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Red Rash, Eczema, in fact any skin disease, disfigures the complexion because the bowels are constipated—or because the kidneys do not rid the system of waste—or because the skin itself is unhealthy.

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act directly on the eliminating organs—correct their irregularities—strengthen them—and thus clear the skin and make the complexion clear and soft.

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ETERNAL LIFE ABUNDANTLY

Sermon by Rev. Wm. Dobson, Pastor of First Methodist Church Charlottetown.

Doubts About Inherent Immortality—"I Don't Know Nor Do You," but the Man Joined to Christ is Immortal as He is.

(Reported by The Guardian Stenographer.)

Text: John, 10, 10:—I am come that they might have life, and might have it more abundantly.

The text forms one part of a sentence, the first part is—"The thief comes not, but to steal, to kill, and to destroy." The other part of it—"I am come that they may have life and may have it abundantly." Life stands between the two parts of the sentence, between the thief and the Christ as the great battleground. The thief comes to destroy it. The Christ comes to give it, and to give it abundantly. So the great fight between the powers of darkness and the powers of light is concerning this life that you and I as Christians are carrying about with us, this life that Christ Himself has communicated to His disciples.

Now when we first set out in life there are many questions we can answer without much hesitation, but as we grow older, as Tennyson puts it, "We falter where we firmly trod". The time was when I could unhesitatingly settle, in my own mind at least, very many questions that lie beyond the grave, but I am not so sure of them now; but knowing more of myself, more of the Bible, and more of God, I hesitate where once I was certain. Twenty-five years ago, had you asked me if all men were immortal, I should have unhesitatingly answered "yes". Today if you were to ask me I would simply have to say, "I do not know." If you had asked me twenty-five years ago, if there was any doubt at all about man's being constitutionally and inherently immortal, I should have said "no". Now I should have to say "I don't know". I am sure you do not, I am sure no other man does. But one thing I am more certain of today than I have ever been in my life, and it is this, that every individual man and woman who is joined to Christ, in mystic union, is as immortal as Christ himself is immortal. "I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, and no man shall pluck them out of My hands". Of this much I am certain.

So then, leaving out of the discussion constitutional immortality, let us talk this morning about that life that Christ imparts to the individual who puts his or her trust in Him. The thief comes to steal, to kill, and to destroy; I am come that they may have life and may have it abundantly. Now, speaking generally, a man's energy and usefulness depends upon the quantity as well as quality of his vitality. When a man's vitality is at a very low ebb he is very little good to his family, he is very little good even to himself. A man's success depends upon keeping his vitality up to a normal state. It does not matter how great the capacity of the engine, everything depends upon having the steam to correspond with its capacity. Put to work one of those great U. P. R. engines and give it only the steam that you give those engines on our rack, the thing would simply be no good. So it is with a man's intellect, with his talents; give him all the talents you will, they must be backed with vitality or else the greatest capacity a man can possess would be no good. So life in the ordinary sense of the word is a very important thing for a man to study. Those of us who are growing old fade gradually, hardly waking up to the fact that vitality is beginning to shrink, and it is then we begin to think that we are wiser than we ever were before, and could settle problems we never could before. Our vitality is shrinking and we are unconscious of the weakness that is coming over us. We have all the intellect we ever had, but we have not the vitality to drive it, we have not the life to keep it in full working order.

Now this being so you will see another thing, that when a man's life is moral, every part of the physical and moral machinery ought to be working normally. A man's moral nature wants normal vitality lying back of it. This is the thought that Christ had in His mind when he said, "I come that they may have life and may have it abundantly". A man able to drive the whole machinery is a man that is all that God would have him be, a man that may leave this earth better because he lived here, and toiled here, and died here. Now let us carry this over into the spiritual life of which Christ was talking, this life that Christ has come to give to you and me. When a man has great moral and spiritual capacities, if he has not that fullness of spiritual life he is very little good to the church at large, he is very little good as a spiritual force even in his own family, he is very little good to himself, very little good to anybody. One of the greatest problems of life is to know how to keep that spiritual life up to its normal condition so that it may permeate every power of our being and condition the whole moral, spiritual and physical machinery of our manhood. This is one of the problems that cannot be solved by carelessly talking about it. It takes the best manhood and womanhood that we possess. So then it takes the best that is in us to keep our spiritual life in such a condition that we may be of spiritual good to the commonwealth, some good to the church to which we belong, some good to our families and some good to ourselves.

