



General Washington wanted a man. It was in September, 1776, at the City of New York, a few days after the battle of Long Island. The swift and deep East River flowed between the two hostile armies, and General Washington had as yet no system established for getting information of the enemy's movements and intentions. He never needed such information so much as at that crisis.

What would General Howe do next? If he cross at Hell Gate, the American army, too small in numbers, and defeated the week before, might be caught on Manhattan island as in a trap, and the issue of the contest might be made to depend upon a single battle; for in such circumstances defeat would invoive the capture of the whole army. And yet General Washington was compalled to confess:

"We cannot learn, nor have we been able to possess, the least information of late."

Therefore he wanted a man. He wanted an intelligent man, cool-headed, skillful, brave, to cross the East River to Long Island, enter the enemy's camp and get information as to the strength and intentions. He went to Colonel Knowlton, commandig a remarkably efficient regiment from Conneeticut, and requested him to ascertain if this man so sorely needed could be found in his command. Colonel Knowiton called his officers together. stated the wishes of General Washingten, and, without urging the enter-



CAPT. HALE DISGUISED AS A DUTCH SCHOOLMASTER.

price upon any individual, left the matter to their reflections.

Captain Nathan Hale, a brilliant reath of 21, recently graduated from Yale college, was one of those who reflected upon the subject. He soon reached a conclusion. He was of the very flower of the young man of New England, and one of the best of the rounger soldiers of the patriot army. a spy. He had been educated for the ministry, and his motive in adopting for a he reached New York—the day of the time the profession of arms was purely great fire which laid one-third of the

patriotic. This we know from the little city in ashes. From the time of

in addition to his other gifts and graces, he was handsome, vigorous and New London or pitched for the college nine.

The officers were conversing in group. No one had as yet spoken the decisive word. Colonel Knowlton appealed to a French sergeant, an old soldier of former wars, and asked him to volunteer. "No, no," said he. "I am ready to

fight the British at any place and time. but I do not feel willing to go among them to be hung up like a dog." Captain Hale joined the group of

offleers. He said to Colonel Knowl-

"I will undertake it."

Some of his best friends remonstrated. One of them, afterwards the famous Gen. William Hull, then a captain in Washington's army, has recorded Hale's reply to his own attempt to dissuade him.

"I think," said Hale, "I owe to my country the accomplishment of an object so important. I am fully sensible of the consequences of discovery and capture in such a situation. But for s year I have been attached to the army. and have not rendered any material service, while receiving a compensation for which I make no return. wish to be useful, and every kind of service necessary for the public good becomes honorable by being neces-

He spoke, as General Hull remembered, with earnestness and decision. as one who had considered the matter well, and had made up his mind.

Having received his instructions, he traveled fifty miles along the Sound as far as Norwalk, in Connecticut. One who saw him there made a very wise remark upon him, to the effect that he was "too good looking" to go as a apy He could not deceive. "Some scrubby fellow ought to have gone." At Norwalk he assumed the disguise of a Dutch schoolmaster, putting on a sui of plain brown clothes and a round. broad-brimmed hat. He had no diffi culty in crossing the Sound, since he bore an order from General Washington which placed at his disposal all the vessels belonging to Congress. For several days everything appears to have gone well with him, and there is reason to believe that he passed through the entire British army without detection or even exciting suspicion.

Finding the British had crossed to New York, he followed them. He made his way back to Long Island, and nearly reached the point opposite Norwall where he hand originally landed. Rendered, perhaps, too bold by success, he went into a well-known and popular tavern, entered into conversation with the guests and made himself very agreeable. The tradition is that he made himself too agreeable. A man present, suspecting or knowing that he was not the character he had assumed, quietly left the room, communicated his suspicions to the captain of a British ship anchored near, who dispatched a boat's crew to capture and bring on board the agreeable stranger. His true character was immediately revealed. Drawings of some of the British works, with notes in Latin, were found hidden in the soles of his shoes Nor did he attempt to deceive his captors, and the English captain, lamenting, as he said, that "so fine a fellow had fallen into his power," sent him to New York in one of his boats, and with him the fatal proofs that he was

September 21st was the day on which

familiar records of his life at the time his departure from General Washingwhen the call to arms was first heard. | ton's camp to that of his return to New York was about fourteen days. He was taken to General Howe's headathletic, all in an extraordinary de- quarters at the Beekman mansion, on gree. If he had lived in our day he the East river, near the corner of the might have pulled the stroke oar at present Fifty-first street and First avenue. It is a strange coincidence that the house to which he was brought to be tried as a spy was the very one from which Major Andre departed when he went to West Point, Tradition says that Captain Hale was examined in a greenhouse which then stood in the garden of the Beekman mansion.

