

A Vision of Encouragement

Sermon Preached by Rev. A. Shepherd in the Presbyterian Church Markdale, on Sunday, Oct. 18. Text, Acts 18: 9-10.

Paul needed encouragement. He had come to Corinth on his second missionary journey—Corinth, the vanity fair of that hard old Pagan world of shameless vice and depravity, and he came to plant the standard of the Cross and found a christian community. What magnificent heroism we say! What tides of divine power swept through his heart! Paul had great expectations. He had ten hopes for our one. He saw a Church arising out of the grave of Paganism, where we would only see the grave. His missionary journey through Asia Minor and Macedonia had been a great triumph. He was a man that dealt in great thoughts, great words and great deeds; a kingly man who spoke and acted like an uncrowned hero.

The Jewish synagogue was in Corinth—the greatest of all institutions that has come to us from the past—the beginning of democracy and education, and preaching. Paul always expected help from the Jews and he never received it, except from a few individuals. The synagogue ought to have been the organizing centre for the evangelization of Corinth. The Jews should have swept across Asia and Europe like Peter the Hermit, ten thousand strong, and with impassioned earnestness, and unparalleled self-sacrifice, preached the gospel of a divine Saviour. Instead of one Paul, there should have been ten thousand. But it was otherwise. His countrymen were offended at the cross, and the offence deepened into uncomplaining hate. The cries arising from the cross were heard in Corinth. The same violence had followed Paul, and time and time again he had to flee before the storm; sometimes not before he had suffered bodily injury at the hands of the Jews, who had instigated and united with the rabble to crush him. Once he had been stoned. He had been beaten with rods at Philippi, and as they met on the same street on the Sabbath, Paul saw the gathering storm and was considering whether he should go to some other place.

It is sad to think that the best men, who are working unselfishly for God and their fellow men, have to suffer persecution, and often to go to the stake. It is sad to think that the foundation of the city of God is cemented with the blood of the martyrs. The seed must be sown in tears, if we would reap in joy. It is sad to think that "Truth is on the scaffold, and wrong is on the throne."

That the men who were keeping back the progress of the race and opposing the work of righteousness are sitting in the seats of the mighty, either languidly indifferent, as Gallo, or violently opposed like the rulers of the synagogue, while the greatest and certainly the noblest man that the Christian Church has produced, is toiling night and day in the work shop of Aquila at tent-making, and hardly able to make ends meet. Look into that workshop and see Paul bending over his task. Those hands that have written the theology of Christianity, that have communicated the life giving spirit, lay on the anvil of his hands. Those eyes that have seen visions of the Kingdom, ministering to sustain his body, while he is writing these immortal Epistles and founding the Christian community in Corinth that was to shine like a beacon light for many generations.

The opposition that was daily growing in intensity, the hard, unremunerative toil, the anxious thought for converts, surrounded like a little flock of sheep, by ravaging wolves, was wearing down his strength, that never was very robust, and doubtless he could have lain down like Elijah under a juniper tree in exhaustion and despair.

Oh, it is hard to work for God. To rise and take His part Upon this battle-field of earth, And not sometimes lose heart. He hides Himself so wondrously, As though there were no God; He is least seen when all the powers Of ill are most abroad. Or He deserts us at the hour The fight is all but lost.

And seems to leave us to ourselves Just when we need Him most. Workmen of God! oh, lose not heart, But learn what God is like, And in the darkest battle-field Thou shalt know where to strike. Thrice blest is he to whom is given The instinct that can tell That God is in the field when He Is most invisible.

For right is right, since God is God, And fight the day must win; To doubt would be disloyalty, To falter would be sin. —F. W. Faber

Even the Elijahs and Pauls get disheartened, and since God could not put a New Testament in his hand, because the first line was not yet written, God appeared to him in a vision and said, "Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace, for I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to harm thee, for I have much people in this city." Acts 18: 9, 10.

The inference that Paul would draw from these words was God was with him and around him. The work was God's and the responsibility and the burden was borne by God.

Tent-making may be your business, Paul, but the preaching of the Gospel is mine. I am with thee; I will not fail thee. There is inspiration and strength in this truth. We are apt to lose sight of God and think we are bearing the burden and fighting the battle alone. Nay, it is God's work. You are doing it for me, and therefore I am with thee.

"Truth may be on the scaffold, and wrong on the throne. But that scaffold sways the future. And behind that dim unknown Standeth one behind the shadows Keeping watch above his own." —J. R. Lowell.

