

tunity to interpret the affairs of our world in terms of divinity.

Christianity is not a stationary thing nor can it be made so and no man must become satisfied with it. There is no limit to our spiritual growth, we often stop and stand still and forget who we are—we forget that we are Sons of God, and so as a sort of reminder, every year at Advent we start over to learn again the old truths, the truths concerning our Lord's coming. There isn't anything novel or sensational about the effort, but merely to try more seriously than ever before to appreciate the beauty and meaning of the old, old story that the world has needed through the ages and more than ever needs today, and so we take as our reminder today these words taken from the fourth verse of the ninth chapter of the Gospel according to St. John. "The night cometh when no man can work" with its leading thought, the Passing of Opportunity.

No matter how well a piano may be made, it may have the hardest and most seasoned material, the frame may have been tested and the strings made of the finest steel and it may bear the name of most careful and painstaking makers in the world and yet it must occasionally be keyed up and put in tune, and so no matter how hard a man tries to live the Christian life, he may have had the best of training and been brought up amid the most refined and Christian influences, but there must be an occasional period when he can be "keyed up" and put in tune so that he may make the sweetest music with his life. Advent is just such a season, when we come face to face with the great realities of life. We talk of the wonderful opportunities of life, that to every man and woman is given the chance to make something of life and be of real use to the world but is it good for us to have so many opportunities? Only as we think of our life and talents being given us *in trust*.

Alexander was accustomed to say, "Philip of Macedon gave me life but it was Aristotle who taught me how to make the most of life." To have the gift of life is a solemn thing, Life is God's most sacred trust, it is not ours to do with as we please but it must be accounted for, every possibility of it. It is the duty of the ministry to stimulate men and women to true and worthy living and if the pulpit dwells continually on the idea of duty and earnestness it is because life itself is earnest and sacred and serious, and you and I must meet it seriously. There can be no shirking or looking for easy places if we want to give a man's service. There are a great many theories and speculation about the last coming of Christ but our individual realization of the advent will be at the time of our death. The one thing that is absolutely certain for each of us is that bye and bye the "silver cord will be loosed and the golden bowl be broken and man will go to his long home." Are we living as if we believed it? Bye and bye we say we will change and look in a new direction but not now.

We live poorly enough at the best, even the saintliest of us and many of us certainly make sad work of our life. There are infinitely fewer wrecks on the great sea where the ships go than on

that other sea of human life where so many lives go down with their freightage of immortal hopes and possibilities, and we sometimes wonder about what the ocean contains of treasures buried far down beneath the waves, but who shall tell of the treasures that are hidden in that deeper sea of human life, where they have gone down in the sad hours of defeat and failure and the reason is that the passing opportunity was neglected and deferred.

And so the lesson for us this morning as simple as it is and as trite as it is, is simply a call to each one to give the Christian religion a chance. We may have laughed at the teachings we learned at mother's knee and we may think we have gotten beyond them, but the longer we live the more we *know* that it takes these dear *old* truths to give poise and sweetness to life—and to keep us true and strong.

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#### So Sorry, Partner!

HARRIET—Busy?

HARRY—Yes, going to play mixed foursomes.

HARRIET—Oh! The game where you say I'm so sorry partner!

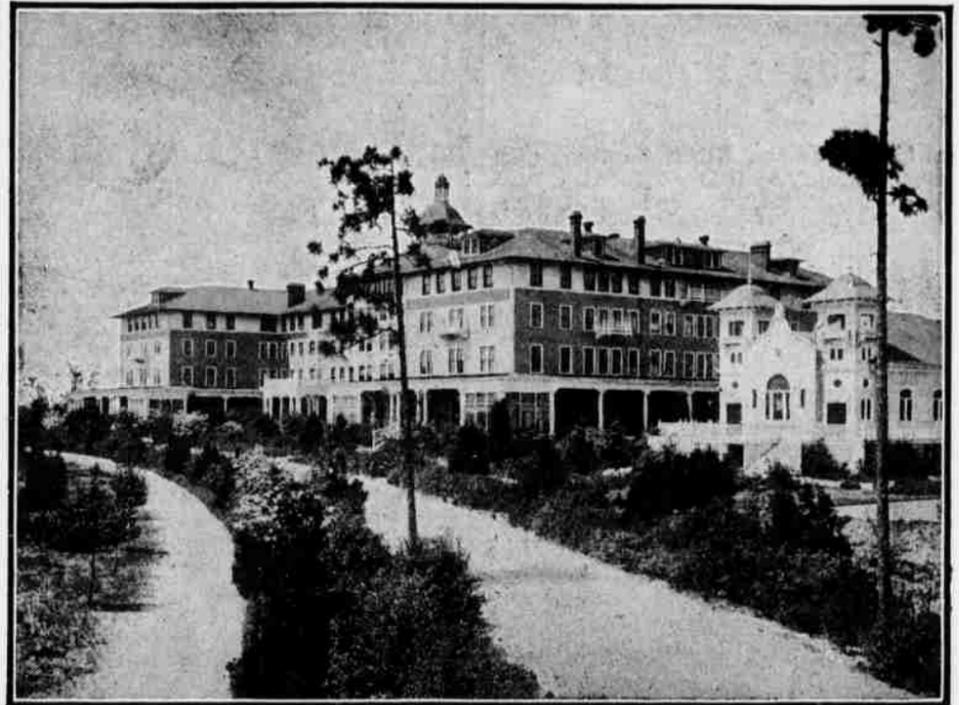
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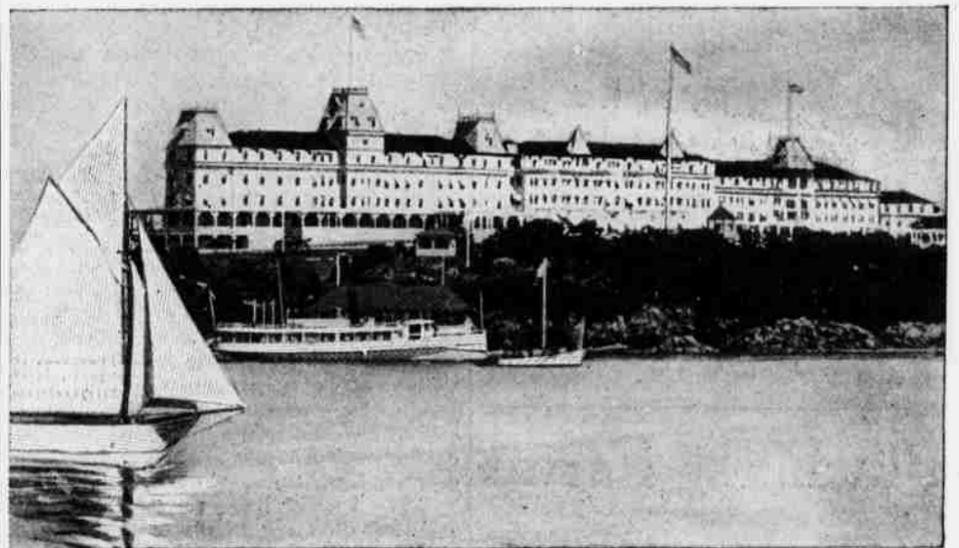


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