

THE BOSTON ADVOCATE, SATURDAY.

A SERMON

By Rev. Geo. E. Hicks, of Boston.

Delivered Sept. 6, 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.

My dear friends, we have here in the dying words of King David, just his real idea of what constitutes true manliness. If Solomon, his son, was to be strong and show himself a man, the only way for him to do it, was to keep the statutes, and to obey the commandments of God. In other words, if he would be manly he must be religious. Now that does not seem to be the modern idea, for it appears rather to be the opinion of many men in this our time, that to be religious is rather womanly; that there is something about the services of God, prayer, open profession of the religion of Jesus Christ, and the kind of life required by this religion, which is not quite consistent with strong rugged manhood.

If one of the old Hebrews, who lived two thousand years ago, accustomed as he was in his day to see more men than women gather in the throng for the temple and synagogue worship, could but revisit the earth and look in upon our ordinary Sunday congregations, I think he would be considerably astonished. He would wonder what had become of all the men, as he surveyed the multitude of women and children with only here and there a man among them, and yet he might possibly conclude in his ignorance that some great Assyrian war or Babylonian captivity had taken off all of the able bodied males and left hardly any but noncombatants behind, to worship God in the temple of their fathers. A brief inspection of the world outside of the churches, but just one glance into private homes, or public resorts, or even into places of business would speedily dispel the illusion, and yet perhaps leave him more mystified then ever.

Thus it is a fact of great significance and one which must be accounted for, that not more than one third as many men as women are connected in actual membership with the various christian bodies here, or throughout the United States of America. And this fact has much to do with the present and future of Christianity in this city; for however admirable its principles, or whatever its past has been, our religion, as an influencing force of the present, is very much what its living agents make it. They are the men of the world, for their characters are of character and their strength is its strength; it is manly or effeminate, it is strong or weak, just in accordance to its representatives.

Thus if women only profess it, then it follows that the world in general will look upon it mainly as a woman's religion, a harmless sort of sentimentalism which is well enough for women and very pretty in children, but not quite the thing for strong, deep-thinking, bold-acting men. And then here is another fact, that only a small portion of the manly strength and vigorous enterprise of this our land is actively identified with any christian institution, for the sturdy men who are increasing the wealth of the country, developing its resources, shaping its future, do not for the most part

robust manhood which does not greatly feel the need of being soothed and comforted then should be repelled.

Now, is it strange that a young man who has so much of physical vigor in him, feels, for the time, almost incapable of death? He is not likely to be drawn very powerfully to religion when taught that its main purpose is to prepare men for the last hours and the next world.

SENTIMENTAL.

Such as Sunday-school songs about the "Beautiful Eden" and the "Bright Forever," gentle, harmless talk by the feminine minded exhorters about the vanity of this world, illustrated, perhaps, by childish stories just as unreal as their morals are untrue. They are hardly means to persuade him to a religious life.

Now these are the things which too often help to drive away from our churches young men who feel themselves to be no longer children.

In an age like this of ours: an age which laughs at cant and sentiments of every kind; yes, an age which demands downright doings and real talkings; an age which tolerates nothing that does not square with the hard facts of an actual life, this type of religion will not win men.

What, then, is needed? Sirs, what is wanted is the christianity of the New Testament. That which makes men more manly, as well as women more womanly—strong, brave, aggressive, as well as gentle and forgiving—having the promise of the life that now is quite as much as that which is to come. Hence, then, what is wanted in this age of men and women at least is a MUSCULAR CHRISTIANITY.

Christ's religion does indeed bring comfort to the sorrowing and peace to the sick and dying: nay, more. It not only gives hope to the repentant, but it teaches humility, forgiveness and sorrow for sin, it also teaches manly courage, firm endurance, constancy of purpose, decision of character to heroically battle with wrong, and truth and honor, yes, and every other element of real manliness. And it insists upon righteousness, positive and active, and nowhere intimates that mere negative goodness or deathly repentance will do in a world where sin is to be fought by loyal soldiers of Christ, with sword in hand during the best years of their strong manhood; and it tells a man how to live rightly all through this life, which is the surest way to live rightly for the life that is to come.

(To be Continued.)

Interesting Story.

FRIEND OR FOE; or, THE Wages of Sin.

[BY MATTIE HORTON, NEW YORK.]

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CHAPTER XXVI. Continued.

DEAD—AND NOT DEAD.

"Come, come on daddy," said she to the old man, "I will save her this night!" and lifting him almost helpless from the ground, she dragged him in the direction of home, while he chattered away in the same idiotic manner.