What encouragement to the vast army of Sunday School teachers who are gathering the children around them today over all the earth, under palm tree and school house, and church. You are working for God and God is with you, although He is invisible. We are coming to realize what was all important in the past, and a duty magnificently performed by our fathers—the teaching and training of the children in the home. The home is the Church in miniature. The father is High Priest and the mother a Hannah. Only when we get back to this ideal state will the Church, strengthened by the bulwarks of the home will be like a city set on a hill.

The laymen of the Church are joining in the work as never before and the office bearers of the Church are realizing that the prosperity of the kingdom of God depends on them. It is God's work and God is with us, and every one in the Church is working for God and with God.

With what joy did Paul think over this next thought. "I have much people in this city." God had taken a spiritual census of Corinth and came to cheer Paul with the message. Paul saw plenty of tares; but no wheat, but God saw the deep, rich soil and the promise of a golden harvest, if only Paul would stay. God has committed unto us the ministry of reconciliation. We are the reapers that must reap the harvest. There would be no harvest gathered in if there were no reapers. God wants sowers and reapers. It is true that God gives the increase, but we have the seed and the sickles, and there can be no harvest song unless the reapers gather in the harvest.

What encouragement to our Sunday School teachers. God has many in your class. Do not give up; do not lose heart; work on, pray on, speak on. God does not say to parents, I have many of your children. God promises many to Paul, many to preachers and teachers, but to parents the promise is, "Unto you and your children." Not a child is left out. Paul had the message of redemption—the gospel of the grace of God; therefore, all God needed to say was, "Speak on, you possess all the talents necessary,

all the machinery." It certainly is a great work that God gives us to do, and we stand and hesitate like Moses at the Burning Bush, and make excuses. How can I deliver Israel? I am a man of slow speech. Pharaoh is the greatest king on earth. And Moses said, "Behold they will not believe me nor hearken unto my voice." And God said unto Moses, "What is in thine hand?" and Moses said, "A rod." And He said, "Cast it to the ground," and it became a serpent and Moses fled from before it. And God said, "Thou shalt take in thine hand this rod," and Moses went out to deliver Israel with the rod of God in his hand.

"Paul, what is in thine hand?" "A message of redemption—a message to a lost world, which is the power of God unto salvation." What is in thine hand, Sunday School teacher, parent, preacher? The gospel of redemption? Did God give this to preachers of the gospel alone, or to every father and mother in the world? Have we not got a Bible—the greatest wonder-working book in the world. Have we not got a throne of grace and faith that overcometh the world. All that we need to know is to go ahead—you are on the right track, put a little more steam on and you will climb the grade. All that Paul needed was encouragement. He might have said, "I know God is with me; I know there is much people in this city; I know I have the greatest redemptive message that Almighty God can give. All I need is encouragement." Paul could not say, "My weapons are blunted; I have over-drawn my share of the promises of grace." But he has said, "Where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."

All we need is encouragement. We have that mighty sword of the spirit—the word of God—with which the great heroes of the Faith have won their conquests—Paul, and Luther, and Knox, and the Wesleys, and Whitefield, and Spurgeon, and Moody. We have the same throne of grace by which Elijah, and Muller, and Jesus Christ accomplished so much.

The message for us today is, "Be not afraid, but speak and hold out thy peace, for I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to harm thee, for I have much people in this city."

ANDREW SCHENK, President of the Germania Fire Insurance Co., Recommends Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. "I have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in my family for over a year, and can say that it has never failed to cure the most stubborn cough or cold. I can recommend it to my family as a sure and safe children's cough remedy."—Andrew Schenk, Layton, Ont. This remedy is for sale by J. W. Archer, the Collingwood tax collector, who was arrested on the charge of being short in his accounts, came before police Magistrate Hogg, of that town, and was let off on suspended sentence. Mr. Hogg found himself in an extremely difficult position. The prisoner was one of his life-long acquaintances, one with whom he had been closely associated in municipal exhibition and other matters. He believed he was honest, and placed the responsibility for the present trouble on the excessive use of intoxicants. His Worship concluded his remarks by registering a conviction and letting Archer out on suspended sentence on condition that he would discontinue his unfortunate habit and also with the understanding that he would be placed on the Indian list. The decision met with the approval of those in the Court and the people of the town generally.

Newfoundlanders pay one-fifth of their earnings in taxes.

SOMETHING CAN BE DONE To Stop the Increase of Catarrh in Markdale.

Catarrhal troubles are increasing, not only in Markdale, but all over the country. Catarrh is a germ disease and to cure it, germ life in the nose, throat and lungs must be destroyed, and this can be done only by breathing Hyomei.

There is no dangerous stomach drugging when Hyomei is used; no tablet or liquid mixtures whereby the digestion is often destroyed.

