

The Pulpit

A SERMON BY THE REV. IRA W. HENDERSON

Subject: Beth-el.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Preaching on the above theme at the Irving Square Presbyterian Church, Hamburg avenue and Wierfield street, the Rev. Ira W. Henderson, pastor, took as his text Gen. 28:13. "And Jacob awoke out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the Lord is in this place; * * * this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. And he called the name of that place Beth-el."

The scene is as grand as the language is inspiring. And the sublimity of the picture and the elevation of the language are only to be explained upon the assumption that at this time and under the conditions that are described Jacob enjoyed a special and glorious spiritual experience.

Jacob was journeying from Beer-sheba to Haran. He stopped on the way, took stones for a pillow and lay down to rest, the day being spent, for the night. "And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And behold the Lord stood above it."

Is it any wonder that Jacob venerated the place? Here he found blessing. Here was inspiration. Here was the manifestation of the everlasting God. It was but a stone in the open, roofed with the arching heavens, walled by the horizon beyond which his vision could not penetrate; but here he had seen God. And he called the place Beth-el.

No one is so foolish as to imagine that the stone and the ladder locally were any more sacred in and of themselves than were a thousand similar stones upon which Jacob might have rested his tired head or were a hundred other places in the quietude of which he might have found repose. But upon that stone his head had rested when the God of Abraham and of Isaac reiterated to him the covenant He had made with the fathers. In that spot he had been the recipient of the richest joy that the heart of man may experience in this life or the mind may desire—a vision of the living God. And so he poured oil on the stone and consecrated the place where he had tarried through a memorable night.

What else would any man have done? The event was of common place. The vision was beatific. The covenant was tremendous both as to its authorship and its duration. Considered from any point of view the occasion was to be commemorated and the locality was forever infested with a sublimating and soul warming atmosphere that would be effective with us to-day were we within the scope of its influence. Jacob would have been neither courteous nor human if he had not set the place as a sense apart. If we may remember in heroes with monuments and good men with statuary, shall not Jacob commemorate the revelation of Jehovah with an oil soaked stone? If we are conscious of a thrill as with bare heads and reminiscent minds we stand in Independence Hall or about the graves of the martyred dead shall we not admit the sacredness of the spot where God showed Himself to the leader of His people?

All of which is not to push sense over the border line of reason, or to make the logical become illogical. Jacob called the place Beth-el, the house of God. And so we call our churches. Every church is a Beth-el or it is nothing better than a clubhouse. A church is not simply a collection of stone and brick and plaster and wood and glass and iron and nails bound into a building, any more than the stone was the sanctuary or the place where Jacob heard the voice of God the shrine. A church is more than an edifice as the shrine was something more than a geographical or geological entity. We consecrate our churches to the beneficent uses of the religious life of the people not because we consider that God abides simply and solely within them or that a blessed brick is holier than an unblest stone. We enter our churches, rather, I should say we should enter our churches, because in a real way they stand for an experience, they team with reminiscence, they commemorate individual and social blessings and visions of the sovereign God.

Jacob called the place Beth-el because he had a compelling religious experience. And so we should venerate our churches. A church that lacks the spiritual atmosphere, that is not the expression of a deep spiritual conviction, that commemorates no visions and that is ineloquent of mighty spiritual exaltations, is not a church. It is a fraud.

A church is a Beth-el. And as such it should be revered. Within it should be found blessing and inspiration, out of it should flow the influences that tend toward God and that militate for the good of men.

Beth-el was notable as the commemoration of a blessing. And what blessings have we not had within the confines of our churches. When such holy reveries, such glorious inspirations, such lasting joys, such revelations through the abiding of a common spirit? Here we have seen the glory of the Lord, here we have known the power of His love, here we have fed upon His promises and been augmented in the riches of His grace. Here, as was Jacob at Beth-el, have we been inspired, filled with larger hopes, urged on to nobler and to holier achievements, filled with the energy that no man may describe, ineffable, intensive and divine. Here we have felt the warmth of the spiritual atmosphere and have clasped hands with God.

