

DEAD WITNESSES OF OUR BATTLES

Dr. Hillis Tells of Real Owners of Republic.

NOBLE DEAD, LIVING, UNBORN

By Rev. Dr. NEWELL DWIGHT HILLIS, Pastor of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, N. Y.



REV. DR. NEWELL DWIGHT HILLIS.

Edmund Burke once spoke of civilization as a contract between three parties, the noble dead, the living and the unborn, said Dr. Hillis, pastor of Plymouth church, Brooklyn, in the sixth of his series of sermons. Our fathers won the treasure, we enjoy the riches, but our land and institutions are held in trust for those who are to come.

It is with society as with that vine that for centuries has ripened the purple clusters for hungry pilgrims at Hampton court. Many generations are gone, but they have an investment in the roots, the boughs and the clusters that remain. The living present has a stake in the ripe grapes, but the rich vine belongs to generations as yet unborn.

Society is like a solid, seamless robe. God weaves the ages like cloth upon a loom, and the threads in the warp and woof are spun out of the yesterday, but the rich garment must clothe the tomorrow. These, therefore, are the four continuities of life. There is the continuity of heredity in that your ancestors travel forward upon your human body, being blood of your blood, bone of your bone, thought of your thought. There is the continuity of institutions in that the seed corn of law, liberty and faith has unfolded into the harvest of today. Yesterday's log canoe has culminated in today's palatial ship. Yesterday's rude cabin is become today's cathedral. Yesterday's stone altar and human sacrifice have culminated in today's spiritual temple and sacrifice of hope and faith. Then there is the continuity of history. In that the events of the past were the parents of greater events that are to come. Finally there is the continuity of memory that binds the years of childhood and youth, maturity and age into one individual life, even as the string binds seventy golden beads into one precious necklace.

Unconscious Immortality.

By reason of this continuous life, therefore, the fathers of yesterday have a great stake in the institutions of today. It could not have been otherwise. Bramante laid the foundations of St. Peter's, and Michelangelo toiled upon its columns and ceilings. Think you that these architects are not interested in the glorious cathedral builded by their genius and self sacrifice? Are not the pilgrim fathers interested in the outcome of their life work? Is Lafayette dead? Has Washington forgotten? Is Lincoln dead? Has the great emancipator no regard for the black race whom he redeemed? It is impossible that the man who plants orchards and elms to furnish food and shade for coming generations should forget all about his labors for his fellows. The highest reason, therefore, is with us when we affirm that the noble dead on the one hand and the interests of unborn generations on the other hand are related to the fidelity and loyalty of men toiling in the present.

The Noble Dead Witnesses For Their Principles.

The noble dead who lean from the battlements of heaven and watch the fortune of our battle publish to the modern contestants the great truths by which they lived. No spring rises higher than its source, and no hero rises higher than his chariot of truth in which he rides up to meet and greet his God. When wise men deliberately choose a goal and struggle toward that end, conquering all obstacles, it is because they believe that the goal is worth more than the pain involved in conquering the barriers.

These illustrious men were stoned, sawed asunder, exiled, mobbed. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins. They were destitute, afflicted and tormented in their work as patriots, poets, teachers and martyrs. They were men of like passion with ourselves. Their bodies were sensitive. They shrank from the torture of the thumbscrew and rack. They shivered at the opening of the dungeon door. Their cheeks blanched white when they saw the flames kindled, but they knew in whom they believed. The jailer stood beside them, but the Invisible Friend was closer still. The Unseen Guide was too near to be denied. They heard his voice, felt the strength of his arms and were confident that they would not go alone into the valley and shadow. The emergency was great, but their Companion, unseen, was more than equal to the emergency.

Tested Facts.

Out of their personal experience these martyrs were enabled to say to those who came after, in the hour

when they were pursued and tortured, "Be unafraid." God, who has commanded the burden, will, first of all, command the strength. The faith of Christ is worth dying for. Liberty and justice and truth hold eternal worth. In the moment that is darkest, just above you you will find the open heavens, one standing there like unto the Son of God. With radiant faces and exulting hearts, therefore, these noble men who achieved our liberties went toward their martyrdom. Never were there such witnesses to truth. Of these heroes the world was not worthy. Their achievements and testimony make it impossible to doubt that the great ideas of the Christian religion and democracy are worth dying for and that these ideas carry full power to lift those who possess them into the realm of light far above poverty, physical pain and death.

