

REVERENCE FOR THE PAST.

Matt. 28:10.

new all day

To day has been one of many new resolutions and these are going to do us much good if we keep them. There will be the same old enemy to come and attempt to make us break them but the same Christ is going to be with us to help us to keep our vows.

There is really a danger that lurks with new year resolutions and that is that in thinking of all things in terms of the new we are in danger of forgetting the past. To forget the many things that the past holds for us is to perform a great error, for all that we possess now is a product of the years that are gone. We would have nothing if it were not for the past.

We are to remember the good things of the past and too let me venture, we should not entirely forget our mistakes. I verily believe that mistakes if properly used may serve as stepping stones to success. ~~Oh let us resolve not to worry over past mistakes!~~

The past held much for the Apostles, and what was true with them is true with all of to a certain degree.

Let us about the Apostles' past. We see Galilee in their past and see that it meant much to them. It was their childhood home. There they first began to look out on the big world and the broad heavens. There their minds began to wander about God's great power as they could see it in every sprig of grass and in every living thing. One day in their busy life a wonderful personality appeared to them and called them from their work to follow Him and Lo it was the Christ. They followed and the farther they went the more their faith grew in Him as the Son of God.

Galilee then to sum up was their childhood home; the place where they met Jesus, and the place of simple faith. Then surely it meant much to them.

For a contrast let us see what Jerusalem meant to them. It was a smoky city, a place

that had been in their dreams as one very glorious to them. Their Master was to set up a kingdom there and reign supreme and they were to sit with Him as his helpers. But now since they have entered the city it has become one of blighted hopes and defeated expectations. Instead of being set up as king Christ had been mocked and killed. Now the Great Teacher was in His grave and the Apostles were alone. Look yonder, what is that monster who comes to their minds? Why it is the spider of doubt coming to spin his web. Poor Apostles doubt their own existence. How great is their agony!

Perhaps all of us some time in life have our Galilees and our Jerusalems. When at mother's knee we begin to see the great things of God and she tells us of their wonder. After awhile we meet the Christ and He forgives our sins and regenerates us and the simple faith is ours. But after a time we leave home and go to the smoky city and there we read books of criticism and hear men talk in a critical way and people who claim Christianity are far from being good and demon doubt comes with his temptation. It is a bitter agony when Jerusalem comes and a boy asks the question what is there to it anyway? That happens friends. If not doubters people will get cold and indifferent up in Jerusalem.

Just as the Apostles were heart broken the message came like a message from the operating room when you thought your loved one dead, He is a live. What else does the message say? "Go tell my disciples that they go into Galilee and there shall they see me." Oh glorious thought, the MASTER lives. Go back where? To Galilee, to their childhood home, to place of simple faith, to place where they had met Jesus. There to see HIS face there where the winds from Galilee would blow memories into their clouded brain thereby dispelling the webs of doubt.

Well they went back and they found Jesus. So dear friend if you have a doubt or if you have grown cold in your hard clanky business life go back, if not to your real childhood home, to home in your memory to the place where you

knelt by mother's knee and said the simple prayer
and believed that Jesus was there. If you will
do this then you like the Apostles will fall down
at HIS feet and worship Him because you know that
Christ lives even as they knew it.

As the new year comes on with its problems
to solve and temptations to meet let me ask again
that you not forget the past but keep the time
of your childhood, your first meeting of the
Savior, and your simple faith before you and like
Henry W. Grady you will go back to your work new
man again.

Turn backward, turn backward
the time in thy flight

And let me be a child again,

Just for to-night.

