

THE PULPIT.

AN ELOQUENT SUNDAY SERMON BY THE REV. R. H. CARSON.

Subject: The Story of Ruth.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.—In Grace Presbyterian Church the pastor, the Rev. Robert H. Carson, preached Sunday evening from the book of Ruth. Among other things he said:

We miss a great deal of the beauty and power of the Bible because of the manner in which we are accustomed to read it. There are very few who take time to read a whole book through at a single sitting. We dip into Scripture as if it were a book of facts, reading a verse here and another there, so it is not surprising that we rise from the exercise having received but little help and spiritual refreshment. There is no royal road to knowledge. There is no way to garner the lessons which Holy Scripture teaches save through that steady and persistent searching of which our Saviors spoke when He said, "Search the Scriptures, for they are they which testify of Me."

It is our hope this evening to point out some of the beautiful lessons contained in one little book of the Bible, in one of the most delightful stories ever presented for contemplation by the mind of man. I refer to the book of Ruth. Its very place in the sacred canon makes it a memorable piece of literature. It is, as you know, preceded by the book of Judges, and followed by the book of Samuel. These books are concerned almost exclusively with the national history of Israel—with the wars, defeats, humiliations, murmuring complaints, repentings and repentances of the people. They are not, in the main, pleasant reading. Their pages are red with blood, and violence, and rapine, and lawless deeds, and the unchangeable consequences of a nation forgetting God and neglecting to do His will.

It is a great pleasure, therefore, to turn from these books that tell of the ups and downs of national life, and fix the attention upon the charming story of Ruth. This little book pictures domestic life. It gives us a glimpse into the quiet, everyday habits and customs of the men and women of that time, and we see them in their homes, in the harvest fields, at the festivals, and at religious services. Biography is, I think, the favorite reading matter. We are deluged with a flood of scintillating biography in the shape of novels which come by thousands from the printing press every year. It is an easy, but not very profitable kind of reading, for in the majority of cases there is a great deal of unreality, too great an absence of the lifelike, and too little of what we know to be a common experience.

It is not so, however, in the book of Ruth. There we have life truly depicted; there we meet with men and women as we find them to-day—not angels and not demons, but erring, enduring, faithful and not unloving.

It is not my intention to enter upon the story. I trust that you all know it, or that you will know it, but you will take a quiet half hour this evening, and peruse that little book, which, in its simplicity, is as far removed from our modern stories as the east is from the west.

In coming into touch, then, with this piece of sacred literature, and considering for our edification some of the lessons which it teaches, we see first of all the superiority of character. The two chief figures in the story are Boaz and Ruth, and it is their characters that make them so great. There is not in the whole range of literature a better type of manly, healthy religion than is exemplified in the case of Boaz. You remember that scene in the harvest field. He went down to his reapers, and his salutation without any cant or insincerity, was, "The Lord be with you." My friends, when such a greeting as that can take place between master and men, it testifies to the presence of a religion that leaves its mark upon every act, and upon all the conduct of life. It is the men like Boaz who are the ornament and glory of religion; the men whose lives influence them all in the manifold concerns of life, in the forum, in the market place, abroad as well as at home.

Our Lord tells us who are to be accounted blessed. It is not the mere hearers of His word, nor they who can cry, "Lord, Lord," and affirm that they have prayed in public places. It is "Blessed are the doers of the Word," and blessed they alone. Such in his day was Boaz—a man of kindly feelings, pure heart, strong conviction, true purpose, and the benediction of the Most High was upon him.

Such, too, was Ruth, with her loving, tender, considerate heart—one of the fairest characters in the whole range of Hebrew Scripture.

