

Fitness for Service.

REV. JOSEPH HAMILTON.

It is a happy thing for us that what we are now may be but a faint indication of what we may become. Here is a lump of iron ore, just taken from the mine. It is a dull, dark, heavy mass of matter, mixed with clay. It seems very unpromising matter from which to make the polished steel weapon, with its sharp keen blade. But the ore can be put through refining and formation processes whereby the wonderful change is effected. So God can take very dull, heavy, earthly material, and He can refine, fashion, sharpen, and polish it, until it is a fit weapon for Him to use. Witness Paul. What refining, and grinding, and polishing he must have received, to fit him for his work. But he got all he needed. When you look at what he was, and then look at what he became, you are amazed that such a man could be made out of such material. Let the humblest and the worst then take hope. We do not know the possibilities of which we are capable until God takes us in hand.

Mimico.

Prayer.

O Lord, Who art the rest of Thy children and the refuge of souls, we come to Thee to ask Thy favor. There is no rest but in Thee. Labor is sorrow, and pleasure is but vanity, without Thy Fatherly blessing. Speak favorably to us, O Lord, and grant us Thy peace. We heartily thank Thee, O Lord our God, for all the enjoyments of our life, for the daily mercies by which our bodily frame is nourished and sustained, and for all the manifold delights given to the mind. How great is Thy goodness! How many are the streams that flow from the fountain of Thine eternal love. Teach us, heavenly Father, more and more to enjoy our life in Thee, to eat our meat in gladness and singleness of heart, praising God; to trace all power, wisdom, beauty up to Thee, the Giver; and to find delight in our labor, whether with the hand or with the understanding, as in the service of our God.—Selected.

Before and After.

A little girl had a great desire to join the church; consequently she went to the minister, asking to be received into the Church. He inquired if she had experienced a change of heart, and she answered affirmatively. The minister inquired further, "Were you a sinner before?" "Yes." "Are you a sinner now?" Again she answered, "Yes." "Where, then, is the difference between your former and your present condition." After some moments' meditation she said, "Before I was converted to Christ I was a sinner that runs after sin; now I am a sinner that runs away from sin."—Mission Friend.

Nothing is politically right this is morally wrong.—O'Connell.

As silently as the cycles of the seasons move, and as resistlessly, the laws of cause and effect work out for every godless man and every godless land the fearful judgment of divine retribution.—John E. Tuttle, D.D.

Some men affect to consider political matters beneath their attention. "We seek a better country," they say, "that is, a heavenly." But I fear that if they do not do what they can to make the present country a better country, they stand small chance of ever reaching that Better Country.

Our Young People

General Topic—Religion and Patriotism—Rom. 13: 1-7.

BY REV. W. A. STEWART, M. A.

To discuss the essential relations existing between religion and patriotism would lead our young people too far afield; but this at least may safely be affirmed that the love of ones country and the fear of God are sentiments natural to the human heart. Usually they co-exist in the same subject, although it does not appear that this connection is either invariable or necessary. Under exceptional circumstances it is possible for either to flourish alone. To take a single example; who would think of accusing the Gipsies, not to say the Jews, of being irreligious, or the French of being unpatriotic, although the Gipsies have no country and the French have no God.

The relations, however, between Christianity—the true religion—and Patriotism are clearer and more easily discussed. True religion has nothing narrow and selfish about it. It is the queenly mother of all noble thoughts and generous actions; and it is likewise the inspiring teacher of all things that make a nation great and that tends to keep it so.

All healthy, well bred boys and girls feel that their country is but their larger self; and that profound interest which religion awakens in their own personal welfare, it awakens also in the welfare of their own country. Surely our country and our kinsmen have peculiar claims upon us. His had upon Christ. He came unto His own and although His own received him not he charged his disciples to observe the same principle. Go not, said he, into any way of the Gentiles but rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And again after his patriotism and his philanthropy had only resulted in apparent disaster we find the spirit of his patriotism remaining unchanged. Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem is the last recorded command which the Saviour gave to his disciples.

Happily with a large number of people cultivating patriotism after the hot house style is quite unnecessary. Most of us would plead guilty to the atrocious crime of cherishing a special warmth of affection for our own country men. And why should we not? A certain identity of interest is common to all, the same traditions lie behind the same hopes before us; we have been brought up under the same associations, reared under the same skies and have one country for our Father land. Surely it counts for something that the same blood flows in our veins. Yes, we are brothers, and when John says this commandment have we from Him that He who loveth God love his brother also we feel that our patriotism carries with it the highest sanctions of the Christian religion.

There are those, on the score of religion, would entirely proscribe politics from the sphere of the Christian's interest. If by politics be meant mere party politics, about which men of most earnest and conscientious feelings draw different conclusions, no doubt such are wise; but if by politics be meant the righteous government of the city or the well being of the state we say no. In this regard they are not wise. Their indifference is not only sinful it is sin; for,

whether ignorantly or not, they are running counter to the spirit both of patriotism and of religion. There are times when for the sake of our country and our God we must uplift against the madness of public men and of kings, and speak burning words like the prophets of old. Paul recognizes this oftener than once. When he says to his readers only let your conversation be as becometh the gospel of Christ; he uses a word which the Revised Version translates *manner of life*, and further explains in the margin as *behave as citizens*. In this and other passages the Apostle counsels us to put a high and just value upon civil rights and privileges; and to use them both for the welfare of our country and the glory of our God.

—L'Amble, O.

Daily Readings.

Mon., July 1.—The calls of wisdom.
Prov. 8: 1-4, 11-16
Tues., July 2.—God and the nation.
Jer. 7: 1-7; Ps. 66: 1-7
Wed., July 3.—Serving God.
Deut. 7: 6-13
Thurs., July 4.—Our country's voice.
Ps. 122: 6; 1 Cor. 16: 13; 1 Pet. 2: 13-15
Fri., July 5.—The fathers and religion.
Deut. 4: 5-10; Ps. 22: 4-5
Sat., July 6.—The true patriot.
Mark 12: 13-17
Sun., July 7.—TOPIC: Religion and Patriotism.
Rom. 13: 1-7

The Sabbath Rest.

One very simple and effective way of finding out what your Sabbaths are doing for you. It is not so much a question of whether this particular occupation is right and that one wrong, whether you may go here or may not go there, but of what the day brings to you, body and soul. Circumstances vary, temperaments differ, and no one can be a law unto another, but the law of Sabbath rest is for all men. It is older than the tables of stone—as old as human need.

If you find that your Sabbath has made your faith clearer, your heart more tender; if it has quickened good impulses and awakened higher aspirations; if it has made family ties closer, and God and heaven seem nearer; if you look forward to Monday's tasks with fresh courage and a desire to be more helpful to all about you—then the Sabbath has fulfilled its blessed mission for you. But if it brings none of these things, then, whether you have spent it in so called recreation or in churchgoing and Bible reading, be sure of this—you have profaned your Sabbath.—From Forward.

Missed By Waiting.

Waiting to be of service is the sure way of missing the service altogether. There is no waiting one's chance in the life of true service. Opportunities throng the path of every-day routine. Every one is susceptible of greater joy. Every one has a burden, often to be lightened by an understanding look, a tactful word, a sense of companionship. But we wait, and offer none of these, because we are not quick to see, and we want to do something notable and striking when we do serve. Meanwhile a whole brood of opportunities are born, and die. Let us be—not wait to be—of service.