

A TIMELY SERMON FOR PATRIOTS

By Dr. Cunningham, Preached at the First Presbyterian Church Sunday Morning.

"WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY"

And "Wheeling's Dewey Day" the Topics From Which the Minister Discoursed.

Yesterday morning, at the First Presbyterian church, the pastor, Rev. D. A. Cunningham, D. D., preached a patriotic sermon, the topics being "Washington's Birthday" and "Wheeling's Dewey Day." Attending the service were the Wheeling members of two of the patriotic societies, the Sons of the Revolution and the Daughters of the Revolution.

Dr. Cunningham said: "This is a part of the patriotic song of Moses, which he uttered in the hearing of all the congregation of Israel. He also said to them, 'Ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock. His work is perfect.' They were not to forget the days of old; they were to consider the years of many generations, and to recount the great things God had done for them; they were to ask their fathers and their elders, and they would tell and show to them the marvelous things Jehovah had done for His people."

Long afterwards David sang in his day, "The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup, Thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." Psalm 16:5-7. Every true American citizen ought to be able to adopt as his own, these expressive words of King David. Is not the Lord the portion of our inheritance and our cup? Has He not maintained our lot? Have not the lines fallen to us in pleasant places? Surely, we should remember the days of old, and in doing so, "ascribe greatness unto our God."

The work on which we have now entered in our city will be a marked one, and memorable in history. First, many of our citizens are making commendable and self-denying efforts through an Art and Loan-Exhibition, which will be instructive and elevating in its influence, to secure liberal and generous offerings for the City Hospital. Is not this charitable and humane undertaking in keeping with genuine patriotism?

Second, the citizens of Wheeling and the state of West Virginia, and from adjacent states, will have the pleasure and privilege of meeting and welcoming within our gates, Admiral Dewey, the naval hero of Manila, and his wife, and the brave Lieutenant Donnell, one of Wheeling's young men who nobly did his part on one of the warships.

Third, the Sons and Daughters of the Revolution are gracefully to do their part in the reception and entertainment of the guests of honor, as well as fittingly to celebrate the birthday of George Washington the first President of the United States.

And fourth, an important matter will be the placing by the city of a suitable tablet on Main street, to mark the spot where Fort Henry stood, one of the last dismantled forts at the close of the Revolutionary war, and the presentation of a sword to Lieutenant Doddridge, as a token of appreciation for faithful services rendered at the naval battle of Manila. What a busy week it will be; but may we not hope that it will all be for the glory of God?

Washington's Birthday. Why do we, as American citizens, celebrate Washington's birthday? It is that we may keep in memory what he did for his country, as a statesman, a soldier, and as the first President. It is to this end that the descendants of those who were the revolutionary fathers, have formed themselves into patriotic associations entitled the Sons and Daughters of the Revolution. Two years ago, many of you will remember, by invitation of the local society, I preached a sermon in this church on "The Love of Country" which was published. Here, let me give an extract from the constitution of the general society, "The Society of the Sons of the Revolution has been instituted to perpetuate the memory of the men, who, in the military, naval and civil service of the colonies and of the continental Congress, by their acts or counsel, achieved the independence of the country, and to further the proper celebration of the anniversaries of the birthday of Washington, and of prominent events connected with the war of the Revolution; to collect and secure for presentation the rolls, records and other documents relating to that period; to inspire the members of the society with the patriotic spirit of their forefathers, and to promote the feeling of friendship among them."

Now, all this is carrying out the

Be Careful

No woman can be too careful of her condition during the period before her little ones are born. Neglect or improper treatment then endangers her life and that of the child. It lies with her whether she shall suffer unnecessarily, or whether the ordeal shall be made comparatively easy. She had better do nothing than do something wrong.

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spirit and the teaching of the word of God. "Remember the days of old; consider the years of many generations; ask thy father and he will tell thee, thy elders and they will tell thee." Clearly enough, it is one of the purposes that God has in endowing individually with an anniversary sense, and freighting us nationally with a Washington's Birthday instinct. By running through our souls the ploughshare of remembered and cherished events of old, it crumbles the stiffened soil, and stirs the deep productive juices. The national consciousness is aroused, the national spirit is quickened, the national heart is quickened. It means more than usual this week to be an American citizen. There may be a good deal of foolishness and considerable boys' play about our Washington's Birthday and Dewey demonstration, but on the whole, it is vastly quickening, broadening, and solidifying, and we tumbly believe and devoutly pray, that every year of busting that is floated, every mile of procession that is marched, and every confused noise of drum and brass band that is made, may be blessed by the Almighty to our national awakening and uplift, and to the reviving of our patriotic love.