Witnesses to God's Power.

The illustrious dead are witnesses to an invisible God, through whose power and help they endured. Their testimony is that the greatness of man is the greatness of God in him. William the Silent understood when, in explanation of his ever widening career, he said that it seemed as if his victory was not "so much that he had reached up and gripped God's hand as that God had reached down and lifted him." The lord protector of England understood the principle when he said, "No man knows how high he will rise when he steps into God's chariot and allows himself to be swept forward by the steeds of God." The difference in great men and small is not so much the difference in their birth gift as in the way they allow themselves to be used. Some men are stiff necked and unyielding. When the opportunity comes and the crisis is acute and the providence of God will, like a floodtide, sweep them forward they will not let go of themselves and the tide ebbs.

Great Men and Small.

The difference between men is like the difference between kinds of clay. One clay is plastic and yields itself to the gentle touch of the potter and comes forth out of the flame porcelain priceless in its beauty. Another lump of clay is stiff and unyielding and can only be molded by the potter into the vessel of common use. There were many men in Thebes' palace, but there was only one man, Moses, who was willing to surrender himself to the will of God and follow the gleam. There were many rulers in the Sanhedrin, but only one had eyes to perceive the heavenly vision and ears that heard the unseen speaker. There were many young men in the University of Oxford when England's great crisis came, but there was only one who was sensitive to the divine overtures and followed God, the Unseen Leader, until John Wesley became a world influence and one of the greatest of men. Example is a wise teacher. The great man who has put things to the proof has earned the right to counsel lesser men. This is the testimony of the illustrious dead as to their battle and their victory. "We endured and won by seeing God, who is invisible."

Motives of Pride and Self Respect Bias Men Toward Higher Life.

Motives of self respect and personal pride, therefore, should urge men toward the higher Christian life. Sometimes pride is an upward lifting quality, and sometimes pride looks downward and becomes vanity and self conceit concerning things that perish. Now that Admiral Dewey has finished his course and kept the faith of patriotism, every citizen honors the admiral for his noble pride in his achievements in Manila bay. When the hour came for him to close his eyes upon earthly scenes and prepare to meet the patriots, the soldiers and martyrs who had died for liberty, he must have felt that he would come in honored, known and waited for. It is the captain who betrays his trust who is conscious of shame. To lose a battleship in defense of one's country and to die upon the deck is praiseworthy for Nelson and Farragut.

But to be on a battleship and eat and drink and feast while the trade wind blows the great ship upon the rocks is to be looked upon with shame. The careless commander anticipates the hour when his fellow officers will tear off his epaulets, break his sword and reduce him to the ranks. So terrible is that ordeal that men have lost their reason in the hour of disgrace. For such henceforth all life becomes an inferno. Such an hour came to Benedict Arnold, who died one of the most miserable of men. In the old school reader of our boyhood was found the story of Aaron Burr, who at the end of his career was urged to take his place before he died among his fellow men, but who when the moment came could not endure the silent rebuke in the eyes of his fellows.

Traitors to Themselves.

Friendship must be bought. He who would be loved as leader must buy his leadership at great price. Think you that it will be an easy thing after death to enter the company of the elect and noble leaders coming in as one unworthy? Would you meet Lincoln beyond? Are you struggling unto blood to help the colored race? If you hope to meet Webster and Washington must you not promote the high ends and the great truths which they loved unto blood? If you are willing to sacrifice tirelessly for the institutions of your country you will have earned the right to meet the great patriots on equal ground. But what if you have neglected patriotism, have undermined the family, have misused the opportunities of your generation, have slipped out of hard work and have left others to fight the battles?

