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THE PLANS OF GOD IN OLDEN TIMES

Were Thought to be Made Known Through Angelic Mediums. Sermon From Acts Gives Many Lasting Thoughts.

In Grace Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, New York, recently, Rev. Robert H. Carson, pastor, preached on "Cornelius—A Man Approved of God." The text was from Acts x 3 and 4. Among other things he said.

Cornelius, the centurion, was the first Gentile received into the Christian Church. He was stationed with his troops in the garrison town of Caeserea and there an angel of God appeared unto him with the message of our text.

It was the divine plan in earlier days to make known the heavenly will through the medium of angelic visitants. The Old Testament gives us numerous instances wherein the saints and prophets are shown as holding converse with them and learning what they are to do in special cases. Abraham, Moses Isaiah had converse with angels and were helped by them in critical days of their history. In the New Testament it is the same. Luke, Paul, Peter, our blessed Lord Himself were all at some time or other in their careers visited by angels who were indeed to them ministering spirits.

We do not in these days hear of any such visitations. The man of modern times who would affirm that an angel had appeared and spoken unto him would be viewed with suspicion, and justly so, by his fellowmen. God fulfils himself in many ways. The gifts and powers granted unto the apostles have, in large measure, been withdrawn from the church of today. In a sense many of them are no longer needed as they were needed when the faith was in its infancy, and humanly speaking, lay at the mercy of wicked and designing men. Yet for the good and brave there are still wondrous powers at hand. Such may not in actual vision behold the angel helpers and hear their message, but to them, in patient waiting upon God and by the power of prayer, there come sudden flashed of insight, gracious ability to discern between conflicting thoughts, secret promptings towards things that are right and true, and are not these, in their own way, every whit as miraculous as the angels' visits of days long past? Many a man will tell you that he cannot understand how he came to pursue a certain course save that he felt a power within him constraining him to enter upon that course, and leaving him no alternative. That I hold to be every whit as miraculous in its nature and operation as the appearance of an angel in bodily form, if only we have the keenness of spiritual insight to discern that truth, and are not, like children, impressed merely by what stands out palpable and gross before our vision.

Be that as it may, let us never forget one lesson that is clearly seen in the story of Cornelius—that God had manifold agencies of help for those who trust and love and serve Him. Not any one who is striving to be good and do good is called to that warfare on his own charges; he has many mighty unseen forces arrayed for his help, his comfort and security. He who can make the winds His messengers and the lightnings His angels is never at a loss how to bring speedy assistance to any servant of His in the hour of conflict and of trial.

Paul says that the followers of Christ wrestle not against the flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers and a host of unseen but mighty foes. Therefore that they may withstand in the evil day, he bids them to take unto themselves the whole armor of God, and surely in that armory there is no better weapon than this one of faith, a faith that makes us strong to believe in God's all powerful aid, given in secret ways by the unseen powers to all who trust Him and do the right.

It nerves the public arm, it cheers the fainting heart, it bestows the secret of endurance, and finally gives the victory and the crown to the brave and believing soul.

But consider for a moment the character of the man to whom God sent His Angel. It is not given unto all to have angelic visitants of heavenly communications. That favor is determined primarily by the character of the person. An angel appeared unto Cornelius because he was worthy of such distinction. "He was a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, and gave much alms to the people and prayed to God always." About such a man there need be no doubt. You may with certainty conclude that he is not going to be lost among the common crowd; sooner or later such an one is going to be marked with a distinction from heaven.

We are not told much concerning the early history of this man, but we know enough to understand in some measure, at least, the difficulties that beset him in his progress toward the higher life. He was probably born and bred amid heathen ignorance and superstition, and in his young manhood joined himself to the army of Imperial Rome. It may be that during some campaign or garrison duty he came in contact with the Jewish faith and doctrine, and instinctively recognizing the superiority of that religion over others which he had knowledge, he adopted it, though he did not conform to all Jewish ritual.

