

DIVINE INSTRUCTOR.

A Very Thoughtful and Interesting Discourse by Dr. Bickley.

BETTER CONDITIONS AND LIFE

The Keynote of the Sermon. Man Developed by Circumstances. Christ's Methods Were Original. What Made Him the Great Teacher. Adaptation to the Needs of the Times - A Lecture on Armenia at English Lutheran Church.

Last evening at the Thomson M. E. church, on the Island, Rev. F. D. T. Bickley, D. D., the pastor, preached on the topic "The Divine Instructor," taking as his text those words, Mat. 7:27: "For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." Dr. Bickley said in part:

"Man is largely developed by the force of circumstances. He is very susceptible to the forces of his environment. The influence of stronger natures in their examples and instructions has much to do with his character. Scores have failed because they have followed false guides, who have led the mind captive and the heart into quagmires of doubt and destruction.

"Man alone, unassisted, is an inefficient, unsafe and incapable leader in the things pertaining to spiritual truth. Blind guides of the blind lead to inevitable ruin. Christianized characters directed by a noble Christian purpose and inspired by the blessed spirit of Christ are the only safe teachers of the human heart. Even the grandest, truest men of the past were without strength until they were touched by the divine power and life.

"When the 'true time' came Christ the divine instructor appeared to man. It was He to whom the ages before and since have been looking and at His feet they were adoring with the power of His spirit and word. He gave them truths never known before for His spoke as never man spoke and taught them as one with authority. Christ's words in simplicity and practical bearing have a character preeminently their own. His one great object was to reach the human soul and establish Himself in it to save it. His main object in all instructions both as to the present and future was to produce positive and durable influence and immediate effect. His choice of ideas and imagery was adapted to the regeneration and salvation of soul and body.

"Christ's authority was different from any preceding teacher or system then existing. He was above the narrow and dogmatic scribes with their cold manner, frivolous matter and second-hand traditional characteristics. They were most concerned about priest and pharisees, temple and synagogue, school and sanhedrim and with matters of infinitely little value to the human soul and its uplift. His very enemies bear testimony that He borrowed not from various sects and teachings of the times. In fact there were none from whom He could borrow. Pharisees and Sadducees alike were too shallow for the foundation of an eternal soul. The exclusive classes could not furnish Him with such world-wide declarations of blessing.

"The love which He studied was not the love of rabbinism with its traditional follies, but He studied and learned from the Book of God, within and without, in communion with heaven and the life of God for man, which He possessed and came to reveal. Christ's influence was one of strange power. It attracted multitudes to His instructions. Even as a child in the temple He engaged the learned with His heavenly mission. And for 1000 years have His truths been unfolded and unfolding. And in ages to come will the generations have been but gathering up a shell here and there on the shores of the vast ocean of truth on which He would launch mankind.

"The question naturally arises: What led Him to such success and what was the method used by the Divine Instructor? "No book by the Master Himself or by any of His disciples is devoted to a formal or extended exposition of this great teacher. Our knowledge must be gathered from a few scattered discourses and parables found under four hands of Evangelists, in which we find:

"First - Simplicity and Plainness. The son of a carpenter, in manhood a trust in life with no other to lay his head, in language such as delicate childhood and nursed the greatest minds. In it all a simplicity which has confounded a world and yet indicated His true greatness.

"Second - Naturalness and Tenderness. He was Himself. No sentimentalism ever entered His words of instruction. In dealing with stubborn facts of life He always laid aside the hippant ways of man. The individuality of his utterances, indelibly impressed His own image on all he did and said. Unaffected and sincere, He never resorted to artifices for influence. He came and taught just as He was, and rested upon His Divine naturalness. His passionate appeals were filled with pathetic tenderness unknown to the worldly hearted.

"Third - There was adaptation to the crying need of the times and the human heart. His was a wonderful tact and unerring wisdom. Peculiar tact enabled him to understand each case. His teachings so different from man's fitted themselves alike to the times and circumstances not only then, but for all times - both to individuals and communities. We need only to mention the Samaritan woman, Nicodemus, Zaccheus, and the Brother Lazarus as instances. His tact was wonderfully striking as to make in each case those addressed appear to be their own judges.

"When in the conveyance of instruction no deception was ever practiced and not one example of sophistry can be found in all His life. There was consciousness about those teachings that left them sticking to the mind as axioms to grow and develop the life.

"Then there was an originality about His instructions that won way to the heart. This, coupled with an intense zeal and divine common sense and insistence of which He Himself was the embodiment, was his way to everlasting recognition. How remarkable was the illustration presented so often in strikingly beautiful and charming word pictures. His subject was original as He brought to the world the blessed idea of the Fatherhood of God, the Brotherhood of Man, gave an illustration of resurrection of body, and so brought life and immortality to light.

