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THE HOLY MORN.

Rev. Edwin Forrest Hallenbeck.

'Tis the Lord's day, day of resurrection!
Gloom of night and mist of early dawn have fled.
With glory-light the sun looks out upon
A reverent world. Nature's mighty chorus
Shouts its hallelujahs unto God. The hills
With humble mien approach Jehovah's throne.
The trees with dew-be-diamonded robes of green
Draw near. Meadow and hillside bring from out
Their blossom'd wealth garlands for the altar
Of their king. Streamlets lip a dreamy note
Of praise. Golden grain fields bend into the
Attitude of prayer; orchards humbly bow
While morning winds put worship's voice into
Their lips. And as the day goes on apace,
Adoration at the shrine of nature's
God becomes intense; choirs of singing birds
Bring melodies of joy to him who gave
Them breath, until the voice of forest sings
Refrain to field, and peak responds to peak,
And every note in glad creation's scale
Has fervent part in holy gratitude,
And admonition to the sons of men;
"Pay homage to the God who reigns above;
With humble spirit worship at his throne,
'Tis the Lord's day, day of resurrection!"

All Round the Horizon

The world is taking on interest in many continents this week. Africa yields precedence to Asia and South America. The latter arena of revolutions is again convulsed along its northern coast. Venezuela is showing us a seventeenth century melodrama. Ever since the inauguration of President Ignacio Andrade over a year ago, there has been plot and counter plot; active hostilities breaking out during September of this year. The defeated candidate, Hernandez, and sixty-five other prominent politicians were imprisoned in August. General Castro, a partisan of General Hernandez, carried on the struggle and finally drove out Andrade. The latter's forces, however, made a fierce resistance at Puerto Cabello in a two days' battle. About three hundred were killed on both sides: and the beautiful sea port town has been devastated by a heavy bombardment. The liberated Hernandez has in turn revolted against Castro, who was driven by ambition to oust his former chief and aspire to the Presidency himself. Most South American revolutions are of the French duel variety. This is a bloody exception to the general rule.

Asia is again a centre of interest. American policy in China is being largely discussed on the continent and in England: and both Great Britain and Japan seem to count on the United States for moral and physical support. We have no political ambition in China; and do not aspire to any special commercial privileges in any portion of the Celestial Empire. But our policy there is the preservation of the rights of trade on equal terms with all other nations of the world. This is near enough to the "open door" policy of England to make her consider us as an active ally in her Eastern program.

The authorities at Washington have been negotiating of late with Germany and Russia

along these lines. Both governments have been asked to confirm our treaties with China, not only as to ports over which they have acquired sovereignty, but as to all over which their power may be extended hereafter. Both have given oral assurance that this will be done. The United States would like written assurances in the place of mere promises. Just how far our demands have been pushed along those lines is a matter of conjecture. Probably not to the extent of a peremptory demand, as rumor reported it. Our nation is much respected at present; and doubtless both Russia and Germany will not hesitate to accede to any reasonable requests.

The support given by the United States to Japan and Great Britain in the far East will doubtless be sympathetic rather than active, and from the political outlook nothing more will be needed for some time to come. France is occupied by internal questions. Russia has other matters to think of just at present. And Germany is inclined rather to follow suit than resist efforts for free competition. The commercial struggle in the early part of the next century will show her no mean rival for first honors. Far from being of an alarming nature, the situation of the Celestial Empire is now most favorable. New free ports are being granted. The railroads are opening unknown commercial fields, and the sluggish Chinese nature is being fused with the fire of Western enterprise and civilization more rapidly than many realize.

Japan seems to be courting a war with Russia. There is an increased tension existing between the two nations over the control of Korea. Japan is now second only to England in naval strength; and she is sending hurry orders to the various builders of her newest battle ships. "The Japanese are convinced that to permit Russia to acquire Korea or establish Russian ascendancy in northern China would be strategically, politically and commercially a deadly menace to Japan's rapidly developing strength."