Be that as it may, one thing that strikes us is the wondrous character that this man attained unto in the midst of most unpromising conditions. A Roman soldier, yet a most devout man! We, in these days, talk a great deal about the force of circumstances, the power of environment, and we speak as if such things condoned much of the loose and flabby living with which we are only too sadly familiar. No one, of course, is so foolish as to deny that surroundings have a mighty influence upon a man's life and character, that it is very much harder for some than others to preserve unblemished their integrity, and follow after the things that make for righteousness. But it is no less true that surroundings and environment are not all powerful, that a man has in him to withstand, and having done all to stand in the evil day, if only his heart be right and his faith be fixed on God.

A Roman camp! You who have read history know what that means, and yet amid such surroundings there lived Cornelius, the devout man, who feared God and prayed always.

The noblest lives are those that

(Continued On Page Eight.)

NEWCASTLE'S MAYOR A FORMER ALBERTON BOY

Who Has Steadily Forged to the Front in Civic Affairs and Now Holds a Prominent Position in Public and Private Life.

Mention has been made from time to time in The Guardian of Leslie B. McMurdo's recent election as Mayor of Newcastle, N. B. Mr McMurdo is a son of John and Mrs McMurdo formerly of Alberton but now residing in the West, and the following clipping from an exchange will be of interest to his many relatives and friends in his native Province, and will give some idea of the contest in which he secured his election.

"Election passed off quietly, a very slim vote being polled. The assembled voters were distinguished for their sobriety and orderliness, and good humor prevailed throughout. Mayor Miller who has held the chief magistrate's chair for the last three years was beaten by Ald. McMurdo, who had three votes more than his rival.

At night the bands serenaded the successful candidates from the bandstand, Mayor Elect McMurdo and Ex-Mayor Miller responded, but as the rain was falling, the meeting was adjourned to the Opera House, where about 800 people listened to the post election speeches of some of the candidates.

MAYOR McMURDO.

Mayor McMurdo was the first speaker. He thanked the electors and would endeavor to worthily preside over the destiny of the town, he had sat at the Aldermanic Board for four terms, had served as chairman of Public Works for two years also chairman of Police com. for one year, besides serving on several other committees. He was proud of the position he held tonight for several reasons, 1st, because it was the highest honor that could be bestowed on a citizen of a town, 2nd, because he had worked his own way up to it having left home when but a boy 15 years old, he had gradually worked his way up to the chief magistrate's chair. Mayor McMurdo went on to explain that he had been asked by friends to run for Mayor last year. He had talked the matter over with Mayor Miller, who said some of the electors wanted him to run again as also did the Drummonds and that he "McMurdo," told Mr Miller if he felt he could do the town more service by being Mayor for another term he would not offer. This year Mr Miller had again insisted on being a candidate for Mayor. Mr McMurdo said he felt it was his privilege to run and a duty he owed to the friends who had supported him for four years. He felt and he thought the people felt four years was long enough for one man to hold the office. He said Mr Miller had been a good Mayor and he would be satisfied if he could fill the office with the same efficiency, and he felt the electors would be satisfied. Mr McMurdo promised to do all in his power to bring industries in to the town without burdening the people, he did not favor bonusing companies, but would feel like assisting them by lightening their taxes, etc. He had every reason to believe that the newly elected Council would co-operate with him in keeping down the expenses of the different departments. After again thanking the people for their hearty support the Mayor took his seat amid cheers from the large audience.

MAYOR LESLIE B. McMURDO,
of Newcastle, N. B., formerly of Alberton, P. E. I.

EX-MAYOR MILLER.

Ex-Mayor Miller had no regrets in retiring. He had done his duty as (he thought) the town would wait a long time before it got another Mayor to do. He had not been absent one meeting of Council in four years. He had not asked Mr McMurdo to retire last year. He had neglected his business to serve town and would continue to serve it. He urged citizens to co-operate with new Council.

