

SERMON TRIBUTE TO DR. A. A. PFANSTIEHL

(Continued from page 1, first section)

dren died, three being buried in a single day.

Letters to Grandchildren

In 1919 Dr. Pfanstiehl, during a period of enforced rest brought on by illness, conceived the happy idea of preserving for his grandchildren in a series of letters a record of the lives of their forefathers and of his own life. In these letters he writes glowingly of his childhood days in the pioneer circle. The hard days of the early years of the Dutch settlement had given way to an increasing strength and influence and prosperity. Among many business interests his father owned a side-wheel passenger steamboat which plied between Holland and Chicago. Many a ride the little boy took on this steamer. The Ottawa Indians lived near the colony and were constant objects of interest to the small white children who picked up much of their lore and patterned some of their games in imitation of them. He was just old enough to remember what the Civil War meant to Holland and the grief which seized the community at the news of Lincoln's death. As in the Pilgrim colony of New England there was a rigorous ecclesiastical discipline; but Dr. Pfanstiehl was fortunate in a father who anticipated in many ways the more modern methods of cultivating responsibility and independence of thought and action in children. At no time was the boy made to feel that the Christian faith implied a rigorous and painful suppression of the true instincts of life. He was active and healthy and vigorous in mind and body and to his last day he was enthusiastic over the memories of his childhood.

Dedicated to Ministry

In 1872 Dr. Pfanstiehl entered Hope college and at the close of his freshman year decided to take up a business career. It was a disappointment to his father and mother. On the day of his birth they had dedicated him in prayer to the Christian ministry. They had never told him of their hope for him, always allowing him the privilege of choosing his own life-work, and when he chose a business career they wished him well. He went to Detroit immediately after the college year and obtained a position in a business house which has since grown to large proportions. And then a strange thing happened to him. Within a few weeks, without any urging or suggestion from anyone, the youth began to question the wisdom of his choice. He passed through what was essentially a spiritual crisis, and ended it by resolving to give up business and study for the ministry. At the end of the summer he went back to Hope college, the youngest member of the class, and graduated three years later as valedictorian. Then followed three years at the McCormick Theological Seminary in preparation for the Presbyterian ministry.

When Dr. Pfanstiehl faced the beginnings of his active ministry he made an important decision. He could have gone to a church in Chicago. He went instead to a small country charge at Raritan, Illinois, and remained there five years, laying the foundation of habits of study and writing which remained with him through life. Part of one of these years was spent in Europe pursuing his studies and meeting the relatives in Holland. This trip was made possible by his father's generosity. It was while he was pastor at Raritan that he met Miss Julia Aimee Barnes of Prairie City and won her as his wife. In the letters to his grandchildren Dr. Pfanstiehl has written beautifully of his courtship and of the meaning of their relationship through twenty-seven years. Two years after the marriage he left Raritan for a church at Troy, Missouri, which ministered to the faculty and students of the State university. The minister was only thirty years of age and he set himself immediately to his important task. While in this pastorate he suffered a breakdown in health which necessitated giving up all active work and living in retirement at Holland for a brief period. With the renewal of health there came three pastorates, at Denver, Colorado, at Shelbyville, Indiana, and at Lafayette, Indiana. This last was also the site of Purdue university and during his term of service there Dr. Pfanstiehl led in the building of a large and costly church. In 1897 he came to the ministry of this church in which we meet to-day.

Long Pastorate Here

Dr. Pfanstiehl's pastorate was the longest in the history of our church with the exception of the present pastorate. It was while he was here that the community passed from what may be called the pioneer to the modern period. When he came to Highland Park there was no high school, no banks and few stores. When he resigned this charge the population had increased by a thousand and the primitive features were rapidly disappearing before the onrush of developing suburban life. The membership of this church doubled and the benevolences tripled during his term of service. Perhaps the work that counted most was done among the young men. Wholesome and hearty in his personality the pastor naturally attracted the young men to him. In the summer the pastor and his boys went on camping trips. (This was

before the days of the Boy Scouts.) They had baseball, football and hockey contests. They had class dinners and socials. There are middle-aged fathers now living in the community who were members of that happy band twenty-five and thirty years ago. As a lad of sixteen he entered this church on profession of his faith in Christ during the pastorate of Dr. Pfanstiehl and I am glad to offer my testimony on this solemn occasion nearly twenty-two years later to the kindly way in which I was welcomed when I called at the manse to inform the pastor of my desire to unite with the Christian fellowship. In the spring of 1907 Dr. Pfanstiehl resigned this charge to fulfill a long cherished desire on the part of himself and his wife for a period of travel. Mention should be made, also, of his book on William the Silent, written while he lived among us as pastor.