Short was his trial, for he avowed at once his true character. The British general signed an order to his provostmarshal directing him to receive into his custody the prisoner convicted as



ONLY REGRET THAT I HAVE BUT ONE LIFE TO LOSE FOR MY COUNTRY."

spy, and to see him hanged by the neck "tomorrow morning at day break."

Terrible things are reported of the manner in which this noble prisoner. this admirable gentleman and hero, was treated by his jailer and executioner. There are savages in every large army, and it is possible that this provost-marshal was one of them. It is said that he refused him writing materials, and afterward, when Captain Hale had been furnished them by others, destroyed before his face his last letters to his mother and to the young lady to whom he was engaged to be married. As those letters were never received, this statement may be true. The other alleged horrors of the execution it is safe to disregard, be cause we know it was conducted in the usual form and in the presence of many spectators and a considerable body of troops. One fact shines out from the distracting confusion of that morning, which will be cherished to the latest posterity as a precious ingot of the moral treasures of the American people. When asked if he had anything to say. Captain Hale replied:

"I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country." The scene of his execution was prob-

ably an old graveyard in Chambers street, which was then called Barrack street. General Howe formally notifled General Washington of his execution. In recent years, through the industry of investigators, the pathos and sublimity of these events have been in part revealed.

A few years ago a bronze statue of the young hero was unveiled in the New York City Hall Park. It is greatly to be regretted that our knowledge of this noble martyr is so slight; but we know enough to be sure that he merits the veneration of his country-

man who marries for money merely trades his liberty for a meal

TALMAGE'S

"PROMPT ACTION" THE SUB-JECT LAST SUNDAY.

XI. 4-The Courage a Primary Virtge in for the Right.

(Copyright, 1901, by Louis Klopsch, N. Y.) Washington, June 23.—From a passage of Scripture unobserved by most readers Dr. Talmage in this discourse shows the importance of prompt action in anything we have to do for ourselves of opposition. or others; text, Ecclesiastes xi, 4, "He that observeth the wind shall not 80W."

What do you find in this packed sentance of Solomon's monologue? I find in it a farmer at his front door examfaing the weather. It is seedtime. His fields have been plowed and harrowed. The wheat is in the barn in sacks ready to be taken affeld and scattered Now is the time to sow. But the wind is not favorable. It may blow up a storm before night, and he may get wet if he starts out for the sowing; or It may be a long storm, that will wash out the seed from the soil; or there may have been a long drought, and the wind may continue to blow dry weather. The parched fields may not take in the grain, and the birds may pick it up, and the labor as well as the seed may be wasted. So he gives up the work for that day and goes into the house and waits to see what it will be on the morrow. On the morrow the wind is still in the wrong direction, and for a whole week and for a month. Did you ever see such a long spell of bad weather? The lethargic and overcautious dilatory agriculturist allows the season to pass without sowing, and no sowing, of course, no harvest. That is what Solomon means when he says in his text, "He that observeth the wind shall not sow."

Orisis Was Not Met-

There comes a dark Sabbath morning. The pastor looks out of the window and sees the clouds gather and then discharge their burdens of rain. Instead of a full church it will be a handful of people with wet feet and dripping umbrellas at the doorway or the end of the pew. The pastor has prepared one of his best sermons. It has cost him great research, and he has been much in prayer while preparing it. He puts the sermon aside for a clear day and talks platitudes and goes home quite depressed, but at the same time teeling that he has done his duty. He did not realize that in that small audience there were at least two persons who ought to have had better treatment. One of those hearers was a man in a crisis of struggle with evil appetite. A carefully prepared discourse under the divine blessing would have been to him complete victory Tae fires of sin would have been extinguished, and his keen and brilliant mind would have been consecrated to the gospel ministry, and he would have been a mighty evangel, and tene of thousands of souls would have, under the spell of his Christian eloquence given up sin and started a new life, and throughout all the heavens there would have been congratulation and hosanna, and after many ages of sternity had passed there would be celebration among the ransomed of what was accomplished one stormy Sunday in a church on earth under a mighty gospel sermon delivered to 15 or 20 people. But the crisis I speak of was not properly met. The man in struggle with word that moved him. He went out in the rain uninvited and unhelped back to his evil way and down to his overthrow. Had it been a sunshiny Sabbath he would have heard something worth hearing. But the wind blew from a stormy direction that Sabbath day. That gospel husbandman noticed it and acted upon its suggestion and may discover some day his great mistake. He had a sack full of the finest of the wheat, but he withheld it, and some day he will find, when the whole story is told, that he was a vivid illustration of the truth of my text, "He that observeth the wind shall not sow."