It seems a most favorable opportunity for the island kingdom to make a determined stand. Japan has been biding her time of vengeance for three years. She never forgave Russia for her seizure of Port Arthur and that vicinity, but up to the present the land of the Ozar has been too strong for open resistance.

Japan needs no allies. Her fleet is superior to the Russian and French combined. With the Siberian railroad so far from completed, Russia would be at the greatest disadvantage. The combination of so many fortunate circumstances has given Japan an opportunity that may not soon recur. She has taken advantage of it by a flat refusal to grant a foothold on the sea front of Massampo Harbor, Korea.

There might be war but for one fact. Russia is on the brink of a great financial crisis. For

a long time she has been pecuniarily involved. A series of bad years and an immense outlay in self-development have practically exhausted all her resources. The Ozar's recent visit to Germany was influenced partly by a desire to effect another loan there. It seems certain that the proposed loan has failed, owing to the enormous expenses yet to be incurred in the construction of the Trans-Siberian Railroad. Whether the crash will be averted or not is a question hard to answer. Until that answer is given it is hardly likely that Russia will enter upon a long and enormously expensive war with prosperous Japan.

The news from South Africa has lately been of an unreliable and unsatisfactory character. Reported attacks upon Kimberley, Ladysmith and Mafeking are largely only on the hearsay evidence of natives. The official reports from all three besieged places show the garrisons holding their own. The situation at Ladysmith is the most precarious one. The English public is alarmed that there is such an entire absence of news of any importance from General White. If the town can hold out until the last of November, General Butler is confident all danger in Natal will be over. America is evenly divided in sympathy between the English and the Boers. A quick war and a decisive one ought to be the wish of all. Therefore the delay at Ladysmith is much more unsatisfactory to the true friend of peace than a decisive Boer victory would be. Let either side win, if only that will bring a speedy termination to the unnecessary and cruel war.

Our own "little fight" at the Philippines is becoming more interesting every day. Aguinaldo is hemmed in on every side so that his only road of escape seems to be to the mountains. Indeed the better portion of Aguinaldo has already been captured. A large part of his property, his private secretary and seven of his officers were taken by Colonel Hayes on Sunday. The Philippine forces seem pushed to their last extremity. However as they have been in some exceedingly tight places before this, perhaps it will be better to crow after the victory rather than before. It does not seem possible that the present campaign will not come to a crisis in a few days. If only peace come quickly the United States can afford to be a generous victor. The country at large is tired of the war; even though so many feel that it was necessary and a matter of duty on our part.

The elections are over with both parties apparently beaming with victory. President McKinley is endowed with new courage by the result at the polls. Mr. Bryan announces himself more than satisfied. Boss Platt feels several years younger over the tremendous Republican victory in the Empire State. Boss Croker is so elated over the Tammany triumph that he is to take a pleasure trip to England to work off his buoyant spirits. Only in Kentucky is

there wailing and gnashing of teeth. Mr. Goebel claims he has been wickedly cheated, Mr. Taylor that Goebel has not cheated as much as he intended to. Whether the court or the revolver will settle the question is uncertain. The true American must feel pleased at seeing everyone so well satisfied. It seldom happens that everybody wins. Golden Rule Jones seems to have scored an unconscious success in American politics. He, by the way, has announced himself as one of the most jubilant victors of the campaign. "Behold how good and how pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

THE PRESBYTERY OF NEW YORK.

This body met in the lecture-room of the First Church on Monday afternoon last. The room was crowded, many representatives of other Presbyteries being present. The Rev. David G. Wylie D.D. was appointed Vice-Moderator, and the Revs. John C. Bliss D.D., Charles A. Stoddard D.D., Jesse F. Forbes D.D. with Elders Scott Foster and H. W. Jessup were appointed Moderator's Council.

The Rev. Charles Outhbert Hall D.D. was received into the Presbytery. The Rev. Daniel Russell Jr. was called to the Harlem Church, and arrangements were made for his installation on the evening of November 16.

