

**Gist of a Sermon Recently Preached in the Four Oaks Baptist Church by the Pastor, Rev. R. M. Von Miller.**

Disraeli in one of his books says: "Youth is a blunder, manhood is a struggle and old age a regret." That is a falsehood. For those who live right and walk circumspectly, youth is opportunity, manhood is achievement, and old age is a holy memory.

Life has two ends—a beginning and an ending. A certain old preacher once said: "At twenty we know everything—at seventy we know nothing." Matured wisdom, like old wine, has a peculiar quality. We know just a few things at seventy, but we know what we know. Dr. T. E. DeWitt Talmage, in his autobiography remarks: "It seems to me that the constructive period of a man's life begins when he has passed fifty." Ernest Renan affirmed that "No man can write well until he is forty."

The bread of wisdom cannot be baked in a quick oven. The sweetest cream comes of quick browsing. Every silver hair which crowns the brow of knowledge cost a thought. Henry Clay Trumbull received a package of cabinet photographs from a metropolitan artist. His face, which was lined with the furrows of care as thickly as was General Sherman's wrinkled physiognomy, was made to appear as smooth and even as the face of a society belle. Trumbull observed in dismay: "That photographer has taken out every wrinkle; send the picture back; those wrinkles cost me too much." Experience is a great teacher, but she asks a high price for every bit of knowledge which she sees fit to impart. Therefore the man of years has a wisdom which he may reveal without the impoverishment of himself and to the enrichment of all those who will listen.

If I were twenty-one again I would give twenty minutes every day to special physical exercise. All things being equal, happiness depends on health, health depends on digestion, digestion depends on blood, the quality of the blood depends on the circulation and the circulation of the blood depends on exercise. It is not much use saying anything in these days unless you say it loud. That is what George Smith of the Minnesota University, is doing when he remarks: "Personally, I would rather have as a father a robust burglar than a weak, narrow-chested consumptive bishop." Few consumptives ever live long enough to be bishops, however.

If I were twenty-one again I would study and strive to be an original thinker. At the age of ten we wonder, at twenty we imagine, at thirty we cogitate, at forty we think, at fifty we have "an idea or two," at sixty we have two ideas and at seventy we are a "one idea." The sooner you get to that one idea the better. Be an original thinker. The only real difference between the stupid man and the man who is "original" is the vital fact that one man thinks and the other does not. Do not "take things for granted"—take them for what they are worth. Think your way through prejudice, precedent, custom, convention, style, fashion and all the forms of modern folly and get at the heart of things. Socrates' brain was not a whit better than yours, but he wore a thinking cap. Think your way in and you will have small difficulty in thinking your way out.

If I were twenty-one again I would steer my life by a few fundamental convictions. The great convictions of the race are expressed in the words of God, truth, right, love, law and immortality. A man without conviction is as weak as door hanging on its lower hinge. Have a conviction.

If I were twenty-one again, I should begin life with a clear conviction concerning the sovereign value of my soul in the presence of God. Every man has within him all the upward possibilities of the character of Jesus and all the downward possibilities of the character of Judas. Jesus was in a representative capacity, humanity at its best. Judas the reverse.

If I were twenty-one again I would put quality into every thought, word, and deed. A Christian is a person who does ordinary things in an extraordinary way. One day twenty centuries ago a carpenter built a cross. That cross has been lifted into the sacred incandescence of spiritual glory. It stands to-day and forever as a skyline of history. The horizon of our civilization, encircling the earth, begins and ends with the Cross of Calvary. Its four great arms like shafts of history. Little thought the humble carpenter when he was building the cross that its rough boards, touched by the sacred form of the world's Redeemer, would miraculously flame into sign and symbol for the sacramental hosts of a world conquering religion.

"In the cross of Christ I glory,  
Towering over the wrecks of time;  
All the light of sacred story,  
Gathers round its head sublime."  
If I were twenty-one I would crowd

at least, one kind act into every twenty-four hours. Kindness is the velvet of social intercourse. Kindness is the oil in the wheels of life's machinery. Kindness is the burlap in the packing which holds back the slamming door. Kindness is the burlap in the packing case of every day's merchandise. Kindness is the color in the cathedral window which, woven into beautiful character, shuts out the hideous sights of a world which is all too practical. Kindness is the carpet on life's floor which deadens the sound of shuffling feet and adds warmth to silence. Kindness is the satin in the silver casket. Kindness is plush on the chair. Kindness is the green grass near the hard pebbles of the road. Kindness is the touch of an angel's hand.

If I were twenty-one again I would have two or three choice friends among older people. They know the way.

If I were twenty-one again I would identify myself with some great unpopular cause. Courage is the finest test of character. Stand fast, stand firm, stand erect, stand alone—if need be. Stand with your back toward the past and with your face toward the unfoldings of God's plans and purpose for humanity. Be downright, upright and out-right.