At noon on the thirtieth day of April, 1776, a hundred and eleven men, who are the coming age, in the city of New York, and in the presence of an assemblage of the heroic men whose patriotic devotion had led the colonies to victory and independence, George Washington took the oath of office as chief magistrate of the new born republic. This impressive act was preceded at 9 o'clock in the morning, in all the churches of the city, by prayer for God's blessing on the government and its first President. This happy beginning was not an accident, but due to causes which our fathers distinctly recognized. No nation was ever more distinctly founded, built up and led by the Divine hand. Upon the people God bestowed more abundant marks of favor and upon no other; people do greater responsibilities rest. And it should be our effort to show our gratitude for God's dealings with us in the past, and to obtain His favor in all time to come.

A Goodly Heritage.

As we remember the days of old, and the heroic struggles of our fathers, we must not forget "the goodly heritage," which God, through them, has transmitted to us. And we should manifest the true patriotic and Christian spirit, by saying so, by rendering sincere praise to the Giver of all our blessings. It is no time for gloom and despondency when we have such a heritage as that which God has given us. It is true that we have done much to offend our God; and yet with divine and fatherly compassion the Lord has maintained our lot. Millions have sung of Him as "Our Father's God," and prayed to Him as "Our Father in Heaven." What a goodly heritage we have! It is large; it now embraces many of the islands of the sea for their good; it is an empire in its proportions; but its vastness is not its chief characteristic. Its richness is the natural elements of wealth, and its adaptations to furnish a great population with work and bread, are grander than the vastness of its territory. Yet these millions are not merely to eat food and wear clothes, and to be warmed in houses; but as citizens they are to live under civil institutions, to be moral and immortal beings; they are to be ready to meet God on the day of judgment. But these United States are furnished with extraordinary facilities for moral education and development. God's Word is within the reach of all the people, and there are abundant means in our churches and schools to help them in the same direction. How much is included in the open Bible and the schools and religious freedom! Truly we have a blessed inheritance; the lines have fallen to us in pleasant places; and we have a goodly heritage.

As we remember the days of old, we must not forget that God gave us the holy Sabbath. "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy" is His commandment. Our country would not be what it is, were it not for the blessings of the Sabbath day. A public recognition of the Sabbath, as holy time, has, from the first, been accorded to the day by our federal constitution. On that day, the high civil functions of the chief magistrate of the nation—the business of the supreme court, the sessions of the houses of Congress—the operations of the war and treasury and navy departments—all are suspended by constitutional provisions. And so all the individual states of the Union, in their capacity of sovereign powers, do provide for the Sabbath observance by precept and penalty. The Sabbath is man's special blessing, and his great temporal blessing. Confessedly, Sabbath breaking, as a crime, leads to all sorts of crime. Philosophically considered, the Sabbath is the world's great public recognition of the being and sovereignty of a God, whose laws are over us. And to degrade it from its sanctity, is to bring a blasphemy that springs out of Atheism. And as a fact of observation, just as you blot out the Sabbath, you blot out Christian civilization. It will be a dark day for America when she practically blots out the fourth commandment.

Indebted to the Fathers.

