

RELIGION AND INDUSTRY.

A Sermon Delivered Last Evening by Rev. George Dana Boardman, in the First Presbyterian Church, Washington Square.

Last evening, the Washington Square Church was filled to overflowing, to hear one of a course of sermons given under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association.

The subject of the sermon was, "The Christian's Duty in Business." The sermon was delivered by the Rev. George Dana Boardman, and was listened to with earnest attention, and, no doubt, will be instrumental of accomplishing great good to the young men who were present.

Friends of the Young Men's Christian Association—sincerely congratulate you upon your past success, such as the Holy Spirit has been pleased to give, again, I pray that He may abundantly bless you in the future.

There is an on-going conflict between man and nature, between spirit and matter, as to which shall be master.

In the world's morning, God bid man and woman "to subdue the earth and have dominion over the fish of the ocean, and the fowls of the air, and over every living thing."

He commands us to labor six days in the week just as much as He commands us to cease laboring on the seventh. God has given man a body for him to take care of, not for the sake of the body itself, for that is made of dust, but that the body may be made a suitable home for the pious spirit.

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Before the entrance of sin, for man to toil was a moral duty. Since the entrance of sin, for man to toil is not only a moral duty but also a physical necessity. Since then labor is the divinely appointed ordinance for man, we are prepared to consider the Apostle's injunction, not to be slothful in business.

I affirm that it is the duty of every human being to be engaged in some kind of employment. It matters little what that employment may be, provided that it is lawful—lawful in a Scriptural sense.

Let society act on these two principles, not diverting or uniting them, and in case the supply of laborers is not equal to the demand, let society, with a wise generosity, make employment for them—for instance, in the direction of public works and improvement—pauperism will be almost annihilated.

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Having tolled for the sake and for the good of his family, he must now toll for the good of society. Let me not be understood as defending the socialistic dogma that property should be equally divided among all classes of men.

only in trust from "the giver of every good and perfect gift." No man can be sufficient enough to justify himself in ceasing to work for his fellow-men. We are commanded to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Man must engage in his employment, whatever it may be, with diligence, and energy, and hearty good-will. Some men work as if labor was drudgery, not a duty. They proceed to their business like slaves, driven by fear of the lash behind them, rather than allured by kindness to the work before them; but since labor is a moral duty, as well as physical necessity, we should engage in it with conscientious punctuality and energy.

The Almighty gives us no choice in His commands. We must obey them with alacrity. Pursue, then, your business, with cheerfulness and vigor; let it be done with untiring industry. If God has called you, as He called Adam, to till the ground, let the wheat-fields testify of your industry.

Whatever calling God has placed you in, pursue it with a zealous assiduity which will leave a moment for idleness—I mean idleness in the strict sense of the term. Be fervent in spirit. This is precisely what you young men engaged in business tell me you cannot be.

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