If a man is going to fight he wants to be well. He wants to be

strong, steady-nerved, vigorous-able to take and give punishment. One of Roosevelt's Rough Riders actually starved to death because his digestive system wasn't strong enough to extract the nutriment from food that kept his comrades strong and well and



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THE GREAT BUILDER

AN INVISIBLE CHRIST IS STILL BUILDING HIS CHURCH.

Sermon by Rev. Dr. A. C. Dixon, of Brooklyn, N. Y .- A Continuation of a Theme of Glowing Interest-How Christ Completes the Whole Temple.

Text: "The Lord added to them day by day those that were being saved," Acts 2: 47.

In the sermon last Sunday morning

we learned that the invisible Christ is building His Church through inspired men and women preaching the inspired word, by revealing Himself in His humanity, His suffering on the cross, His resurrection and exaltation. . We continue the same subject this morning by saying that the invisible Christ is still building His church with regenerate material. Every stone is a living stone, and the whole temple is a spiritual house. There are three expressions in this second chapter of the Acts which define salvation. The first is repentance. When the people ask, "What shall we do?" the ringing reply was, "Repent." And when men have turned from sin unto the Saviour they are saved for both worlds. The second definition is separation, as seen in the words, "Save yourselves from this crooked generation." Salvation is not adaptation to the spirit of the times, but separation unto God from the crookedness of the times. It is not drifting with the current, but stemming the current. Like the kite, the church rises against the wind of

earthly sentiments. The third definition of salvation is found in the words, "They that gladly receive His word were baptized." They had first received the word with sorrow; they were pierced in the heart: the Spirit convicted them of sin; conscience lashed; tears of penitence fell. And there must be this reception of the word with sorrow before there can be the reception with joy. Sinai with its clouds and thunderbolts comes before Calvary with its whispering of love, and the man who does not pass by Sinai with sorrow will not come to Cavalry with joy. It is upon this black cloud of conviction from which tears of penitence fall that God throws the bow of promise. Sinai shoots arrows into the soul; Calvary with gentle hand plucks them out and heals the wound. Sinai reveals our moral and spiritual sickness; Calvary heals the disease. Sinai is the darkness that covers our sky; Calvary is the star that shines through the darkness and gives us hope. The piercing of the soul diseased with sin

is the surgical operation which the

Great Physician uses to prepare it for

the healing balm. After the word of

truth has been received with sorrow

of conviction, the word of salvation

will be received with joy.

And this is the kind of conversion that lasts. A conversion based upon the emotion of a moment will soon fade away, but the soul that has received the word of God has a sphere in which to work and an atmosphere in which to work in safety. A philosopher in Japan has huilt a house which he says is microbe-proof. All the air that enters it is sterilized; the walls of the house are made of glass, so that every part of it is filled by the sunlight, and microbes cannot live in the sunlight. There is now a sort of microbe craze. Little communion cups have crobes in the cup, and the time may that it can breath its own fresh air. There is doubtless some reason for this microbe fear, for the little death dealing animals float in liquid and in air. But we need to be more careful about the microbes of sin which fill the moral atmosphere about us. And

for microbes but for the devil himself. Admiral Cervera, when he was tried before a Spanish Court for the loss of his navy at Santiago, was asked why he did not go out from the harbor stealthily at night, and his reply was

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that It was safer to do so in the day DO YOU GET UP time, for the great searchlights of Admiral Sampson's fleet would have revealed the approach of his warships and blinded the eyes of the soldiers. Such a searchlight is the word of God. Satan himself will be revealed in his approaches, and he cannot attack us

in the blaze of the light of truth. Note the use of the word "soul" in this chapter. "Three thousand souls were added." God counts souls. Managers of industries sometimes speak of so many "hands" in their factories; the individual for them is a head for thinking and planning. But God esteems the soul with its infinite capacity for development and withering, for happiness and sorrow. The gymnasium can develop a body, the university can give you a head, and sometimes a big head, but it takes Jesus Christ to make a soul what it ought to be

I saw on the streets of New York the other day a man on all fours. He had lost his feet and was walking upon his hands and knees. I noticed that he had gloves of leather with soles like shoes. At a distance he looked like a beast, but on nearer approach I noticed that he had articles for sale and, as I purchased one form him, I looked into a face that really charmed me. His eyes were bright; his features were manly and clean, and I said to myself, here is a body on all fours with a soul erect. He has suffered a great misfortune in losing his feet, and he reminds you of the beast as he walks, but it is evident that the beast has been eliminated from his soul. It is better to be like the beast in body and to be erect in soul, than to be erect in body with soul on all fours. Again the Invisible Christ is still

building his Church by means of the continual unity of the disciples. There are three words which express this unity: they were "all together." "of one accord," and had "a singleness of heart." It does not mean that they all lived in the same apartments, though they were much of the time together in the same assembly. It does not mean that there were no differences of opinion on many subjects. Every individual of them was in many respects different from every other individual, but in their loyalty to Christ they were one. On the day of the crowd and felt a little sorry for those who shivered in their seats apart from the people. I love folks, all kinds of folks. When in Europe, I spent more time looking at people than at pictures, or statuary, or cathedrals. After all, it is more to be a man than a hero. It is more to be Dewey than to be conqueror at Manila. The victory is simply an appendix to the volume of manhood that was there before the victory. The crowd about me was of all nationalities, sexes and colors, but, whether they spoke German, French, Italian, or Dutch, I could recognize the word Dewey. They were together, of one accord, of singleness of heart in their estimation of that magic name. And so, as we mingle with the multitude of real Christians, we see differences in languages in occupations, in views of Church polity, in a hundred things relating to the externals, but they are one in their love and loyalty to Christ. The Invisible Christ continued also to build his Church by means of power. "Many wonders and signs were done by the Apostles." Not by their influence, for they were a dispised sect. Not by their education. their money, their social position, or their eloquence, but by the power of the Holy Spirit. Wonders did not cease with Pentecost, but continued every day. Some of us look back to the great revivals of the past. The old men talk of 1837. Our Methodist brethren speak with gratitude of the times of Wesley and Whitfield, and with some I fear power is in the past tense. Pentecost was but is not. The showers of refreshing came once, but the skies have been brass ever since. They try to slake their thirst with the water that fell then, but it has lost its freshness. If we have the same gos-

