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ORIGINAL.

COVENANTERS AT GETTYSBURG.

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The recent reunion of "the blue and the grey" soldiers at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, upon the twenty-fifth anniversary of the battle, called together from all parts of the country a large number of old warriors. It was, to a large degree, a peace meeting, and an opportunity for previous enemies to shake the friendly hand of reconciliation over the scene of conflict, while they reviewed in word and sight the field of carnage. It was an epoch in the history of armies. Gettysburg is the Waterloo of America. In many respects it was a fiercer battle and a greater display of military prowess than that enacted upon European soil. At Waterloo the British had 72,000 men, 186 cannon, and lost 20,000 soldiers; the French had 80,000 men, 252 cannon, and lost 40,000 soldiers. At Gettysburg, the Confederates had 90,000 men, 200 cannon, and lost 40,000 soldiers; the Federals had 60,000 men, 200 cannon, and lost 24,000 soldiers. Now while war may be regarded as legalized murder, and, therefore, unjustifiable, yet let every American patriot point the finger of pride to the granite of Gettysburg when he remembers the cause and occasion of the war. It was to preserve the integrity of our common country. It was to suppress a rebellious spirit that could not be done in any other way. It was to break the power of that system which made a distinction between the races which God made of one blood, and by the defeat of General Lee the corner-stone of that ghastly slave-power, which the South sought to erect upon human bondage, was crushed to pieces, and the murderous hand which was striking a deadly blow at the heart of our nation was paralyzed.

Looking at the situation in this way, and believing that the Southern Confederacy was not only a breach of the Constitution but a conspiracy against God and humanity, Covenanters felt it their duty to save their country and defend their homes and interests. For this glorious cause they freely gave their lives and sub-

decisive battle was fought. Here liberty and rights were given to an oppressed race, and the old building stands to-day with scars of honor upon it as a trophy to the triumph of true Bible principles. From the beginning Covenanters were abolitionists, and courageously maintained their principles until this evil was banished from the land.

Shall they not maintain their present position, and battle for the right, until the granite of a moral Gettysburg looms up as a symbol of the triumph of King Jesus and his word as supreme in the land? We have a history of which we should be proud, and the more the story of her conquests is told to the young, the more will the principles of the Covenanter Church be appreciated and understood. Let us all improve by the words of the psalmist: "Walk about Zion, and go round about her: tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generation following."

A PLEA FOR THE CHILDREN.

BY REV. J. C. M'FEETERS.

"Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."—Prov. 4: 7.

What intense pleading! Who can resist such words all on fire with earnestness! Who can go slow in duty, when urged with such vehemence! And the duty is to educate the mind. The horse prances with animation when the band strikes up its music; and where is the soul that will not leap into new life, as it listens to the music of these stirring verses? Who can read this chapter of Proverbs, and not feel something of the inspirations of an educated religious mind?

We are urged to get wisdom; to get it as the principal thing; to get it whatever else may be gotten, or not gotten, or forgotten. Wisdom is better than an office; better than honor; better than ornaments; better than a crown weighty with gold and flashing with diamonds. Wisdom will win you an office; will bring you to honor; will adorn you with fairest attractions; will place upon your brow what is better than that which rests on the head of emperors. This is not a rocket of rhetoric, exploding with fancy colors to please your eyes; it is the solid truth. You must believe it, if you believe the fourth chapter of the Proverbs of Solomon. Then what is this wisdom?

I. *Wisdom means true religion.* There is not a wise man on earth, who is not truly religious. He may be a scholar and a gentleman, according to the world's opinion; but he is not wise according to God's opinion. Wisdom means religion founded on the gospel of Jesus; religion strong in the truth of God; religion fervent with the fulness of a zealous life; sublime in the use of faith

and love and spiritual power ; grand in the practice of the commandments of the Lord ; sweet with joy, rich in promises, showing its beauty in every duty, and carrying in its bosom plans and purposes and sacrifices, with which God shall make your future bloom. That is the kind of religion worth having ; that is wisdom in her best dress on earth, her work dress, much more becoming than her society dress.