Breathed through the neat pocket inhaler that comes with every outfit, its healing balsams penetrate the most remote air cells, destroying the catarrhal germs so that quick recovery follows. The complete outfit costs but \$1.00 and W. Turner & Co. agree to refund the money should Hyomei fail to do all that is claimed for it.

VICTORIA CORNERS

Mr. Milton Barmen spent Sunday at Bethel.

Mr. Will Strain was in the Queen city for a few days last week.

Miss Gave visited over Sunday with Miss Myrtle Thurston at Flesherton.

Miss Mary Tucker, of Dromore, visited for a few days last week with Miss Viola Rennie.

Messrs. Max Barmen and Will Ludlow, of Flesherton, were at Mr. Thos. Barmen's over Sunday.

Rev. Mr. Stanley, of Maxwell, exchanged pulpits with Rev. Mr. Laidlaw on this circuit on Sunday.

The cheese factory closed last week. Mr. George Ludlow, the proprietor, has had a fairly successful season.

Messrs. W. Weber and J. W. Tucker, of Markdale, visited over Sunday last with the latter's sister, Mrs. Frank Rennie.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Patton visited a day last week in Shelburne with their brother-in-law, Mr. Robert Large, who is at present critically ill.

The anniversary services in connection with the St. John's Methodist church were held on Sunday, the 11th, and were very successful. Rev. Mr. Wellwood, of Eglington, a former pastor, preached inspiring and impressive sermons both morning and evening, and Rev. Mr. Laidlaw, pastor of the circuit, had charge of the service in the afternoon. The church was tastefully decorated with flowers, evergreens, etc., and the choir, assisted by the Misses Williams, of Holland Centre, rendered special music. The offerings of the day amounted to \$11.00. On Monday evening the annual tea-meeting was held. The ladies served an excellent supper in the hall, to which the large crowd did ample justice. The program was afterwards given in the church. The Misses Williams again delighted the audience with sweetly rendered duets, and Miss Lizzie Williams also gave a number of excellent solos. Addresses were given by Revs. Stanley, of Maxwell, Ferguson, of Dundalk, and Wellwood, of Eglington. Mrs. (Rev.) Stanley also gave a couple of recitations and Rev. Mr. Ferguson sang two solos with splendid effect. Rev. Mr. Laidlaw was chairman for the evening. Proceeds \$34.00.

THIN AS A RAIL, ARE YOU? Every day spending as much energy as you make in the balance goes a little further, well you get thinner. On the danger line to-day—to-morrow may be too late! Better use Ferrazone, it builds up a little gain the first week, but the gain keeps growing. Next week not quite so thin. Keep right on, lots of fat won't hurt at all. Your blood is enriched, cheeks grow rosy, your heart and nerves grow strong and you don't tire so quickly. Joyous, robust health, a sturdy frame and a cheerful mind—all these come with Ferrazone. You'll try it, only 50c. at all dealers.

Last Monday Graham Patterson of Shelburne, brought three small carrots into this office. There is nothing remarkable in the carrots themselves, the peculiar feature in connection with them being their

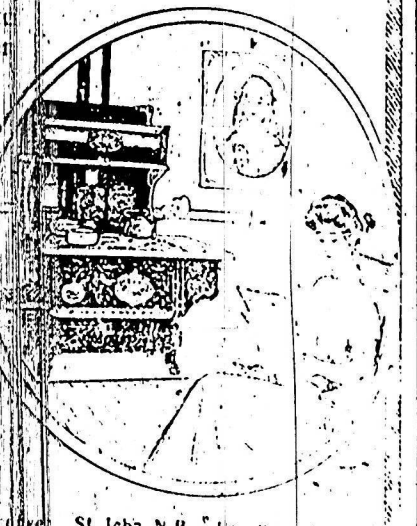
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Train up a girl in the way she should bake and when she is married she will not depart from it.

"My mother taught me how to bake, and told me why she always used McClary Range.

"Now I have a Pandora, and, as with mother, my troubles are few. After fire is started simply bring the most desired heat and leave the oven in charge of the baking. It's built for faithful service.

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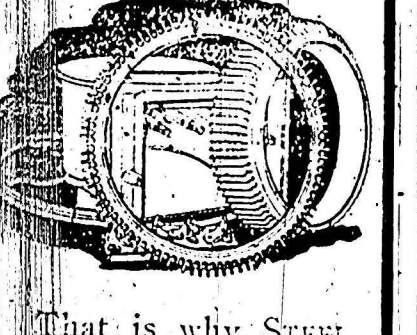
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Last Monday Graham Patterson of Shelburne, brought three small carrots into this office. There is nothing remarkable in the carrots themselves, the peculiar feature in connection with them being their



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