Poor Corinne threw the stone with the note attached far out in the open air, she

by them, help me. For I know the love of no one, help me for their sake!"

Here she fell into an almost uncontrollable mood which frightened the poor girl and caused a tear to course down her fair and beautiful face.

"Mabelle I very sorry for you, I help you if can."

"Oh, do I do for the love of God!" said poor Corinne, frantically, meanwhile walking the floor and ringing her hands in excitement. The girl said no more, but closing the door and locking it after her, was gone.

Corinne after a while became more calmed, and throwing herself across her little pallet soon fell into a sound sleep.

The night outside was cold and blustering. Not many were out in the street and what few were out on business. All around the convent was dark and dreary looking, with no signs of life, but from one window in the large basement could be seen a ray of light. Near the corner of the street upon which the convent was could be seen some dark-looking object moving in a hurried manner toward the side gate. As it draws near the lamp post we are able to discern more clearly the outline of the figure. A tall and slender young woman, robed in a dark cloak and hood and muffled up so closely that nothing can be seen but the pale, handsome face and a dark stray curl which the wind is blowing over the fair brow. As she reached the side gate she stopped, and giving a faint tap waited only a moment when the gate swung open and a woman with whom she seemed to be well acquainted whispered a low "Good evening."

"Good evening, Felice. I have come to see you on some very important business and I do not want anybody to overhear us. Can't you find some place where we can be alone for about ten minutes at the least? Where is Mother Superior?"

"She is in 2c parlor and 2c girls have gone out. Come in, you must be cold. We will go in my room. There we can talk vat you want to."

Here these two girls walked stealthily in, through the long corridor and entered a little room back of the kitchen, and closing the door commenced to converse in low, quiet tones.

(To be Continued.)

Patrie Gossip.

GARDEN CITY, KAN., Oct. 10, '86.

The democratic and prohibition boom have opened here in good earnest. In republican ranks there seems to be, at least in this district, but feeble efforts made to add any new plank to its platform, or to commend anything that has been issued by that party politics. Measures have been made to affiliate it with the prohibition movement, but they seem unfruitful of all friendly overtures. They see no difference in the party who closed the doors of barrooms and saloons to open up a traffic in drug stores, or the principles of democracy which closed the latter and allowed the former to flourish under high license. St. John's followers are preparing for a vigorous campaign, while the followers of John A. Martin, the republican nominee seem all at sea. The democrats are hard at work and confident, they are hurrying their boomerangs into every camp.

The Cleveland Globe has made its appearance among us. J. E. Bowman is

THEY SAY

(Specially reported for the Advocate.)

—That Robert Smalls, the negro statesman, has been elected to Congress, five times. That he will no doubt secure his sixth election in November.

—That Harvard's freshman class numbers 268. That it is the largest number ever known to enter an American college in one class.

—That Fred Douglass and his white wife are a great success, socially, in London. That at Liverpool, they attracted admiring attention, on the streets.

—That she wept, because it didn't cost anything.

—That he was on hand Sunday night. That even if he was a little late, he got there just the same.

—That if the Cape Ann people want to defend themselves against cyclones and winter gales, they had better persuade Lieut. Hearn to keep the Galatea at Marblehead, right along.

—That Miss Lillian Lewis will be seen this season, in New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, Louisville, Boston, Providence, Brooklyn, Milwaukee, Baltimore, and Washington, and many other places.

—That the new house, which Mrs. Otis Brady has purchased, is very handsome and spacious.

—That he is passing for white. That, that will never do.

—That Wiggins and Jeff Davis would make a good pair.

—That chestnuts are ripe. That it takes students and young ladies, fresh from school, to gather them—and to eat them, too.

—That the wedding, on the 20th will be a very quiet affair.

—That they will make a tour of two weeks. That after that, they will go to housekeeping.

—That there are a great many happy grooms-elect in Boston, this fall, as well as a great many blushing and youthful brides-elect.

—That when all of the Lee family are provided for, there may be some chance for other ambitious Virginians.

—That the two students, very closely resemble each other.

—That she is anxious to see the one that resembles the other. That the other is far away. That a look upon the like features of the one, would cause a return of happy remembrances of the other.

—That the fight made in the city of Richmond, will be felt for years to come.

—That the colored K. of L. delegate, from District 41, of Baltimore, is a guest at the St. Charles Hotel at Richmond, with the white delegates. That he receives the same attention, as the others, and is enjoying himself immensely.