Do you think you can meet the fires of scorn burning in the eyes of the illustrious great when they turn away from you because you were unworthy? Settlers preparing to enter a new

country make ready in advance their gold, tools, seed corn and equipment that they may begin the life in the new land properly furnished. Is there no suggestion here as to the prudent man laying up treasures in heaven and sending on in advance as couriers of immortality those whom he has helped? It is a little thing that you succeed materially here; it is the great thing that you have built men and served the higher principles of right that gives you place and position hereafter. Today deal sternly with yourselves and ask whether you have struggled unto blood, like those heroes of old of whom the world was not worthy.

The Illustrious Dead Witnesses of Our Battles.

Sometimes the illustrious dead are witnesses against men. Concerning certain ones who had betrayed the great convictions it is said the stars in their courses fought against them. In a moral universe it could not be otherwise. The husbandman who has grown the vineyard with indignation watches his successor misuse the vines that should have ripened clusters for generations yet unborn. The merchant who founds a great business, the educator who builds a great school, the architect who founds some St. Paul's, the statesman and soldier who saved the institutions of their country, the teacher and parent who built themselves into their children and pupils—all these of necessity have a stake in society. The very thought that their life work is to be overthrown is painful. So great, therefore, is the interest of our fathers in the work of their children that oftentimes they draw near to the battlements of heaven to discern how things go with us upon earth. What if there is an invisible world within reach of an outstretched arm? The blind man is always near unto the world of flowers and faces and stars, but it is hidden. Perchance the unseen realm is here, but because we have no faculty to discern remains unknown.

Perchance we are always under scrutiny of the greatest souls. How could it be otherwise? Noble teachers observe with deepest interest how their students carry themselves on commencement day. Artist masters anticipate with eager anxiety the day when the paintings of their pupils will be hung. Homer in his "Odyssey" makes the old hero Laertes exult when he saw his son, Odysseus, and his grandson, Telemachus, outdoing each other in deeds of bravery. The French artist has thrown upon the walls of the Beaux Arts his "Court of Genius."

The Court of Genius.

The greatest men of all the ages are assembled in the gallery. Here are the jurists, Moses and Phocion and their fellows; here are the philosophers, Plato and Aristotle and Bacon and Newton; here are the artists, from Phidias and Xeuks to Rodin and Rembrandt; here are the orators known for their eloquence, and the poets with their books in the hand, and here, too, are the martyrs of liberty. Standing in the gallery, those who are judging men and ranking them look down into the arena. Now they applaud the achievement of some noble youth, and now they are ashamed of some leader who for a ribbon or a wedge of silver has been a traitor toward his followers, and now those who have so great a stake in our institutions exult over some brave deed and worthy act.

But this is no artist vision. If, indeed, there be a meeting place of the noble dead, this is the necessity of logic—that the great who have gone are concerned with the fortunes of our battle. Be not deceived. Always you are under scrutiny. In the empyrean above stand all you loved or lost.

The Great Assize.

Among that company of men made perfect stand your noble father, the face of your radiant and beautiful mother, and there, too, stands that great, dear Presence who has filled all your career with providential interferences in behalf of your manhood. And if perchance you were a general betraying his soldiers, a strong man spoliing his followers, a friend betraying his friend, then the hour will come when you will call upon the mountains and rocks to fall upon you and hide you from the face of God and the indignation of those who belong to the beloved community that Christ calls his church.

CARL VROOMAN PRAISES THE HILLIS SERMONS

Assistant Secretary Hopes All the People Will Read Them.

Hon. Carl Vrooman, assistant secretary of agriculture, is very much interested in the great series of sermons Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis is preparing for this newspaper. One sermon in particular, entitled "Winning a War; Plows Versus Guns," caused him to write the following letter of appreciation: Department of Agriculture, Washington, May 5, 1917.

I trust that the agricultural press as well as the daily press will be able to help give Dr. Hillis' inspiring message on our present food crisis to all the farmers in the nation. Nothing is more important at the present time than that our farming population as well as our city population should come to realize the extreme nature of our present food crisis. Dr. Hillis with his wonderful powers of thought and expression has a message for the people of this country, and I trust that as many as possible of them will be given a chance to read it and to take it to heart. Very truly yours,

CARL VROOMAN, Assistant Secretary.



