

BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS, Gal. 6:2.

... written to the Christians of Galatia by

... the year of our Lord -52, Nineteen

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%% written and

BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS. Gal. 6:20.

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... visited them and sent them to us to-night

... requesting me to read them to you.

... letter was written to the professing

... Galatia, a very large country of Asia Minor.

... the scope of it to-night, rather let us

... apply it to the Christians of Richmond

... the exhortation of St. Paul is the very epitome

... of Christian religion. It is the sum total of all

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that Christ taught in His sermon upon the Mount, when He

BEAR YE ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS. Gal.6-20.

said, " whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you,

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do ye, even so unto them."

These words were written to the Christians of Galatia by
in the very conception of our religion, in the

St. Paul in or about the year of our Lord -52. Nineteen

centuries have nearly passed since they were written and

they are as full of force and as applicable to-night as if

St. Paul had just indited them and sent them to us to-night

by "special delivery," requesting me to read them to you.

Paul's letter was written to the professing

Christians in Galatia, a very large country of Asia Minor.

Let us not broaden the scope of it to-night, rather let us

narrow it and confine it to the Christians of Richmond

City.

The exhortation of St. Paul is the very quintes-

ence of Christian religion. It is the sum total of all

that Christ taught in His sermon upon the Mount, when He said, "Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye, even so unto them." Brothers, and I say brothers,

In the very conception of our religion, in the very foundation of our theology, our understanding as well as we can, takes in and acknowledges a trinity of power, a triune godhead, a Father, Son and Holy Ghost, a mutual, equal interdependence of power. When the Godhead said, "Let us make man," the plan as revealed to us, is one of interdependence shown in the remarkable words of God, Himself, when He announced to the ages, "It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help-meet for him." Our God made man a social creature, he cannot develop alone. Our Christ gave him a social religion and it thrives, expands and spreads only when it has this all important feature.

Sociability is as much an essential in the religion of Jesus Christ as the dynamo is in the electric plant.

My Dear Sisters and Brothers, and I say brothers, not brethren, I say brothers because we are children of the same Heavenly Father; I am growing older day by day and as I near the gates of the Great White City, I seem to see better, hear better and understand much more clearly than I did years ago.

Christians, real christians, christians which Christ has marked in the forehead are burden bearers. I refer not to the cares and sorrows and troubles which come to us in our own lives, but to the troubles and misfortunes of others. Are you a burden bearer? Do you know of any poor, struggling sister or brother, whose burden you are helping to bear to-night?

A few months ago, a miner and his son, in one of the

Indianna mines, were digging coal, the father sent the son into one of the adjoining chambers to borrow some miner implements. While the child was gone a large piece of slate fell and pierced the father to the floor of the mine. His comrades rushed in and exerting almost super human strength, prized the huge mass of slate from his poor mangled body, only to see him die a few hours later. But the only way the comrades lifted the burden from their mangled brother, was by going to him. They couldn't stand away off and lift his burden. They couldn't stand across the mine and lift. They had to get close to him; so close that they could hear his words of anguish, see his tears of pain, touch his broken and bruised body. Do you desert your brothers and sisters when they are in trouble and send messages of sympathy and pray for them? Suppose you were in trouble, suppose some great burden was slowly pressing the

very life out of you, and like the priest and Levite, your sisters and brothers came and looked, or passed by on the other side. In the very bitterness of your anguish and disappointment, you would more than likely cry aloud in words of surprise and condemnation at such treatment, you would think it inhuman, brutal, unchristian.

But Christ has said, "Whatever you want some one to do for you, you must do for him. The Christian religion has but one foundation, and that is: do, do, do, and you must not wait for your neighbor to do first, you must begin. If you want some one to help you, you help them first. If you want some one to go an errand for you, go an errand for him first. If you want some one to compliment you, by all means compliment him first. If burdens, sorrows, sickness, trouble like a flock of ill-omen birds come upon you, if you have borne the burdens of your brothers and sisters,

you may rest assured that burden bearers and burden sharers will not be lacking.

Have you ever thought of the secret of the growth and the unrivalled success of the Catholic Church! Simply this: It practices a burden bearing religion. It cares for the helpless infant, it shelters the young girls, it educates the young boy, it houses, clothes and feeds the old men and women. We would have less scandal and fewer church-troubles and shameless rumors. We would have all our people getting closer together, getting in sympathy, the one with the other, uniting ourselves together for the purpose of throwing off the burdens which the wicked pile upon us, and which can only be resisted by bearing each other burdens. We can't stand alone. Christ does not want us to stand alone. He wants us to bear each others burdens. He wants the brothers and sisters of Richmond, with their

churches, schools, banks, societies, newspapers and business to get close together and bear each others burdens,- and if they do not, we are all doomed to disaster.

But we are so thoughtless. Because we are hale and hearty to-night, because our home is well appointed and warm, and stocked with provisions, because our wardrobe is well supplied, because we occupy some prominent position, because we own several homes, because we have a good bank account, sometimes in a thoughtless flush of pride, as we view our store of this world's goods, we withdraw ourselves from our sisters and brothers, grow cold and exclusive and actually conclude that we have not the time to be bothered bearing other people's burdens and we don't need any body to bear ours. You may be silly enough to think this, my dear sisters; you may be unwise enough to believe this my dear brothers, but don't you know that as our Lord and Saviour

Jesus Christ struggled on to Calvary, bearing your sins and mine, Simon, the Cyrenean helped him to bear his burden.

If Christ had a burden bearer and burden sharer and you not afraid that despite your stout heart to-night, you may yet need a burden bearer. If you do, my sisters, if you do my

brothers, see to it,- see to it now, that you to-night,

"do unto others as you would have them do unto you."