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Good Friday and Easter Day

THERE are two estimates that can be made of the events which happened in the history of the world at this time two thousand years ago. Looking back today across the ages we can see which is right. We see a Man of marvellous charm, of wonderful gifts and power, though of humble origin, embarked upon a great career as a Teacher and had the attention and good word of thousands. We see Him alone. His influence gone, deserted by His followers, dying the death of a common criminal. It looks like a terrible failure and a tragic ending. All the bright hopes are gone and nothing is left to carry on His work or to perpetuate His name and He Himself is dying alone. Was there ever such a failure?

Today it is easy for us to see that the result of that failure has been a power for good without parallel since the world began and that the broken, defeated Sufferer stands out after nineteen centuries as beyond comparison the greatest and most compelling figure in history. It is the Cross, the very badge of the most hopeless degradation and failure which constitutes the supreme appeal from which there is no escape. If we stand at the end of our powers, exhausted, footsore, beaten by the length of the march and the weight of the load we are called upon to carry, it does not really help us to be told that others have accomplished the same march without distress. What we need then is someone by our side, who knows and understands all that we are experiencing from His own like experience and Who can by word and hand stay us over the rough places that are beyond our strength, and can lift from us something of the burden which is too heavy for us. There is no power so far-reaching and so compelling as the power of the Cross. It is just in His unique failure that the uniqueness of the Triumph of Christ really lies.

If the message of Good Friday means anything it is just this. The world's standards of success and failure are entirely wrong. We must not pay too much attention to what the world tells us as to the use we are to make of our lives and we must not refuse to adventure for right for fear that we may fail. To go and fail may be the finest thing a man can do with his life. There has never been anyone who stood fast for principle and duty, who has not at some time had this sense of failure but such failures are really the truest successes. Only when we refuse the Cross are we really beginning to fail. The world will think differently, may call us visionaries and fools; but the world is almost always wrong. Jesus Christ was a hopeless failure that day and yet He has transformed the world. It is He in Whom millions of all ages have found the object of their heart's devotion and the lodestar of their lives.

In this happy Easter-time, it is the reality of the Lord's risen life that we all need afresh to learn. The Cross was not a failure for through the gate of death He came to Resurrection. All will be changed to us if we learn this great reality. This world is a beautiful world ever since the Easter morning, because the Risen Christ is in it, and we are here with Him. We can never be discouraged in His work, when the Lord has called us to it, and the Lord will see us through. Only let us hold fast to Him and seek ever to know Him better by all the means that He has given to us.

—Frank Bloxham,

EASTER, Yesterday and Today — by A. B. CHAPIN

YESTERDAY SHE CARRIED A PRAYER BOOK
TODAY IT'S PROBABLY A VANITY OUTFIT AND A CIGARETTE CASE

YESTERDAY MILADY CROWNED HERSELF WITH MARVELOUS MILLINERY CREATIONS
TODAY SHE TOPS HER DOME WITH SUR-REALIST SPASMS

YESTERDAY SHE WAS WELL UPHOLSTERED BOTH FRONT AND BACK
TODAY SHE IS SEVERELY STREAM LINED, THE MERE STREAM LINED THE SWANKIER

YESTERDAY HERE MAN SCARCELY ENTERED THE SARTORIAL PICTURE
TODAY DITTO, DITTO, DITTO

YESTERDAY ONE RARELY SAW A FOOT OR ANKLE
TODAY ONE SEES — WELL — A PLENTY

BUT YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW
THE ENDURING SYMBOL OF FAITH IN IMMORTALITY NEVER CHANGES

YESTERDAY SHE WORE A BOUQUET OF ROSE GERANIUMS
TODAY IT MUST BE A SPRAY OF GARDENIAS OR ORCHIDS

"Throwing the Baby Out With the Bath"

WE thank Mr. John Temple Graves II in his column, "This Morning," for giving us the following quotation from the pen of John Palmer Gavit, distinguished journalist and "tree-sparing woodman."

