

PERFECT IDEAL OF RELIGION

WHAT THE LORD REQUIRES OF MAN FOR HIS SALVATION.

It is to be Justly, and to Love Mercy, and to Walk Humbly in the Sight of God—This Was the Gist of a Sermon Given by Dr. McLeod at the First Presbyterian Church Last Evening—God's Pardon Cannot Be Bought—Gifts by Love Acceptable in the Sight of God.

After enjoying the rest and recreation incidental to his annual vacation, Rev. James McLeod, D. D., occupied his pulpit yesterday morning and evening. At the latter service his discourse was based on the subject of a "Perfect Ideal of Religion," the text being found in the sixth chapter of Meah and the eighth verse: "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee but to be justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?" He spoke, in part, as follows:

"In this text the prophet Micah answers three questions, over which most superstition exists, as regards the rights and ceremonies of religious belief: the purchase of pardon, the purchase of pardon. The prophet here draws a striking contrast between God-given religion and man-made religion, and thus prompts us to ask the question, 'How shall I come before God to receive His blessing?'"

"The true answer is only to be found through the channel of divine revelation. How often have the questions been asked, 'Does true religion consist of forms, ceremonies or sentiments?' Will this idea or that idea bring God's favor, or me nearer to God? Some people maintain such things as 'God teaches us that these ideas have to power.'"

"NOT AN OUTWARD THING. "True religion is not an outward thing, but a thing of the heart, to all who embrace it. We do find several passages in the Scriptures where God presents certain forms of worship, but when people worship the adjuncts more than the worship itself, they fall into serious error. They think more of God's exterior than of His interior."

"The fact needs to be emphasized that this is a kind of worship with which God is not pleased. In essence is an abomination in the sight of God. Feeling is a poor substitute for faith, because feeling is spasmodic, here today and there tomorrow. True religion is not a principle, not a rhapsody, and to be content with ordinary things is very easy, but these things only soothe for a short time, and will not stand the test on the day of trial."

"There are no tricks in simple faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the idea that pardon from sin can be purchased from God, or that he can be bribed, is simply monstrous. Yet many a man has that idea, and has set his money against sin, and lived and died in the belief that by paying so much money in this life he could purchase pardon in the life to come. Multitudes have also been led to believe that God's pity and pardon could be bought, but this is preposterous."

"God is pleased with costly gifts and offerings out of love, and those who have and give little are not to be envied. They have not learned the alphabet of Christianity. Love to Christ must prompt the giver, and God would rather have a full heart and an empty purse, than an empty heart and a full purse. But God's favor cannot be purchased."

"WANTS TO GET AWAY. "Multitudes have also inflicted punishment by self-torture, by trying to ally the fear of God, and when a man feels the eye of God is fixed on him, that man wants to get away. They don't know the meaning of the gospel: that God is Love. The answer to these questions is not by observing certain religious forms and ceremonies, not by self-torture, or trying to buy the way into heaven; but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly in the sight of God."

"Christ demands that justice be done between man and man, and between man and God, for to be a Christian man is to be a just man, and to be merciful is God-like. Sweet mercy is nobility's true badge of God's delight; His mercy shines out clearly in the work of Christ."

"To walk humbly, to be humble, is to be Christ-like. Humility is the way to the throne. God does not require impossibilities, but to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly. You can't obtain salvation by purchase or self-torture, but by being and doing good; by being correct, and diligent you will attain the means of grace, and by being just, merciful and humble before God."

"The answer to all questions as to how to approach God is given in these three words, Justice, Mercy, Humbly, and those who aim after this end are those who can expect God's favor hereafter."

RELIGIOUS NEWS NOTES. Rev. Joseph Y. Irwin, of Mattawan, N. J., occupied the pulpit of the First Baptist church yesterday. Rev. Thomas de Gruchy, D. D., preached at the 6 o'clock evening service of the First Welsh Baptist church yesterday. Henry Cardew is meeting with marked success in his efforts at the Tripp Park mission of the Grace Reformed Episcopal church. Rev. T. A. Humphreys, of Sharon, Pa., occupied the pulpit of the Plymouth Congregational church yesterday and preached to a large congregation. The rather peculiar subject, "Tragedy of Kibrot-Hattaavah," was the theme of Rev. James Benninger's morning sermon at the Embury Methodist Episcopal church. In the evening he gave a bright, interesting talk from the thought, "In the Shadow."

"New Fire for the Altar," which was preceded by a service of song. Rev. Hugh C. McKeown, pastor of the Simpson Methodist Episcopal church, occupied the pulpit as usual yesterday. In the morning he delivered an interesting sermon from the subject, "Conditions of Growth," and at the evening service he preached a powerful sermon on "Life's True Pilot."

KOEMPLE OF AMERICA. Letter Without State or City Address Is Delivered to the Person for Whom Letter Was Intended.

A slightly disfigured but still very convincing mute witness of the efficiency of the dead letter office experts is being displayed by Druggist Charles Koempe. It is an envelope which enclosed a letter written him from Germany, and which bore the address "Mr. Charles Koempe, Cor. of Washington and Linden street, America." It was started from Germany, May 1. Since May 12 it has been making the rounds of "America." A few days ago it was delivered to its proper address. In the dead letter office are street directories of every city in the United States. Every city having a Washington street intersected by a Linden street was tried for "Charles Koempe" until the right one was found. As Washington and Linden street are common names for thoroughfares, and as most cities have their streets extending one way and their avenues at right angles thereto, it happens that there are some several "Cor. of Washington ave. and Linden st." in America. The two sides of the envelope bear thirty-seven different stencil impressions, such as "Address Incorrect," "Misdirected," "Not at Frankford," "Unclaimed," "Not Found," "Not German-ton Station," "No Postoffice Named," and the like. The triangular stencil of the dead letter office is decipherable in three places, showing it was there on three different occasions. The letter traveled many thousands of miles and no doubt was handled by fully 500 persons before it reached its destination. It bore a 2 1/2 cents stamp. The letter contained a few unimportant lines from a personal friend.