Wife Real Helpmate

No treatment of that time would be complete without an acknowledgment of the work of his beloved wife, Mrs. Julia Barnes Pfanstiehl. She was born of New England stock in the little settlement of Prairie City, Illinois, twenty-five miles away from Raritan. I was often at the manse when I lived in Highland Park as a boy and I am able to voice something of the appreciation of the community for the Presbyterian pastor's wife. Truly it may be said of her that she was imbued with the spirit of Christ and that in the most difficult phase of Christian discipleship, that of personal work, she was most faithful. In the larger work of the denomination she took her place as one of the secretaries of the Board of the Northwest and as one of the seven members of the Central Committee representing the seven Women's Boards at the General Assembly. On the eighth of May, 1909, God took her home. Just as her husband pronounced the benediction at a meeting of the Women's Missionary Union at the Second Reformed church at Somerville, New Jersey, she sank down, suddenly stricken by paralysis. The end came peacefully four hours later. The people of the Highland Park Presbyterian church arranged for the burial at Rose Hill cemetery, Chicago. The husband and son gave a fitting offering to her memory in the presentation of the pulpit desk before which I now stand.

About three years after Dr. and Mrs. Pfanstiehl came to Highland Park the present manse was built as a token of appreciation for them. Mrs. Pfanstiehl had a great deal to do with the planning of the home and for that reason it is commonly regarded as one of the most suitable manses in the Presbytery.

Other Pastorates

After resigning his charge here Dr. Pfanstiehl determined to accept no settled pastorate, but to keep up his preaching activities with supply work. To this policy he adhered. The record of the next fifteen years is one of many varied phases of work. He supplied for long periods at Colorado Springs, Somerville, N. J., Bayonne, N. J., the American Church at Berlin and also in New York City. Until age and illness laid their hands upon him he kept up his preaching. The last time he spoke in public was at this church in Holy Week, 1927.

Perhaps the most dramatic and eventful phase of his career was in 1914. He was in Holland, lecturing by special request of prominent citizens of that country on the differing social aspects of American life. When the World War broke out he found himself in the very center of the struggle. At once he volunteered for relief work among the Belgian refugees and for more than a year he acted as chaplain for fifteen hundred English soldiers. The horrors, the grief, the destruction of that time he knew from first-hand acquaintance. It was a burning memory and he has left the record of it in his letters to his grandchildren. During this period he married again, to Mathilde Bahler, the daughter of a prominent Dutch scholar.

Shortly before the United States entered the World War Dr. Pfanstiehl was appointed as a member on a Dutch Commission sent to this country by the Amsterdam Chamber of Commerce to negotiate with our government regarding the convoy of food-supplies to Dutch ports. Soon after arriving in the United States on this work he was attacked by serious illness from which he never regained his full vigor. He kept up his ministry of supply preaching for 5 more years, living at Deal Beach, N. J., the first home he had ever really owned, but he was obliged to recognize the limitations of his years. From 1922-26 he and his wife lived abroad, wintering at Mentone in the south of France. In the summer of 1924 he had the great pleasure of showing his son and daughter-in-law and grandsons through Holland. In May, 1926, Dr. and Mrs. Pfanstiehl returned to Highland Park.

Final Years Here

He was obviously a very sick man when he arrived, but it was a pleasure to notice his joy in his return. For a time his health seemed to improve. More than any spot upon earth Highland Park was his home. It was here that he had his longest pastorate, one fraught with many tender recollections. It was here that he had laid to rest the elder of his two sons, Fred, who was stricken suddenly and fatally with influenza at the age of fourteen. It was here that his younger son lived with his family. The community and the church had greatly changed with the

increasing population; but there were many old friends whom he visited and who visited him. As far as his strength permitted he took an active part in the work of this church attending its services and assisting in the Adult Class. During this time he was a member of the church with an unflinching devotion. Tireless, always thoughtful of his needs, constantly pouring out herself on his behalf, she gave proof of the meaning of their relationship. Gradually he grew worse. At first he could manage to play a few rounds of his beloved golf; but that became impossible. The last few months left him weaker physically. Two weeks before his wife's sudden death there were indications that he was rapidly failing. He swiftly became weaker. A month ago he was taken to the Highland Park hospital where he received the most thorough and devoted care from the nursing staff, a service which his family deeply appreciates. The end came yesterday. To-day we offer our tribute of affection and respect.