Lacked Courage of Conviction. Communities and churches and nations sometimes are thrown into hysteria, and it requires a man of great equipoise to maintain a right position. Thirty-three years ago there came a time of bitterness in American politics. and the impeachment of the president of the United States was demanded. Two or three patriotic men, at the risk of losing their senatorial position. stood out against the demand of their political associates and saved the country from that which all people of all parties now see would have been a calamity and would have put every subsequent president at the mercy of his epponents. It only required the waiting of a few months, when time itself removed all controversy.

"Let us have war with England if needs be," said the most of the people of our northern states in 1861, when Mason and Slidell, the distinguished southerners, had been taken by our navy from the British steamer Trent and the English government recented the act of our government in stopping one of their ships. "Give up prisoners," said Great Britain, "No," said the almost unanimous opinion of the north. "Do not give them up. Let us have war with England rather than surrender them." Then William H. all that prideth himself on his pedigree | manufactures and she is Seward, secretary of state, faced one of the fiercest storms of public opinion ever seen in this or any other country. Seeing that the retention of those two men was of ne importance to our country and that their retention would put Great Britain and the United States into minediate commet, he mid, give them up." They were given up. and through the resistance of popul signier by that one man a world-mee

saing when Korruth, the great Mungarian, rode up Broadway, New York, and a Most Americans were in favor of taking some decided steps for Hungary, The only result of such interference would have been the sacrifice of all he good precedent and war with European | old homeless nations. Then Daniel Webster, in his sided world.

immortal "Hulsemann lettter," braved met by calculation. a whirrwind of popular opinion and saved this nation from useless foreign entanglement. Webster did not observe the wind when he wrote that letter. So in state and church there have always been men at the right time ready to face a nation full—yea, a world full—

Howare of Overpradence. How many there are who give too much time to watching the weather vane and studying the barometer! Make up your mind what you are going to do and then go ahead and do it. There always will be hindrances. It is a moral disaster if you allow prudence to overmaster all the other graces The Bible makes more of courage and faith and perseverance than it does of caution. It is not once a year that the great ocean steamers fail to sail at the appointed time because of the storm signals. Let the weather bureau prophesy what hurricane or cyclone it may, next Wednesday, next Thursday, next Saturday, the steamers will put out from New York and Philadelphia and Boston harbors and will reach Liverpool and Southampton and Glasgow and Bremen, their arrivals as certain as their embarkation. They can-

not afford to consult the wind, nor

can you in your life voyage.

The grandest and best things ever complished have been in the teeth of hostility. Consider the grandest enterprise of the eternities—the salvation of a world. Did the Roman empire send up invitation to the heavens inviting the Lord to descend amid vociferations of welcome to come and take possession of the most capacious and ornate of the palaces and sail Galilee with richest imperial flotilla and walk over flowers of Solomon's gardens, which were still in the outskirts of Jerusalem? No. It struck him with insult as soon as it could reach him. Let the camel drivers in the Bethlehem caravansary testify. See the vilest hate pursue him to the borders of the Nile! Watch his arraignment as a criminal in the courts! See how they belie his every action, misinterpret his best words, howl at him with worst mobs, wear him out with sleepless nights on cold mountains! See him hoisted into a martyrdom at which the noonday cowled itself with midnight shadows, and the rocks shook into cataclysm, and the dead started out of their sepuicher, feeling it was no time to sleep when such horrors were being enacted.

Make Opportunities.

Young man, you have planned what you are going to be and do in the world, but you are waiting for circumstances to become more favorable. You are like the farmer in the text, observing the wind. Better start now. Obstacles will help you if you conquer them. Cut your way through, Peter Cooper, the millionaire philanthropist, who will bless all succeeding centuries with the institution he founded, worked for five years for \$25 a year and his board. Henry Wilson, the Christian statesman who commanded the United States senate with the gavel of the vice presidency, wrote of his early days: "Want sat by my eradie. I know what it is to ask a mother for bread when she hes none to give. I left my home at ten years of age and served an apprenticeship eleven years, receiving a month's schooling each year, and at the end of eleven years of hard work a yoke of oxen and six sheep, which brought me \$84. In the first month after I was 21 years of age I went into the woods, drove a team and cut mill logs. arose in the morning before daylight and worked hard till after dark and received the magnificent sum of \$6 for the month's work. Each of those dollars looked as large to me as the moon looks tonight," Wonderful Henry Wil-But that was not his original name. He changed his name because he did not want on him the blight of drunken father. As the vice president stood in my pulpit in Brooklyn, making the last address he ever made and commended the religion of Christ to the young men of that city, I thought to myself, "You yourself are the sublimest spectacle I ever saw of victory over obstacles." For thirty years the wind blew the wrong way, yet he did not observe the wind, but kept right

Doly Your Antagonists.