Dewey at Manila did not conquer in his own strength. There were doubtless men among the Spaniards as strong physically and intellectually as | need. he but the resources of the United! States were at Dewey's side, and he clamor for the equal division of propwas linked with them. All the science of war and the wealth of the nation were concentrated in the make of his warships and their guns; he simply turned the power of the United States upon the Spanish fleet and demolished it. Now we are not left to go to war at our own charges nor do we depend upon our own resources. The resources of heaven are at the disposal of our faith. We conquer because we link ourselves with Omnipotence and turn all the guns of heaven's artillery upon, the enemy. For Dewey to have separated himself from the United States Government and fought Spain in his own strength would have been to court shameful defeat, and for us to have separated ourselves by unbelief or disobedience from God, and fight life's battle in our own strength, is to be more shamefully defeated. In the strength of God Almighty, let us march to every battle and victory will

pel and the same God, why not have

the same power to-day as then?

We are told that fear came upon every soul. Upon the unbeliever, it was the fear that weakens; upon the believer, it was the fear that strengthens. The man who fears God with the consciousness that he is against God is a weakling; the man who fears God with the consciousness that God is on been invented to protect us from mi- his side is a giant. The wicked trembled as they feared; the righteou not be far distant when we shall have | ulted as they feared. May such a fear microbe-proof churches, each family of God come upon us that we shall having its own little stall so arranged | walk softly, speaking in whispers and looking up reverently into His face. It was fear that moved Noah to build the ark, the fear born of faith in the threatenings as well as the promises of God. The man who fears God be-

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cause he believes in Him need fear nothing else in the universe.

In the next place, the invisible Christ is still building His church by means of the liberality of His disciples. "They had all things common, and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all as every man had need." The clause, "as every man had need," modifies "sold" as well as "parted." They sold their possessions and parted them as every man had need; that is to say, they did not sell all their possessions at at once, or part with their price at once but, as the need arose, they sold their possessions and wisely distributed the proceeds. In the word "possessions" and "goods" there are the ideas of real estate and movable property. Their lands were not considered too sacred to sell, in order that the emergency might be met. Many of these young converts were

away from home and needed support while they remained to be instructed. Many of them, doubtless, lost their positions as servants and salesmen as soon as they confessed Christ, and were thrown upon the church for temporary support. The Church was at that time the only insurance society. There is nothing in the records that implies there was an equal division of property. The socialist anarchist finds no comfort here. Their motto is, "All thine is mine." The motto of those early Christians was "All mine is thine," and between these two mottoes there is the distance between grasping selfishness and loving sacrifice. It is certain there was no abandonment of property rights for we find afterwards that the disciples owned property. In the 4th chapter of the Acts we are told that some of them sold lands, which were evidently not sold at this time. Ananias and Saphira owned prope-ty, and Peter insisted that they waned the money even after the property was sold and could do with it as they pleased. Their sin was in lying about it. In the 12th chapter of the Acts we see that the mother of John Mask owned a house in which a prayer neeting was held, and the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the bre-hren which dwelt in Judea. These words proved that there was a difference in ability, because there was a defference in wealth. They were commasded to lay aside on the first day of the week as God had prospered they, and in another place they are exharted to labor that they may have to give unto those that

The loud-mouthed demagogues who erty, have no support for their claim in this record. There is nothing impractical about it; it is an up-to-date state of affairs The church to-day ought to take care of its faithful members when misfortune comes upon them. It is a sad fact that lodges. clubs and societies are honeycombing the church and weakening its influonce. Some Christians give more time (Continued on seventh page)

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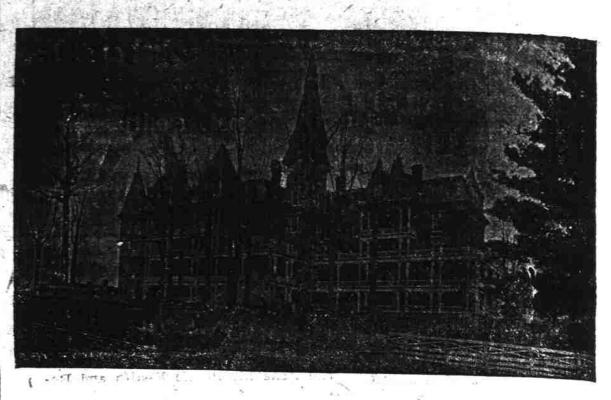
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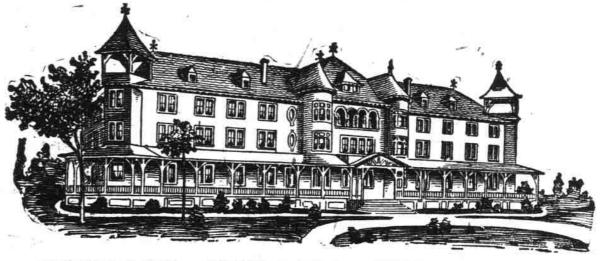
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