If I were twenty-one again I would give the flower of my youth to Jesus Christ. I would begin life with Him. I would not wait until my hair had grown white in the service of sin and then offer to the world's Redeemer the ashes of a misspent life. I would begin with Jesus.

Farewell, ye dreams of night;  
Jesus is mine.  
Lost in this dawning bright,  
Jesus is mine.  
All that my soul has tried  
Left but a dismal void;  
Jesus has satisfied;  
Jesus is mine.

**IRON AND STEEL HANDICAPS.**

**Outputs Are Still Further Curtailed Through Inadequate Supplies of Fuel.**

Another week's reports about iron and steel have made disappointing reading, for the restraints on production have increased, rather than lessened, and the year-end approaches with the industry in a very unsatisfactory position from an operating standpoint. With transportation problems aggravated by the weather, movements of fuel have become still more difficult and irregular, and more plants have been forced to shut down entirely or to reduce working schedules appreciably through inability to keep fires going. This condition has not been confined to any one section, but has been practically general, and the proportion of idle machinery and labor has on occasions been considerable, with 7,000 to 8,000 men estimated to have been unemployed in the Youngstown district alone early in the week. Dispatches from Pittsburgh have told of the worst coal situation ever known there, and of a shortage in pig iron that is steadily becoming more pronounced. Meanwhile, the requirements of the Government are growing, both in iron and steel, and business in structural steel for shipbuilding and other war needs is notably large, the Bridge Builders and Structural Society reporting more shop capacity put under contract during November than in any other month this year. But where ordinary demands are concerned, there is hesitation in not a few quarters because of doubts about the price situation after January 1. Discussing this subject, The Iron Age says that "the impression has gained strength that no important revision of existing price schedules will be made on January 1st."—Dun's Review.

**THE POET AND BLACKSMITH.**

**Longfellow and His Friend and Neighbor Dexter Pratt.**

(Vlyn Johnson, in St. Nicholas.)  
The professor came to be a neighbor of the blacksmith in the year 1837. As he walked daily past the smithy and the simple comfortable home of the blacksmith he came to watch and know the kindly man. It was not long before they became good friends. The blacksmith was proud of his home, and doubtless told the professor how happy he was when in 1825 he had made his first arrangements to buy it from a man named Torrey Hancock. And perhaps sometimes they talked about the wonderful spring that was famous for its clear and sparkling waters, for this was right at hand. Below the spot where the spring gushed forth the women of the town still did their washing. The name of the street where lived the blacksmith and the professor is the same today as in their time. If you visit the great city of Cambridge, you will easily find your way to Brattle street and the homes of "the village blacksmith," by name Dexter Pratt, and of the professor and poet, Henry W. Longfellow.

**THREE DISEASES THAT KILL.**

**Heart Disease, Tuberculosis and Pneumonia Cause One Third of All Deaths. Pneumonia and Tuberculosis on Decrease.**

The three diseases that are most fatal in the United States, according to the Federal Census Bureau, are heart disease, tuberculosis and pneumonia. These three diseases cause nearly on third of all the deaths occurring in the country. At one time tuberculosis headed the list and pneumonia ranked low. Heart disease ranked fourth as a cause of death from 1900 to 1910. Within thirty years it rose from ninth place to fourth place. Now it has first place.

The increase of heart disease as a cause of death is due to three facts: more people have the disease now, which is due to our manner of living, generally to excess in some form or another, people are living longer and are likely to have the disease, and other diseases like tuberculosis and children's diseases are so greatly reduced that they take second and lower places leaving the highest to heart diseases.

The deaths from heart disease in the registration area in 1916 numbered 114,171, or 159.4 per 100,000 population. The death rate from this cause shows a marked increase as compared with 1900 when it was only 123.1 per 100,000.

Tuberculosis in its various forms caused 101,396 deaths in 1916, of which 88,666 were due to tuberculosis of the lungs. Because of progress in the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis of all kinds, the decline in the tuberculosis death rate in recent years has been most pronounced, having fallen from 200.7 in 1904 to 141.6 in 1916, a decrease of nearly 30 per cent. Even yet, however, tuberculosis causes more deaths annually than any other malady, except heart disease, and about 37 per cent more than all external causes—accidents, homicides, and suicides—combined.

Pneumonia (including bronchopneumonia) was responsible for 98,334 death in the registration area in 1916, or 137.3 per 100,000. The mortality from this disease, like that from tuberculosis, has shown a marked decline since 1900, when it was 180.5 per 100,000. Its fluctuations from year to year, however, have been pronounced, whereas the decline in the rate for tuberculosis has been nearly continuous.