In our remembrances of the past, let us recognize our indebtedness to the statesmen and fathers of the Revolution who secured for us a free and open Bible. What would this nation have been without it? Let Mexico and South America answer. The world has no other such text book. Our fathers claimed it as a dictate of social well-proportioned, but the Bible is the great text book of morals in our system of education. Why, look ye! Where would be our social system, if not for the sacredness of the judicial oath? But what is this oath? What a simple impregnation of the vengeance, and the remembrance of the favor, of the God of the Bible, if the utterance of false oaths, and this very oath administered on the Bible. But how, then, I pray you, can the awful meaning of such an oath be understood without a full knowledge of that Bible, wherein its sanctions are alone defined, and on which alone it is administered? And what the outcry against the Bible in our public schools of popular education, is a war cry against our whole social system. If general education be, as it confessedly is, a duty of civil government, it must be such an education as prepares for our peculiar franchises. It must educate the whole man for the functions of his body, that might make him only a limbed giant. Not merely his intellect—that might make him only a cold-blooded demon. Over and above all this, his whole moral nature must be educated as well, so training his sensibilities, so refining his manners, so directing and establishing his principles, his feelings, his habits of thought—in a word, so elevating and educating his moral sense into an understanding of what, as a good citizen, he owes to society—that, together with a strong and trained mind—a trained and tender conscience as well, may fit him for the duties of a useful citizenship. Yes, a thousand times, yes, do we claim as a part of an American birthright, protection here and everywhere, and always, for every religious interest of our being. Here and everywhere, and always, a free Bible—a free conscience—a free spirit. Eyes to go forth on benevolent ministries to men's perishing immortality. Free to worship the God of our fathers, in spirit and in truth.

Our Mission.

Fellow Christians and citizens, never let us forget, amid the proud and grateful memories of our origin and our young life, with what a mission we are charged, what transcendent good we are to realize, what possibilities are to be realized, our lot, and what immeasurable interests for millions yet unborn are involved. With every reason for congratulation and song and happy memorial in the past, the great drama of history is not yet complete, and we are enacting now for our children, as our fathers did for us, one of many scenes which hasten or retard the great consummation. Thanks be to God for all that is past and secure already; for deliverances wrought in the sea and the wilderness, and for the largeness and wealth and opportunity of our national heritage. Blessed be His name for more than a century of new times in a new nation; for our age, our Union, our nationality, and the magnificent ideas of liberty and of human right and progress, which have been evolved into form and action and fruit in this period of our existence. Blessed be God that the visions and yearnings of godly patriots at the beginning have not been disappointed. The boys of freedom and honor of our country, sought and open to the oppressed and weary of all lands. Blessed be God for all the good and heroic men who, from the beginning of our history until now, in times of calm and in times of war, in all quietness and duty, have been raised up to be guides and leaders, teaching the people what should be done and how to do it. All that the highest statesmanship can do, is to discover and re-enact the laws of the Creator, in the affairs of political economy. In social science, point outside the range of human wit and craft and force to a divine order, obedience to which brings welfare and advancement. The boys of America, in our nation, nor in America, is not in any "civilization," but in the commandments which insure permanent welfare and happiness. And

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well as an individual, may array itself, an armor made up of honor, truth, justice, purity and charity. These are the elements of the might. These form the celestial panoply which most safely guards the nation's life. Righteousness is the true palladium of kingdoms and republics. If a country could be found where every citizen was animated by high moral principle in all his transactions with his government and with his fellow-citizens; where private interest was ever sacrificed to the public good; where devotion to the commonweal produced mutual confidence between man and man, and brought together all the elements of strength and combined them in one united effort for the welfare of the whole; where official integrity and private virtue were alike unspotted; where regard for each other's rights, interests and happiness formed the noble law of a nation's life, can any one doubt that such a people could enjoy a perpetual heritage of prosperity and power?

Righteousness Exalteth.