The next thing I want to say is this: We stand in the relation to Jesus Christ as Saviour and saved, we are all agreed upon this; but we stand in relation to Him as Teacher and taught. We preach

this and so emphasize it that no one makes a mistake about it, but we do more, we stand in relation to Christ as always so clear on this. In Him we live and move and have our being; without Him we can do nothing. That life flows into your life and mine only through the Christ. Separated from the Christ that life ceases to flow, this is what happened in Eden's garden and brought such misery upon the world.

It is no use discussing the next question at any length. You and I must sustain certain relations to Christ in order to keep the channel open so that the life may flow in to us. There are certain thoughts that you may cherish with the consent of the will that will block the channel and stop the inflow of the life. There are certain things that you and I can say and do that may stop the inflow of that life. Watch a man who cherishes those things, you will soon find the place on which he moves, you will soon discover the place where he finds enjoyment. Those are things that go without saying. They are as sure as the swing of sun and systems. So then everything depends upon your keeping that channel open, in keeping the relation to Him of life giver and life receiver. Now it is this life that Christ calls eternal life. I am not now discussing natural immortality; it is this life that Christ said He gives to His followers and because of which they shall never perish and no man shall pluck them out of My hands, this life that will stand the white light of the judgment. The life that shall live when all things else shall perish. Now there is a lesson that I think we are all to learn; to be filled with this life is to have clear moral and spiritual vision. A man filled with this life has clear spiritual vision and so it reads: Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God. These things are spiritually discerned said the Apostle. We are beginning to recognize these things more and more as we know more of life. Nor do I think it is pressing it too far to say that a man filled with this life ought to be intellectually better than he could be without it. He ought also to be better physically when filled with the life of Christ. Oh that we may be so filled with this life that we may be a power for good in the community and the society in which we move. I would have no objection to anyone going to a ball room if he took this with him. I am sure it would do the ball room good.

Standing on each side of this life are

two great influences. There is the influence for evil which may manifest itself in a thousand different ways. The thief comes but to kill and destroy, first to steal. If he can only lure us away by inducing us to leave the source of life, get us out of the family surroundings and (let us) conditions that are out of harmony with God, get us out of the church, out of the prayer meeting, into some society that degrades, one great object of the thief is accomplished. Get out of harmony with God and it is not long before we begin to be untrue and to raise excuses for our conduct. If we break the connections between us and the source of that life, that moment we begin to degenerate.

I come that they may have life and may have it abundantly. Now there are just two things that the text suggests to us for everyday life. Watch so that we are not lured away and the connection broken between the source of life and your soul. Let us see to it that every day we hear the relations to Christ of the saved to the Saviour, the taught to the Teacher. These two relations kept, our souls will be ever open to the inflow of that eternal life which will fit us for eternal glory.

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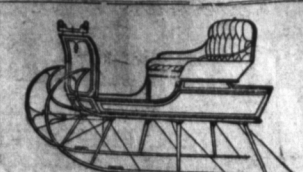
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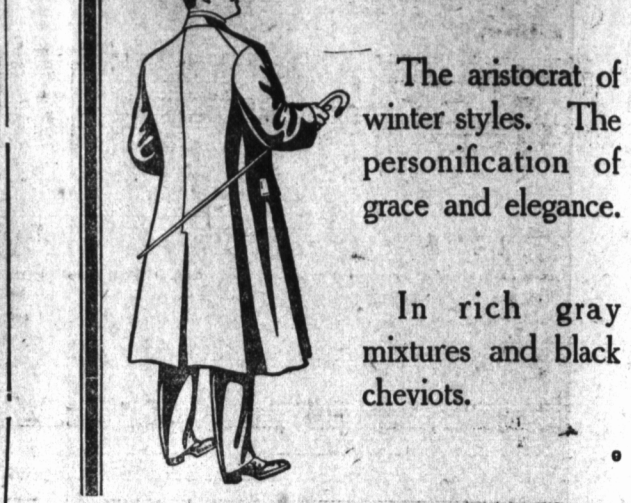
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