**John C. Scarborough.**

The death of Hon. John C. Scarborough yesterday at his home at Murfreesboro called to the beyond one of the best known of North Carolina's older men and one who had to his credit an uncommonly long and useful public career. For twelve years Superintendent of Public Instruction and for several years Commissioner of Labor and Printing, he served the State with fidelity and efficiency.

His career in private life reflected the same conscientious devotion to duty that marked his public career. As a tutor at Wake Forest College and as teacher in a number of private schools before entering into the service of the State he established a reputation for scholarship and administrative ability that made him the logical man for preferment in his line of endeavor when his political party was looking around for men to serve as its standard-bearers. Retiring from public life he rounded out his highly useful career by serving as president for a number of years of Chowan Baptist Female Institute, now Chowan College, serving later as county superintendent of public instruction of Hertford county.

Elected to the Superintendency of Public Instruction in 1876 when Vance was elected Governor, he did valuable pioneer work in the shaping of a school system out of the ruins that had been left by the war, formulating the school law which provided for the present system of county superintendents and laying the foundations for the present educational structure, his work characterized by unflinching devotion to the State and by foresight and sound judgment.

Prof. Scarborough also was highly honored in the great religious denomination with which he was connected, having been president for several terms of the Baptist State Convention and having served for many years on the boards of several of the institutions of that denomination. His service in the War Between the States was one marked by gallantry and fortitude.

A man of rugged honesty in all his dealings, of absolute fearlessness and of complete fidelity to his convictions, Prof. Scarborough left as a heritage to his family and friends the good name which is rather to be chosen than great riches. Service was the keynote of his long and nobly spent life.—News and Observer, 27th.

The Cape Fear river at Fayetteville was frozen over the first of the week for the first time in 19 years.

**MOORE'S SCHOOL NOTES.**

Schools opened Monday 31, after Christmas holidays, with good attendance considering the weather.

Miss Maude Porter, Principal of Moore's School, spent the Christmas holidays at her home in Hillsboro, N. C.

Miss Essie Sasser entertained a number of her friends on Friday evening, Dec. 28, at the home of Mr. N. Narron in the honor of her sisters, Misses Bertha and Rose Sasser, of Kinston.

Miss Leone Foster spent Christmas holidays with her parents, at Selma.

Mr. J. S. Stencil and family are moving from our community. We regret very much to have them leave.

Honor Roll for month ending December 22:

First Grade—Johnnie Grice, Willard Renfrow, Rosa Johnson, Mattie Davis and Flossie Davis.

Second Grade—Erma Narron, Ida Renfrow, Jim Renfrow and Wilton Hare.

Third Grade—Ira Renfrow, Neppie Godwin, Lola Narron, Pearl Grice, Addie Grice and Martha Johnson.

Fourth Grade—Zelma Godwin, Martha Renfrow.

Sixth Grade—Floyd Hill.  
"L. F."

**Why Women Should Vote.**

To the Editor: There are at least three reasons why I am in favor of national woman suffrage.

Our idea of democracy demands it. I want my wife to vote. I want every intelligent woman in America to vote. It does me good to feel that my vote counts for as much as does the vote of any other man in the nation. I want each woman in America to have an opportunity of feeling as I feel on that point. The American idea of democracy demands that our women be allowed to vote.

The women of America desire to vote. I do not mean that every woman is insane on the subject. There are of course a great many women who have not yet learned to care. But the majority are soon going to demand the ballot; their demand should be met by giving them the opportunity of voting.

Practical governmental efficiency demands that the women of America be allowed to vote. Public sentiment is the chief support of government in a democracy. The people who initiate a law, or anything else, are the people most interested in its successful execution. It will make our government more successful for our women to vote; therefore, I favor women suffrage.

M. B. ANDREWS.

Kenly, N. C.

**Johnston Boy in the Navy.**

Selma, Jan. 1.—Mr. John Foster, Jr., of the U. S. Navy, has returned to New York after spending Christmas holidays at home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Foster. Mr. Foster has been in the service of the U. S. Navy for three years. He has done well and is still making good.

**Money to Loan**

**On improved Farm Lands in Johnston, Wayne and Wilson Counties**

**Long Time Low interest rate**

**Write or call on**

**Paul D. Grady**

**Attorney-at-Law**

**KENLY, N. C.**

**5 per cent money for 5 years. 6 per cent money for 1 to 20 years.**

Will loan you one-half the value of your cleared lands according to appraisal made by your neighbors on terms above stated.

Make your arrangements now in order to be ready for January 1st.

Will buy your land or sell you mine. See me before closing deal. Will buy your notes and mortgages at reasonable discount.

**Frederick H. Brooks**

**ATTORNEY-AT-LAW**

**Smithfield,**

**North Carolina**

**This Means You, Mr. Merchant!**

Did you know that you and this paper have an interest in common? Your success helps the community as a whole which in turn is of benefit to us.

