

THE GUARDIAN'S WEEKLY SHAKESPEAREAN SERMON

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Men at some time are masters of their fate. Julius Caesar. Act I, Sc. 2. In Shakespeare's time the world was just emerging from the night of the Middle Ages. The new learning was illuminating the horizon, but had not wholly dispelled the darkness. Astrology was a favorite art. Shakespeare's frequent references to "suspicious stars," "good stars," "fortune's star," indicate that the popular belief had some hold on him. However, so completely does Shakespeare sink himself in his characters that it is difficult to tell just what he did believe.

SAYS HIS WIFE SHOT HIM.

PHILADELPHIA, December 13.—Although he is still in serious condition, physicians say that Herbert Mason, Clapp, the clubman and grandson of Mason, "the Shoelack King," will probably recover from the bullet wound he received in his apartments early yesterday morning.

SIGNS OF EARTHQUAKE.

WASHINGTON, December 13.—An earthquake of moderate intensity, lasting over an hour and a quarter, was recorded today by the seismograph of the weather bureau. Officials estimate the origin of the disturbance was at a distance exceeding five thousand of six thousand miles from Washington.

RECORD LOBSTER CATCH IS EXPECTED.

ST. JOHN, Dec. 13.—F. J. Calder, Dominion Inspector of Fisheries, who arrived in St. John tonight after a trip down the Bay of Fundy coast, says that he looks for a record breaking lobster season. Since the season opened the catch has been large, and the fishermen who had poor results during the autumn, are rejoicing.

Booth's Kidney Pills Cured

Mrs. M. Lewis, 13 St. David Place, Toronto, Ont., says: "I had doctor after doctor for over two years with many different specialists but could find little relief for what they termed Bright's disease. I was so weak and run down that I could not get up from a chair without supporting myself with both hands. My whole system had become so weakened and run down that I could scarcely walk. I was advised by a friend to try Booth's Kidney Pills. They gave me quick relief and I was soon rid of my suffering. I will always gladly recommend Booth's Kidney Pills and speak a good word for them."

should remain in the ranks of humanity, obeying the commands of others, or to step out and take his place at the head of the host. In every one of Shakespeare's plays some truth is taught with peculiar emphasis. In Julius Caesar the truth that men control their own destinies is the dominating lesson. Cassius, in the passage under study, proclaims it, and later in the play Brutus reiterates the same thought. "There is a tide in the affairs of men, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune; Omittit, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries."

The successful men are the men who have taken advantage of the tide of prosperity at its flood; the unsuccessful are those who have allowed the tide to ebb while they feasted or slept. Of course there are some who are more capable than others of seeing and seizing the right moment. The virtues or vices of the parents influence. Call this fate if you will. Character and fortune have descended from ancestors. If a man's character and all fortune is a man's heritage he has in himself the power of overcoming the obstacles to his career. If he wins he is the stronger for having overcome natural difficulties. Mountain climbing gives strength to the limbs and vigor to the eyes.

The belief in destiny is not without its evil effects on human society. Men frequently excuse sin in themselves and others by attributing weakness or wickedness to their fate. That basic cynic Edmund in King Lear lashes such a belief in words that evidently are the expression of Shakespeare's own attitude. "This is the excellent toppey of the world: That when we are sick in fortune, (often the surfeit of our own behavior) we make guilty of our disasters, the sun, the moon, and the stars; as if we were villains by necessity; fools, by heavenly compulsion; drunkards, liars and adulterers, by an enforced obedience of planetary influence; and all that we are evil in, by a divine trusting on an admirable evasion of man to lay his goatish disposition to the charge of a star!"

NO CHANCE FOR LIFE AT FALLS.

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont., December 13.—An odd looking cigar-shaped craft, in which Bobby Leach was to go over the Niagara Falls, made a trial trip this afternoon, otherwise the reckless adventurer of whirlpool fame would have been a dead man.

The vessel was launched above Chippewa and headed down stream. It was soon being tossed about, and reached the first ledge on the rapids above the cataract. Here it was caught and held by the rocks and turned over on its upper side. The craft was then in mid-stream in the current leading to the Horseshoe Falls. Leach declared that had he been inside he could have released the boat, the placing of 150 pounds ballast all at one end was blamed for the accident.