The influences that rolled with predicted vigor from the simple shrine at Beth-el ought to flow and will, from any well appointed church. The church is not a pool, it is a stream. It is rather a dynamic than a static. From the church should well forth the influential streams of righteousness and of truth and the blessing of

the nations. The world owes an incalculable debt, as do we, to the church, and the church should by her unceasing and compounding influence for good and for God, and unremitting service for men, place the world ever more largely in her due.

The churches must be Beth-els or many of them never could withstand the abuses to which they are lent. Only upon the assumption that the spiritual influences that move within them are born of God can we understand how many of them survive the desecrations to which they are subjected. The average fair is enough to kill any church. The average church entertainment paltry and puerile as it is expressionless, would be a death blow to the social activities of any organization less hardy. What with moving pictures and wax works and spelling bees and turkey suppers and men's smokers and women's gossip, it is wonderful that we have any veneration for churches at all, that we find any blessing, any inspiration within them, and any influence moving from them.

The church should be Beth-el. It should be the house of God. There, too, we should see the ladder stretching down from heaven, there the ascending and descending angels. There we should see God. There we should make covenant with Him. There we should enter into the possession of His interminable promise. There we should have a glorious, an exalted spiritual blessing.

The Change.

"My life is hemmed in by things I cannot change, you see," said a girl, explaining her depression of spirits to an older friend. She had been talking about the ugly little town where she lived, and how there were no concerts or lectures or chances for culture, how monotonous and narrow things were week after week, how her health was not strong, and there was no special thing she could do in the world. It did sound rather hopeless, and the older woman was silent a moment. Then she said, thoughtfully:

"No; you cannot change these conditions of your life at present. But there is one thing, Marjory, that you can change, and it will make everything absolutely different."

"But what can I change? I don't understand," cried Marjory.

"You can change your point of view," returned her friend. "That's all. But it's everything."

The girl thought it an unsympathetic answer. She went home still thinking so. But it stuck in her mind nevertheless; for she was an intelligent girl.

"It is the only change I can make," she said to herself, as she tried it. Her point of view had been from herself—from what she wanted to do, and have in the world, but could not. She faced round to the point of view that God had put her where she was, had prepared blessings for her if she would recognize them, and had given her opportunities for usefulness to others in her daily life.

From that moment her life was a study in transformation—from discontent to cheerfulness, from languor to activity, from a lack of interest in life to a fullness of loving sacrifice.

"It is all absolutely different," she wrote her friend, a year later. "Only one thing has changed. That was all. But it was everything."—Forward.

Wear Your Troubles Inside.

Many a man gets into the habit of carrying his troubles in his face. The eyes tell it, the droop of the lip the very grip of the hand reveals it, and the footfall is full of it. He has run up the flag at half-mast, and he carries it everywhere, so that his whole little world is compelled to know his sorrow.

Is this natural? Possibly. Is it wise? Probably not. Is it fair? Surely not. Is it a sign of weakness? Undoubtedly it is.

Is there a better way? Surely there is. First, a man must make up his mind to expect his share of trouble, and perhaps a little more. Then he should make up his mind to bear his trouble manfully, i. e., with patience, with courage and with hope. The world has enough trouble of its own; let us not add to its burden. It should be the aim of every Christian man and woman to become strong, men strength is won to use that strength in bearing the burdens of others. Every sorrow mastered, every burden borne inside instead of outside, makes us stronger, and leaves the world brighter.

Learn to smile, get the habit of it; learn to sing, make it also a habit; and you will be surprised how much brighter it makes the world, not only to others, but to yourself. (The smile and the song lessen the burden and light the way.)—Christian Guardian.

PENNSYLVANIA

Interesting Items from All Sections of the Keystone State.

GOES TO KOREA

The Rev. Henry A. Rhodes and Wife Will Take Up Missionary Work. Washington.—The Washington presbytery of the Presbyterian church at a meeting at Cross Creek dismissed the Rev. Henry A. Rhodes from the pastorate of that church. The Rev. Mr. Rhodes and his wife leave July 1 for Korea, where they will be engaged in missionary and educational work under the Presbyterian board.

The Rev. Mr. Rhodes has been pastor of the Cross Creek church for two years. Washington presbytery approved the call of the Rev. J. D. Laughlin to the Pigeon Creek Presbyterian church and formally transferred him from the Pittsburgh presbytery. He will be installed pastor there on Tuesday, June 20.