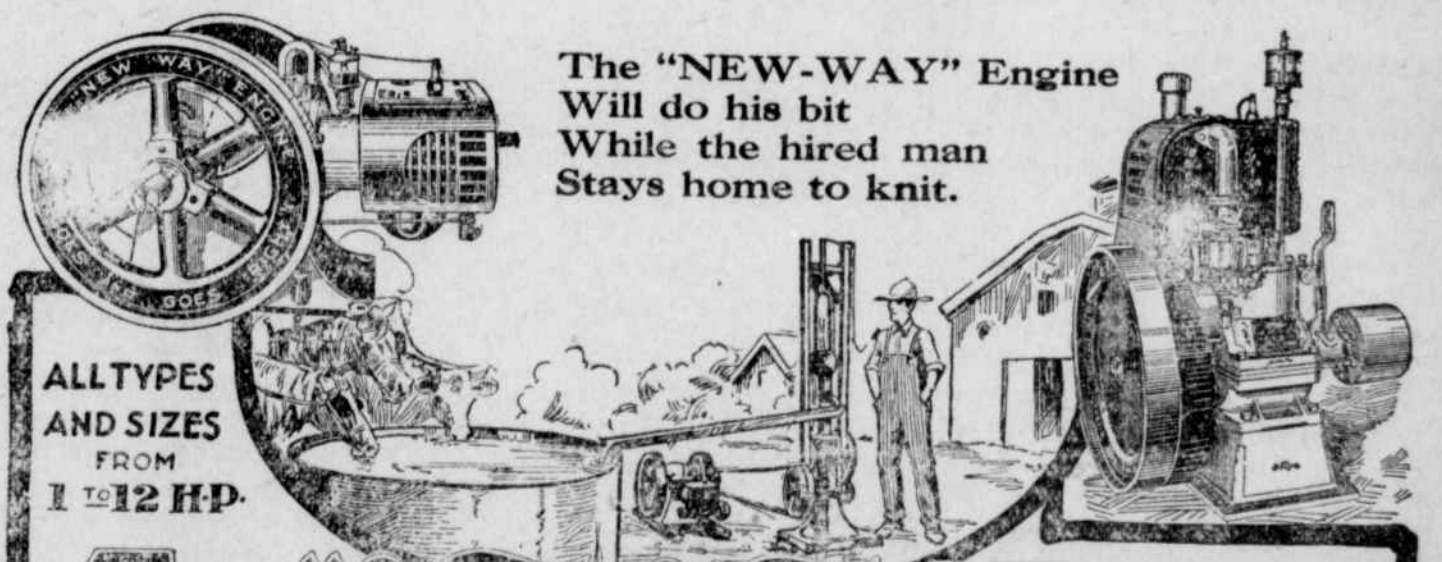
When a merchant advertises with us, he is investing his money, which is returned with interest.

Show Your Goods in the Windows and Advertise Them in This Paper

CALL ON BEATY & LASSITER FOR your Letter Heads and Envelopes or anything in the Printing line.

**DISTINCTIVE Printing**

Printing that will attract attention and put your advertising in a class by itself—printing that contains originality in conception and excellence in its execution—this quality of originality and individuality characterizes all the printed work we turn out.



The "NEW-WAY" Engine Will do his bit While the hired man Stays home to knit.

ALL TYPES AND SIZES FROM 1 TO 12 HP.

**THE "New-Way" ENGINE**

**GOES AND GOES RIGHT**

**Buy Now Before Prices Go Up**

The scarcity of material and the unprecedented demand for power on the farms will soon make a shortage of farm engines and higher prices. It is bound to. Yet there never was a time when you could better afford to invest in an engine than now. At the present prices for farm products less bushels than ever of potatoes, grain, fruit, etc. will pay for an engine. On the other hand, the farm laborer is demanding higher wages, the cost of feeding him is double what it formerly was. Good hired men are scarce at that.

**YOU CAN DEPEND UPON THIS ENGINE**

The "NEW-WAY" Engine can be harnessed to any belt driven machine about the place. It will take the place of a hired man and then some. The "NEW-WAY" is waterless, never overheats but is always ready to go and deliver its full rated horse power, Summer or Winter.

**YOUR LOCAL DEALER WILL SHOW YOU**

He will explain the many points of "NEW-WAY" superiority. He will prove to you that price is not everything to consider and that you can save money and trouble by purchasing a "NEW-WAY" waterless engine rather than the common variety or mail order gasoline engine.

**SEE THE "NEW-WAY" FIRST**

Made by **The "New-Way" Motor Company** LANSING, MICHIGAN, U.S.A.

"New-Way" Agent for Smithfield

**COTTER HARDWARE COMPANY**