A large breaker lifted the boat from the reef, and it floated down the river, passing over the center of the Horseshoe Falls quite plainly seen, and no damage whatever to the boat then appeared. It gracefully slid down over the falls and first, behind clouds of rising spray.

AN ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY NUMBER.

The large firms of heavy-draft horse users in the leading cities find that on the price of horseflesh has been on the upward trend for the past twelve years, according to an article published in the 1910 Christmas number of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine."

THE MEANING OF PRAYERS FOR THE DEAD

We publish at the request of one of the Church's most earnest workers the following, on Prayers for the Dead, written by Dr. Griffith Thomas now of Wycliffe College, Toronto. No responsibility is taken for the opinions expressed.

The question of prayers for those who have departed this life was one of great prominence at the time of the Reformation, and it has obtained a good deal of attention of recent years. It is, therefore, a matter of real importance to discover what Holy Scripture and the Church of England teach on the subject.

At the time of the death of Archbishop Benson, the papers called special attention to a large violet pall that covered the bier, and on the pall in large letters an inscription had been worked, "Requiescat in Pace." We wonder whether those who placed it there realized what was involved in the phrase. Did it imply that the Archbishop was not at peace?

This was so, was it not reflection on his Christian character and service? For "being justified by faith we have peace with God." The words thus at once raise a question that ought to be faced. What is the meaning of Prayers for the Dead?

TOLD OF CRIMES BY WHOLESALER.

MONTREAL, Dec. 15.—"Doctor" Corinne Poulin, of 249, Montreal street who was arrested by Detective LeHuquet yesterday on a charge of malpractice, has, it is alleged, made admissions to Chief Carpenter of the detective bureau, in which she indicates half a score of qualified medical men, medical students and private nurses. Further arrests it is said, will be made in connection with the case.

In the meantime, the woman victim, whose case was made the basis for the complaint against "Doctor" Poulin, is reported to be gradually sinking. Physicians at the Homeopathic hospital say it may be two or three days before it can be definitely determined what the outcome will be.

If the woman dies the charge against "Doctor" Poulin will be changed to one of manslaughter. The charge on which she is at present held is already punishable by imprisonment for life.

WOMAN GOES TO JAIL FOR USUARY.

HEZRTFORD, Conn., Dec. 13.—The upholding of the convention for usury of Miss Doris Griffith by the United States Supreme Court carries with it a jail sentence of 30 days and a fine of \$6,000. Miss Griffith was the manager of a branch office of the D. H. Tolman Loan Company, Chicago, headquarters were given at Chicago, and whose officers at the time of the trial could not be found by the state authorities. Tolman also operated in Montreal, where he was prosecuted and driven away.

MOVING PICTURE PLAYERS USE NAUGHTY WORDS, SAY MUTES.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 12.—Deaf mutes are complaining against the use of profane and indecent expressions by players in moving picture films and will ask for a rigid censorship by the manufacturers.

WOMAN SAVES LIFE BY 25-FOOT JUMP.

EXETER, N. H., Dec. 13.—Miss Minnie Chandler of St. Johnsbury, Vt., barely escaped with her life from a burning building here early yesterday morning by jumping 25 feet onto a neighboring building, where she was rescued, all other means of escape being shut off. She was one of the eight occupants of the Munsey house on Court street, conducted as a boarding house by John E. M. Masters.

the Lord" (2 Cor. v. 8). They are "with Him in Paradise" (Luke xxiii. 43). They are blessed, for "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord" (Rev. xiv. 13). The New Testament outlook concerning the blessed dead is one of joy, peace, hope, and expectation; we are to remember their past life, imitate their faith, and praise God for them. It seems to be at once necessary and cruel to pray, "May they rest in peace," for it reflects on their present peace, joy and satisfaction in the immediate presence of Christ our Lord.

This leads at once to the heart of our subject—Prayers for the Dead. (a) Prayer must be based on God's Revelation. Prayer finds its warrant in Promise. We can only pray definitely or satisfactorily in so far as we have the Divine warrant for praying. This practice must therefore be based not on sentiment but on Scripture. Some one had been praying for her dead father on the ground of "whatsoever ye shall ask the Father," and the question was asked whether the "whatsoever" could include this. Attention was drawn to the qualification of the word "whatsoever" by the phrase, "In His Name." The "Name" means the revealed character and will of God, all that we know of Him, and this must of necessity be the limit of our prayers.