At the request of the Rev. Henry van Dyke D.D. the Presbytery approved the action of the Brick Church in extending a call to the Rev. M. D. Babcock D.D. of Baltimore; and a committee consisting of the Revs. George Alexander D.D., Charles A. Stoddard D.D. and Wilton Merle Smith D.D. was appointed to counsel and assist the Brick Church in this matter. The Church Extension Committee through its chairman, Dr. van Dyke, made a brief report.

The committee on the McGiffert case made its report through the chairman, Dr. Sample. It was ordered to be printed for private circulation among the members of the Presbytery. Papers were presented by the Rev. Drs. Howard Agnew Johnston, Francis Brown and Henry van Dyke suggesting possible alternative action, and it was resolved to print their papers in connection with the committee's report. Final action in the McGiffert case was deferred until the December meeting.

The Order of St. Christopher, of whose organization and ideals we published an account some weeks ago, has been offered the temporary and perhaps permanent use of a noble old estate in College Point, which has been used as an orphanage for boys and girls. The girls are now to be taken to Nyack and seven little boys are to be left in charge of the Brothers. The earnest desire of the Order is to make the Chapter house at College Point the centre for training up boys who will make good men, splendid men and good citizens, and they ask the people to give them their prayers and their help in it. This work of the Order of St. Christopher is not new. It has already been fully tested at the Burnham Industrial Farm where the work begun by the Brothers is still going on. The great work of the Order of St. Christopher is to make its chapter house a training school for institutional workers. It will need ten candidates at once, both brothers and sisters. There are no vows, but there is plenty of work under its methods and under the impulse of Christ's love. Mr. William M. F. Round, the Brother Director, is generally at the office of the Prison Association, 185 East Fifteenth street, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 to 12, and will be very glad to give any further information regarding the Order, to receive any applications for membership or gifts for the support of the work at College Point.

CHRISTIANS UNDER A CLOUD.

Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler.

It is not every Christian who walks in a constant sunshine and carries within him a cheerful and a happy heart. There are quite too many who spend most of their time under a cloud. Here, for example, is one who leads a reputable life before the community; but in his own heart lies an overwhelming mass of doubts that rob him of his spiritual peace. He has become a chronic doubter; and what the Apostle Thomas was for a single evening, he is for nearly every day and night of his uncomfortable existence. It has become habitual with him to distrust God's promises, and sometimes to distrust his own conversion. He seldom knows what it is to grasp a divinely revealed truth firmly and cling to it, and rest on it, and grow by it, as his own body eats and thrives on his daily food. If the Apostle Paul should come to him and say, "I know whom I have believed," he would be very apt to reply, "How do you know it? I never have any clear assurance. I sometimes doubt if ever Jesus Christ redeemed me, or if the Holy Spirit ever converted me. I am enrolled on the church-record as a 'believer,' and yet I am very often a terrible doubter."

That is very true, my friend, and it is your own fault. The man that does that wretched doubting walks in your shoes. It is not another person's sin against you that robs you of peace, but your own sin against your own soul, and against your forbearing Master. It is your besetting sin. God commands you to believe his word, and you disobey. Jesus Christ bids you look to him, and you look away; to lay hold of him and trust him, and you stand off and question his truthfulness, and love and power. He promises you that if you will honestly strive to obey his commandments, and will sincerely seek the grace that is sufficient for you, he will answer your prayers. You are no exceptional character. If Paul received from Christ pardon and peace and power and assurance of hope, and spiritual joy under fierce trials, so can you. I fear that there is a subtle self-conceit in your heart, which pretends that what sufficed for Paul and for millions of other Christians is not clear enough, or strong enough, or efficacious enough for you.