Parents ought to help their children to become religious. The children have need of help. There are so many things to draw their minds away from religion ; so many books ; so many papers that are only vice on the wing ; so many amusements and associations and ambitions ; it is so much easier for the young to let the mind fly an hundred times over the game-grounds or over the evening party, than once over the last sermon or Bible lesson. They have need of help to a religious life : must have help, or they will grow wild. The bonds that bind them to the church, must be carefully strengthened with new strands of parental counsel, and prayer, and love, and Christian refinement ; or the bonds will grow thin and break, and the children will drift into carelessness. Increase the strength of the bonds, or the twenty-year-old boys may break loose and be gone.

Give your children the help they need. Impart to their tender minds the lessons that will make them wise concerning life in this world. Help them to understand that they cannot live right, unless they love God ; they cannot enjoy life in its rich, luscious and heavenly happiness unless they accept of Christ as their Saviour ; they cannot be true and noble and worthy of high respect unless they own the Lord as their God. Help them to understand that they cannot win real success, they cannot attain the highest honors, they cannot have the consciousness of accomplishing the true mission of life, except by entering into covenant with their God, and living for him, working for him, sacrificing for him. Help them to understand that it is better to be strong in the faith, than to be strong in the body ; better to be skillful in prayer, than skillful in eloquence ; better to send some of their money to Syria or Selma or some other mission center, than to keep it all in pocket. Help them to know they can have more pleasure in a prayer-meeting than in a game of base ball or lawn tennis ; can find more wealth in a communion season than in a week's business ; can have more honor in bringing a neglected child to the Sabbath school than in attending the gayest party in town. Teach your children that religion is the principal thing ; other things they can get along without if necessary ; but this they cannot. This lesson is learned by hard study, and hard teaching. The children do not get it without effort ; it does not come naturally ; it cuts straight across the grain of the natural disposition. So much the harder must the parents strive to train their children.

II. *This wisdom means a Christian education.* Even the superficial reader of this chapter will conclude that Solomon refers to mind power as distinguished from physical power; intellectual capacity expanded and enlarged, and dedicated to religion; mental ability built up by a process of culture, and devoted to the Lord. This is worth getting; the best thing you can get next to religion; the best thing you can help your children to get next to their salvation. This is the richest inheritance in money-value you can bequeath your children; the most princely legacy you can leave them; a gift for which they will thank you while they live; and honor your grave when others have forgotten your name.

The children have a right to the best education you can give them. From you as the instrument in God's hand, they get their start in the world; and they have a right to the best start you can give them. They have a right to the best body your wisdom and care can provide while in their days of growth. And they have a right to the best powers of mind you can furnish them while under your care. The tender little ones started into life under your roof, look into your face with a silent, pathetic request, appealing to your fatherly heart, to your motherly affection, for those noble qualities that will make their lives vigorous, successful and sublime; and you are under most solemn obligations to bestow them, so far as you have the ability from God.

Out before the children lies the world with its pitfalls; they ask for strong and rounded morals, that they may leap across them. And there are the burdens of care; they ask for enlarged powers of mind that they may carry their burdens with dignity. And there are the increasing demands for work in the church; they ask for broader enlightenment that they may serve with credit. And there are the higher privileges, positions of honor and power and leadership, among the great Christian forces moving to the conquest of the world for Jesus; the way is clear, any can enter, and arise into usefulness, and acquire dignity of such quality as to leave the princes of earth in the shade; the proclamation has come down to your sons and daughters, saying, Arise and follow the Lord; follow him as he leads into action, and honor, and victory, and to a crown of glorious privileges. Your children claim from you the qualifications you can bestow for such exalted positions.

You are anxious that your children shall have the strong body which will triumph over the hardships of life; a robust nature which will carry their burdens of business, and walk erect and with gracefulness; physical ability to resist the diseases that float in the air or elsewhere; and smile at the changes of summer and winter, without swinging to the north and the south with the vibrations of the sun, heaven's golden pendulum that ticks off the seasons. But are you not a hundred times more anxious that they will have an intellectual vigor that will annihilate cares; a stateliness of thought that will turn hardships into pleasures; a height

and depth and breadth and might of mind that will reduce mountains of trouble to mole-hills, or, if you please, to little corn-hills all rustling with golden blessings? Those children make their silent, constant appeal to you, each time they mirror their soft, sweet faces in your eyes; and that appeal is to make them strong; strong for the mighty tasks that lie ahead; strong that they may not totter and tremble and pant for breath; strong that they may not drudge their precious days away in vanity; strong that they may walk straight and act with easy success; strong that they may have fullness of joy in doing their work, and ample reward for doing it well. And this strength comes chiefly through an educated mind.

