

THE BOSTON ADVOCATE, SATURDAY,

A SERMON

By Rev. George. E. Hicks, of Boston.
Delivered Sept. 5, 1886.
MANHOOD AND RELIGION.

TEXT.—"Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon, his son, saying: I go the way of all the earth; be thou strong, therefore, and show thyself a man; and keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways and statutes and his commandments."—1 Kings, iii, Chap. 1st and 2d verses.

(Conclusion.)

Thus the ambitious scholar must crucify his laziness; the man who would provide for his family must deny himself luxuries, and the man of business must deny himself the invitation of ease—so he whose aim is true manhood after God's idea must deny the lower demands of his nature when they stand in the way of the higher. If he does not the body assumes supremacy, and the result is not manhood but beasthood. Like the companions of Ulysses on the island of the sorceress, as related in the old Greek fable, the man is metamorphosed into swine.

Yet not alone must the powers of the body be rightly guarded and trained, but going up from the basement story of the pyramid—from the earthly foundation toward the summit where the light of heaven shines on it, here we come to the intellect, and here we begin to see the remarkable power and influence of christianity for making men.

For whatever strengthens and energizes the mind tend also directly to the development of manhood; and Christ's religion does this, and no impartial observer or student of history can deny it. Why, sirs, it has brought to the world the highest kind of knowledge, and it has opened up new fields for the mind, and it has given to the race a new standpoint from which everything is seen in different relations and grander proportions. Hence, as a consequence, we see how it has everywhere awakened intellectual activity. What book caused the writing of so many books as the Bible? Why, sirs, do you not see the wave of human thought stirred into activity, and dashing and roaring as fiercely around any great revelation of purely secular knowledge as around this immovable rock of God's Word? And what christianity does for the mind of the race it does also for the individual. Thus, let the body be ruled by its laws, so that it may help and not hinder the immortal part, while the mind is operated on by all of the fertilizing influences of God brought down from heaven through Jesus Christ, and who doubts its effect upon manhood? For if the dweller in Christian America is more of a man according to the divine

idea than the dweller in pagan Africa so is that individual who brings christianity to bear directly and personally upon his character more of a man than he who does not. And yet there is a still higher constituent of manhood than either the body or mind, and that is the spirit. Hence, the religious faculties in man are those which separate him most completely from all inferior beings, and it is the essential element of his being. There is no true manhood without it, for it is this which constitutes the divine image in him, and it is this that binds him in relationship with higher grades of existence, upward, upward, all the way up to the Omnipotent.

To say, therefore, that one cannot be a full man after the divine intention without being religious is simply to state a truism. Men who pride themselves on their

it as by an irresistible impulse. It ought to shame christians of this our time because they have permitted the idea of unmanliness or weakness to be associated with it. Its history ought to convince its bitterest foe that whatever else it may lack, it does not lack the power to make men.

Courage and endurance are everywhere esteemed manly virtues. Whom will you see a better exhibition of them than among that noble army of martyrs in the early Church, to whom there was no dungeon from Jerusalem to Spain dark enough to terrify, and to whom no scourges or burning racks had power to silence or dishearten. If you would instead sincerity, or that bold frankness which speaks the downright truth without fear, as a mark of manliness, then look at Him who was the author of christianity, and therefore its best exemplar. Hear Him hurl those terrible rebukes into the faces of those influential leaders among the Jews whom he knew had power to murder Him, and who finally did murder him, listen to those awful words which must have sounded so terrible in the ears of those hypocrites against whom they were levelled like thunder-peals of a coming judgment, and remember that it was Jesus. That gentle, loving and forgiving Jesus who spoke those appalling words. Then, again, if you say that steadfastness and fixedness of purpose are tokens of manhood then see them portrayed in the same person, who went calmly to his crucifixion that He might finish the work He had come to do, when a single word from Him would have averted the doom.

Generosity you say is manly. Where is there a purer example of it than in that religion whose primal lesson is self-sacrifice for others, whose chosen emblem is the Cross and whose author voluntarily gave up His own life for the life of His followers? Yet there is indeed a false manliness, a fictitious honor that men of the world often esteem the true, and pride themselves on, of which christianity knows nothing. He who formed man for high destinies, He who would have him rise and not sink in the scale of being has a truer manliness to propose to us than that counterfeit which the worldling praises.

Hence, we have been given a model of the true in Him, who was the pattern of the race; and we are urged to work after that model carefully and patiently, "till we come unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the statue of the fullness of Christ."

Thus it is worthy of our reflection that the first meaning of that old Greek word, *Hero*, was the son of *Deo*, one who had a divine parentage, not simply a man valiant and heroic, as the world in general reckons heroism, in that prime signification of the word. There has been, one hero in the world since its creation, and one who was in very truth the Son of God, compared with whose heroic acts those of other men grow dim indeed. Before that life of true heroism the best part of the earth has bowed down in homage. Now men, who have scoffed at Christ's doctrine, have yet made haste to admit that no life which has been lived in the flesh is to be compared with his in every element of a noble manhood.