And the most noteworthy fact in this connection is that these characters were produced amid surroundings and an environment that would have discouraged the average person. It was a lawless time; restraints were weak and of entirely removed, and men became a law unto themselves. Such a condition of society is not favorable to the cultivation and development of the nobler virtues, and yet, amid such a state of things, we have the stirring example of these two who bravely maintained the testimony and did the right. It is not at all unusual to hear men blame their surroundings for their errors and mistakes; it is, indeed, the common way by which we seek to excuse our failings, but the excuse is not valid. Some men, it is true, are more strongly tempted than others; some are in places that require a strong heart, a firm faith, an unshaken confidence in God, and in the power of Christ in order that they may be kept from the evil that prevails around them; but no man, if his purpose be true, can ever be wholly overcome. There is no temptation that hath befallen any man but what is common, and always with the temptation there is a way of escape, if, trusting in the grace divine and in the strength omnipotent, our heart and will be set on delivery.

Amid surroundings most unfavorable these two saints went on from strength to strength, growing in grace and in favor, both with God and men, because their hearts were right and their spirits true. By their example we should be taught; we should not wait to blame our place or condition for our failures, but, looking up to God, we should ask Him to search and try us, to see if there is any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting.

But we learn again, from the story, the place of good works in the religious life. I do not think we would have heard of Boaz and Ruth if their religious life had consisted of faith alone. It is their deeds, the results, in daily life, of their faith that is especially dwelt upon. In this respect the book of Ruth makes an admirable commentary upon the epistle of James. Indeed, one of the most cheering features of modern religious life lies in the fact that this divinely appointed connection between faith and works is daily receiving more attention. Far be it from me to lightly criticize our Puritan forbears, still as we read about these heroic men of whom the world was not worthy, does it not sometimes seem as if the necessity of faith were emphasized at the expense of the necessity of works to correspond? The two have been joined together; their union constitutes the perfect religious life, and what God hath joined together let not man put asunder. What I am trying to say has been summed up in a sentence by the late F. W. Robertson, a sentence which the church should never let die, and that sentence is, "Faith alone saves, but not the faith that is alone."

You remember Christ's words, "Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" The man who rises from his knees with the glow of the divine communion upon his face, the man whose faith hath made him a partaker of the power of God, and who then goes forth to live the life which his faith hath revealed to him, is the man of whom Christ alone will not be ashamed when He cometh in the glory of His Father and of the holy angels to judge the world.

It is noteworthy, too, I think, that the virtue in which Boaz and Ruth excelled was the plain, everyday virtue of kindness. The greatest material blessings are the most common; air, light, water, these are within the reach of all. So also the greatest virtues are within the power of all to possess. Paul says, "Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three, but the greatest of these is charity." It is possible for us to attain to the possession of that grace—the greatest of all. We all have different gifts and powers, differing one from another, so that some mount higher than others, but there is none of us, no matter what our limitations may be, who cannot speak the kind word, do the kind deed and pass the kindly judgment, and that is charity, the greatest of the virtues. What a change would take place in this old and weary world if only our deeds corresponded with our faith and we fulfilled the royal law according to the Scriptures—"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

But, again, the book of Ruth teaches us the necessity of decision. We read that Ruth and Orpah came to the parting of the ways, that one turned back to Moab and her people, and that the other took her way to the land of Israel. Is not that a true simile of life? Sooner or later each one of us comes to the parting of the ways, and we make the decision whose results are endless—"The kingdom of Heaven saith our Lord, "Whoso will, let him take it by force." That means that one cannot drift into it. It needs a strong exertion of the will, a decision that abides. Memorable forever is Ruth's decision. When she says to Naomi, "Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee, for whither thou goest I will go, and where thou lodgest I will lodge, thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God," she takes her place among the first ranks of those that make the high and graceful hearts of all ages pay reverence. Friends, it is a great thing, it is a needful thing in life to be capable of a clear resolve. The man is to be envied who can part between this and that of opposing claims and considerations, and is able to say, "Here I see my path; along this and no other will I go." Indeed this ability to make decision is the foundation of all true and successful life. In religion there is no escape from it. You cannot drift into a state of salvation in crowd. "Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide in the strife 'twixt truth and falsehood, for the good or evil side." To each of us individually comes the choice what to do. Many a one, I think, is kept from the freedom and joy of Christianity not because these things are undesired, not because the call of Christ is unheeded, or His claims unacknowledged, but simply for the want of the power of decision, or strength to go forward upon a personal decision.

