

**TRADE MARK**

**THE SIGN OF SUPERIORITY IN RUBBER FOOTWEAR!**  
**THE TRADE MARK THAT INSURES COMPLETE SATISFACTION.**

### VALUE OF EXPERIENCE

One Cannot Use that of Another But Just One's Own—  
 David's Natural Weapons Sufficed to Slay the  
 Giant Philistine.

Entered according to Act of Parliament of Canada, in the year 1885, by Frederick Dvorak, of Toronto, as the Proprietor of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 22.—A wholesome philosophy, which may well be applied by every one who desires success in the battle of life, is that which the preacher outlines in this sermon, taking his text from I Samuel xvii, 39, "I cannot go with these, for I am a warrior, and they are defenseless and helpless soldiers. Neither personal strength nor heroic valor can avail him without effective weapons in a conflict against an armed foe. The military chiefs have learned that the issue of a campaign depends as much on the perfection and precision of the weapons as on the vigor and prowess of the soldier. In the Austro-Prussian war it was not so much the valor of the soldier or the strategic skill of the generals that gave Prussia the victory as the fact that the Prussian army had the modern gun, while the Austrians carried the old-fashioned muzzle loader. Nor can moral qualities take the place of modern equipment. "Thrice armed," says the dramatist, "is he who hath his quarrel just," but neither justice nor righteousness can save a cause if the champions of it neglect the material appliances of military science. No general ever had more implicit faith in his diet power than had Oliver Cromwell, but even he did not ignore the necessity for human precautions. "Trust in God," he said to his valiant Ironsides, "and keep your powder dry." Fortitude and courage are needed now as ever in an army, but the soldier without effective arms is mere food for powder.

This fact was recognized in ancient times. Before the discovery of gunpowder had made hand to hand conflicts so rare as they are now soldiers were clad from head to foot in armor to protect them from the blow of the sword or battle-axe or the thrust of the spear. Then when David, the shepherd boy, went out to fight the Philistine giant it seemed a matter of ordinary precaution that he be covered with such armor as was then in use. It seemed the rashness of a boy to go into the fight wearing his ordinary shepherd dress. King Saul said: "I will let him go forth and fight in my armor. My helmet shall protect his forehead. My coat of mail shall cover his chest. My sword, keen as a Damascus blade, with its jeweled hilt, shall be in his hand. Come, armor bearer, place my armor upon this champion."

This offer of Saul's was an embarrassment. The young shepherd boy was unaccustomed to the cumbersome armor. But the king's offer must not be rejected by a loyal subject, so he submitted to be girded with the coat of mail and the helmet to protect his head. He must have looked as ridiculous as the pale, thin, consumptive Alexander H. Stephens, that giant of mental power and great heart, appeared in his multitudinous wrappings of outer garments. When Lincoln saw him at Hampton Roads he said to his secretary of state, "Saulward, did you ever see in your life such a pile of cow-huskings wrapped about one thin car?"

"Why," said David, "I cannot fight in this armor. Saul may use these weapons, but I am not Saul. Give me my sling, with which I am accustomed to protect my sheep. Let me choose my own stones out of the brook for ammunition. Let me fight for Israel with the talent God has given to me to use." My text says: "And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these, for I have not proved them. And David put them off him."

David did right. The man who fights the great battle of life with the natural weapons God has given to him will win. The man who tries to fight the battle of life in some other man's armor will fail every time. The purpose of this sermon is to point out some of the useless weapons with which men go forth to battle—not useless weapons perhaps for others, but useless for ourselves, because they belong to another's armory and not to ours.

A young man, in the first place, makes a great mistake in trying to fit his father's helmet upon his head and cover his chest with his father's coat of mail and unsheathe his father's sword for the battle of life merely because they once belonged to his father. When a man has made a big success as a minister or lawyer or doctor or artist or musician or merchant or mechanic that does not necessarily prove that his boy is fitted to walk in his father's footsteps. And yet, strange to say, we find many fathers almost compelling their unwilling boys to be doctors or lawyers or even ministers or merchants because they themselves have made successes in those professions or businesses. And we also find many young men forcing themselves to take up a line of life work for which they are entirely unfitted merely because their fathers won fame and fortune in those walks of life.

Saul's armor was appropriate to his magnificent frame. His son Jonathan may have been able to wear it. There is no reason why if a man is fitted by nature and mental power to follow in his father's footsteps he should not enter the profession his father adorned and fight in his father's armor. There are men who have made a greater success than their fathers in the same field. When we study history we find that men who were great ministers, lawyers, doctors, artists, authors and merchants have had sons who became even greater ministers, lawyers, doctors, artists, authors and merchants. Hamilar was a great Carthaginian general. He was the parent of Hannibal, who was a greater general.

There is another caution to the young man who is going out to fight the battles of life. He must be careful about the quality and temper of his weapons. If we should discard the obsolete weapons with which our ancestors fought their battles how much more should all of us refuse to go forth to battle in life with the glittering blades of sin in our hands which again and again have proved impotent when the heat of the struggle is on. When we take the blades of sin we have false weapons in our hands. In the heat of life's battles these blades of sin will fail us every time.