Hence, then, he who has any ambition to strive after the heroic, according to the old and the true meaning of the word, looks at best in the eyes of the celestial host, though you may be unnoticed and unappreciated by the world, must

prise, progression in arts and inventions, America needs above all of these desirable things combined, a larger and a purer and a nobler manhood, a manhood which can only come through a reaching after the divine ideal given to the world in christianity.

And in conclusion, I will say to the church, and to the world as well: He who is a man of manhood will bear, Should be as bold as a hero: He will stand, and virtue go, He will not turn away to others saying Grace to stand, and virtue go, Thus by self-offenses weighing, But shame to him, whose credit striking, Kills for faults of his own liking.

THEY SAY

(Specially reported for the Advocate.)

—That Robt Ingersoll cannot recover from the throat trouble with which he is ill.

—That it greatly resembles the disease which finally killed Gen. Grant.

—That if there were no Boston Advocate, society would go mad with ennui.

—That some one is jealous because some one has her photograph.

—That some one would not be jealous if he also had a photograph of the favored one.

—That the colored Knights of Labor are about to test the genuineness of the position taken by the white Knights at Richmond in favor of equal opportunities for the employment of races.

—That they are demanding a share of the work in the cotton mills in Georgia.

—That they threaten to make trouble for the order if they do not succeed in getting it.

—That the presents of the newly-married couple are numerous and elegant.

—That they will reside permanently at 192 Northampton Street.

—That the gentleman who visited Boston last summer when nearly all the ladies were away will return next summer a little earlier in the season.

—That the engagement of one more of the J. V. C. is announced. That the marriage is indefinitely postponed.

—That the marriage last Wednesday night was strictly private, only intimate friends being invited.

—That about thirty were present.

—That the bride wore a travelling dress.

—That another quiet wedding took place at the South End the latter part of last week.

—That every one is impatient for the Student Aid Society to have another entertainment.

—That they all intend to support the young ladies again this season.

—That it was a quiet little supper that was spread at a certain number on Phillips street last week.

—That all who partook of that supper were ladies. That they had a jolly good time, too.

—That both young ladies look alike. That each has been taken for the other a great many times. That a number of ludicrous blunders have been made by acquaintances who have got the ladies mixed.

—That the first snow of the season fell in New Hampshire Saturday, the 16th.

—That the salary of General Master Powderly is \$5,000 a year.

—That the scholars of the free colored school at Goshen, N. Y., have been on the strike.

—That the scholars say that their teacher devoted the whole of one morning to one study, and that they refused to return to school until the matter is satisfactorily arranged.

—That not a drop of liquor can be legally sold in Atlanta, Ga. That even the sale of beer is prohibited.

—That despite all admonition that has been given, there are still many newscarrers or talebearers in society.

That several gentlemen in Augusta, Ga., are very anxious to see a certain young lady in Boston whose name has become very popular in Augusta.

—That she is already a favorite with many who have never seen her.

—That she contemplates visiting Augusta soon.

—That a certain popular and talented young lady of Boston will soon make her debut as an artist of no small ability.

—That elastic hearts are all the rage. That Boston is full of them. That one of the celebrated cases has managed to play the agreeable to four different ladies in one year.

—That they are a little anxious to know who the fifth will be.

—That a woman always carries her purse in her hand so that other women may see it. That a man carries his in his inside pocket so that his wife won't see it.

—That the Chinese are about to take possession of the earth.

—That an interesting story is told of Ex-Governor Pinchback in his slavery days, playing poker with his master, a rich old Southerner, who offered to play his slave, the Ex-Governor, against \$5000.

—That Prince Karamoko, a real "Black Prince," of Africa, lately visited Paris. That he was lionized by the ladies. That his opinion of ladies is barbaric.

—That the mare Capitola, owned and driven by Mr. J. H. Lewis at the races a short time ago, won the handsome gold and silver cup displayed in the window of the merchant tailor.

—That the Harvest Concert Sunday eve was a most successful one. That the house was filled to overflowing.

—That they are usually seen together on Sunday evenings. That on last Sunday eve she was seen unaccompanied by him.

—That white straw hats have been called in. That one fractious white straw was seen at the harvest concert last week.

—That it was a lone white straw. That it was in danger of being gathered in with other summer fruits at the harvest.

—That Friday is an eventful day in American History.

—That on Friday Columbus sailed on his voyage of discovery.

—That on Friday, ten weeks after, he discovered America.

—That on Friday, St. Augustine, the oldest town in the United States, was founded.

—That on Friday the Mayflower arrived at Plymouth.

—That on Friday George Washington was born.

—That on Friday Bunker Hill was seized and fortified.

—That on Friday Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.

—That Forepaugh's circus was exhibited in Pennsylvania last week.

—That some of the men stole apples in an orchard near by.

—That the owner caught them and threatened to shoot them if they repeated the act.

—That they did repeat it. That the owner did keep his word. That he shot one of the men in the leg.

—That Mr. George B. Thayer, son of Ex U. S. Senator Thayer of Connecticut, made a journey of 4,224 miles across the continent on a bicycle.

—That the greatest distance he travelled in any one day was 76 miles. That his expenses during the run were \$275.

—That women jump at conclusions and generally hit. That men reason things out logically and generally miss it.

—That some women can't pass a millinery store without looking in. That some men can't pass a saloon without going in.

—That 100,000 of the first volume of...

