The Immortals--- An Easter Thought

The doctrine of the Immortality of the Soul has been, and still is, the imperishable heritage of the church throughout the Christian dispensation. It is the sublime note to which each pulpit discourse will on Sunday be tuned with lofty thought and poetic diction. There can be no other Easter message. On this day it is paramount over all other theological and religious dogma. It is deep, intricate and almost inscrutable to the finite mind, reasonable only when coupled with unfaltering faith and hope, sustained by an unswerving trust in the infalibility of Holy Writ.

Thousands of the faithful throughout the world will be soothed and comforted by the words which will fall from the lips of the men who have been ordained to the high function of the ministry and trained and nurtured in the principles of the Christian religion. It is their high calling and their eminent responsibility in this age of skepticism to maintain in its integrity that firm reliance on the hope of life beyond the grave, without which man would mourn as a hopeless pagan and not as a courageous Christian.

Leaving the doctrinal exhortation of the Immorality of Life to the efficient care of the clergy, let us approach the subject from another angle—one which can be discernible to the human intellect because evidence of its reality is manifest in both the pages of history and experience. The Immorality of influence, good deeds, and character. These things never die. The cold sod cannot cover them. The yare the footprints on the sands of time, from which another, seeing, may take heart again. The good influence, the noble deeds, the venerated character of certain men are alive in the world today although their bodies are mouldering in the dust whence they came. Greater and far more durable than any shaft of marble erected to their memories is the indelible imprint that their lives and their works have stamped on the hearts and minds of posterity. They are the Immortals. Into what mystic shadows their souls may flown to take their habitation through the aeons of eternity, we can only surmise on faith. What they were, what they thought, what they did, still lives, and will continue to live until time is swallowed up into Eternity.

Were sufficient space alloted to us we could call the long roll of that vast procession of men, who, although dead in the flesh and slumbering beneath the sod, are still living through their contributions to literature, art, music, statescraft, science, invention, and the bloody annals of war. Their histories date back to the very dawn of civilization, but we can only mention a few whose deeds are relatively modern. Shakespeare, Milton, Dante, Wordsworth, Tennyson, and our own beloved Longfellow, Whittier, Poe, Bryant -- can these bards ever die as long as cultured men and women love rich poetry? We may not know assuredly where their souls abide, but we do know that the creations of their genius are still throbbing with life and inspiring the hearts and minds of men. These and countless other Men of Letters, both in prose and poetry, have given an undying touch to the pages of literature and made them glow with immortality.

As long as the memory of men lasts can George Washington ever die? Or Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, and the later Abraham Lincoln? These men can never be dead as long as the pages of history and biography are aglow with the annals of their deeds, their words, their character. We dare not doubt that such souls as these men possessed must be listening to the music of heaven somewhere; but we not only dare not, we cannot, doubt that the influence of their lives is more vital today than during the times in which they lived in the flesh. The Immortality of influence , deed and character is such a substantiated and established truth that none but a fool could discredit it. Such lives cannot perish from the earth for they are the imperishable legacies decreed to us from a hallowed past. And the others whose names we cannot recount in a brief article — the great preachers, magnetic orators, profound scientists, patient inventors—all these worthies who in their respective spheres of activity have given to the world—something that it needed, something that has enriched posterity, something that has been Immortalized.

It has not been designed by the Creator that all men should attain unto greatness. There is the vast army of humble men and women who are living out their days in monotonous and unheralded tasks. The pomps of glory will ne'er lead to their graves. To the world at large they are unknown; history will not record their simple achievements. They will run their course on earth and then silently pass on to that mysterious bourn whence no traveler has yet returned. But, like the great, they, too, need never die.

In some rude hamlet, some sequestered village, some town or city, they may leave behind them the rich legacy of an influence, a noble and kindly deed, an revered character of stainless reproach, which will keep their lives immortal in the hearts and in the minds of thoseamong whom they lived and plodded, and be passed on to the memories of generations yet to come.

In the course of the past thirty years we have stood at the grave of many men and women and have consigned their mortal remains to their eternal resting place with the words, "earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust"; we have petitioned the Almighty to receive their spirits into the habitation prepared for those who love Him. Then we have departed and left the hallowed spot to the benediction of heavens gracious rain and sunshine. In the passing of the years we have returned to the humble village or remote town and discovered that one over whose obscure flesh we had paid our final tribute was not dead but was living on in a memory that was as fresh and green as the grass that had grown on his mound. Men were talking of some kindly deed, of his inspiring influence, of his noble character. His life was being lived on there among his former associates -- not a Shakespeare, not even an unknown Milton, no statesman — but just as an humble, noble soul who had done his duty day by day, helped others to do their's, walking humbly and living splendidly in the sight of God and man.

Such is Immortality—the Immortality of Influence and Deed and Character. The things that can never die. And these are the things that live on with God through eternity.

By W. W. Webster, Trappe, Md.

Eastern Shore Briefs

Caroline 4-H Clubs To Give Dinner April 2nd

Ridgely—The annual banquet of the Caroline County Federation of Girls' 4-H Clubs, directed by Miss Bessie M. Spafford, home demonstration agent, will be held in the church house of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Hillsboro, at 6.30 P. M., Friday, April 2. The toastmaster will be Miss Annice Ebling, for seven years a member of the Ridgely Club.

Features of the banquet will include a short play by 4-H club girls, folk dances by members of the Greensboro Junior Club, special musical numbers and talks by Thelma Bowman, a member of the Ridgely Club, and Margaret Seese of the Denton Club.

Denton Board To Enlarge Water Works System

Denton — Plans are being made by the town commissioners of Denton to improve the water system in the spring by driving another well and repairing the present water works.

Sherman L. Tribbitt, president, and Melvin C. James and George Beck, members of the Board of Town Commissioners, are negotiating with engineers for the proposed expansion of the water works required because of the growth of the town.

Anglers To Find Ferry Operating At Ocean City

Ocean City—A new Sinepuxent Bay ferry service will be established here this summer, it was announced this week by the Trimper Construction Company, in connection with their new development on the west side of the Ocean City Harbor.

Daniel Trimper, owner and manager of the company, said he planned to start the schedule when the surf bank fishing season opens, around the middle of May. The company expects to put on three boats which will transport three cars each. They will leave from a slip on the south side of the harbor and cross to a wharf constructed just south of the inlet on the beach.

Somerset Leader Is Buried From Church He Built

Princess Anne—Funeral services for Painter Dallas West, 91 years old, founder of the Christian Church on the Eastern Shore, preacher, business man, and power in Democratic politics, were held in Perryhawkin Christian Church, one of the several he founded in forty years of preaching. He died on March 15th.

While serving as minister, he operated two of the largest sawmills and crate factories in Somerset County, and also ran several farms. Many years ago he established a general store at Friendship Church, and later, when a postoffice was established there, it was called "West" after him.

Although he was active in Democratic politics for many years, he never held public office and was a candidate only once.

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