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"AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE."—John viii, 32.

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NEW TASKS FOR NEW HEROES

(Address delivered before the High School Graduating Class of Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, N. C., June 1, 1928).

By Rev. H. C. Miller

Mr. President, Faculty, members of the graduating class of the High School, ladies and gentlemen:

This generation has witnessed the most wonderful progress in the annals of the world. So numerous and frequent are the triumphs, so rapid the discoveries and inventions, that each morning we expect something new.

God has certainly led His children across vast stretches. The partition between the visible and the invisible, the tangible and the intangible seems about to crack.

Of the three international scourges, famine, pestilence and war, the first has been overcome by commerce, whose ships and money and transportation facilities have made it almost impossible for people of vast areas to die of starvation.

The second, pestilence, has been almost conquered by science. With her antitoxins she has strangled the bacilli and a dozen pestilences lie dead at her feet.

War, the third, is even now in the throes of death, dying by her own frightful hands.

The ocean has not only been spanned by cable and wireless, but the intrepid airmen have defied its terrors and laughed in the face of old Neptune.

Inventive genius has multiplied one man by fifty or more, releasing thousands from former occupations. We have billionaires and billion-dollar corporations. In short, seemingly all great dreams have already been realized. Almost every conceivable subject has been treated, and mounting on the wings of imagination all worthwhile songs have been sung by poets, from "Paradise Lost" to "The Flowers of Flanders' Field."

As we stand today bewildered by these marvellous achievements, the present generation may be inclined to ask: "What is there to be accomplished; what worthwhile thing may one find to do in the world?" Hence we invite your attention to:

New Tasks for New Heroes.

The cry and craze of the world today are for success, greatness or fame of some sort. These are no doubt worthy aims. Yet there is danger—grave danger—in overlooking the truth—"The good may often become enemy of the best." There is grave danger in mistaking the false for the real, the shadow for the substance.

To teach the present generation that unless its principles and plans are standing upon the real, they will not remain standing; to teach the present generation that success and greatness must not be measured by wealth acquired, by political genius nor yet intellectual power, but real success and greatness must be determined not by what one gets out of life, but by what one puts into life, is one of the tasks for new heroes.

Never in the history of the world has a country been as prosperous as ours. Possessing a huge surplus of all the necessities of life, our farms continue to produce billion-dollar crops; our banks are bulging with cash and gift-edge securities; our loans abroad run into millions of dollars, hundreds of millions of dollars, billions of dollars. In the face of this unheard of wealth, we have from four to eight million men out of work; men and women hitting the bread line and sleeping in charity beds. What a tremendous task for heroes?

This is an age of mass-production and combinations. Science has made possible such an era, yet at the same time thousands have been thrown out of gainful employments.

The farmer with a hundred acres years ago needed scores of men to tend his crop. Today a few men plow, harrow and sow the field. A few years ago the great wheat belt called for hundreds of men to gather the harvest and prepare it for the markets of the world. Today less than half that number is needed. Machines beginning at one end of the field, cut the wheat, bind it into bundles, beat out the grain and deliver it at the other end ready for the markets.

Not long ago, coaling stations, such as Lambert's Point, Norfolk, Va., required hundreds of longshoremen to unload cars and with barrows carry this coal to the ship. Today, by reason of scientific devices, a car load of coal is dumped with greater ease and facility than a wheelbarrow was dumped years ago.

To fit these thousands of men, made idle, into the economic life of the nation and at the same time preserve mass production and stimulate the spirit of invention is a huge task for new heroes.

It appears that with most good evil is associated. With our rapid development have grown up giant evils; chief among these is crime, lawlessness. No doubt, one of the most serious problems of our age is how to deal with crime, lawlessness. A fact that adds to the seriousness of the situation is, crime is not confined, as was once thought, to ignorance or a particular group. It is prevalent among the educated and is common to every group and all races.

Many theories have been advanced, many theories tried,—some very stringent. Extreme punishment has not solved the problem. No sooner has death been flashed along the wire to one criminal than another takes his place on the death row. It sometimes appears that the toast made by the bootlegger: "When the eternal bugler shall sound the last call, it will catch some fellow sticking the match to the liquor vat," may be applied to certain forms of lawlessness.

That mere secular education has not sufficed may be indicated when in a certain State there are 800 college men serving prison terms. To combat crime, lawlessness, in this, the most enlightened age of the world, costs the huge sum of eight to sixteen billion dollars each year. How to check crime, cure the criminal and restore him to society and usefulness is a mighty task for the new heroes.

Not many years ago the scare of the world, at least a certain part of it, was "The Yellow Peril." Let us hope this cloud has drifted by. It is apparent, however, to the most casual observer, that thick gloom is yet in the sky and there are thunderclouds all along the way; chief of these is race hatred, race prejudice.

