

THE VOYAGE OF LIPZ.

First Sermon of a Series Preached in the Green Street M. E. Church, Sunday Evening, Dec. 8, by Rev. John Walker Jackson. Text—Acts, 27th Chapter, 1-15 Verses.

Specialty Report for The Evening Telegraph.

The 27th chapter of Acts relates the history of the voyage of the Emperor Nero, on his way to Rome, in a ship called the Aquila, which was captained by Julius.

This journey presents to us a very important period in the life of the Apostle, one in which occurs the most glorious triumph of his faith in the Son of God. We cannot but admire a man who, late in life, sets out upon a dangerous voyage solely to justify his faith before the world.

Behold the narrative of the forty years' journey of the Israelites through the wilderness. How full it is of peril! how rich in the miracles of Divine compassion! how it manifests to us the assurance and the despondency of the heart of man!

These all take place in Paul's journey. It is properly a miniature picture of life, reflecting the feelings and duties of its most widely separated persons, conditions, and periods.

I. The Departure, or setting sail. II. The Conflict with Faith and Unbelief, and the Struggle with Diversity. IV. The Haven of Rest.

With Thy presence, O Lord, permit us to make the pilgrimage of life. Thou our Refuge and our Rock, give us a faithful and unfeignedly sunny day; permit us in dark hours to find our consolation in Thee. Break a way for us through the waste howling wilderness to urge our way to the blessed land of promise.

Paul, formerly the persecutor, the blood-thirsty persecutor of Christians, has, by his joyful and death-defying testimony for Christ the crucified one, produced in Asia and in Europe such extraordinary results as to arouse against himself the bitterest hatred of the Jews.

It is a serious journey. The greatest number of the dwellers in the ship are criminals, their consciences laden with black crimes. They go to Rome. In that proud city, from the mouth of the highest and holiest ministers, they shall pronounce the judgment which shall seal their destiny for time.

Yerily these men are as different as possible from the men of olden times, the other is a prisoner. The one belonging to the proletariat and the most degraded and miserable. Julius, if we judge according to the outward, outward appearance, Paul hastening towards the naturally not far distant termination of his life, in old age.

But Paul is a true Christian. Since his conversion, he has never ceased to be one; and he is one everywhere and at all times. Not only when preaching to his congregation; he is one to his very friends, and to the very criminals.

Youth is particularly susceptible, then; more than at any other period of life, yet young of a commanding character. Neither words, nor instruction, nor books exert so much influence upon youth as the indirect, unconscious influence of the sentiments, disposition, and habits of the older friends.

For truly these are moments in the life of a child when the true signification of life is recognized, when "the world to come" exerts its rightful dominion over the young heart.

My dear thought, I think not now of the light-minded, thoughtless, dissipated, and care-free here, but of you, of those brought up in Christian homes, who from childhood have known the Scriptures, who have imbibed, like Timothy, an unfeigned faith which dwelt in a pious ancestry, and who, in the hour of conversion have found again their childhood's faith.

My young friend, you need, you must have a friend; some one of like passions with yourself, but also with similar spiritual desires and purposes, that, bearing with one other, admonishing each other, carrying each other's burdens, and in the loving heart, each reading the heart of another as an open book, and in that open confidence of love finding help.

Among the two hundred and seventy souls on board the ship, there are two who demand special attention. They are very different from each other, not merely in years, but more in principles, in the conduct of their lives, and yet we see how the bond of high and sincere fellowship binds them together.

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