NAPHTHA LETS GO; FOUR HURT

Big Tank Explodes at Reduction Works Near West Newton. Conneville.—As a result of an explosion of one of the 13 naphtha tanks of the American Reduction Company along the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, near West Newton four employees were seriously burned one fatally. All were brought to the Conneville hospital.

John Lang, 23, married, of West Newton; Mike Patrie, 25, married, of Rednetion; John Patzuric, 35, married, of Rednetion; William Gill, 34, single, of West Newton. Patzuric was the worst injured. He cannot recover. A spark from a passing engine set off the naphtha.

BIG OIL FIRES

Lightning Strikes Tank at Meadow Lands Causing Heavy Loss. Washington.—Fire resulting from a tank of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Pipe Lines Company, at Meadow Lands, being struck by lightning consumed about 70,000 barrels of oil. The total loss including property is estimated at \$200,000.

Warren.—The plant of the Warren Refining Company was struck by lightning causing a \$75,000 fire. The bolt struck a large brick tank, which ignited. The blaze fanned by the wind, soon spread to two others nearby which were consumed with brick wax, storage house and agitator. Eight tanks containing about 10,000 barrels of crude and refined oil were destroyed.

CUPID GAINS ANOTHER

Sunday School Class Continues to Live Up to Reputation. Washington.—With the marriage of Miss Sara McNelly and Miss Flora Sharpe, 70 members of the Sunday school class of H. W. Donehoop at Cross Creek, this county, have embarked upon the matrimonial sea.

Mr. Donehoop, whose class is known as Cupid's class, has been teaching in the Presbyterian Sunday school at Cross Creek since 1869. There is a superstition among the pupils and teachers of the school that every girl who receives instruction under Mr. Donehoop is sure to be happily wedded.

RIGHT AFTER BUSINESS

Pennsylvania Issues Orders for Re-pairing of All Box Cars. Altoona.—Superintendent of Motive Power R. N. Durborow of the Pennsylvania Railroad has issued orders that all box cars now stored in shops and along sidings must be repaired and put in first-class shape at once, regardless of cost.

This action is regarded as preparatory for a general resumption of business. Suspended men will not be retired at present, but the order gives regular work for the men now employed.

Co-Operation Plan Fails.

Scranton.—Bankruptcy proceedings were instituted against the Consumers & Producers Equity Exchange, a concern established jointly by the Central labor union leaders and the farmers of the neighboring country districts to deal in milk, butter, etc. The company has been in existence less than two years, and lost money from the start. The assets are said to be about \$10,000 less than the liabilities, which are fixed at \$20,000.

McKeesport Wants Another Mill.

Efforts will be made by the McKeesport chamber of commerce to have the great Shelby tube plant of Shelby, O., locate in McKeesport. The works were destroyed by fire recently, and it is believed that the Steel Corporation might be persuaded to reconstruct the plant on a site near the seamless works at McKeesport. There is a close connection between the two establishments.

Can't Reproduce Abbey Paintings.

Harrisburg.—According to a statement made at the Capitol the copyright of the Abbey paintings in the rotunda has been reserved by the artist, and until they are placed in position may not be reproduced. The paintings are now being placed in position. No time has been set for accepting them.

Another Furnace Resumes.

Sharons.—An order was issued to start the Alice blast furnace, at Sharpsville. The furnace is owned by the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Company. One hundred and fifty men are employed.

Dedicates Handsome Church.

York.—St. Paul's Lutheran Church of the Seven Valleys church, one of the oldest congregations in York county, dedicated its new house of worship last Sunday. Rev. J. A. Singmaster of Gettysburg Theological Seminary, was one of the speakers.

TOSSED HIGH IN AIR

Deadly Rubber Gas Tube Causes Washington County Tragedy. Washington.—An explosion of escaping natural gas at Houston wrecked the home of Ellis Ellis, so badly injuring both him and his wife that they died before night.

The gas escaped from a rubber tube. The explosion tore out on side of the building and hurled into the air a portion of the roof with furniture from the second-story rooms. Ellis and his wife were thrown some distance. He was found unconscious. Mrs. Ellis was discovered wedged into a barrel in the cellar. Mr. and Mrs. Ellis were brought to the City Hospital, where both died soon after.

