

THE ANDOVER NEWS.

FOR THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, JULY 8, 1904.

TERMS: One Dollar the Year.
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FALSE WITNESSES

A Sermon by Rev. H. D. Bacon
of the Presbyterian Church

ALL SHOULD READ AND HEED

Text, Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness
Against Thy Neighbor.—Exodus: XX-16.

This commandment is one which reveals to us a fact which should make us optimistic. It is very evident that there were scandal mongers and gossips and ready tongues to tell false tales even when the world was not so very old. The fact that a place should have been given in the Decalogue for this exhortation or commandment reveals the divine insight into human nature and human frailty. This is a text on which a sermon should be preached at least once every year in every church. It touches a fault—yes, a sin, into which the most of us human beings are drawn without thought or intent; and out of which the very chords of divine love can scarcely drag one when once deeply rooted. This commandment names the worst kind of lying on earth but includes in its reach and significance all other forms. It is a command to hold sacred the good name of every person on earth; to reverence and never seek to steal that which is the richest of possessions, a good reputation. We may not believe that "He who steals our purse steals trash," but we all believe and know that "He who fleches from me my good name robs me of that which not enriches him yet leaves me poor indeed."

The keeping of this commandment is one of the first foundation stones of character. I care not how virtuous and holy and full of seeming sanctity a man may be if he has no respect for this law of the Lord his God he is just as vile an offender as the common thief. Yes, more so, for he steals with more vicious intent that which he cannot use or store up.

This is more than a command not to swear falsely in a court of justice. It aims at slander and misrepresentation of every sort. It seeks to elevate the truth and make it the one thing which men shall seek to tell and teach and practice. Now there are very few men who would stand in the presence of a judge or jury and deliberately swear falsely against the neighbor. Deliberate lies are not so very abundant as they are occasionally found. But the world is alive with people who are breaking these commandments every day they live. This commandment is broken whenever we cause or permit others or ourselves to believe what is not true or may not be true concerning any man.

That is a long declaration, but I believe that the words of our text in the Decalogue are the words of our text in the Decalogue. Now this commandment is not without reason and good cause to be kept. We know that slander is a great but tongue murder. We know that a good reputation is one of the most valuable things on earth. We know that one of the greatest injuries a man can do another is to spoil that reputation and blacken it. A false witness on the stand before a jury can work harm which all the honesty and purity of man cannot overcome. Dreyfus, that brave soldier of France, who we believe was an upright soldier, a good husband, a pure man. That man in the hands of false witnesses was made to suffer disgrace which with its agony few men can know. Woe unto the man whom false witnesses get after. He is sure to suffer and fall into disgrace. False witnesses sent even the guileless Christ to the cross. This is one great and good reason for this commandment. He who violates it pollutes and tarnishes and spoils the finest and best possession of his fellow man, and that one who violates this commandment lowers and weakens and wrecks their own manhood or womanhood. There is nothing so degenerating as gossip or slander. No man or woman in the true sense of the term would deliberately bear false witness against their neighbor. Truthfulness is one of the finest and surest tests of true character in the world. No man who respects the truth and honors the truth is a hopeless case. But this vile slander and falsehood pours its poison into the system. The pure blood is weakened and made degenerate; the whole man or woman is made lower in aspirations and tastes. There are some poisons you know which cannot be tested they are so deadly that one drop injected into the veins produces death in a few seconds, and yet no chemical science can separate that drop from the blood and stop the poison. Slander of the more delicate kind is of a similar nature. It cannot be analyzed or separated and revealed but it's there and does its deadly work of wrecking manhood and womanhood. And this awful thing called slander and false witnessing grows in its power on men's lives. Some one has said that a sharp tongue is the only edged tool that grows sharper by use. Men and women, we must remember this command of the Lord our God and seek to keep it in the smallest detail, as we will come to break it in its largest and most significant sense. We must seek to say nothing on earth we would not have repeated in Heaven. We must learn to say nothing behind a man's back we would not say to his face. I care not who or what the man may be, some of us have an idea that as Christians it is our duty to be continually whipping the world's man with our tongues; that we must proclaim the sinner's sins and uncover his vices. If we could only learn to uncover every man's virtues and goodness this would be a happier world. We know so little about men that it is unsafe for us to say ought about them of evil. It is a good thing to make a