The wisest king who ever sat upon a throne has told us that righteousness exalteth a nation. Not policy in government, not fertility in soil, not salubrity of climate, but righteousness. Not fleets and armies and munitions of war, but righteousness—that is the only firm foundation for the safety, honor, happiness and glory of a nation. And while this is true, the converse of the proposition is equally true. Sin is the shame, the reproach, the ruin of any people; for sin is the fruitful mother of fraud, falsehood, selfishness, drunkenness, treachery, oppression, corruption and profligacy; and these are the vices which have dug the graves of the mightiest kingdoms. Let us guard well our country's honor against those sins and evils, which always bring ruin and desolation. Moses, in his song, said to the people, "ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock. His work is perfect. We, too, can rejoice as a people, and ascribe greatness to the God who has established in the broadest recognition of its entire subordination to the higher government of the Eternal. In theory, we never were an infidel government; and God helping us, we never will be. The baptism in tears and blood of our young giant of nationality, was a Christian baptism. The prayers of our constituents, recognize their obligation to act as in the presence of a higher than human authority. And they did act as in such presence. Protestant Christianity is positively part of our common law, and part of our constitution. The civil law of this land lifts a Protestant Bible in every official inauguration, and proclaims the Sabbath as consecrated to God, alike in the halls of our higher national council, and in the rudest hut of the borderer. Thus, recognizing God's authority as supreme over all the nations on His footstool. Is not God, then, the portion of our inheritance and our cup? Has He not maintained our lot? Verily, my brethren, as a free and prosperous people, we owe something to God. Something? Ah, me! how mighty—how great should be the tribute which Christian America rejoices to lay at the feet of Jehovah! What has God done for us? Also, I have no words for the argument. You know what He has done; the whole world knows the story by heart. Look at these United States! God, alike in the day, Behold her broad boundaries, and her humane and helpful hands, stretching out and extending to the islands of the seas. Behold her gorgeous scenery—her new and noble civilization—the breadth and wealth of her husbandry—her mountains full of minerals—the multiplicity of her great cities—her seaboard, the market places whitening all oceans—her matchless progress in manufactures and the arts, and literature and science—the spread of her mighty population—the strength and style of her magnificent specimens of manhood. Look at her with her public schools and colleges, and seminaries, and universities, and with her Bible, and churches, and great missionary societies giving the gospel to the world. Look at her, the purest, the fairest, the most joyous, the most hopeful, the most magnificent dwelling place for man on the face of the earth. And whence all this? Why, from God, and God alone. "Ascribe ye greatness unto our God." "Ascribe ye greatness to the Lord." It is God's work, all of it; the wisdom of His counsel, the work of His omnipotence. And tell me, if you can, what should we render, as a nation, unto God for all His great mercies? What, what unto God? Our great and glorious Benefactor? Our Benefactor! Our Rock in every battle! Our great Shield in every battle! What, what unto God should America render?

Should Weigh This Question and Profit by a Wheeling Citizen's Experience.

Success in business is often handicapped. A man may have plenty of capital. May have energy in abundance. May know his business well. And still succeed comes slowly. It's a case of 100 gas vs. Puritan. Each can carry it all. A lame or aching back is a handicap. Drive the ache away and make work a pleasure. Learn what backache means. Learn that the backache is kidney ache. Learn how to shake it off. Read how a Wheeling citizen did it. Mr. Albert Capps, of 934 Market street, ex-superintendent of the city electric light plant, says: "I had a steady, aching pain across the hollow of my back which, were I to strain myself, or take a misstep, was very severe, and when I stooped I could hardly straighten up without putting my hands on my back. Were I to sit for a time in a chair I became so stiff I could scarcely get up, and I had frequent attacks of dizziness so severe at times that did I not take hold of a support I could not stand steady. I tried different remedies but without obtaining any desired relief, so when I saw Doan's Kidney Pills so well spoken of by parties who had used them, I came to the conclusion they would do me good. I got a box at the Logan drug store and began to use them at once as my back was very bad at that time. I felt their effect immediately and in a few days was entirely relieved."

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never before were so many people striving to learn the conditions of social and political prosperity, and to insure their fulfillment, as in this country at the present time. It is this fact, which is confirmed and enforced by the increasing power and influence of Christianity among all classes of people, that makes the prospect of the future full of glorious good cheer. Therefore, will we "Ascribe greatness unto our God," Author of Liberty. To Thee we sing: Long may our land be bright With freedom's holy light; Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!

THE SWORD FUND.

To the Public: We endorse the initiative action taken by the Wheeling Intelligencer, both in inviting Admiral Dewey to take part in the ceremonies attending the setting of the Fort Henry commemorative tablet and in proposing the raising of a fund by popular subscription for the purpose of purchasing a suitable sword to be presented to Lieut. John S. Doddridge, U. S. N., in recognition of his services contributory to the great victory won by Admiral Dewey in Manila Bay. We suggest that the Intelligencer proceed at once to receive subscriptions to the Sword Fund, to be expended by the Fort Henry Tablet Committee in purchasing the sword to be presented to Lieut. Doddridge, and to connect with the Fort Henry ceremonies, February 22, 1900. H. P. MCGREGOR, HULLIHEN QUARRIER, E. H. BROCKUMIER, R. M. BAIRD, O. C. DEWEY, ALEX. LUDDEGRAFF, T. M. GARVIN, Members of Fort Henry Tablet Committee.

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