Raid With Small Result.

Washington.—Between midnight and daybreak a squad of seven local police and two detectives from New Kensington, headed by Chief of Police Dulandy, of Washington, raided the supposed rendezvous for a gang of criminals who have been operating in various parts of Western Pennsylvania. The raid resulted in the arrest of but one man, William Wilnot, who, although not known to be identified with the gang, is held under suspicion.

Democrats Nominate.

Johnstown.—At a meeting of the Democratic county committee in Ebensburg G. A. McGonigle of Lilly was unanimously nominated for poor house director to fill a vacancy on the ticket. W. A. McGuire was elected county chairman to succeed Thomas A. Osborn, who had resigned on account of being a candidate for county commissioner.

Strike Disorders Cease.

Greenville.—Since the arrival of 20 more members of the state constabulary into the Mercer-Butler district, the disturbances at Pardoe and Argente have ceased. Eviction notices have been refused at Pardoe on all men who refused to return to work. The Filer mine at Pardoe is working 200 men, many of whom are from West Virginia.

Complete Plans for Bridge.

Washington.—The Washington county commissioners have been informed that the plans for the new bridge over the Monongahela river, at Monongahela have been completed. The bridge is to be built in three spans, leaving a wide boat passage in the center. The cost estimated at \$300,000, is to be borne jointly by Washington and Allegheny counties.

Lovers' Tragedy at Greensburg.

Greensburg.—Mari Jusoski, aged 18, years of Hamatown, five miles from here, was found dead in her room with a bullet wound in her heart. She had quarreled with her parents over a coming marriage. Joe Krenschue, her lover, when notified of her death, grasped a revolver and attempted to end his life.

One Hundred Oil Rigs Demolished.

Washington.—One hundred oil rigs were demolished in Washington county during the storm on Saturday night. The figures are given following an inventor. The South West Penn Oil and Gas Company, operating in the Taylorstown field, 11.

Grove City Gets \$20,000.

Greenville.—The Rev. Isaac C. Ketter, president of Grove City College, has received a check for \$20,000 for the institution. While in New York recently Dr. Ketter met Andrew Carnegie and appealed for aid. When he arrived home the check was awaiting him.

Enters Plea of Guilty.

Sharons.—Edward Pohl, who was indicted for the murder of Ralph Dicator at Sharpsville, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter before Judge A. W. Williams. The maximum penalty is 12 years. Pohl and Dicator had a fight, when the latter was thrown over an embankment and killed.

Wild Trip in Buggy-Too.

Washington.—Deputy Sheriff James White and Thomas Allen of Waynesburg, had a unique experience by being dragged a mile in the top of a buggy that had turned turtle when the horse ran off. Nettler was hurt. They were released when the buggy was smashed to pieces.

Library is Presented.

Greensburg.—The Children's day exercises at the Poke Run Presbyterian church, Sunday, were featured by the presentation to the Sunday school of a "library" of 400 volumes, a gift of G. B. Shaw of Greensburg, in memory of his deceased wife, for years a prominent worker in the Poke Run church.

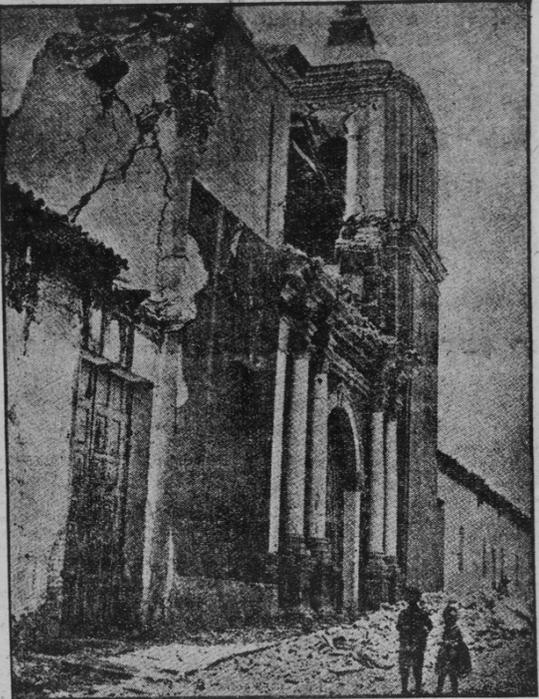
State May Get Back \$18,000.