Young friends, to you especially this lesson comes. You are all with you the power of choice, and to you from out eternity comes the cry, "Choose ye choose ye, this day whom ye will serve." Pray God that you make the good choice, and receive His grace to abide therein.

Delusion. The common conception of life is false. The vast majority of people are laboring under a delusion. You stand where you are, lives of humanity roll swift and strong—lives of humanity accumulating colossal fortunes at a bound and living in a dazzling splendor; you notice the sleek, fat and pleasure-loving epicureans at the clubhouses; the coarse, ambitious Falstaffs at the social functions, the Coapatras, the Salomes and society queens whose studied grace and wine flushed cheeks entrance but to destroy and you say: "This is life, life at high noon and high midnight of the twentieth century."—Rev. C. G. Greenwood.

His Perfect Naturalness. Nothing is more wonderful about our Lord than His perfect naturalness, His absolute balance, His reality, reasonableness, artlessness, completeness. Nothing excessive, nothing wanting; nothing artificial, nothing ungrammatical; no underdoing, no overdoing. The goodness of Christ was like the sun, the sweet summer rain braced with the rainbow.—William L. Watkinson.

What a glorious gift consciousness is in itself! Heaven must essentially consist in the absence of whatever disturbs the quiet enjoyment of that consciousness—in the intimate conviction of the presence of God.—Blanco White.

WILLIAMS' PINK PILLS FOR PALE PEOPLE. Dr. J. C. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. In March 1898, Japanese left the Hawaiian Islands for the Pacific Coast.

Take Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. For all Bowel Troubles, Cholera, Dysentery, Cholera morbus, Cholera infantum, Children Teething, etc. At Druggists 25c and 50c.

Lord Northcote, governor-general of Australia, was entertained at a banquet in a coal mine at Newcastle, New South Wales. The banquet hall was 300 feet below the surface.

How's This? We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. F. J. CERRY & Co., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. CERRY for the last 16 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm. WATZ & TRUAX, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O.

State pride takes strange forms. Wisconsin notes that more rats than ever before are being caught within her borders. She attributes this fact to the increased production of cheese.

CHILD'S AWFUL SKIN HUMOR.

Screamed With Pain—Suffering Nearly Broke Parent's Heart—Speedily Cured by Cuticura.

"I wish to inform you that the Cuticura Remedies have put a stop to twelve years of misery I passed with my son. As an infant I noticed on his body a red spot, and treated same with different remedies for about five years, but when the spot began to get larger I put him under the care of a doctor. Under their treatment the disease spread to four different parts of his body. The longer the doctors treated him the worse it grew. During the day it would get rough and form like scales. At night it would be cracked, inflamed and badly swollen, with terrible burning and itching. When I think of his suffering it nearly breaks my heart. His screams could be heard down stairs. The suffering of my son made me full of misery. I had no ambition to work, to eat, nor could I sleep. One doctor told me that my son's eczema was incurable, and gave it up for a bad job. One evening I saw an article in the paper about the wonderful Cuticura and decided to give it a trial. I tell you the Cuticura Ointment is worth its weight in gold, and when I had used the first box of Ointment there was a great improvement, and in the time I had used the second set of Cuticura Soap, Ointment and Resolvent my child was cured. He is now twelve years old, and his skin is as fine and smooth as silk. Michael Steinman, 7 Sumner Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., April 18, 1907."

Don't waste time fading fault with yourself; that's what your friends are for.

HICKS' CAPUDINE. IMMEDIATELY CURES HEADACHES. Breaks up COLDS. 6 CENTS IN BOTTLES. Trial Size 2c. At Druggists.

"IT SAVED MY LIFE" PRAISE FOR A FAMOUS MEDICINE

Mrs. Willadsen Tells How She Tried Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Just in Time.

Mrs. T. C. Willadsen, of Manning, Iowa, writes to Mrs. Pinkham: Dear Mrs. Pinkham:—

"I can truly say that you have saved my life, and I cannot express my gratitude to you in words."