WAS ALONE IN THE WORLD. Old Soldier Passes Away at Hillside Home.

John Wurtz, who for a number of years acted as assistant night watchman at the court house, died Thursday at Hillside Home, and was buried the next day in the soldiers' plot at Forest Hill cemetery. He had no living relatives or intimates, and subsisted on a small pension and an allowance made him in addition to free lodging, for helping about the court house. He slept in a little isolated room in the basement and not long ago was found there nearly dead from quinsy. He was taken to the Lackawanna hospital and later to Hillside Home.

THEATRICAL. "My Antoinette."

At the Lyceum, Saturday afternoon and night, Miss Josephine Hall and her company appeared in "My Antoinette," a rather naive musical comedy, that the house bill blames on George Totten Smith and Alfred E. Arons. The comedy is in two acts, brimful of songs, good, bad and indifferent. The song that made the hit of the piece was "When I Go on the Stage," sung by Miss Hall in the first act, evoked encores until she was obliged to plead with the audience to excuse her from tackling more verses to the end of the song. After Miss Hall's song, Harry Short deserves the credit of saving the piece. He has a pair of legs that are ever so much more entertaining than Francis Willard's, and he manages to create some mirth by the antics of the upper part of his body as well.

"The Head Waiters" Tonight. Musical entertainments have the call with theater-goers now-a-days, and it is pleasing intelligence to note that Ed Vokes and his company of fifty people will present their new edition of "The Head Waiters" at the Lyceum this evening. This, like all the offerings of the Ward-Vokes organization, is entirely dependent on music, singing, dancing, pretty choruses, handsome scenery, rich wardrobe and slightly entertaining.

Robert B. Mantell. Every day Robert B. Mantell receives letters from aspiring young people who would like to become actors or actresses in his company. The announcement of his present tour in W. A. Tremay's new romantic drama, "The Dagger and the Cross," brought down upon the devoted heads of Mr. Mantell and his manager, M. W. Hanley, an unusual avalanche of such letters, and all were pretty much alike, except one that blew in from a Texas town. This one was from a young man who, after telling about himself and setting forth his ambition, added: "As I cannot get to you, I enclose photograph of myself and send by express today photograph record of my voice, which you can put on a machine and hear for yourself. Sure enough, a phonograph cylinder turned up by express prepaid, and the actor and his manager were so impressed by the originality of the applicant's methods that they marched to a phonograph shop and put the cylinder on a machine, which was then started up, and a squeaky little voice came through the speaker, chanting the popular song classic, "Just a Little Bit Off the Top."

"A Colonial Girl." Miss Bertha Creighton, who will present "A Colonial Girl" at the Lyceum

Thursday night, is said to carry the most elaborate scenic production that will be on the road this season, requiring two specky sixty-foot baggage cars to transport the scenery, properties and furniture. The larger portion of the furniture and dress-props in the "Colonial Girl" production has been handed down from generation to generation, and has been retained by Miss Creighton's company, either as a hobby or as a business asset. The program opens Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock.

Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. SUBSTITUTES ARE NOT 'JUST AS GOOD.' MAKES WEAK WOMEN STRONG AND SICK WOMEN WELL.

THE MARKETS. SATURDAY STOCK QUOTATIONS.

Table of stock quotations including Amal. Copper, Am. Car & Ferry, American Ice, Am. Locomotive, Am. S. & B. Co., etc.

Coming Week at Dixie's. The steadily-increasing attendance at Dixie's theater since the opening of its new house with the average theater patron.

The Schiller Stock Co. The Schiller Stock company of this season, which appears at the Academy of Music this week, is an entirely new one.

"Gay Morning Glories." "The Gay Morning Glories," under the direction of Sam A. Scribner, begin their engagement this afternoon at the Star.

Reduced Rates to Des Moines, Iowa. On account of the Sovereign Grand Lodge, I. O. O. F., to be held at Des Moines, Ia., September 15 to 20, ticket agents of the Lackawanna railroad will sell special reduced rate tickets.

FINANCIAL. THIRD NATIONAL BANK OF SCRANTON.

Capital, \$200,000. SURPLUS \$600,000. Pays 3% interest on savings accounts whether large or small. Open Saturday evenings from 7.30 to 8.30.

The Moosic Powder Co. Rooms 1 and 2 Commonwealth Bldg. SCRANTON, PA.

CHICAGO GRAIN & PROVISION. WHEAT, CORN, OATS, RICE, etc.

NEW YORK COTTON MARKET. September, October, November, December, January.

TRIBUNE WANT ADS. BRING QUICK RETURNS.

Scranton Board of Trade Exchange. Quotations—All Quotations Based on Par of 100. STOCKS, Bonds, etc.

Jonas Long's Sons. For Today's Business.

Monday Bargains AS USUAL.

HOSIERY SPECIALS FOR TODAY. Children's School Hose, Misses' Hose, Men's Tan and Black Hose, Women's Fast Black Hose.

The Last Price of a Lot of Dimitics, Batistes, Lawns. Today 8 1/2 c Yard.

50c Gingham for 25c yard. 30c Gingham for 17c yard.

When in Need of anything in the line of optical goods we can supply it. Spectacles and Eye Glasses. From \$1.00 Up.

Summer Furniture. The Largest and most artistic line ever shown in the city. Hill & Connell, 121 Washington Avenue.

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E. Robinson's Sons Lager Beer. Manufacturers of Old Stock PILSNER. Scranton, Pa.