And inasmuch as God has not revealed Himself in regard to this matter of prayer to the living, it would not possibly be used to cover prayer for the dead. Prayer, therefore, must be based on Revelation.

(b) Revelation is clearly for this life. God's Word is almost silent as to the details of the future life, and it was urged that the text could not possibly be used to cover prayer for the dead. Prayer, therefore, absolutely silent as to any relation of prayer to that life. As to the unconverted, the present life is decisive and final in relation to opportunity, and as to the converted, while there is doubtless growth in the Kingdom of God in the state after death, as there must be to all eternity, yet not one syllable is to be found in God's Word to tell us that our prayers can either effect or affect that growth. Prayer for others is bounded by this life, and after this prayer is swallowed up in praise.

JEALOUS DETROIT MAN KILLS CANADIAN WOMAN AND HIMSELF.

DETROIT, Mich., Dec. 13.—Jealousy resulted in murder and suicide here last night at 37 Park Place. Catherine Devine, aged twenty-seven years, whose home was in London, Ont., was shot three times through the head by her lover, William F. Baker, and instantly killed. A moment later, half crazed, the murderer sent a ball crashing through his own head and fell dead beside the body of the woman.

On a page in a memorandum book in Baker's pocket, the reason for the fatal crime is plain. The note is addressed, "To All," and reads as follows: "She could not stand prosperity and threw down those who stood by her during adversity."

Baker was about thirty-two years old, and was employed as an inspector by Western Union Telegraph Company. His home was in the city. Nine years ago when she was but eighteen years old, Catherine Devine was married to Thomas Bradshaw in London. Bradshaw left the woman and went to Cleveland where he is supposed still to be.

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here imperfect and need purification for eternal glory it is easy to understand how, according to Roman principles, prayer can be made for them. But with the rejection of this idea of Purgatory, the practice of Prayers for the Dead falls to the ground. And those who associate Prayers for the Dead with the Communion of Saints are compelled to limit their prayers to the most general terms, and thereby entirely to alter the idea of prayer from the definite petitions and intercessions which we use on earth. The only justification for Prayers for the Dead would be to pray for them as definitely and pointedly as when they were living. But this would be to deny the teaching of the New Testament concerning their joy and blessedness in the presence of Christ.

The only passage in the New Testament that can be adduced as a possible warrant is 2 Timothy 1. 18. It is urged that Onesiphorus was dead when St. Paul wrote the epistle, and the interpretation of this passage are somewhat as follows:— (1) It is entirely uncertain whether Onesiphorus was alive or dead. No one can possibly decide one way or the other. This is not a very helpful way of deriving an important doctrine from the passage.

(2) Even supposing Onesiphorus was dead, it would be possible to express a wish like this for a friend without in the least admitting the principles on which prayer for the dead can be taken seriously.

(3) The assumption that he was dead is entirely gratuitous. In 1 Corinthians i. 16, and xvi. 15, compared with Romans xvi. we see that households can be referred to without the head of the house being dead.

(4) The view that Onesiphorus was dead probably runs foreign to the context. If we compare verse 15, we see that some had forsaken St. Paul, but that Onesiphorus had not been ashamed of the prisoner and his chain (vers. 16-18); then Timothy is urged to the same boldness (cf. chap. ii. 17). Therefore, "There is nothing here to warrant the idea of the death of Onesiphorus."

KITTY GORDON, THE APPLIES FOR DIVORCE.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Kitty Gordon, the English actress, who until a few days ago was the star of "Alma" at Joe Weber's theatre, and who in private life is Hon. Mrs. Henry Beresford, is seeking divorce. Her lawyer, Mr. Beresford, has filed a bill against Hon. Mr. Beresford. Miss Gordon announced, "Why" was asked, "My word!" replied the actress, "Why do women generally divorce their husbands?"

"Another woman?" "And then another— and still another. Three!" Miss Gordon added that the three were "London ladies," but she had spared their names in sworn statements she made and forwarded together with her solicitor, William Merrick, of London.

"I've been going to divorce Hon. Mr. Beresford for two years or so," she explained, "but he always made things up with me, and I gave him another chance each time. But now I'm going to carry it through. I was informed that Mr. Merrick would serve the necessary papers in London last week."

