

THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY.

A MAGAZINE

DEVOTED TO THE PUBLICATION OF SERMONS AND OTHER
MATTER OF HOMILETIC INTEREST.

VOL. VII.—JUNE, 1883.—No. 9.

SERMONIC.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD ON EARTH.

By JOSEPH T. DURYEA, D. D. [CONGREGATIONAL], BOSTON.

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.—TITUS ii: 11, 12.

By the force of events certain truths have been placed into prominence before our minds. They have excited, not only investigation, but discussion. I have no doubt many of us have been anxious; some have been alarmed. I do not think there is any reason for trouble, any ground for fear. The truth can bear the light; it always comes out of discussion more definite and stable. It is true that for a moment the minds of some are unsettled. This cannot be helped: it has always been so. Anything is better than indifference; and if we need to be roused even by opposition, it is well if only our minds shall be candid, our temper shall be earnest, and we shall seek knowledge in its sources—the Word of God, and under the light and guidance of the Spirit of truth.

It is not my purpose to consider at all any of these matters which have been in this manner prominent, and which have been subject to discussion; but, as I have watched the course of things, taking no part, attending to my own duties, and trying with all humility, if not modesty, to keep my place, I have come to believe that certain misapprehensions have been disclosed that ought to be removed, and that certain practical errors have become manifest that ought to be corrected. And I desire to contribute something to this end, now and here, for your edification, and for the good of all those whom you may serve in the Gospel and kingdom of Jesus Christ.

I think we have taken too narrow a view of the purpose and method of divine grace. We have all of us undoubtedly conceived that God intends to manifest to men His mercy and loving-kindness in Jesus Christ, that He may draw them to Himself; that He vouchsafes to them in Christ the promise of the forgiveness of sins and peace with Him, through the sacrifice once offered, but always ample and availing; that He intends by His Spirit to enlighten and

[The first several sermons are reported in full; the remainder are given in condensed form. Every care is taken to make these reports correct; yet our readers must not forget that it would be unfair to hold a speaker responsible for what may appear in a condensation, made by another, of his discourse.]

know economy—it will not learn, but gives always. On the other side we see men who can understand nothing but what a horse can draw; and they say, "Why sing and pray with the poor? Send them a barrel of flour." Both gifts are good. There is nothing so precious as that which *one heart can give to another*. It is the highest part of ourselves. That which *makes a man better* is the best gift. Christ saw that this act was *all this woman could* to express an inexpressible feeling. Notice Christ's sympathy with the *helplessness of soul-weakness*. [Mr. Beecher here referred in detail to the *widow with two miles*, the *cup of cold water*, the *blessing on little children*, and the woman who *touch'd the hem of Christ's garment*.] See, now, the fullness with which Christ appreciated the act of Mary: "This that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her." Christ never lifted a hand to *build a monument* but once, and that was when He blessed the sentiment of love in this poor woman. This offering of her loving heart shall be known the world over. "She hath done what she could."

EASTER MORNING.

BY T. DEWITT TALMAGE, D.D. [PRESBYTERIAN], IN THE BROOKLYN TABERNACLE.

Come, see the place where the Lord lay.—Matt. xxviii: 6.

I. STANDING WHERE THE LORD LAY, I AM IMPRESSED WITH THE FACT THAT MORTUARY HONORS CANNOT ATONE FOR WRONGS TO THE LIVING.

He wanted bread, they gave Him a stone. The costly mausoleum of the gentleman in the suburbs of Jerusalem cannot atone for Bethlehem's manger, and Calvary's cross, and Pilate's ruffian judiciary.

II. I AM IMPRESSED WITH THE FACT THAT FLORAL AND SCULPTURAL ORNAMENTATION ARE APPROPRIATE FOR THE PLACE OF THE DEAD.

There is no place so appropriate for flowers as the casket of the departed. Death is sad enough anyhow: let the conservatory do all it can in the way of

alleviation. Christ was buried in a garden. On sunshiny days twist a garland for the still heart of your child. Turn all your graveyards into gardens.

III. I AM IMPRESSED WITH THE DIGNITY OF PRIVATE AND UNPRETENDING OBSEQUES.

Joseph was mourner, sexton, liveryman—had entire charge of the occasion. Four people only at the burial of the King of the Universe. Funeral pageantry is not necessary.

IV. I AM IMPRESSED WITH THE FACT THAT YOU CANNOT KEEP THE DEAD DOWN.

The seal of the Sanhedrim, a regiment of soldiers from the tower of Antonio, floor of rock, roof of rock, wall of rock, niche of rock, cannot keep Christ in the crypt. Though you pile upon the top of us all the boulders of the mountains, you cannot keep us down. The door of the tomb will be lifted off its hinges and flung flat in the dust.

THE HIGHEST CHARACTER AND COMPANION.

BY DAVID THOMAS, D.D.

The God of love and peace shall be with you.—2 Cor. xiii: 11.

I. THE HIGHEST CHARACTER OF GOD. LOVE AND PEACE.

1. *Love is the highest attribute of any character.* Higher than *power*. Mere animals have power, but not love. Higher than *wisdom*. The devil has wisdom, but he cannot love. God is love.

2. *Peace.* Wherever there is real love there is peace. There is freedom from remorse, fear, selfishness. God is absolutely free from these soul-disturbing elements.

II. THE HIGHEST COMPANION FOR MAN.

1. No companion so *tender*. In all our afflictions He is afflicted. More tender than a mother.

2. No companion so *wise*. He knows all about us. He can solve our problems, clear our perplexities, baffle our enemies.

3. No companion so *constant*. Earthly companions change. He never will. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.