Mayor McMurdo explained that he intended, as Mr Miller said to go to the West, but only on a trip in June next, he would make his home here at least another year, and would attend to his civic duties.

MAYORS OF NEWCASTLE.

His Worship Mayor-Elect McMurdo is Newcastle's sixth Chief Magistrate. Coming here from Alberton, P.E.I., twelve years ago, he engaged in business and by his honest and straightforward methods of dealing won a large trade and became well and favorably known in the community. His five years as Alderman was a sufficient training for the high position to which the voice of a majority of his fellow citizens now elevated him. Mayor Miller vacates the chair after four years of most active work in which he has spent much time and money in the interests of the town. It will be greatly to Mr Miller's interest financially to be relieved of the responsibilities he has so long and willingly borne for the public."

REPORT OF GRAND W. PATRIARCH S. O. T.

The Following Reports Will be of Interest as They Show the Grand Work of Temperance in This Province.

Kensington, April 26th, 1910

Officers and Representatives:

Once more in the good providence of God we are permitted to meet in second quarterly session of the Grand Division Sons of Temperance to deliberate on the things pertaining to the best interests of our order and to devise such means as shall tend to the creation and growth of a yet still stronger temperance sentiment among the people of our Island home.

We are glad to meet again with the good brethren of Shamrock Division in their own temperance hall—the only temperance owned hall in our jurisdiction. May the pleasant surroundings and the tokens of the season awake us anew to the cause which we espouse and may the blessing of Him from whom all blessings flow rest upon all our deliberations for the advancement of our glorious cause and the overthrow of that great curse of humanity—the liquor traffic. We are pleased to inform the Grand Division today that a fair measure of success has attended our efforts during the past quarter. One new Division Springfield Division No 271 was organized on March 3rd by our efficient and zealous P. G. W. P. Rev E. S. Weeks to whose untiring efforts this Grand Division is duly mindful of. Also Western Star No 272 Glenwood. From the various reports to hand as well as other sources of information I have every reason to believe that our noble order is still in a strong and healthy condition.

Deputy D.M. McDonald writes as follows:—Highland Division No 265 is in a flourishing condition, holding regular and interesting meetings. The interest in the work during the past quarter has been up to any in the past history of the Division. We have added ten new names during the quarter and will doubtless get more recruits during the summer months. Membership 143.

The acting Deputy of Refuge Division writes that Refuge Division has met regularly every Thursday evening during the quarter and is still in a very flourishing condition. The attendance being unusually large. The programs have been of the deepest interest. The members having taken part has made this past quarter one of the brightest in the history of this Division nine new members were added buring the quarter. Membership 146.

Prince Wm Division, Margate has held large and interesting meetings during the past quarter. They too have added 6 new members to its roll. Deputy Chappelle of Victoria Division, Charlottetown reports that their Division is still moving steadily forward. Deputy McLean of Harvest Division reports their Division to be still in good working order, splendid interest being maintained.

For more complete information in this respect I would refer you to the Report of the Grand Scribe who is to follow I would here recommend that this Grand Division give every encouragement to the District Divisions that their usefulness may be increased, believing that through them the propogation work of our order and discussion of our principles can most successfully be accomplished. I would also suggest that special interest be taken in regard to their meetings held during the summer months which appears to be a more favorable time for such meetings especially when the greater number of our Divisions are not so active as in the winter season.

Let me here remind the members of this Grand Division of the meeting of the National Division which meets this year in St John, N. B. on July 20th. We trust that as the session is so near to us that our Grand Division here may be well represented.

I am pleased to report to this Grand Division that progress has been made regarding the amendments asked for at Ottawa to our Prohibatory Law. The Provincial Temperance Alliance of this Province has seen fit to send as their representative to Ottawa the Rev H. E. Thomas whose mission we trust has been duely successful and may yet terminate in good results to our cause. I might add here that some expenses were entailed in sending Mr Thomas to Ottawa a part of which expense our Grand Division is asked to defray.