"Before I wrote to you, telling you how I felt, I had doctored for over two years steady and spent lots of money on medicines besides, but it all failed to help me. My monthly periods had ceased and I suffered much pain, with fainting spells, headache, backache and bearing-down pains, and I was so weak I could hardly keep around. At a last resort I decided to write you and try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and I am so thankful that I did, for after following your instructions, which you sent me free of all charge, I became regular and in perfect health. Had it not been for you I would be in my grave to-day."

"I sincerely trust that this letter may lead every suffering woman in the country to write you for help as I did."

When women are troubled with irregular or painful periods, weakness, displacement or ulceration of an organ, that bearing-down feeling, inflammation, backache, flatulence, general debility, indigestion or nervous prostration, they should remember there is one tried and true remedy. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound at once restores such troubles.

Moreover other female medicine in the world has received such widespread and unqualified endorsement. Refuse all substitutes. For 25 years Mrs. Pinkham, daughter-in-law of Lydia E. Pinkham, has under her direction, and since her decease, been advising sick women free of charge. Address, Lynn, Mass.

Dropsey. CURED GIVE Relief. Relieves all swelling in 3 to 5 days; effects a permanent cure in 10 to 15 days. Trial treatment free. Write Dr. H. N. Greer's Sons, Specialists, Box 3, Atlanta, Ga.

WANTED. Address of (1) overseas agent (Indian business) who is not in line with any title. (2) of man who served in the Federal Army, or (3) the deceased. NATHAN HICKS, Washington, D. C.

COMPLEXION HANDS AND HAIR



Preserved Purified and Beautified by

Cuticura SOAP

The World's Favorite Emollient for rashes, blemishes, eczemas, itchings, irritations, and scallings. For red, rough, and greasy complexions, for sore, itching, burning hands and feet, for baby rashes, itchings, and chaffings, as well as for all the purposes of the toilet, bath, and nursery. Cuticura Soap, assisted by Cuticura Ointment, the great Skin Cure, is priceless.

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all inflamed, ulcerated and catarrhal conditions of the mucous membrane such as nasal catarrh, uterine catarrh caused by female ill, sore throat, sore mouth or inflamed eyes by simply dosing the stomach. But you surely can cure these stubborn affections by local treatment with

Paxtine Toilet Antiseptic

which destroys the disease germs, checks discharges, stops pain, and heals the inflammation and soreness. Paxtine represents the most successful local treatment for female ill over produced. Thousands of women testify to this fact. 50 cents at druggists. Send for Free Trial Box THE R. PAXTON CO., Boston, Mass. So. 27-06. PER DAY. A gentle wash. Men and Women, write for FREE TRIAL BOX. R. PAXTON CO., BOSTON, MASS.

The Crust. Two tablespoons sifted flour, one tablespoon cold lard, two tablespoons cold water and a pinch of salt. Chop the lard in the flour until it is fine, then mix with the water, using all the flour. Turn out upon a well-floured board, divide equally and roll out one-half. Cover the pie pan, patting the crust to get out the air. Fill with whatever fruit you have, roll out the upper crust, fold in half and cut three short strips near the center of the hole, place over the pie and pat down the edges. Trim off the rough edges and mark around the edge with the tips of a fork. Bake until a nice brown. Gather up the scraps and roll them out again, and cut out with a can cover about the size of a silver dollar. Prick each piece with a fork and bake a delicate brown. Place a bit of jelly in the center of each pie and you have a plate of dainty tart.

Heavy Postage on Letter. A Dover, N. H. man has a letter from the Arctic sea on which the postage amounted to more than \$25. It was written on a vessel in the Arctic whaling fleet, and had to be sent by one of the boats returning with a cargo.

TORTURED WITH GRAVEL. Since Using Doan's Kidney Pills Not a Single Stone Has Formed.

Capt. S. L. Crute, Adj. Wm. Watts Camp, U. C. V., Roanoke, Va., says: "I suffered a long, long time with my back, and felt draggy and listless and tired all the time. I lost from my usual weight, 25, to 17. Urinary passages were too frequent and I had to get up often at night. I had headaches and dizzy spells also, but my worst suffering was from renal colic. After I began using Doan's Kidney Pills I passed a gravel stone as big as a bean. Since then I have never had an attack of gravel, and have picked up to my former health and weight. I am a well man, and give Doan's Kidney Pills credit for it."

