the reason for his greatness. "For," he says, "many of the children of Israel shall be turned to the Lord their God, and he shall turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to walk in the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared for him." Then his greatness depends largely upon us. Will we follow Him in our devotion to duty, in our faith, in our submission to God? He would lead us to God, His all-dominating love. He would fall, by turning us to righteousness, shine with the sun's brightness. For him the path of death becomes the path of living light. And like him striking hands with Jesus Christ, not the great statesman but the little child, not only the great saint but the hardened anarchist, can pass into an immortal summer. In his death Christ's heavenly kingdom is proclaimed upon his lips: "God's will be done, not ours. It is His way." The wife of his bosom is in his thoughts: "My wife, be careful about her," mercy to the murderer, "I have no one to hurt her," and submission to the will of God his whole attitude in this inscrutable outpouring of providence. "I will not be great in the sight of the Lord,"—man.

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NOTICE TO MARINERS. HIGHLAND LIGHT, Mass. Sept 20—The fixed white light at the end of the Highland Light, known to mariners as Highland Light, will be changed to a flashing light tomorrow, in accordance with the recent order of the Light House Service. The light will flash white light, followed by a red light, and will be visible for a distance of 12 miles. The light will be visible for a distance of 12 miles. The light will be visible for a distance of 12 miles.

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