Commerce has all but killed famine. Science has strangled pestilential bacilli, even making the whole world a neighborhood. But no force as yet, not even the religion of Jesus, has been able to root out of men race hatred, race prejudice. It is the blind Samson between the stately pillars of our civilization, and, if not removed, will some day cause to fall the mighty build-

ing. (For example, the eagle and the weasel.) Race hatred is the weasel taken into the talons of our nation and the nations of the world, which, if not let go, will surely bring down this marvellous civilization from its dizzy heights.

To cure the world and our own country of this malady, race hatred and race prejudice; to pluck from the bosom of white men, black men, brown men and yellow men this monster and substitute the spirit of brotherhood—the Brotherhood of Man and the Fatherhood of God—is a task that calls for new heroes.

There must be supply bases for an army, if that army is to make advances into the territory of the enemy, or even hold its own line. There must be a power house somewhere, if cities are to be lighted, wheels of industries turned. Even so, if new heroes are to emerge, ready, equipped to win fresh laurels, there must be bases of supply.

The citadel of our civilization is the schools, the colleges in which the ideals of Jesus are taught, both by precepts and examples. In other words, the heroes for the new tasks must be men and women not only with an education, but a Christian education.

It is stated that we have several million students in our high schools and around eight hundred fifty thousand in colleges and universities, and that more than half this number is in State schools. Formerly teachers came from church schools, academies and colleges where they came in contact with and under the powerful influences of Christian teachers. With added wealth and splendid equipment, it is thought there is noticeable the absence of that influence which trained the heart as well as the head and hand.

What a splendid task, a great task, for new heroes! Those who in the face of overbearing material ideas and ideals will dare to teach that an education, however thorough, will produce no heroic lives unless shot through with the spirit of the Master of men. Heroes who will dare to teach that all permanent success must be founded upon a Christian base; that no man, no set of men is fitted best to lead this present generation to the heights unless their education is Christian and their precepts partake of like nature.

There will be need of heroes of our own group and our dear Alma Mater who will stand four square and contend that with the splendid equipment and rosy prospects of Johnson C. Smith University must be blended the Christian spirit of Sanders's days, else she will become spell-bound on the way, producing no McCroresys, no Draytons, no Davises and no Martins.

Heroes who will dare to teach and maintain that all truly great men, great leaders of men, men and women of heroic spirit, have recognized and have had a deep sense of God. Washington, Lincoln and Coolidge all declare that God is their keeper, ignoring the silly boast:

"It matters not how straight the gate,
How charged with punishment the scroll,
I am the keeper of my fate,
I am the master of my soul."

If any of our group are inclined to overlook this truth, in their rapid flight and splendid outlook, may I ask:

If these men who trace their lineage back to the Mayflower, back to William the Conqueror; if these men whose ancestors started in the march of civilization a thousand years before Jesus Christ died on Calvary—if they needed God in their lives,

how much more the sons of those who are not a century removed from servitude?

And now, my young friends, you have reached the middle of the hill. If you hope to come forth into the life heroic, the sunrise upon your crests; if you hope to prove heroes worthy of the new tasks, may we now suggest a few essentials?

The new hero must have vision. Vision has been defined as "being able to see what the other fellow does not see; to see quicker and further than the other fellow."

All those who have wrought well in the world have been men of vision. Even from the bloody days of Tours, when the Frank hammer beat back the power of Islam; from the long endurance at Waterloo, to the muddy, blood-stained trenches of Flanders Field, they have emerged victorious because they were inspired by a vision.

Another essential is purpose, aim in life. Out on the ocean behold that ship, complete in every sense. The best steel has gone into her frame; master builders have made secure the hundreds of rivets; the engine is perfect in every line, and yet the ship is being tossed hither and yon before the gale.

What is the matter with that noble ship? Why does she not breast the waves and laugh at the storm? Why, the ship is without a rudder. Even so, whatever your equipment, the man without a purpose, a noble purpose, is like that ship without a rudder.

Then, too, you must have faith, belief. These two are inseparable, faith and belief; faith in yourself, in your fellowmen, and above all, faith in the God of Armies, the God of Battles. If you do not possess these, you have already lost the fight heroic.

If you are to prove worthy heroes for these new tasks you must believe you can accomplish your part of the long row.

Then, too, courage and patience. Like faith and belief these are tied together. The new hero must be a man of courage and patience. One of the great things in life is not to become discouraged because of the many reverses, the hard knocks; but to toil on patiently through the long day with seemingly no appreciation.

Courage is superior to bravery. Bravery runs in either direction quicker than courage. To play the new heroes for the new tasks will revolve in its final analysis, not on how much you can do, but on how much you can endure.

Finally, love, good will to all men. These new tasks will not be wrought out without this essential—love, good will. It is love of our fellowmen of all races and tribes that will enable us to leave footprints on the sands of time.

Go on to the heights, ye mountain climbers, ye guides, remembering that you can not go alone. Except you carry your brother with you, you will not arrive.

SABBATH SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The Western District Sabbath School Convention of Southern Virginia Presbytery convenes Wednesday, July 25th, at 9:30 o'clock, with the Oak Grove Presbyterian church at Mannboro, Va.

Rev. D. A. Henry is the pastor of this church.