At such a busy season of the year I shall not inflict upon you a lengthy report or take up any special part in regard to the working of our Prohibitory Law and its enforcements sufficent to say that the enemy is still at work, that the hands of our Inspectors and Prosecutors needs yet to be strengthened in order to combat with the alarming extent of violations in some sections of the country.

As one half of the year has elapsed since my election to the chief position of our order in this Province I had hoped that I would have been in a position to have reported some substantial work done for the propogation of our noble order but on account of illness and unfavorable travelling I am not able to report much work done, but I do feel trustful of yet being able to do some permanent work ere the year closes.

I am pleased to report that peace and harmony reigns I think almost throughout the whole jurisdiction.

In conclusion I desire to express my kindly appreciation of the assistance given me by the members of our order in discharging the duties of my high office during this half year and hope that this session and the sessions yet to come may be alike pleasant.

Signed in Love, Purity and Fidelity,

SAMUEL BERNARD G.W.P.

(Continued On Page Three.)

THE NATIONAL SIN EXTRAVAGANCE

A nation heavily indebted, plunging rapidly deeper into debt, fast exhausting the means by which the interest upon its debt might be paid, yet living thoughtless of tomorrow is unexampled extravagance—such is the strange picture of the United States painted by the broad facts of its international exchange situation.

Six hundred million dollars was needed last year to pay our balance due foreign nations. Money spent by tourists abroad, the dowries of American wives of noblemen, remittances home by immigrants, the interest and dividends on our foreign-owned securities, must all be paid in an excess of exports over imports. When the purchase of foreign silks and wines and automobiles and furs and jewels grows rapidly, exports must also grow or we fall behind. A princely husband in Paris costs so many million pounds imported calls for a cargo of cotton in return.

Exports in 1909 fell nearly $400,000,000 short of meeting our requirements. The bounty of our gold and silver mines reduced the deficit to $300,000,000. So in a year we have $300,000,000 of fresh borrowings; and if no more than four per cent. interest is paid on the newly exiled securities, then by $12,000,000 more in interest are this year's difficulties enhanced.

With such a balance sheet at New Year's one might have looked for some effort at economy. Nothing of the sort happened. With January, total imports for 12 months shot above $1,500,000 for the first time in history. With February came an excess of imports for the first time in 15 years at that season. We have grave warnings from economists that the food with which heretofore our lavish bills were met will soon be needed at home; that cotton, our great exchange crop, is menaced by corners which provoke foreign spinners to seek colonial cotton fields. But neither people nor governments take heed.

Extravagance is the national sin. In the city a mayor with vast powers exposes the waste of millions. In the state we confront an increase of $12,000,000 in yearly expenditure, and no official has the power of retrenchment in the nation. Senator Aldrich tells us of $300,000,000 annual waste, yet Representative Gillett complains that no one takes any interest in economy. In private life a lavish spirit demands everything in multiples, from opera houses to splendid restaurants.

Great country and city houses which a Zola or Ferrero would liken to the building mania of Rome in a decadence, Italian gardens of game preserves, a hundred foolish forms of aping upon new soil the feudal excrescences that Europe was centuries in developing exhaust resources. The well-to-do fling their coins about until the very sleeping car porters buy automobiles and break the speed laws driving home from work.

Lowell before the war thought that America was to be a land of "small estates." In Emerson's Concord it was a land of plain living and high thinking. It has been a land of thrift and mainly of steady habits. We need to get back to the ways of our wisest, simplest men. Extravagance robs the future. Waste is unpatriotic. Debt assumed for no good cause is disgrace. For public and private economy the time to begin is now.

(From the New York World.)