Sold by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

There is hardly anything that makes a woman madder than to have her photograph look like her. So. 27.

Itch cured in 30 minutes by Woodford's Itch Cure: never fails. Sold by Druggists. Mail order promptly filled by Dr. S. H. Woodford, Ind. \$1.

The Eyes. When the eyes have been irritated through excessive use a compress of fine linen wet with very cold water will generally bring relief. An eyewash that is particularly excellent when inflammation has set in can be made by combining 15 drops of spirits of camphor, one teaspoonful of boric acid and two-thirds of a cupful of boiling water. Cool, strain through muslin and apply every hour with an eye-cup. Vessels with thick, heavy dots are extremely bad for the eyes, and they are not half as pretty as the finer French vials with a large dot scattered here and there. Reading in the twilight or continuing to do fancy work when the eyes are tired should be forbidden.

Crown of Gold. "The late Paul Lawrence Dunbar, the negro poet," said an editor, "once addressed a Sunday school in New York. An odd incident happened, though, at its end, an incident that Dunbar laughed at as heartily as the rest of us."

"Dunbar, toward the close of his remarks, said: 'And, my little friends, if you do all these things some day you will wear a gold crown. Yes, each of you some day will wear a gold crown.' 'A little chap in the front row, catching the poet's friendly eye, piped: 'My father wears one now.' 'No!' said the poet. 'Yes, he does—on his toot,' said the little chap."

CLEVER DOCTOR. Cured a 20 Year Trouble Without Any Medicine.

A wise Indiana physician cured 20 years' stomach disease without any medicine, as his patient tells:

"I had stomach trouble, for 20 years, tried allopathic medicines, patent medicines and all the simple remedies suggested by my friends, but grew worse all the time. 'Finally a doctor who is the most prominent physician in this part of the State told me medicine would do me no good only irritating my stomach and making it worse—that I must look to diet and quit drinking coffee.'"

"I cried out in alarm, 'Quit drinking coffee! why, 'What will I drink?' 'Try Postum,' said the doctor; 'I drink it and you will like it when it is made according to directions, with cream, for it is delicious and has none of the bad effects coffee has.' 'Well, that was two years ago, and I am still drinking Postum. My stomach is right again and I know Doctor hit the nail on the head when he decided coffee was the cause of all my trouble. I only wish I had quit 20 years ago and drank Postum in its place.' Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Never too late to mend. Ten days' trial of Postum in place of coffee truly wonderful. There's a reason. Look in signs for the famous Little Book, "The Road to Wellville."

POPE-AUTOMOBILES. POPE-TOLEDO TYPE X, \$2500. THIS 4-CYLINDER 20-24 H. P. POPE TOLEDO. Contains every good feature of the world's best practice in automobile construction, including Chrome Nickel Steel Transmission, Gears and Shafts, Gravity feed. Cape Cart Victoria or Canopy Top, \$200 extra. This car can be driven behind a team walking or up to its maximum of 50 miles an hour on the high gear. A light wieldy car of great power, speed and endurance. Easy to drive; easy on tires; easy on the pocketbook for upkeep. POPE-TOLEDO TYPE VII, \$2500. This is our front entrance model which is now so popular. It has the regular 30 H. P. engine and chassis and is a car which appeals to the convenience and comfort of the owner. Roomy Tonneau and Pope-Toledo construction throughout. WE WANT TO PLACE SOME OF THESE CARS IN YOUR VICINITY. WRITE US FOR PARTICULARS, CATALOGUES, ETC. Pope-Toledo Type X, \$2500. POPE MOTOR CAR CO. DESK 3, TOLEDO, OHIO. Boston, 223 Columbus Ave. N. Y. City, 1733 Broadway. Washington, D. C., 819 14th St., N. W. Members Association of Licensed Automobile Manufacturers.