—That the squad of policemen, who guarded the theatre at Richmond, the night that they anticipated the presence of the colored Knight at the performance, made very big fools of themselves for nothing. That the colored knight had no desire to attend the theatre that night. That other matters were before him. That he will attend before he leaves the city.

—That the white capitalist at the South keeps the poor white man and the Negro fighting while he goes on with his stealing.

—That Murphy, the hotel keeper who refused to accommodate the colored delegate from District 44 of New York, has been booted. That the house is empty. That the other hotels are doing a thriving business.

—That stranger things have happened.

—That in the Salvation Army there are 16,000 privates and 630 officers.

—That the Boston Patriarchic took the prize of \$75.00 at Philadelphia.

—That the society hop to take place this month will be a big success.

—That nearly all the lovers of the

him more mystified than ever.

Thus it is a fact of great significance and one which must be accounted for, that not more than one third as many men as women are connected in actual membership with the various christian bodies here, or throughout the United States of America. And this fact has much to do with the present and future of Christianity in this city; for however admirable its principles, or whatever its past has been, our religion, as an influencing force of the present, is very much what its living agents make it. They are its strength; it is manly or effeminate, it is strong or weak, just in accordance to its representatives.

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Now this, I say, is a fact of the deepest import, and that too, not only as concerning the future of Christianity in this country, but the future of the nation itself. What is the cause of it? Is it a defect in our religion; that it is not adapted to the years of strong manhood, when all the powers of life are harnessed for their best work? or is it, rather, the fault in the modern interpretation of that religion? Yet it is plain that the religious teachings most common in this our time are not characterized by the presentation of those heroic and muscular elements of Christianity which commends itself to strong natures. Whether intentional or not, the ordinary representation of it makes it most acceptable to meek and gentle natures. Go where you will and you will find that the popular idea of a pious man is one who is above all else amiable and submissive, charitable and harmless. He is very well described by the word "goody" in the opinion of the irreligious. He is so tolerant that he cannot bring himself to speak against even the worst kind of villany with much emphasis. For if he were to blaze out some times in righteous indignation at some diabolical wrong with only half the feeling that Christ threw into His denunciations of the hypocritical Pharisees he would be in danger of losing his reputation for piety with many good people. Why, sir, such an outburst would not be consistent with their milk-and-water idea of the Christian spirit. When religion is taught to be chiefly valuable because of its power to calm the feelings, to soothe and comfort, it is not strange that

when wrong, and truth and honor, you, and every other element of real manliness. And it insists upon righteousness, positive and active, and nowhere intimates that mere negative goodness or deathbed repentance will do in a world where sin is to be fought by loyal soldiers of Christ, with sword in hand during the best years of their strong manhood; and it tells a man how to live rightly all through this life, which is the surest way to live rightly for the life that is to come.

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"Come, come on daddy," said she to the old man, "I will save her this night!" and lifting him almost helpless from the ground, she dragged him in the direction of home, while he chattered away in the same idiotic manner.

Poor Corinne threw the stone with the note attached far out in the open air, she knew not where, and a sickening thought troubled her, lest it should not be observed by any passer-by.

"Oh," thought she, "if no one should find it, or if they should even read and not take any further action, what will I do? I suppose I will have to spend the rest of my days here." Here she burst in a fit of weeping from which she was soon aroused by the entrance of a servant bearing a tray of viands, for, strange to say, during her three weeks' incarceration in the old convent she had never been allowed to enter the dining hall to converse with any of the occupants.

Corinne lifted her head at the sound of the click of the key in the heavy iron lock, but said not a word; not even when the girl set the tray upon the table at her side.

"Good evening mam'zelle, how ze feel?"

"Very bad," said Corinne, "I feel as if I shall die. I don't see how any one could feel any different imprisoned in a place like this."

"Too bad, mam'zelle, you a prisoner?"

For, strange to say, during her imprisonment here, although the girl had each day brought her meals, she had not ventured before to speak.

"Yes, I am a prisoner here against my will—was abducted from my home three weeks ago, since then I have not had a happy moment. I have no father or mother, but my aunt I know will be killed by the sudden blow. Help me, dear girl, if you have a heart. I am rich and will reward you. Only help me to make my escape from this place!

If you cannot help me to get away, for Heaven's sake kill me, poison me—I want to be free, if not in life so be it in death. Oh, I have had so much trouble all my life! If you have a sister or mother and know what it is to be loved

we will go in my room. There we can talk vat you vant to."

Here these two girls walked stealthily in, through the long corridor and entered a little room back of the kitchen, and closing the door commenced to converse in low, quiet tones.