truth, and often ears which listen to false witnesses are false witnesses themselves in God's sight. This is a thing which we must fight against men and women. In my own experience it is the hardest thing to conquer. We must learn to weigh facts, to cast out fiction and to seek only the bold truth. Christian churches get into the sad habit of disparaging one another, of misrepresenting each other and making the world to think that they are slandering each other. Romanism and Protestantism have been bearing false witness against each other for years and thank God to-day they are beginning to know it. The one question in your mind and mine should be—How much of truth is there in this? The truth which is substantiated and propped up by undeniable facts that we can all see for all else which is questionable and is liable to the far what?

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practice of praising others. I do not mean to flatter others but to praise the good in them. It would make men happier and better and holier if this could be done, and it can be done if we will but do it. Men's goodness is rarely ever reported by the tongues of fellow men. We are on the safe side always if we tell all the good we hear and know about men. This is a Christian duty. This is God's commandment and I hope that it may be revealed unto us in all of its broad significance. I wish that every one of us might look into our own hearts and lives on this holy day and find out how closely we are keeping this ninth commandment. We all need to study self well, and if we do we will find that some where some time we have in some way made the sad mistake of bearing false witness against our neighbor. May God give us, when we meet one of his parish, the grace to speak the truth and defend the truth and honor the truth, for on the whole truth and nothing but the truth stands the foundation of all personal character. He, who dishonors this ninth commandment, lowers his manhood, weakens his character and stands a chance of wrecking many a human life. Therefore I beseech you friends let us seek with our whole hearts to honor this law of the Lord our God, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

STOUT FAMILY REUNION.

Held at the Home of Mrs. S. A. Dyer. The second annual reunion of the Stout family was held at the home of Mrs. S. A. Dyer, Friday, July 1st. The hours were greatly enjoyed visiting and eating, after which a meeting was called. Mrs. Dyer, who in her 91st year, told in an exceedingly interesting manner the early history of the family and incidents leading to their settlement, 82 years ago, in the town of Independence. Select readings were given by Miss Mary Stout and Mrs. Samuel Clarke. Business meeting was held and officers elected for the ensuing year.

There were present, of honorary guests; Mrs. Jane Cunningham, Mrs. Sylvia McGinness and son Charles, and Miss Francis Ainsworth of Andover, and of the relatives about sixty from Andover, Belmont, Canaseraga, Edmeston, Elm Valley, Hallsport, Independence, Shongo, Stanards, Wellsville, N. Y., Philadelphia and Westfield, Pa.

ANOTHER INDUSTRY.

Glass Novelty Works Choose Andover as a Favorable Site. Wm. DeVault of Olean, thru the efforts of J. C. Green, has decided to locate a glass novelty works in this place. He has rented buildings on railroad avenue and expects the goods here the last of this week. He will begin work as soon as settled and buildings are in proper shape and will employ a few hands. He is a glass blower of many years experience, and comes to Andover highly recommended. The News bespeaks for him the best of success in his enterprise and joins with Andover people in extending a welcoming hand. My house and lot on Pleasant avenue. Price \$2,000 dollars. Louisa M. Dickinson. 27

GREAT CLOTHING SALE AT CANNON BROTHERS

Beginning, Thursday, July 7, and Ending
Saturday, July 16.

Nine Days Of Unequaled Bargains

During this sale we offer Men's and Children's Clothing, consisting of none but reliable goods at about half their value. Our stock is large and includes none but garments of dependable quality. The prices for this sale are below any we ever offered—even wholesale cost in many cases has not been considered. Avail yourself of this opportunity for money saving.

CANNON BROTHERS,
ANDOVER, N. Y.

FOR THE BUGS:

Leggett's Paris Green
Cayuga Land Plaster

Each without an Equal

H. H. Williams & Co., Andover