In addition to a self-conceit of which you may not be fully conscious, you are guilty of no little obstinacy in cherishing your doubts. You hold fast to them instead of holding fast to him who died to save you. When these harassing doubts come to the door of your heart, instead of bolting it in their face, you let them in, and parley with them and harbor them. Your duty is to treat them as summarily as Joseph treated the wanton proposal of Potiphar's impudent wife. To every skeptical whisper of your tempter, say "Get thee behind me, Satan!" Pray for more faith. Grasp hold of a promise as sinking Peter stretched out his arms to his omnipotent Master. Be done with your pitiful "ifs", and lay hold of Christ's immutable "wills" and "shalls." You listen to Satan more than you listen to your Saviour. The wretched habit you have contracted of disbelieving the Lord Jesus must be dealt with as a tippler must deal with his habit of indulging in intoxicants. You must break it up, or it will break you down. Fix your grasp on the loving Son of God, and say to yourself, "If I go on any longer in this way, I shall become an infidel and an outcast. I will be done with the devil, and cling to Christ if I perish. Lord, I believe; help thou my accursed unbelief!"

Depend upon it that you will never attain any sunshine of spiritual peace, or any power, until you—in divine help and strength—overcome this deplorable habit of doubting. What

have you ever gained by it? How much has it cost you? And if you expect to rely on Christ in the dying hour, why not do it now? It is said that Dr. Merle D'Aubigné, the famous Swiss historian of the Reformation, was sorely troubled with doubts during his student days. He went to his old experienced teacher for help. The old man refused to discuss the doubts, saying, "Were I to rid you of these, others would come. There is a shorter way of destroying them. Let Jesus Christ be really to you the Son of God, the Saviour; and his light will dispel the darkness, and his Spirit will lead you into all truth." That old man was right. He saw the fatal habit which the young man was acquiring; and he knew that the glorious Sun of righteousness could alone scatter the clouds that make so many lives dark and dreary. I remember that once when a famous infidel book was under discussion in a certain ministerial circle, grand old Dr. Thomas H. Skinner said to us, "Brethren, difficulties have arisen in my own mind that were worse than any or all infidel writers could suggest; I have in the strength of Jesus Christ conquered all these; why should I care what the skeptics have to say?"

I cannot close this article without saying that many professing Christians are under a cloud caused by indulgence in sinful practices. Their transgressions, like a thick cloud, separate between God and their own souls; the divine countenance is hidden as in an awful eclipse. Spiritual declension is always fatal to spiritual peace. No church-member who neglects prayer and the house of God, who pursues crooked paths in business, who indulges in secret tipping or unclean lusts, or who is unfaithful to his word with men and his vows with God, can ever expect to enjoy a blessed "assurance of hope." That is a fearful description which Bunyan drew of certain backsliders who having turned off over a "stile" from the King's highway, were left to grope among the tombs under the shadow of a dark and lonely mountain. As Christian looked at them, his eyes gushed forth in tears. I have occasionally seen such backsliders awakened out of their guilty condition by some alarming providence and crying out, "Where is now my hope?" If any who are under such a cloud should read this paragraph I would say to him, or to her—you may find your lost "hope" where Peter found his when he went out and wept bitterly. You may find it, in penitence and confession, at the cross of Christ Jesus. And when, after your return to obedience and right living the forgiving love of Christ has lifted away the cloud, you will feel as Lazarus must have felt when he was delivered from the tomb, and back again in his home.

THE IDEAL OF CHRISTIAN MANHOOD: AN APPEAL TO YOUNG MEN.

Samuel McCune Lindsay Ph.D.

This is a week specially set apart for prayer for young men. It is a time to turn our thoughts most earnestly, inquiringly and sympathetically to the problems of youth in the home, school and college, in professional and business walks of life. As we do so, we face a great pillar of strength in our social life. The aged Apostle John, contemplating this theme said: "I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong." Oh, the strength of young men! Any normal, healthy young man who does not feel the thrill of strength and power is not worth much to the home, church or state. We too often pray only for the cripples and the wanderers; let us not forget to pray rather for those who are strong, God-fearing and true.

For us, then, who are young men—because I write as a young man to young men—this is