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The *Cleveland Globe* has made its appearance among us. J. E. Bowman is correspondent.

Lodge No. 7, I. O. of O. F. met at their room on Tuesday evening the 21st ult.

The Rev. Robert Lincoln Brinkley has assumed charge over the Union Church Society here.

A movement is on foot to establish a Baptist church.

The Rev. J. F. Curtis having finished his conference year, has returned to Colorado Springs, Col.

Miss Hannah Boswell left the city for Jacksonville, Ill., on the 20th ult.

Mrs. Dunlap is paying a visit to her parents at Glasgow, Mo.

J. J. Dobbs is doing a thriving business. He owns an interesting library and has among it a good number of colored authors.

A new block comprising fifty-two elegant apartment stores is a great attraction to the city. A. D. Weathers has leased one of these and has a fine place in which to conduct his tonsorial establishment.

The St. James, Dodge House and Markham hotels all employ colored runners.

Miss Sarah Peck left the city on the 26th to attend school at Colorado Springs.

The Ford Co. fair open on the 18th of October and continues four days. Mrs. W. A. Johnson will compete for a premium in specimens of needle work.

Western law makes a man liable for (\$3.00) road and county taxes when he has been a resident for 30 days.

Your correspondent will locate at Garden City.

BETSY GIMBLEE.

They Say

—That there is a dashing, young, gallant at Cambridge.

—That there is another just as chivalrous in Boston who bears the same name.

the like features of the one, would cause a return of happy remembrances of the other.

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—That stranger things have happened.

—That in the Salvation Army there are 16,000 privates and 630 officers.

—That the Boston Patriarch took the prize of \$75.00 at Philadelphia.

—That the society hop to take place this month will be a big success.

—That nearly all the lovers of the pleasures of society say that they will be there.

—That there is another lady violinist in our popular circle.

—That she will soon be prepared to come before the public.

—That the room in which the bride's presents are displayed in Charlestown resembles a small bazaar.

—That the engagement is broken! That she found him unworthy and dismissed him.

—That such is life.

—That a delegation from the Colored Industrial Exposition held in Washington called at the 'White House and tendered an invitation to Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland to be present at the Exposition last week.

—That they appear to be very much in love with each other.

—That they wonder if they are.

—That they could no more do with out the ADVOCATE each week than they could do without sleep.

—That it is splendid. That they truly relish it.

—That they are so eager to know what "they say" each week that can hardly wait for the postman to bring the ADVOCATE.

—That fifty more subscribers were added to the list this week.

—That she said that she did not say what they said that she said that she said.

—That the president is going to turn every man out of office, who has violated the civil service law, or disregarded the order, pertaining to participating in politics.

—That it is wonderful to remark how many ladies he can look after at once.

—That it is deplorable to relate that each lady fancies herself the chosen one.

—That they have reduced the pay of the clerks at the post office.

—That a new postmaster has been appointed.

—That cheek is in order. That some people have it served up with every meal.

Bear Islew.

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D. M. Langston, Ex-Postmaster Thos. Hill, of Howard University, and Editor J. A. Arneaux.

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For further particulars address,

"The Boston Advocate," 65 HANOVER ST., Room 4.

Notice.

On and after Oct. 15th, Dr. C. C. E. JACOBS, the Medical Clinician and MAJOR W. H. HEALLEN, will receive patients at No. 11 Anton Street, Boston, Mass., from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M. Will be in Boston the last two weeks of every month, and in Hartford the first two weeks of every month, until further notice. Prices from \$1 to \$2.

NOTICE.

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has had a steady growth, both in circulation and literary quality, and it well merits the title given it by the Boston Transcript.

"The representative home magazine of New England." A special feature of this interesting magazine is the original stories and poems by the best American writers and among its contributors we notice Rev. Edward Everett Hale, Lucy Larcom, Celia Thaxter, Geo. McDonald, Louise Chandler Moulton, Joaquin Miller, Mrs. A. M. Diaz, Thos. S. Collier and B. P. Shillaber. Its department of music, fancy work, horticulture, fashions, receipts and household hints are filled each month with articles of great practical worth, and will prove interesting to ladies; in fact, the magazine from its add-time—replaces—on—the front cover, all through its well-printed and beautifully-illustrated pages, is wholesome and interesting. We are, therefore pleased to call attention to the fact that we have made arrangements so we can offer the Cottage Hearth for a year free to any one who will send us \$2.25 for a year's subscription to the Boston Advocate, and as ours is a limited offer, for subscribers would do well to order at once. Send for a free sample copy to the Cottage Hearth Co., Boston.

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