

THE TREASURY

AN EVANGELICAL MONTHLY
FOR PASTOR AND PEOPLE.

VOL. VI.

NEW YORK, OCTOBER, 1888.

No. 6.

→ SERMONS ←

A COMMEMORATIVE DISCOURSE.*

A GRATEFUL REVIEW OF GOD'S PRESENCE AND POWER.

BY J. G. MASON, D.D., PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, METUCHEN, N. J.

Ye have seen what I have done unto the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto Myself.—EXODUS xix., 4.

FORTUNATE is the individual who has a predecessor. Fortunate is the Church which has been accumulating its wealth of influence through long generations. Fortunate is the nation which from ancestral beginnings, in self-sacrificing patriotism, on the steps of heroic deeds and of solid growth has been mounting to the heights of its greatness. The recognition of God in the works of the past is necessary to a wise review, whether of the individual, the Church or the nation. The greatest learning cannot eliminate God from the universe, as the mightiest progress of the world's future will not be able to remove God from the place and touch of power in all her increasing machinery.

The new President of our coming university, in his recent inaugural, said : "We are not *afraid to open* our eyes in the presence of Nature, and we are not ashamed to *close* our eyes in the presence of God." True learning is wont to speak thus. It is devout and scientific. To such a spirit God appeals when He says, "Ye have *seen* what I have done." To *see* what God

* Preached in Metuchen Presbyterian Church, July 4th, 1888.

ILLUSTRATIVE SELECTIONS

26. The Banner of Love.

—SONG OF SOLOMON ii., 4.

A man once left England, came to America, and was naturalized, and thus became an American citizen. He went to Cuba during the time when the civil war raged there. In 1867 this man was arrested and condemned to be shot by the Spanish government. He was brought out sitting on his coffin in a cart. A grave was dug. The black cap was drawn over his eyes. The Spanish soldiers awaited the order to fire. The English and American consuls came on the ground—one spreading over him the British flag, the other the American flag. Then turning to the Spanish officers they said: "Fire upon those flags, if you dare." They did not fire upon these flags because the armies of two great nations stood behind them to avenge any insult. What those banners were to the poor, trembling man, Christ is to those who flee to Him for refuge. "He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love."

27. The Christian Reward.—REV. xxi., 6.

When Garibaldi was going out to battle, he told his troops what he wanted them to do, and after he had described what he wanted them to do, they said:

"Well, General, what are you going to give us for all this?"

"Well," he replied, "I don't know what else you will get; but you will get hunger and cold, and wounds and death. How do you like it?"

His men stood before him for a little while in silence, and then they threw up their hands and cried: "We are the men! We are the men!"

The Lord Jesus Christ calls you to His service. I do not promise you an easy time in this world. You may have persecutions and trials and misrepresentations; but afterward there comes an eternal weight of glory, and you can bear the wounds and the bruises and the misrepresentations, if you can have the reward afterward. Have you not enthusiasm enough to cry out, "We are the men! We are the men!"—*T. De Witt Talmage.*

28. Personal Work.—MAT. xx., 4.

A young man was listlessly watching some anglers on a bridge. He was poor and dejected. At last, approaching a basket filled with wholesome-looking fish, he sighed: "If now I had these I would be happy. I could sell them at a fair price and buy me food and lodgings." "I will give you just as many and just as good fish," said the owner,

who had chanced to overhear his words, "if you do me a trifling favor." "And what is that?" asked the other. "Only to tend this line till I come back; I wish to go on a short errand." The proposal was gladly accepted. The old man was gone so long that the young man began to be impatient. Meanwhile the hungry fish snapped greedily at the hook and the young man lost all his depression in the excitement of pulling them in, and when the owner of the line returned he had caught a large number. Counting out from them as many as were in the basket, on presenting them to the young man the old fisherman said: "I fulfil my promise from the fish you have caught to teach you whenever you see others earning wages you need to waste no time in fruitless wishing, but cast a line for yourself.—*Exchange.*"

29. United to Christ.—GAL. ii., 20.

In the part of New England where I spend my summer holiday, I have seen a parable of nature that sets forth what I have said. It is an example of natural grafting, if you have ever seen such an instance. Two little saplings grew up side by side. Though the action of the wind they crossed each other; by and by the bark of each became wounded and the sap began to mingle, until in some still day they became united together. This process went on more and more, and by and by they were firmly compacted. Then the stronger began to absorb the life from the weaker. It grew larger and larger; while the other grew smaller and smaller; then it began to wither and decline, till finally it dropped away and disappeared. And now there are two trunks at the bottom, and only one at the top. Death has taken away the one; life has triumphed in the other.

There was a time when you and Jesus Christ met. The wounds of your penitent heart began to knit up with the wounds of His broken heart, and you were united to Christ. Where are you now? Are the two lives running parallel, or has the word been accomplished in you, "He must increase, but I must decrease"? Has that old life been growing less, and less, and less? More and more have you been mortifying it, until at last it seems almost to have disappeared? Blessed are ye, if such is the case. Then you can say, "I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live not of myself, but by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Henceforth "for me to live is Christ"—not two, but one.—*J. A. Gordon, D.D.*