Photo by American Press Association. Brigadier-General Charles J. Bailey.

HOUSE GOES IN FOR ECONOMY.

Abolishes Clerkships To Eleven Committees.

Partially as a war economy step, the House has abolished clerkships to eleven committees, which seldom, if ever, meet, says a Washington dispatch.

Representative Sanford, of New York, who forced the economy, showed that frequently Representatives' secretaries, who, beginning July 1, will be paid \$2,000 a year, also held the committee clerkships with additional pay.

Mr. and Mrs. Marshal Williams, of Faison, have four fine sons and all of them have volunteered and joined some of the forces now being raised for the war. Dr. Lewis Hicks Williams is in the navy as assistant surgeon; Marshal Williams, Jr., is with the coast artillery at Fort Monroe; Roland Williams is entered for July examinations for the field artillery, and Virginius F. Williams is entered for the July examination for the cavalry service of the U. S. A.—Wallace News.

Norway has 189,296 horses, 1,282,146 sheep, 229,981 goats and 221,146 hogs.

ONLY ONE IN FOUR FIT FOR ARMY TEST

By CAPTAIN GEORGE L. KILMER.

In the regular army three out of four applicants are rejected for physical defects, some of which could be remedied if known beforehand. Defective eyes, ears and teeth are the principal causes. Type three-fourths of an inch high must be read at twenty feet. Ears that can hear whispers or low tones at twenty feet will pass. Certain teeth



Photo by American Press Association. PARADE REST WITH RIFLE.

must be perfect or properly filled—"grinders."

Weight, chest measure and expansion come next. In these, faults may sometimes be remedied before risking a test. The requirements are: At 5 feet 4 inches, weight 120 pounds, chest measure at least 30 inches, with chest expansion 2 inches. At 5 feet 5, 122 pounds, chest 30, expansion 2 inches. At 5 feet 6, 124 pounds, 30½ chest, 2 inches expansion. At 5 feet 7, 126 pounds, 31 chest, 2 expansion. At 5 feet 8, 129 pounds, 31½ chest, 2½ expansion. At 5 feet 9, 133 pounds, 31½ chest, 2½ expansion. At 5 feet 10, 135 pounds, 32 chest, 2½ expansion. At 5 feet 11, 142 pounds, 32½ chest, 2½ expansion.

For six footers the scale begins with 140 pounds, 32½ chest, 3 inches expansion. For every added inch up to 4 the weight increases 7 pounds, chest increases ½ an inch with 3 inch expansion up to 6 feet 4, which is 3½. Underweight, bad teeth and faulty chest development may be remedied where the defects are not serious. Among the exercises recommended by army experts to be taken before reaching camp are those which will reduce the waist, strengthen, limber or harden muscles and joints and develop the chest. The proper exercises for the purpose are known to every athlete.

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The average child likes a Book, and the parent who provides his child with a good Book, is doing a good deed. We have in the list below a few Books suitable for Children from four to ten years of age. We have one copy each of the following:

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- The Tale of Brownie Beaver.....40c
- The Adventures of Reddy Fox.....50c
- The Adventures of Johnny Chuck.....50c
- Mr. Possum's Great Balloon Trip.....50c
- Mr. Rabbit's Big Dinner.....50c
- Making Up With Mr. Dog.....50c

For Older Children

- Waste Not, Want Not Stories.....50c
- Bird World, by Stickney and Hoffman.....50c

Books for Boys

- The Woodcraft Manual, by E. S. Thompson.....50c
- Lives of the Presidents, by E. S. Ellis.....50c
- Civil War Stories—From St. Nicholas.....50c
- Life of Thomas A. Edison.....50c
- George Washington, by W. O. Stoddard.....50c

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Tickets will be on sale June 2nd, to 7th, inclusive with final return limit to reach original starting point by midnight of June 21st, 1917, or if you wish to remain longer, by depositing ticket with special agent at Washington and paying a fee of fifty cents final limit will be extended to reach original starting point by midnight of July 6th, 1917.

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