Harrisburg.—The Pennsylvania-James-town exposition commission held its final meeting at the office of Governor Stuart, and it was estimated that after paying bills, it will have about \$18,000 of its \$100,000 appropriation to return to the state.

\$5,000 For a Wife.

Kittanning.—Five thousand dollars is the value an Armstrong county jury has placed upon the affections of a wife. Leander J. McCaughey of Cowanshock township brought an action to recover \$25,000 from W. Mike sell for alienating the affections of his former's wife. Mikesell lives in the same township and has a wife and children. Some years ago the defendant went to the home of the plaintiff to board. During the trial letters were produced which were listened to with interest. The jury returned a verdict awarding \$5,000.

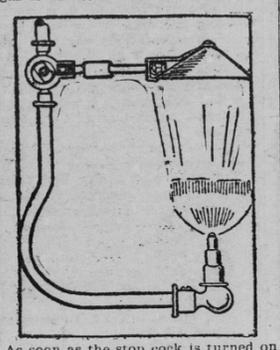
THE TERRIBLE EARTHQUAKE AT CHILAPA, MEXICO.



RUINS OF THE TEMPLE OF SAN FRANCISCO AFTER THE SEISMIC SHOCK WHICH WRECKED THE TOWN OF 1200 INHABITANTS AND, IT WAS FEARED, KILLED 300 PERSONS. —James Carson, Mexico, in Leslie's.

Gas Burner Attachment.

For some unaccountable reason, persons desiring to commit suicide by asphyxiation invariably select a hotel for the purpose. By a recent invention of an Oregon man it becomes possible for the night clerk to instantly tell if the gas in any unoccupied room has been lighted, or if the gas is escaping from any jet not lighted. The device also acts as a prevention of accidents resulting from the accidental escaping of gas due to a failure to light the same, or due to the gas having been blown out after being lighted. The apparatus is shown in the illustration, and consists of an ordinary burner and supply pipe. Attached to the latter, directly over the burner, is a smoke bell, connected to an electric circuit. The stop cock regulating the flow of gas is at the end of the smoke bell.



As soon as the stop cock is turned on the electric circuit is closed and a bell or indicator located at any desired point is operated to call attention to the fact that the gas has been turned on. When the gas is lighted, the heat causes a break in the circuit and the bell stops. If the gas should be accidentally or intentionally extinguished by other means than the closing of the stop cock, the absence of heat closes the circuit and causes the bell to ring.—Washington Star.

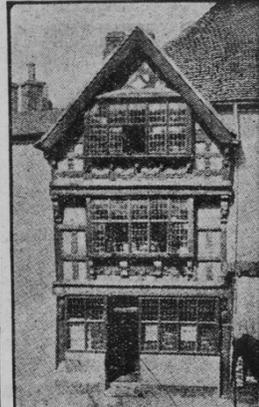
A Very Useless Life.

There was a man named Socrates who lived, according to some modern standards, a very useless life. He did nothing but think and talk and walk about the streets and market places, asking questions that set other people thinking.—Christian Register.

Hold the Pigeon Sacred.

Russians do not eat pigeons because of the sanctity conferred on the dove in the Scriptures.

A Harvard Shrine.



The John Harvard house at Stratford, England, With Carved Beams. —From The House Beautiful.

Nerve Stimulant.

Taking up the old question of the effects of nerve stimulants upon the capacity for work, Armand Gautier has shown that when kofin is given to a horse fatigue seems to be lessened, and half a mile or more is added to the distance the animal can travel per hour. It was further proven, however, that the horse loses more weight than the one that has received no stimulant. This drug, like alcohol, can whip up the tissues, but the artificially produced energy is at the expense of the living machine.—Christian Work and Evangelist.

The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, June 1 to October 15, 1909, will have an interesting educational exhibit. Two up to date (city and country) school buildings will be erected.



A CHARMING CHILD'S PORTRAIT. By Able Faivre. Recently Exhibited in Paris. —From The House Beautiful.