"He satisfied the hope and desire of the ages, fulfilled prophecies and culminated the scheme of salvation in man's redemption. Floods of rain were there upon obscure subjects of faith with such newness, and force that men craved at them with all their hearts and were ready to die for them. He came not for ornamentation, but for salvation, and grace and reason. He

gave new charm to the commonplace things of life. From the oratory of the flowers he found God's pledge to satisfy man's wants and needs. In God's notice of a sparrow's fall Christ would impress the teacher's providential care and oversight for His children.

"Then the Divine Instructor was an example of His own teachings, in testimony of which note His positive life. He was utterly unlike the feeble, uncertain manner of those to whom they were accustomed to listen. His herald cry was, "Follow Me," "Be holy," "Go." Never a doubt was left in the mind as to the meaning of the words, for He fulfilled Himself as an example to all. Nothing was so dear to the Master as sincerity for sturdy uprightness and against all evil, notwithstanding public opinion.

"The loss of the soul of man was to Him the stupendous evil of all evils. And so He declared everywhere the readiness of the father to forgive and save. With what self-oblivion and denial he gave himself up to the Lord of humanity. No service was below His dignity to impress man with the truth of this message; not alone to teach salvation, but to procure it; not only to proclaim redemption, but to accomplish it; not alone to publish the gospel, but also to be the gospel did He come. Tenderly, earnestly does He plead with men to come to the knowledge of the triumph over moral and physical evil. His addresses were to the individual and to the world. Philip wrote to Aristotle that he had a son born to him, and that he thanked God for giving him a son in the age when Aristotle was instructor. How much more should we be grateful that we are born in the age of Christ's word and life!

"In the most unpretending, simplest words does He come, inspiring hosannas in the heart of childhood and benedictions from manhood as He with devoted love and good will teaches the way to eternal life and bliss not only here but in the hereafter. Oh, let us rejoice that a great and divine instructor never is eclipsed.

"One day Antisthenes, who taught rhetoric and had Diogenes among his students, was seen to close his school and told his scholars to go and seek for themselves a master, for said he, 'I have found one for myself, Socrates.' So there is one to-day above all others in whom we may find our divine instructor. Go, sit at His feet and learn the truths that shall make you wise unto salvation. For Christ's teachings are the essential truth, necessary to the eternal life and joy of the soul, for He joins Himself to the soul for its elevation."

ABOUT PEOPLE.

Strangers in the City and Wheeling Folks Abroad.

Captain F. G. Chapman, Sistersville's chief of police, accompanied by Editor Kitson, of the Tyler Republican, W. G. Agnew and Joseph E. Boyer, arrived in the city last evening from the oil metropolis and registered at the Stamm. They are on their way to East Liverpool, where the doughty captain takes part in a little by-play, in which he and Miss Bert Kinney, of the pottery village, are the principal characters. The wedding occurs this afternoon at 3 o'clock.

D. N. Blake, of Mannington, was a guest at the Stamm yesterday.

Miss Ethel Brannon has gone to Washington City to visit her cousin, Miss McAuley.

W. W. Wild, of Parkersburg, and U. N. Arnett, jr., of Fairmont, are at the Bohler.

William Neuschwander, of Sistersville, was a guest at the Windsor yesterday.

Joseph Shaughnessy, of Mannington, and Edward Dalton, of Sistersville, are at the McClure.

Prof. Magee, musical director at the State Institution for the Deaf, Dumb and Blind, was in the city on Saturday.

Mrs. Clarke Hamilton, jr., left on Saturday for Covington, Ky., where she will be the guest of Miss Minnie Waltwill.

Miss Mamie Gibb, of St. Clairsville, was awarded the medal at the W. C. T. U. declaiming contest at Colerain, Friday evening.

Hon. A. A. Lewis, of Weston, a well known Lewis county citizen, is at the McClure. W. P. Newlon and W. E. P. Byrne, of Sutton, were other prominent people from the interior at the same hotel yesterday.

Mr. John Wilhelm, of St. Joseph, Mo., an old East Wheeling boy, accompanied by his wife and child, are visiting friends in the city. Mr. Wilhelm represents the Peet Bros. Manufacturing Company, of Kansas City, Mo., and is prospering in the west.

Mr. Philip Maurer left on the late Baltimore & Ohio train last night for a six weeks' trip to California. He will stop en route at many important points and take the trip leisurely, and if there is any meeting between Corbett and Fitzsimmons he expects to be in the immediate vicinity when the fight is pulled off.

"Madeline, or the Magic Kiss."

