

The Pastor and People.

The Best in Store.

I thank Thee, Lord, that thou hast kept The best in store; We have enough, yet not too much...

Beecher's Yale Lectures on Preaching.

CONSCIOUSNESS OF SIN.

Young Gentlemen, I am this afternoon to speak to you of the best way to proceed in the ministry to inspire men with a sense of their personal sinfulness.

The mere recital of texts of Scripture will neither produce a sense of sinfulness nor inspire to a reformation of life. It is comparatively useless, and sometimes worse than useless, to preach sinfulness by a routine of texts and statements of authority from the Word of God.

In preaching the sinfulness of man, you must follow the Scriptural as distinguished from the theological method. I do not wish to speak evil of dignitaries, but we to that generation that has no power to differ from any preceding it, or that worships as idols the men who have been great in the ages past.

Ministers live outside of their profession too little. A boy at ten or twelve years of age discovers that he is designed for the ministry, and starts out to fulfill the hopes of anxious parents.

Ministers need to study in order to understand and suitably respect the moral sense of men. Men are seldom found who have been trained with a universal conscience.

That is at once right and unwholesome. The meeting-house is next to God in sacredness. The children must go to meeting all day. No work must be done in their houses on Sunday; perhaps none after sundown on Saturday.

You will find few men so rounded and all-sided in their development that every faculty can be made a test of right or wrong doing. Men are divided into classes or groups, in each of which the conscience can be approached by some single faculty.

Fast is the average time in which a man can be made to understand that he is a discord in the universe. Some say they can't worship in churches, but must be in communion with nature.

Addresses to the consciences of men should be made so as not to excite combativeness, but hope and inspiration. Don't make your people feel like Kentucky slaves, who always flinch when you draw near them because they expect to be kicked.

The Good-night Kiss.

Send your little child to bed happy. Whatever cares press, give it a warm good-night kiss as it goes to its pillow.

What is a Healthy Church?

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER.

Two things characterize every church that is in the highest condition of spiritual health. That one is that they all worship, and the other is that they all work.

In the Old Testament we find a brace of passages that present a picture worth studying. On a certain time we are told that the ark of the Lord was brought back to Jerusalem, and David appointed a day of thanksgiving.

The other passage occurs in Nehemiah's account of the rebuilding of Jerusalem after the return from captivity. The walls of the sacred city went up rapidly. Why? Simply because "the people had a mind to work."

These two pictures reveal the secret of a successful church. That secret does not lie in any denominational rule or ritual; it is found in these two things: the whole people worship and the whole people work.

Paul himself could not build up a church, with Apollos for his assistant, unless the members worshipped and the members worked.

What is worship? It is the assemblage of several scores or hundreds of persons into a sanctuary, to be preached at, to be sung to, and to be prayed for. This is a theory that is extensively practiced.

Now, instead of all this wretched passivity in hearing and activity only in criticizing, suppose that the people came to God's temple only to wait upon him and do him heart homage. Suppose that each one felt: "God is here. I am here to meet with him, and to seek his face, and to adore him in confession and petition and praise."

The great controlling idea of the Sabbath service should rule all the religious meetings of the week. The prayer-meeting should never depend, to the weight of a single ounce, on the pastor.

enough to pray, to speak, to sing. All the minister needs to do is just to "keep stroke with the other ears. And a genuine "revival" he it remembered, is nothing more than the normal condition of what every Christ-penetrated church should be all through the year.

Now the principle that underlies true worship also underlies true church work. It belongs to the people as completely as to their installed leader. He does his share in the pulpit and the pastorate; they do theirs in the prayer-meeting, the Sunday-school, the temperance reform, labors for the poor, and all manner of spiritual activities.

A living church keeps its pastor alive. The dead drag of a dead church kills many a minister of Christ before his time. We offer no apologies for lazy, inefficient, unspiritual ministers.

How Church Debts are Paid.

We don't know how the following description of the art of raising money to pay off church debts will strike our readers, but it makes us sad, suggesting that the auctioneer, the stock broker, and the show-man, all rolled up in one man, has taken possession of the sanctuary.

It took four hours and a half to dedicate Talmage's new Tabernacle. It was really the sensation of the day. The prominent pastors looked in and said a kind word.

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Instrumental Music in Church.

"We should like to see fall the pipes of the organs in our Nonconformist places of worship either ripped open or compactly filled with concrete. The human voice is so transcendently superior to all that wind or strings can accomplish, that it is a shame to degrade its harmonies by association with blowing and scraping.

The New York Times says that no form of social entertainment is so deceptive in its promises, more illusory in its pleasures, more totally unsatisfactory in its results, than a grand ball.

Princess Charlotte When a Girl. Compassion is an emotion which we ought never to be ashamed of. Graceful particularly in youth, is the tear of sympathy, and the heart that melts at the tale of woe, this disposition was strikingly exemplified by the late Princess Charlotte, who, one morning, seeing a boy ragged and sitting under a hedge, crying from the pain of a wound in one of his hands, hastened to his relief.

Repent To-Day.

What hast thou now to say, O my soul, why this judgment, seconded with divine proofs, backed with the harmony of holy men, should not proceed against thee? Daily no longer with thy own salvation, nor flatter thy own corruption. Remember, the wages of flesh are sin, and the wages of sin death.

A Clean Apron.

A lady wanted a trusty little maid to come and help her take charge of a baby. Nobody could recommend one, and she hardly knew where to look for the right kind of a girl. One day she was passing through a by-lane, and saw a little girl with a clean apron, holding a baby in the doorway of a small house.

A Cannon Ball in the Hat.

An anonymous writer, generally supposed to be Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, after describing how, when a boy, he stole a cannon-ball from the Navy yard at Charles town, Mass., and with much trepidation, and more headache, carried it away in that universal pocket of yours—his hat—winds up with the following reflections, reflections which, though philosophically trite, are in this manner conveyed with much force and freshness:

"When I reached home I had nothing to do with my shot. I did not dare to show it in the house, nor tell where I got it; after one or two solitary rolls, I gave it away on the same day to a Prince-Streeter.

"But, after all, that six-pounder rolled a good deal of sense into my skull. I think it was the last thing that I ever stole (excepting a little matter of a heart, now and then), and it gave me a notion of the folly of coveting more than you can enjoy, which has made my whole life happier. It was rather a severe mode of catechising, but ethics rubbed in with a six-pounder shot are better than none at all.

"But I see men doing the same thing going into underground and dirty vaults, and gathering up wealth, which will, when got, roll around their heads like a ball, and be not a whit softer because it is gold, instead of iron, though there is not a man in Wall Street who will believe that.

"I have seen a man put himself to every humiliation to win a proud woman who had been born above him, and when he got her, he walked all the rest of his life with a cannon-ball in his hat.

"I have seen young men enrich themselves by pleasure in the same wise way, sparing no pains, and scrupling at no sacrifice of principle, for the sake of last of carrying a burden which no man can bear.

"All the world are busy in striving for things that give little pleasure and bring much care. I am accustomed in all my walks among men, noticing their ways and their folly, to think, 'There is a man stealing a cannon-ball; or, 'There is a man with a ball on his head; I know it by his walk.'

"The money which a clerk parcels for his pocket, at last gets into his hat like a cannon-ball. Pride, bad temper, selfishness, evil passions, will roll a man as if he had a ball on his head! And ten thousand men in New York will die this year, and as each one falls, his hat will come off, and will roll an iron ball, which for years he has worn, out his strength, and will be a Canada Christian Advocate.