LETTER OF CCNDOLENCE.

To Bro. Joseph Warren:—We, the officers and members of Prince Alfred L. O. L. No. 1288, having learned with deep regret of the sudden death of your loving wife, desire to extend to you our heartfelt sympathy in your sorrow. We are to be sure, how helpless we are to lighten your burden of sorrow by anything we can say or do, but we pray that our Heavenly Father may comfort you in this your sad affliction and give you grace sufficient to enable you to say, "Your will, not mine, be done." United as we are in the bonds of Christian brotherhood, we, to a certain extent, share your sorrow.

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PARENTS SHOULD GIVE CHILDREN A CHANCE

As children grow up, many serious misunderstandings follow from the failure of parents to recognize their children's individuality. They assume that the children are exactly like themselves, when they are often totally unlike. If they would recognize this likeness and make allowance for it, the path to understanding would often be smoother.

The many successes achieved in bringing up adopted children—children, usually, with a very poor start, from unknown and undesirable antecedents—show what can be done when parents study their child intelligently. Parents are often mortified when their children give more heed to the advice of others. Other people look at the children as individuals and study them without assuming to know all about them, and often discover traits entirely unsuspected by the parents. Children know and appreciate when they are being justly estimated.

Among the families of your acquaintance how many— or rather how few—fathers and mothers really know their own children! From Scripture, therefore, the one point of essential truth, we have no warrant, on foundation for Prayers for the Dead, but everything that looks in the opposite direction. We have next to consider

3.—Early History of Prayers for the Dead. (a) It is generally thought that the Jews prayed for the dead, and that a passage in 2 Maccabees xii. points in that direction. Jewish liturgies of the present day certainly have them. But it has been pointed out that the passage in Maccabees does not necessarily involve Prayers for the Dead, nor is it at all certain that the present Jewish liturgies are of pre-Christian date. In any case, however, we have no record of our Lord and His Apostles observing such a custom, and it would be very precarious to base a Christian practice of such moment on merely Jewish grounds even if we were sure of them.

(b) In the Christian Church it is to be carefully noted that the earliest form of the phrase indicated by R.I.P. was not "requiescat," but "requiescit," which states the fact, "he rests in peace." The earliest inscriptions of the Catacombs, too, are "in pace," "in Christo," etc., without any prayer. All early history points to the remarkable joy associated with Christian funerals, the thought of the beloved one being with the Lord overpowering all else.

When prayers for the dead actually began in the Christian Church they were very simple and marked by a true reserve, because of our ignorance of the soul's rest, and that it might be God's Right Hand. But the mind of man is impatient of restraint and so something more definite was wanted to pray for. The order of thought and feeling seems to have been somewhat on this line, though of course not always definitely and consciously, not all at once, but extending through several centuries.

(1) Prayer implied need. (2) Need suggests imperfection. (3) Imperfection involves progress. (4) Progress indicates purification. (5) Purification demands suffering, and from this came the fully developed medieval doctrine of Purgatory which means purification based on the fact that the full penitence of sin are not all permitted in this life.

It is unnecessary to stay to controvert this in detail, but this much may be said: (1) We can readily see how far all this is from New Testament simplicity; and (2) Suffering is not necessarily remedial and purifying; it often hardens. Joy is on the whole quite as purgative as suffering, and some would say that it is much more so.

This was the state of the case before the Reformation, and we are at once brought to

4.—The Teaching of the Church of England.

This calls for our most careful attention and study, and we have to note the following stages of the history. (a) In 1549 came the first Reformed Prayer Book, and in it were prayers for the dead, distinct and definite. The Prayer Book called the state of Christ's Church, and a petition for the departed was included in the prayer. There were also prayers for the dead in the Burial Service.

(b) In 1552, came the second Reformed Prayer Book. From this prayers for the dead were deliberately omitted, and the words, "militant here in earth" added to the heading here of the prayer. The Burial Service was altered in accordance with this so as to express the present joy of the holy dead, "with whom the spirits of the faithful, after they are delivered from the bondage of the flesh, are in joy and felicity." One of the Homilies speaks in unmistakable plainness of the needlessness of prayers for the dead.

POTATO HOUSES BURNED WITH LOSS OF \$30,000.