Perhaps David was tempted to use Saul's sword, as some of us are tempted at times to go forth to fight the battles of life with the weapons of sin in our hands. Methinks I can see the shepherd boy take the jeweled blade from the hands of the king's armor-bearer. His face flushes with pleasure, his eye flashes, he runs his thumb along the keen edge of the blade, and he looks at the jeweled hilt. "What," says he, "is the king going to let me have his own sword?" But then David pushes it aside and says, "Better a sling than this cumbersome blade." So Satan places the sword of sin in our hands. We look at it. It seems to be a jeweled blade. We say to ourselves: "It is only the sword of just one thief or one deceiver or one sinner." We know we can win victory with one blow from that sword. Then we cannot bear to lay it aside. But to-day let us push away that sword of sin at once. It will break in our hands as sure as we live, and it will leave us at the mercy of our foes.

"Well," says some one, "you have been telling us what kind of weapons not to use. Now tell us the kind we can go forth to fight God's battles with. How do we know with what David's sling we are to fight? How did David know? What was his best sling? Well, my friends, I am not here to tell you particular "sling," but I am here to tell you how you can find out about that "sling." As a rule, the sling which you are to use in the battle of life is the one that you can wield the easiest.

Let me illustrate my thought in a simple way: When you were a little child the first intellectual passion your parents recognized in you was your love for music. If some one sat down to play at the piano and you were crying you immediately ceased to cry. As soon as you were able you climbed upon the music stool and began to pick out the different notes with your chubby fingers. For hours and hours you can sit and listen to music. People say you are a born musician. If I were you I would develop that talent for Christ. I would go and sing and play in every sick-room I could enter. I would go to hospital and mission hall and church and sing and play. If you are a born musician, if you are a David's sling, develop that talent, brother. Develop it for Christ.

What is your talent for Christ? You think you have not any? You say: "I cannot write or sing or play or preach or make money or am useless. I have not even my talent, let alone ten." Oh, yes, you have; you have a very great talent. But you can develop that talent even more than you can imagine. Your talent, as far as I can make out, is to live in the background of life and encourage other people to do their work. It is very easy for you to say pleasant things. Keep on saying them. Keep on your inspiring mission. Let the elder in the prayer meeting know how much his prayer has comforted you. Let your minister know how much his sermons help you. The tired mother wants you to tell her how finely her boys and girls are doing. The clerks want you to encourage them in their work. He knows how much you are needed everywhere, just to keep on speaking words of good cheer.

I would encourage every man, woman and child to develop for Christ the one special God given talent which has been bestowed on each one of us to work in for God's service. If it is to teach, then let us teach. If it is to pray, then let us pray by the sick beds. If it is to give money in his name, then let us give of our wealth. The great trouble with the world is that most of us are afraid to do our best in the time God has given us to do our work. We are afraid to use our slings lest David's brothers might laugh at us and ridicule us. Be yourself, O man. Be your plain, natural self. Be it in the pulpit, on the street, in the church and in the home. Let us all be God's people. Be it everywhere and God will bless your work for Christ. Be yourself, O woman. Be your own sweet self. Be it in the kitchen, in the parlor. Be it with your Sunday school class. Be it everywhere. God will bless you when you use your sling of one talent. But remember that before man as well as before God you will be useless if you, like David, are trying to fight the great battle of life in Saul's armor.

It would be a mistake for ministers to say: "We will not talk to the people in a plain common sense way, as Christ talked to his audience in parable. We will not draw our illustrations from the incidents of daily life and introduce those illustrations into our practical sermons as Christ did when he talked about the thieves on the Jericho road or about the woman who lost a part of her hair and wept from past ages and from the writers of old and from the sins of the Jewish people and not from the sins of the American people, who live at our very door." There are many doing this. The result is there are hundreds of preachers who do not wield any modern slings. They do not preach as Christ would have them preach. They are ready to talk about the lily of the valley and the rose of Sharon and the grapes of Eschol, but they are not willing to speak a philippic against commercial sins in our own day, against the grocerman who has false weights for his pound of sugar and tea, as well as against the wealthy millionaire who is living a double life and is breaking the marital vows which he once made to the young girl when the twain at the marriage altar became one.

What we say about church work we say about every other kind of work. Young man, do not do a thing as a lawyer or doctor or merchant merely because other lawyers or doctors or merchants have been accustomed in the past to do that thing and in that way. It was the novelty of onslaught which David used that was able to overthrow the mighty Philistine. If you are going to make an success in life you must have independent ways of doing your work. You must get out of the rut. Do not use Saul's sword to fight your Goliath merely because all other soldiers are using swords to fight their Goliath. Develop your marksmanship by swinging your natural slings. David fighting his battles in an original way was a conqueror; David using Saul's armor would have been a failure.

There is another caution to the young man who is going out to fight the battles of life. He must be careful about the quality and temper of his weapons. If we should discard the obsolete weapons with which our ancestors fought their battles how much more should all of us refuse to go forth to battle in life with the glittering blades of sin in our hands which again and again have proved impotent when the heat of the struggle is on. When we take the blades of sin we have false weapons in our hands. In the heat of life's battles these blades of sin will fail us every time.

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