

THE LAST CARPENTER

A Brilliant Sunday Sermon by the Rev. Dr. H. C. Swetzel.

Christ Belonged to the Grand Army of Self-Respecting Workmen.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—An interesting and forcible sermon was preached Sunday morning by Rev. Dr. H. C. Swetzel, pastor of St. Luke's Church, Clinton avenue, near Fulton street, which was titled "The Divine Carpenter," and the text St. Mark vi:3: "Is not this the carpenter?"

The glorious Son of Man was a mechanic. It is well worth while to consider those eighteen years which He spent at Nazareth, concerning which we would dearly love to know as much as it is possible to learn so little. Whether He were rich or poor, whether He devoted Himself exclusively to the exercises of religion or was occupied with worldly concerns as well; whether He were, so to say, a man among men, or lived a strange weird life as a recluse in the wilderness—these are queries upon which we may reflect with profit.

During the period which began when the Christ Child went down from among the doctors in the temple to the Galilean home to prepare for a common life, we possess only one bit of definite information concerning Him, and that is furnished almost accidentally in the text.

The people here had known Him all along were astonished when they heard His sayings and saw His mighty works. The record which He made among them in His youth was not that of a man who ought to have prepared them to expect large things of Him sooner or later, but they could not forget that He had lived among them as a common man.

He returned to them with all the faith He had won and about to spend a brief season with them in order that His former friends and neighbors might not be neglected in His ministry. He recalled His antecedents, and they ask with mingled wonder and scorn, "Is not this the carpenter?"

Our Lord was a workman. He had accepted the trade of His reputed father and was working with its ordinary employment. He belonged to the "working classes." A descendant of the royal David He most surely was, and yet He worked as a commoner. He was not a king, but not after the world's fashion, for He was not the King of men, but the heart and center of the human race.

He was a carpenter. He had learned his trade from his father, and it was by the moral and spiritual democracy which it was His mission to establish.

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was His omnipotence exerted in His own behalf. He accepted the very situation which confronts us. Engaged with the occupations of His trade during so many years, He was in the industry into a divine virtue and brand of a deadly sin.

He has no favor for an ambition that longs for absolute ease. It may not be necessary for any one to be occupied with the burdens of business, but we are all bound to keep in personal touch with the life of humanity. There are other spheres of usefulness than the field and the shop, the office or the counting room.

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR NOTES

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR MARCH 6. SUNDAY, MARCH SIXTH.

"How Christ Still the Storms of Life." Pa. 107:23-31. Scripture Verses.—Job 3:17, 18; Isa. 55:10; Matt. 11:23-29; John 9:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:51-57; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; 2 Tim 4:6-8; Heb. 12:11; Rev. 7:13-17; 21:1, 3, 4.

Lesson Thoughts. There is no distress, no trouble, no suffering, out of which God is not able and as willing as he is able, to deliver his people. He will never refuse his grace, which is sufficient for every need.

Life's storms would overwhelm us if we had not divine protection. It is the part of wisdom to take our troubles to God.

Prayer.—Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! We do thank Thee, our merciful heavenly Father, that Thou dost constantly watch over us, protecting us from dangers seen and unseen, and giving us blessings far beyond what we are worthy to receive.

The noblest sons of Israel had a vision of God in everything. Second causes for their disappearance. The divine hand wrought all. The history, poetry, biography, prophecy, of Israel is full of God.

Our Religion. A reader of the Old Testament must be impressed, if he be a thoughtful student of what he reads, with the fascination which is revealed in the sacred stories.

What the Saloon Does. The other day we saw an old man pushed out and away from his seat in a saloon. He stumbled off the sidewalk, and falling headlong, struck his head on the pavement, and lay motionless.

Strong Prohibitory Ordinance. The strongest prohibitory ordinance yet adopted in the city of Chicago was recently enacted by the city council.

What He Had to Say. A number of young men were one day sitting around the fire in a reading room at an English railway talking about total abstinence societies.

Demoralizes the Nation. Bishop Havelock says that seventy-five per cent. of the demoralization of native Africa in their home life and character comes from the use of strong drink.

Whisky Recruits Soldiers. Dr. William Whelpley Frost, President of Hensley College, Berea, Ky., in speaking recently upon "Feeds in our Southern highlands," said that it is the common belief of judges that ninety-five per cent. of these killings are performed under the influence of the whisky bottle.

THE GREAT DESTROYER

SOME STARTLING FACTS ABOUT THE VICE OF INTEMPERANCE.

There is no greater snare to the young man just beginning life than the companionship of the moderate drinker.

"Oh, I only take a glass now and then with a friend or when I feel quite well, but I don't see how any man can ever see any sense."

Every one has not an appetite which, when once it is once started, can be controlled by any other means than that of being abstemious.

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THE KEYSTONE STATE

Latest News of Pennsylvania Told in Short Order.

Charles I. Huston, of Coatesville, State president of the Y. M. C. A., and a prominent iron and steel manufacturer, is widely known for his philanthropy.

Madison A. Carnahan, of Harrisburg, one of the oldest engineers in the Philadelphia and Erie service, was killed in a collision between the Buffalo Express and a draft of freight cars at Rockville.

Thomas Reesehagan was committed to the county jail at Doylestown to await trial for larceny and burglary. Some months ago he is said to have robbed John Yost, of Buckingham, of \$90, succeeding in getting away.

Elsie and Robert Shenafelt, aged 6 and 4 years respectively, were burned to death in their home in Johnstown. Their mother, who is a widow, had gone across the street to visit a neighbor, and the first knowledge of the fire was when the flames burst from the door.

While unloading scrap iron from a cage at the Penn Iron Works workmen found two hoacnstricators, each more than ten feet long. After conquering their fright the men found that the snakes were dead.

Andrew Lichter, the 15-year-old son of Charles Lichter, of Willow Grove, has been missing since February 4.

The Board of Revision of Taxes had raised the assessment on property in Chester, \$50,000. The present assessment is \$14,939,104. The increase has been particularly heavy on water front property.

Rev. Dr. S. L. Messenger, pastor of St. Luke's Reformed Church, Frappa, had received a check for \$100 from a friend of the congregation to pay one-half the cost of a pipe organ.

The State Board of Public Buildings and Grounds has approved the contract for building the bridge over the Lehigh River at Allentown, as the Lehigh Valley Railroad Company has thus far failed to sign an agreement to pay \$24,000 for a right of way over the structure.