We hope sincerely and most cordially ask that all schools in the district will be represented. MRS. SARAH V. THOMPSON, President.

POLITICAL POWER DISTORTED

BY NEGRO DISFRANCHISEMENT.

Los Angeles.—Disfranchisement of the Negro in Southern States has brought about such distortion of political power in the United States that a small white oligarchy in the South is the dictator of the nation, declared Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, Editor of The Crisis Magazine, in the keynote address last night which opened the 19th Annual Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Dr. Du Bois pointed out that the barring of Negro citizens from the polls in Southern cities had transferred political power into the hands of a small group of whites, as many as from 80 to 90 per cent of voters in far Southern States refraining from voting in the election of 1920. Among the States where this abstention from the use of the ballot was most pronounced Dr. Du Bois cited the following States and their percentage of non-voters:

South Carolina	92
Mississippi	91
Georgia	89
Louisiana	86
Texas	82
Arkansas	79
Alabama	79
Florida	72

The consequence in political distortion, continued Dr. Du Bois, was that whereas it took 85,759 votes to elect a Representative in Congress from California and 91,785 from Ohio, citizens in Southern States enjoyed in some cases ten times as much political power as citizens in the North, as follows:

South:	
State	Votes per Representative
South Carolina	9,449
Mississippi	10,312
Georgia	12,394
Louisiana	15,733
Texas	22,973
Virginia	23,100
Alabama	24,107

North:	
State	Votes per Representative
Indiana	97,108
New York	67,338
Kansas	71,278
New Jersey	75,333
Illinois	77,425

"The barring of Negroes from the polls in the South," said Dr. Du Bois, "encourages oligarchy. It enables cliques to nullify, not simply the 14th and 15th Amendments but the 19th, giving the right to vote to women. And, finally, it entirely vitiates the normal distribution of voting power throughout the nation.

"It accomplishes this not simply by disfranchising Negroes. The population in Southern States has doubled and by reason of woman suffrage the voting population ought to have quadrupled; but actually, as a matter of fact, the voting population has increased less than 50 per cent showing that not only have two million Negroes been disfranchised but more than two million whites."

Dr. Du Bois quoted from an address of Henry W. Anderson, a white politician of Virginia, who asserted that in Southern States the qualification to vote is so limited that governors and other State officers are "sometimes elected by less than ten per cent of the population of voting age."

"At the event of a presidential election," continued Dr. Du Bois, singular compilations are made. The Democrats can start out assuming the votes of 11 Southern States with, at present, 124 of the 531 electoral votes. They need to fight

therefore for only 142 electoral votes to have the majority of the electoral college. On the other hand the Republicans must leave out of account 142 electoral votes at the start and of the other 407 electoral votes they can afford to lose only 141.

"As sure as fate some day there is coming in the United States a political controversy with social and economic roots which is going to open suddenly the question as to why the South has three times the political power of the West and why New England, with its disfranchised foreign workers, has more political voice than the West. The protest is not coming simply from Northerners or 'friends' of the Negro. It is even coming from the South itself.

"There is no more question of parish or section or race. It is a vast and pressing problem of democracy and civilization. We must decide, and decide soon, what persons, what public opinion in the United States shall rule. Shall it be the public opinion of a small select group of persons of Nordic descent? Shall it be the public opinion of college graduates? Shall it be the public opinion of all adult Americans except Negroes, Asiatics and Latins? Or shall we try to make it the public opinion of all intelligent persons? Whatever public opinion rules in the United States, it must rule freely and clearly without a system of rotten boroughs and without discrimination and cheating. The clearing up and settling of this great question is the vastest problem that faces America today and we must begin its solution now."

CALVARY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WILSON.

In the recent campaign for new Sunday school scholars in Catawba Synod the Cape Fear Presbytery reported 92 additions. Calvary and her outposts added 55 of this number.

A church vacation Bible school was conducted in Fremont this year for the first time in the history of the church. The attendance was far more than was expected. Interest and enthusiasm ran high. The school was under the supervision of Miss Theodora Percival.

Fremont is in a thriving community with a most excellent school system. The people are fairly good liver. The Presbyterian church has made itself felt in the community and bids fair to exert a greater influence in the near future. The church there has a boys' club and a Tuxis Girls' club. The older members of the church are anxious to have this new blood flowing into the church. The relationship of the young and old is most cordial.

Rev. F. C. Shirley, our director of Religious Education, was with us the first Sunday in July. His program was as follows: at ten o'clock he visited Sunrise Mission and made a short talk to the school. At 11 o'clock he preached a most excellent sermon in the Calvary church and assisted in the Communion service. At 2 o'clock he visited Second Calvary in Nash county, and made a short talk to the school. Second Calvary celebrated Children's Day on July 1. Rev. Shirley witnessed a part of this exercise.

The church vacation school in the Calvary church was by far the most successful of all the ones we have had.

The enrollment this year was limited. This enabled the students to have more personal supervision and the work was more efficiently done. The faculty consisted of ten members; each one has had special training for the work.

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