HISTORY OF HALLEY'S COMET

The first photograph of Halley's comet ever obtained cannot be viewed without a certain emotion. For over 2,000 years the comet has spread awe and terror at its successive appearances. Very often its gleaming tail has been in the sky at turning points in the world's history At the fall of Jerusalem and the Norman conquest of England the comet lit the sky with its "horrid hair" and its "bloodlike hue," as contemporaries put it. And now modern science has made it pose for a photograph.

History records the return of Halley's comet 28 times during the past 2,000 years. The following events occurred during, or closely followed, the apparition of the comet:

B. C.

240—Defeat of the Carthaginians by Rome. End of the first Punic war.

163—Judas Maccabaeus occupied Jerusalem.

87—Civil war in Rome, the city taken and retaken.

12—Germany invaded by Drusus.

A. D.

66—Vespasian began the war which ended in the destruction of Jerusalem by Titus.

296—Britain recovered by Constantius.

375—Italy invaded by the Huns.

452—Gaul and Italy invaded by Attila.

531—Fifty years of plague began in Persia.

610—Mahomet began to preach in Mecca.

1066—Norman invasion of England.

1146—Second crusade.

1221—Conquest of Khorassan and Persia by Jenghiz Khan.

1378—Clement VII. anti-Pope at Avignon; four years' schism in the Church of Rome begun.

1456—Turks, having taken Constantinople, threatened Europe. Mahommed II defeated at Belgrade by John Hunniades.

1531—Inundation of Holland. Earthquake at Lisbon.

1607—Spanish fleet destroyed by the Dutch at Gibraltar.

1758—Prussia overrun by Russians. Birth of Nelson.

1835—Political crisis in England.

MARK TWAIN.

There is an old man in Russia who is a very great man of letters. Last week it was a matter for discussion whether the greatest living writer belonged to Russia or the United States. This week it will be conceded that that distinction belongs to Russia, for Mark Twain is dead.

He had the great advantage of living his life fully out. Not only his years, but his energies were prolonged, until we may feel that he pretty well worked out what was in him. There will be few to question that he he was the greatest American writer of his generation. What may be discussed is whether we have ever had his equal. We have had no one at all like him. If we must compare, we consider Hawthorne and Whitman. There is nobody else to put in the scales with Mark Twain.

It may be a platitude to say that he was a great writer because he was born with the necessary gifts. No one not so born ever became great in letters. What is interesting is that powers so remarkable should have been packed into the mortal frame of a child born in an obscure village in Missouri, and should have developed in a life entirely disassociated from what we are used to think of as literary influences. From the start he went to school to life; learned boys first, then men, and books at his convenience. When boys who have what are called "advantages" were studying Latin grammar, Mark was studying Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn, and the Mississippi River. He learned them, and in due time handed them down to be the heritage of American boys, and indeed of all American readers. That is his great achievement, that he grasped a great mindful of American life, rough, joyous and picturesque, and put it where it must stay, vital and pernament, but convenient for examination. There is no sign yet of a time when it will cease to be examined by crowds of searchers rejoicing in what they have found.

He was irreverent as Rabelais was irreverant. He never revered shams, and since the sham and the true are much mixed up in this world, he scared timid folk at times because of his handling of the sham part of things that had truth in them. Respectability never got a gyve on him, and yet in his essence he was a man profoundly respectable. He loved truth, justice, and honor, his integrity was nobly justified in the gravest difficulties, his affections were deep and constant, his sympathies were ready; to the end of his days he was master of himself, equal to his task, faithful to his obligations, an honorable and helpful man. —Harper's Weekly.

HE CAME TO THE POINT

Maggie Fraser was a Scottish lassie hard working, and comely, who ruled over a suppressed English family for eight years, and then announced her intention of marrying within six weeks.

"I suppose it is Bob Nicol whom you mean to marry?" asked her nominal mistress, distressed at losing the best servant she ever had, and referring to a tall, mild-faced young Scotchman, a gardener in a big house near by, who had spent more or less time in Maggie's spotless kitchen for the last three years.