CARIBOU, Me., Dec. 12.—News reached here yesterday that the burning in New Sweden last night of five potato houses, at a loss of \$30,000. More than 20,000 bushels of potatoes were consumed in the flames, which were fought in zero temperature. A special train brought aid from nearby towns.

Often parent and child are so different that they could not be expected to understand each other. But they ought at least to understand that they are different and make allowances. It is sad to see a brilliant child in a commonplace home trying to keep its soul from overflowing the narrow limits prescribed by its parents— torn between the duty and dreams. It is sadder to see a commonplace child in a brilliant home driven and badgered, coerced and threatened, forever forced to attempt impossibilities and always falling back hurt and humiliated.

Why can't people learn to let their children alone? Why won't parents study their children? Why won't they ask their friends to help them understand their own? And if the child is commonplace, in mercy's name let him be commonplace! He won't rise to such heights of happiness, neither will he fall to such depths of misery. If the child is a genius, in mercy's name give him a double chance! Don't set in his way and block him just because you can't understand him! Clear the track!—Erman J. Midway in The Delineator for January.

THE WIFE SHIELDS HER HUSBAND.

NORTH BAY, December 13.—A settler's cabin on the south shore of Lake Nipissing was the scene of a tragedy on Sunday night, following a domestic quarrel as a result of which the wife of James Peterson, a leading newsman of North Bay, today and Provincial Officer McRae drove to the scene, forty miles across the lake. The woman was found to be still alive but a revolver bullet had entered the neck and passed completely through the head and brain, inflicting injuries which ordinarily would cause instant death.

Fetterly's story, which is corroborated by other inmates of the house, is to the effect that his wife quarrelled with the man who was helping him on the farm, causing him to leave and enter quarrelled with his step son, and when he remonstrated with her for driving the people away words followed. She picked up a revolver and ran into the yard, where she shot herself.

The dying woman asserts that the shooting was done by herself. E. D. WHITE IS NEW CHIEF JUSTICE.

WASHINGTON, December 12.—The senate confirmed the nomination of Edward Douglass White, of Louisiana to be chief justice of the United States.

The nomination was received by the senate shortly after it convened. It interrupted business to go into session to make the necessary confirmation as the rule requiring reference of negotiations to commission does not apply in case where the appointee have served as members of the senate. Chief Justice White's Commission will be issued by another session.

Accompanying Justice White named in the list—were those of Judge Willis Van Devanter, of Wyoming, now a judge of the eighth judicial, and Judge Lamar, of Georgia, formerly of the supreme court of his state, to be associate justices of the supreme court of the United States. No action was taken in their cases, although there is no apparent opposition to either jurist.

All were referred to the senate judiciary committee. WOMAN AND LAWYER SENTENCED TO PRISON.

CHICAGO, Dec. 13.—Mrs. Alleen Christopher, the Government's star witness in the prosecution of the alleged Erick Trust, was today sentenced to serve 30 days in the County Jail for contempt of Court in refusing to produce certain information before the Federal Judge. Her attorney, Jno. A. Brown was sentenced to seventy days imprisonment.

FAT FOLKS FAVOR

Home Mixture That Takes Off the Fat Rapidly—Causes no Wrinkles—No Stomach Ills and Requires Neither Dieting Nor Exercise. Too much fat is both uncomfortable and dangerous, but usually people prefer to put up with its inconvenience rather than punish themselves with the tiresome exercises usually prescribed, or endanger their health by taking "reducers."

This all-gentle and comfortable fat is entirely unnecessary, however, as Mrs. Della Biggs tells us there is a home remedy that is far superior in every way to anything money will buy for reducing superfluous fat. It is said this simple mixture will take the fat off of man or woman at a rate of at least a couple of pounds a week without even causing wrinkles. Moreover it does not disturb the stomach, but is a good thing for the system, clearing away pimples, and best of all, it does not interfere with the diet. You can use it and eat the same time eat whatever you like. This receipt is as follows:—4 ounce Mergol, 2 ounce Fluid Extract Cascara, 4 ounce Aromatic and 4 ounce Peppermint Water. Get these ingredients at any drug store, mix them together at home and take one teaspoonful after each meal and at bedtime.

Mrs. Biggs, as is well known, is a famous beauty expert, and whatever she recommends is sure to be found eminently satisfactory.