Much Left Unsaid

This is simply a bare summary of his active and varied life. There are a thousand things left unsaid. There are many things that cannot be said because they belong to those subtle influences of the spirit that cannot be captured by words. But we know that he wrought nobly and devotedly in this place. He lived his life to its full capacity. He was cheerful and kind and ever ready to lend a hand. We were glad when he came back to us two years ago. We shall miss him from our ranks. We know that he is in the Fuller Presence of God and that with him all is well.

SALE OF TIRE CASINGS EXCEEDS THAT OF TUBES

Indication Is That Inner Tubes Last Longer in Low Pressure Tubes

The fact that sales of automobile tire casings have increased steadily during the last three years, while inner tube sales have remained practically stationary, indicates that low-pressure tires mean longer life for inner tubes, according to a bulletin issued by the Mechanical First Aid department of the Chicago Motor club.

A statement issued by the Automotive Division of the Department of Commerce, says that retail sales of casings for the year ended April 1 last amounted to 45,929,000, an increase of 8,849,000 over the figure for the corresponding period of 1927. Similar figures for inner tubes sales show that sales for the year ended April 1 were 55,251,000, as compared with 55,270,000 for the earlier period.

In the year ended April 1, 1926, tire dealers sold 1.49 inner tubes on the average with each casing; in the next year 1.31 inner tubes per casing. Aside from the fact that repairing of inner tubes has been more common during the past two years than in 1925 and previously, it appears that inner tubes last longer in low-pressure tires.

NATURAL HISTORY BOOKS AT THE FIELD MUSEUM

Large Library on This Subject Now Available at This Institution

At total of approximately 92,500 books and pamphlets on natural history subjects is now available to Chicagoans in the library of Field Museum. It was revealed today in a report made public by Stephen C. Simms, acting director of the museum. Of these, more than 18,000 have been added since the museum moved into its new building in 1921. Mr. Simms reported. While the library is primarily for reference by members of

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the museum's scientific staff, an increasing number of outside persons, including students and teachers, amateur naturalists, and persons with hobbies involving the natural sciences, are making use of its facilities, Mr. Simms declares.

The works in Field Museum library cover anthropology, botany, geology and zoology, and their various branches and subdivisions, and in its field the library is the largest in Chicago. It is particularly rich in anthropological and ornithological works, due largely to gifts of the late Edward E. Ayer, and in these divisions especially it ranks among the foremost libraries in the world.

Additions of the latest and most important works in the natural sciences are constantly being made to the collections, while the library also contains many old and extremely rare volumes by early scientists, now long out of print.

Too many people planting bombs in this country, and not enough planting potatoes and corn.

It is somewhat difficult to silence the political orators with arguments, but the presiding officers may be able to quiet them by pounding on the desk.

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Thurs., 8:15, LA BOHEME, Rethberg, Tokatyan, Maxwell, Danise, Defrere, Lazzari, Ananian, Papi; Fri., ROMEO & JULIET, Gall, Johnson, Maxwell, Mojica, Defrere, Rothier, D'Angelo, Ananian, Hasselmans; Sat., 8:15, PAGLIACCI and CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA, Mario, Martinelli, Mojica, Danise, Cehanovsky, Rethberg, Chamlee, Swarthout, Basiola, Papi; Sun. at 3 CONCERT of German Music and composers; Soloist, Gordon (all seats free); 8:15, LOHENGRIN, Easton, Johnson, Bourskaya, Cehanovsky, D'Angelo, Preston, Hasselmans; Mon., Extra performance, MANON, Gall, Chamlee, Defrere, Rothier, Maxwell, Swarthout, Mojica, Cehanovsky, Ananian, Hasselmans; Tues., AIDA, Rethberg, Martinelli, Claussen, Danise, Lazzari, Ananian, Papi; Wed., ROMEO & JULIET, Mario, Johnson, Maxwell, Mojica, Defrere, Rothier, Ananian, Hasselmans.

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