"It is," announced Maggie, calmly "Here he's been coming and sitting wi' mae nicht after nicht and never a word o' merrying. So at long last I said to him, "if you've a mind to tak' me, Bob, ye can jist say it straight, and I'll spend nae mair on hair ribbons, but I'll tak' my money to buy ane o' thae talking machines that play tunes, after I've paid for a strip of new oilcloth to cover the floor where you've worn out the old one." "And what did Bob say to this?" said her mistress.

"He said I had just taen the words oot o' his mouth that he has been trying tae say for twa years, and he wid tak' me the meenit I was ready. I'm sure it's jist God's mercy that brings a sensible woman in the way of the senseless men."

HOW IT STRUCK BOBBY.

Bobby waited in the barber shop while his father was being shaved. "Oh, mamma, the man spread a lot of charlotte roosh on papa's face, and then scraped it off again with a knife."—Boston Transcript.

"What sort of an afternoon speaker is Bligg?"

"One of the kind who starts in by saying they didn't expect to be called on, and then proceed to demonstrate that they can't be called off."—Washington Star.

ALL PERSONS EQUAL IN A GRECIAN PRISON

I was strolling in the neighborhood of the Stoja Hadriana when a two-story building guarded by sentinels attracted my attention. Upon inquiry I found it to be the municipal jail, and an accommodating officer politely offered to gain for me admission to it.

The prisoners apparently belonged to all classes of society, from the peasant in his picturesque national costume to the well-dressed merchant and their features betrayed the most varied grades of intelligence. I was told that prisoners already sentenced and such as had not yet been interrogated by a judge were mingled here, and that frequently weevs passed before the latter received a first hearing.

The food furnished the prisoners is said to be too little to live on and too much to starve on. If one of these poor fellows should happen not to have any relatives or friends to supply him with food he must depend for it on the compassion of his luckier companions in misfortune or suffer hunger.

Regarding sleeping accommodations the conditions are even worse. Twenty to thirty prisoners are crowded into one cell, which contains neither table nor chairs, and where the damp filthy floor offers the only place for rest and sleep. There is no distinction made as to age or grade of crime, and old men and boys, murderers and simple drunkards, share the same cell, sleeping side by side and eating out of the same dish.

It is remarkable, however, that no sad faces are to be seen among these prisoners. On the contrary, many of them look joyous, and some seem even to be supremely happy. Should they ever conspire to effect an escape it would be a small matter for them, as the prisoners have free communication with each other, and their guards, as far as one can observe, are of small number and decidedly negligent in the performance of their duties. There are no special obstacles put in the way of friends and relatives who wish to visit prisoners, and I myself observed inmates of ground floor cells, the windows of which opened on the street, entering into conversation with passerby and receiving food through the iron pratings.

The penitentiary buildings consist of an old monastery-like structure, on the surroundings walls of which sentinels are placed at intervals in such a way that the outer vicinity as well as the courtyards of the building may be watched at the same time. This is the sole penal institution of the country, and it contains only long-term and life prisoners, but they seem to enjoy much the same sort of treatment which I had observed in the municipal jail.

The prisoners move about freely in the semi-dark vaulted corridors and pay each other neighborly visits in their cells. Most of the doors were open and a glance into the rooms showed the inmates either slumbering on their cots, talking or busying themselves with some light work, which seemed more pastime than earnest occupation. Several individuals were loitering about in the courtyards, while others, like Neapolitan lazzaroni, were lazily squatting in the sunshine. Only a few cells were locked.

But by far the most interesting inmate of the penitentiary was a little boy of about five years, an orphan, whose father, a long-term criminal, had been allowed to keep the little fellow with him until further disposition. I ventured to express an opinion as to the baleful influence which this life in the penal institution must have on the growing boy, but the director informed me that, so far, the contrary was the case and that the little fellow was seemingly exercising a beneficial influence on the prisoners, whose general pet he was and who overwhelmed him with toys and saved for him the choicest morsels of the prison fare.—Chicago News.