Writing against the fires that are now being set by farmers all over the South to burn underbrush, Mr. Gavit says,

"It does not seem to be realized that besides inflicting great injury upon standing trees, this practice kills off innumerable seedlings and little trees of a few year's growth—the beginnings of valuable new crops. All over the South this practice seems to be general. Whatever its advantages it seems to me to be a bad instance of 'throwing the baby out with the bath'. The South has wonderful resources; too slowly it is arousing to conserve while using them."

BRUCE BARTON Says



IN SIMPLE, EASY WORDS

An earnest gentleman with a gleam in his eye got in the other day: He asked me to read a book in which a new prophet sets forth a new religion. The gentleman assured me that if only all men and women could be led to think the thoughts of this prophet every difficulty would fold up.

While we talked I turned the pages of the book, and after about a minute I assured him that I should not need to read it in order to know that it would have no influence.

He was aggrieved. "You have a closed mind," he charged.

"Not at all," I said. "I happen to know what kind of words move the world. I'll give you an example: 'The Lord is my shepherd,' etc.

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers founded on this continent," etc.

"Contrast these simple words with a couple of phrases from your book," I said:

"The definitely 'anticipatory' value of the self-protecting mechanism of covenant obligations . . ."

"Expanding consciousness obtainable through the direct application of the method of cyclic evolution . . ."

"Nobody is going to overturn the world," I concluded, "unless he is able to make his ideas understand-

able even to a little child. Second-raters are always obscure. But the head man in any department of life, I care not whether it be medicine, theology, science or what, he can make a talk that will fascinate a kindergarten."

John Bunyan explained to his readers that he might have adopted a "stile" much more fancy but he wanted his book to be read by common people everywhere. He has his wish: "Pilgrim's Progress" will live as long as anything in our language.

GET GREATER EDUCATION

"Your problem is personnel," I said to the banker. "How are you solving it?"

"Well, we try to pick the smartest young men from the colleges, men who have majored in economics and finance. We start them in at the bottom and let them fight their way up. Some drop by the wayside, but the survivors develop into very good men."

I told him I thought they were omitting one very important step in the process of training.

"After your young man has had two or three years' experience in the bank, you ought to pull him out and send him into the heart of the country," I said. "Make him spend a year or two working on a

farm, or with a section gang on the railroad, or clerking in a country store. Insist that he live on what he earns.

When he comes back to New York he will have some idea of how hard ordinary people have to work for their money. He will have a social as well as a merely financial point of view. A dollar will never become merely a sign or a sum to him. It will represent hopes and fears, ambitions and defeats, human sweat and blood."

I am one of those who believe that we are entering a period of great social changes. No matter how big and strong an institution or an industry may be it is going to be tested. Those institutions will win out which are headed by men of broad human sympathies; men who can see the other man's point of view because they have shared the other man's daily life.

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By MRS. T. J. SOUTHARD

Mrs. Lawrence Hastings is seriously ill with flu.

Mrs. S. H. Southard spent the week end with her father, Mr. John Sprinkles, of Franklin.

Mr. Nute Dills and family, of Tampa, Fla., are visiting relatives in this community.

Mr. and Mrs. Schular Ledford spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Roane.

Mr. Clyde Johnson and Mr. Quince Roane made a business trip to Atlanta, Ga., last week.

Alex and Frank Southard made a business trip to Murphy the past week.

Mr. Jake Waldroop, who is working at Coweta, spent the week-end at home.

Gneiss

By MRS. F. E. MASHBURN

A flu epidemic has been sweeping over our section.

Mr. Frank Holland preached at the Walnut Creek school house Saturday night and Sunday morning.

Mrs. Annie Lee McEntire, of Franklin, has been visiting relatives in this section.

Ranze Holland's truck turned over about 10 p. m. Saturday on the narrow Ledford Branch road. Mr. Holland and his companion escaped unhurt and the truck was not damaged. It was loaded with acid wood.

Mrs. Paul Higdon, of Higdonville, is visiting her mother, Mrs. Ella Jones.

The relatives and friends of Aunt Ann Jones will regret to hear that she is on the sick list. She was 84 years old Saturday, March 20.