

not trouble ourselves about. It is probably little more serious than falling asleep at night. It will not hurt us in any way. It will blot out no beautiful thing in our life. It will end nothing that is really worth while. Dying is not a boundary, but merely an incident in the way. It is not a wall cutting off our path and ending our journey; it is a gate through which we shall pass into fuller, larger life.—*J. R. Miller, D.D.*

ROOSEVELT ON WESLEY.

The Wesley bicentenary celebration began under splendid auspices in the great meeting in Carnegie Hall, New York, on February 26th. It was addressed by President Roosevelt, Chancellor Day, and Bishop Andrews. The President paid a splendid tribute to pioneer Methodism in the New World. He showed how that before the Revolution, although the Congregationalists were supreme in New England, the Episcopalians on the seaboard, the Presbyterians in the West, yet the Methodists have surpassed them all. "Theirs was an iron task which none but men of iron soul and iron body could do. They had to possess the spirit of the martyrs, but not of martyrs who could merely suffer, not of martyrs who could oppose only passive endurance to wrong. The pioneer preachers warred against the forces of spiritual evil with the same fiery zeal and energy that they and their fellows showed in the conquest of the rugged continent. They had in them the heroic spirit, the spirit that scorns ease if it must be purchased by failure to do duty, the spirit that courts risk and a life of hard endeavour if the goal to be reached is really worth attaining.

"These men drove forward and fought their way upward to success because their sense of duty was in their hearts, in the very marrow of their bones. I need hardly ask a body like this to remember that the greatness of the fathers becomes to the children a shameful thing if they use it only as an excuse for inaction instead of as a spur to effort for noble aims.

"We must have a lift toward lofty things or we shall be lost, individually and collectively as a nation. Life is not easy, and least of all is it easy for either the man or the nation that aspires to do great deeds. In the century opening the play of the infinitely far-reaching forces and tendencies

which go to make up our social system bids fair to be even fiercer in its activity than in the century which has just closed. If during this century the men of high and fine moral sense show themselves weaklings; if they possess only that cloistered virtue which shrinks shuddering from contact with the raw facts of actual life; if they dare not go down into the hurly-burly where the men of might contend for the mastery; if they stand aside from the pressure and conflict; then as surely as the sun rises and sets, all of our great material progress, all the multiplication of the physical agencies which tend for our comfort and enjoyment, will go for naught, and our civilization will become a brutal sham and mockery. If we are to do as I believe we shall and will do, if we are to advance in broad humanity, in kindness, in the spirit of brotherhood, exactly as we advance in our conquest over the hidden forces of nature, it must be by developing strength in virtue and virtue in strength, by breeding and training men who shall be both good and strong, both gentle and valiant—men who scorn wrong-doing, and who at the same time have both the courage and the strength to strive mightily for the right.

"Wesley said he did not intend to leave all the good tunes to the service of the devil. He accomplished so much for mankind because he also refused to leave the stronger, manlier qualities to be availed of only in the interest of evil. The Church he founded has, throughout its career been a Church for the poor as well as for the rich, and has known no distinction of persons. It has been a Church whose members, if true to the teachings of its founder, have sought for no greater privilege than to spend and be spent in the interest of the higher life; who have prided themselves, not on shirking rough duty, but in undertaking it and carrying it to a successful conclusion.

"I come here to-night to greet you and to pay my tribute to your past because you have deserved well of mankind, because you have striven with strength and courage to bring nearer the day when peace and justice shall obtain among the peoples of the earth."

The President's address was a noble tribute worthy of the occasion, of the audience, of the object, and of the man who uttered it.