But you cannot educate all your children. Can you not? Think soberly and tenderly, and look down deep into the heart of the child, and far out into its future life, and answer the question. Yes, the children can all be educated. You can educate them from the first to the last. From the richest of you to the poorest, you can educate them; and you ought; and you must; or abide by unpleasant consequences. You live under the shadow of a school house; and under the shadow of an academy; and within reach of a college; and the beautiful growth of intellect of which your child is capable demands from you an education; and the great powers of thought to which that mind can be developed demand it; and the fulness of joy and ripeness of life into which the child can be thus lifted demand it; and the loud call for skilled labor in all the kingdom of Christ demands it; and the mighty appeals of the world for the best energies of the intellect and heart demand it; and the fulness of glory not to be exhausted by the most highly developed natures demands it.

What son or daughter, even thirty years of age, who has gone from father and mother, with their blessing in the form of gold and silver, a few hundred dollars in cash, and does not now cast many a silent tear over the vain regret, that the money-gift had not been turned into brain power at the right time of life? And if you have pity for your children, make not the same mistake, which possibly your parents made concerning you. The mistake will be doubly distressful upon the children you send into the world; for the age through which they pass demands a broad, educated intelligence, more than all ages since the beginning of the world.

But all children cannot be prepared for the learned professions. Well, what if they cannot? Educate them all anyway. The learned professions will only at worst be overflowed; the overflow will run down grandly among the common levels of labor. You cannot make all your boys ministers or physicians; nor all your girls missionaries or teachers. But you can make them all scholars; and you ought, not for the sake of the professions, but for the

sake of the children. Take first thought for your children; second thought for the professions. Send your children to school; send them to college; send them through the course, if you have the means; send them all, though in the end they enter into farm life, or kitchen life; though they afterwards make their salary by means of the needle or the trowel.

But they do not need Latin or Greek, history or geometry for such vocations. Who says they do not? Consider again. The higher education will gretten their lives; intensify the life-currents that flow through the soul; exalt the life enjoyments of every day; will give a higher altitude to life; will extend the horizon of life; will double, treble the value, the pleasure, the dignity of life. Just because the tree grows in the corner of the field, and yields its natural stunted fruit, you will let it grow without care, without cultivation, without grafting. And because your child can live in a humble employment without an education, you will let live and do nothing more, and the expense of education shall be saved. Nay; for the sake of the child, cultivate, educate, develop, and graft; and though the child remain in that humble field of toil all the years of his life, the impulses of that heart will be richer, the thoughts of that mind will be nobler, the inspirations of that life will be loftier, that nature will possess beauty and strength and enjoyment, which will a thousandfold repay you for all the expense; and your grandchildren will be of nobler mould. Besides, twenty-four times out of twenty-five, the child will not remain in the corner of the field; he will come to the front.

You may not have the means to give your children all a college graduation; but you can do this nearly as is in your power. You can lay the plan well at the beginning, and God can carry it out to the end. Did you ever know a parent who had set his heart on the work of educating his children, and pushed that work with might and prayer, and failed in its accomplishment? Did you ever know a parent so poor? I never did. Do all within your power to educate your children; do it for all your children, for the boys and for the girls, for the first born and for the last born; for the coming ministers, and the coming merchants, and the coming farmers, and the coming need!eworkers, and the coming housekee; ers. Give each child his share of the estate in an education, so far as he can take it in that kind of payment. Let the children go from your homes with cultivated brains and a strong heart, though it be with an empty pocket. In ten or twenty years they will be more prosperous, more honorable, more thankful, than if they had departed from under your roof, with a rich bank account and a dwarfish intellect. And you will have their blessing, when your dust rests peacefully under the waving grass and the nodding flowers.