"Madeline, or the Magic Kiss," the greatest comic opera success known since the days of "Erminie," with beautiful Camille D'Arville at the head of her own magnificent company, direct from the phenomenal engagement of twenty weeks in New York, will be the attraction at the Opera House tonight, and that the people of this city will appreciate the importance of the event and give it their patronage seems assured. No singer of to-day holds the position in comic opera Miss D'Arville does, and her company, too, is the best that has been seen here lately, while the opera, according to the best critics, is a work that has seldom had an equal. It is by Stanislaus Stancze and Julian Edwards, and was first produced in Boston, last spring, where it ran for the unprecedented time of 160 nights. It will be seen here with the same cast and magnificent scenery and costumes of the original production.

Maria Wainwright.

Miss Marie Wainwright, assisted by the best company she has ever had, will be the star at the Opera House on Tuesday and Wednesday. On the first night she will appear in a gorgeously costumed revival of Sheridan Knowles' famous comedy, "The Lave Chase." Nathaniel Hartwig remains the leading man, while Barton Hill and Hattie Russell have been especially engaged. Miss Wainwright has recently been most enthusiastically received in this play in New York City. Miss Wainwright spoke an epilogue written by Julian Edwards, a duty piece of advice to young and old, on love making, which, with a savante danced by the company, brought an enjoyable performance to a close.

On Wednesday Miss Wainwright will introduce her new society drama of life in New York City, "His Puritan Wife," by Florence Schofield.

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THE BISHOPS' ADDRESS

To the Protestant Episcopal Church Read by Dr. Swope

AT THE ST. MATTHEW'S YESTERDAY.

An Eloquent and Interesting Presentation of the State of the Church, Missions, etc. - The Demands on the Christian Church in America Strongly Set Forth.

Yesterday forenoon at St. Matthew's church Rev. Dr. Swope, in lieu of the usual sermon, read the address of the bishops to the church on the occasion of the late triennial convention of the Protestant Episcopal church at Minneapolis.

The paper is able and exhaustive. It congratulates the clergy and laity of the church on its extending influence and increasing edification, but deprecates the defect in domestic and foreign mission work, warning the members of a neglected duty in failing to raise funds.

The remarks on the need of work among the Afro-Americans are especially impressive. On the subject of Sabbath observance the address says:

Recent events in some parts of our country compel us to call your earnest attention to a widely spread and determined attack upon the use and purpose of the weekly day of rest known from the beginning of the Christian era as the Lord's day. It is declared in the law of God to be his own day, and by the Savior of man to be "made for man." It is protected by a divine commandment and by the perpetual sanctity of a human right. Men may and ought to worship God every day; but for the greater assurance of this duty one day in seven has, with the formal sanction of all Christian civilization, been set apart for its due observance. This order cannot be disturbed without grave evils to the individual and the family, to society and the state. It seems almost incredible that, in our modern life should be capable of bringing into play any powers of evil that could seriously threaten the existence of a divine and beneficent institution. And yet the peril and disaster of such a menace confront Christian people in wide areas of the country. We exhort you, dear brethren, to meet this menace with unflinching courage and resolute determination, and in no opportunity that may be presented to decline battle with the insatiate greed of the liquor traffic and the growing desire for popular pleasures and amusements, which, with increasing boldness, claim all day alike for their uses. In this connection the house of bishops, in view of recent occurrences in several of our states, desires to express its hearty approval of the prompt and courageous application of the powers of civil government for the repression of barbarous, brutal and indecent exhibitions of whatever sort.

The address closes with an exhortation to be patient with differences, but to adhere positively to distinctive truths.

AN ARMENIAN'S TALK.

Tells of the Fearful Cruelties Practiced in His Native Land.

Last evening at the English Lutheran church on Sixteenth street the regular Sunday evening services were concluded with an interesting talk on Armenia by a native Armenian, Mr. John Zartinas. The visitor is a man of commanding presence and possesses a very interesting style. He has a fair command of the English language, and held the attention of his audience throughout his forty minutes' talk.

He gave a very realistic description of conditions in Armenia previous to and since the late atrocities committed by the Kurds and Turks. Some conditions there were compared with the American customs. For instance, on landing at San Francisco he had seen two stalwart policemen handling a drunken woman. This is something - drunkenness - that is not seen in Armenia, not even the men becoming intoxicated. They have no beer, brandy or whiskey there. His description, from the Armenian standpoint, of a full dress ball that he had witnessed in New York, greatly amused the audience. At first, he said, he thought the people were crazy.

Notwithstanding the fearful cruelties practiced on Armenians by their Turkish oppressors, he was proud to say that he knew of none who had forsaken the religion of Jesus Christ for the false doctrines of Mohamet. He felt confident that the interference of the Christian powers would so improve conditions in his country that the Christian would be unoppressed within two months. Then he looked for a great increase in the strength of the Christian church in Armenia.

At the conclusion of the talk a collection was taken up for the aid of oppressed Armenia.

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