The Earl of Alsatia, a favorite Edward III. of England, had excited the jealousy of other courtiers, and one time, while the king was absent they persuaded the queen to turn lion loose in the court to test the earl's courage. The earl, rising a break of day, as was his custom, came into the courtyard and met the Hon. and the jealous courtiers from the windows watched the scene. The lion with bristling hair and a growl, was ready to spring upon the earl when he, undaunted, shouted to the monster "Stand, you dog!" Then the lies couched, and the earl took it by the mane and turned it back into the cage leaving his handkerchief on the neck of the monster, and, looking up in triumph to the lealous courtiers, who he knew were watching from the windows, cried out, "Let him among you go and fetch that handkerchief." And you, young man, will find a lien in your way, perhaps turned loose by the jealousy of those who would enjoy of the big trans-Atlan your ruin. But in the strength of God make that lion couch. By God's help you can do it and dely and challenge your antagonists. The Hart of Alentis consumered the lies by ster voice and the glare of eye, but y fored strength of an almighty sem and I

windows of the Dake of We while his wife lay dead in the hor

wind, or a north wind, a west wind or an east wind that is now do you not feel like saying: whole subject I now decide. Lord Go through thy Sen, Jesus Christ, my He vior, I am thine forever, I myself, reckless of everything into the fathemiess ocean of the mercy."

and rollicking way, "I am not like the farmer you find in your text. I do not watch the wind. What do I care about the weather vane? I am sowing now. What are you sowing, my brother? Are you sowing evil habite? Are you sowing infidel and atheistic Are you sowing hatreds, revenges, dis contents, unclean thoughts or un actions? If so, you will raise a big crop—a very big crop. The farmer sometimes plants things that do not come up, and he has to plant them over again. But those evil things that you have planted will take root and in harvest of pain, in despair, in harvest of right through some of the unhappy homes of Washington and New York and all the cities, and through the hospitals and penitentiaries, and you will find stacked up, piled together, the sheaves of such an awful harvest. Hoses, one of the first of all the writing prophets, although four of the other prophets are put before him in the canon of Scripture, wrote an tounding metaphor that may be quoted as descriptive of those who do evil: "They have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind." Some one has said, "Children may be strangled, but deeds never."

There are other persons who truthfully say: "I am doing the best I can." The clouds are thick and the wind blows the wrong way, but I am sowing prayers and sowing kindne and sowing helpfulness and sowing hopes of a better world," Good to you, my brother, my sister! What yo plant will come up. What you will rise into a harvest the wealth of which you will not know until you me up higher. I hear the rustle of you harvest in the bright fields of heave The coft gales of that land, as I pass, bend the full headed grain curves of beauty. It is golden in the light of a sun that never sets. you pass in you will not have to girl on the sickle for the reaping and the will be nothing to remind you a weary husbandmen tolling under he summer sun on earth and lying down under the shadow of the tree at not tide, so tired were they, so very tired No, no; your harvest will be real without any toll of your hands, without any beaweating of your brown Christ in one of his sermons told how your harvest will be gathered when he said, "The reapers are the angels."

GROWTH OF OCEAN TRAVEL

Ships New Carry from 188 to 288 Cable

The marked increase in the volume of ocean steamship travel of late years has occasioned extended commen among agents of trans-Atlantic lines. It is said that many Americans make six or more trips a year to the other side, where formerly they did no cross at all. Englishmen and Germans who are engaged in the manufacture ing trades, industrials and even food raising, visit this side much oftens now. Quite a few come to look around with an idea of ascertaining how Americans have made such giganti commercial strides in such a short time, but the great majority, realising the necessity for adopting American methods where practicable, come here te purchase machinery and the like without which it would be in for them to copy Tankee thrift and industry. Not nearly so common on the ocean ships as he was five or ten years ago is the English ranshman be for the far west. He is now in the mining or engineering business it Mexico and Central America, alththere are still many Britons engaged in the cattle raising business out week and throughout Canada. Some of the older vessels of our line shipped i large number of mules and horses that were sent to South Africa from New Orleans for English army service. H was surprising to discover what a big percentage of these animals came from the ranches of Englishmen who has settled in the north and west. Where ships in the past were satisfied with sixty or seventy-five cabin passer each trip at this season they are carry ing from 125 to 225 now, if not one way, certainly the other. The nr of buyers who are conteantly on the deep has become enormous. Matar Canada has benefited by this sager to patronine American methods Pullman car, but the