

To Whom Should We Speak?

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TEXT—Jeremiah 1:6-7: Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.



There is no rule of universal application, but one must consider the age, sex, and general condition of those whom he approaches.

Uncle John Vassar was accustomed to speak to every person whom he met on the subject of religion, but his rule might not be the best one for all. He was a man of years and experience, and he could hold his own with people whom a younger person could not so successfully deal with.

On one occasion he accosted two ladies in a hotel in Boston and inquired if they were Christians. "Certainly," they replied. "Have you been born again?" he asked.

"This is Boston," said the ladies, "and you know that we do not believe in that doctrine here."

Uncle John opened his Bible and showed them what God has to say about the subject, and in a short time all three were on their knees. When her husband returned at night, one of the ladies told him about her encounter with Uncle John.

"I wish I had been here," said the man. "What would you have done?" asked his wife.

"I would have told him to go about his business."

"But, husband, if you had been here, I think you would have said that he was about his business."

That was a true estimate of Uncle John Vassar. He made it "his business" to witness for Christ always and everywhere. Let us make it our business to witness for the master at all times, and in all places. It may not seem best to speak to every one whom we meet, but we should at least be willing to do so, if God requires it. Whether he does or not, can usually be determined by asking him.

Mr. Moody's Rule.

When Mr. Moody was just beginning to do Christian work, he promised God that he would speak to one person at least on the subject of religion, every day for a year. He kept his promise faithfully until the last day of the year. That night as he was about to retire, he remembered that he had not spoken to any one that day on the all-important question. It was rather late, but he did not wish to break his record, and so he rushed out into the street, and hailing the first person whom he met, he inquired if he was a Christian. The man told him it was none of his business, and added some other remarks not altogether complimentary.

Mr. Moody returned to his room thinking that he had made a fool of himself, and that probably he had hurt the cause which he meant to help. One of his friends who had heard of the incident rebuked him sharply, and told him that he must stop speaking to people in such an abrupt way, or he would make himself obnoxious.

God evidently took a different view of the matter, for in a few days the man whom he addressed so abruptly sought him out, apologized for the way in which he had abused him, told him that he had had no peace since that night on account of his sin, and asked him to show him the way of salvation. If we listen to the devil he will tell us that any kind of Christian work is foolish. Let us listen to God alone.

Begin at Home.

It is so much easier to speak to others than to those of our own household, that they are liable to be overlooked, but we certainly have a duty at home which we cannot afford to neglect. If our life has been inconsistent, we had better confess it frankly before we talk to others about their life. If we wait until we are perfect before we begin, we shall never begin. Remember that all God's work is done by imperfect workmen.

Do not omit to speak to the children of Christian parents, ministers included. Too often they have been so busy looking after other people's boys and girls that their own have been neglected. We are often mistaken in assuming that those who live in Christian homes must necessarily be Christians.

Surely all of our schoolmates, shopmates and friends have a right to expect of us a real interest in their spiritual welfare. It is not wise to talk to them constantly on the subject of religion, but we should let them know how we feel, and that they are on our heart all the time, even if we only speak to them occasionally.

It is here perhaps that the greatest perplexity arises, but let us never forget that we have an infallible guide who is sufficient for all emergencies.

WORK BY THE GOVERNMENT

Much of a General Nature, Such as Uniform Extension of Accurate Geodetic Control Points.

"Irrigation in Texas implies more than the watering of arid lands," said Governor Colquitt of that state, in an address before the National Irrigation congress, held at Salt Lake. "It implies the watering of wet lands," added the governor, "and the subsequent 'unwatering' of both arid and wet lands by means of drainage."

"This two-fold feature of irrigation," said the governor, "was demonstrated in the practice of rice irrigation in the coastal prairies, where the average rainfall ranges from 30 to 46 inches annually; and where, by means of irrigation, the state of Texas produces more than one-third of the rice grown in the United States."

"The legislature of Texas," said the governor, "is having a survey made of all the swamp and overflowed lands in the state, with the view of reclaiming them by this elaborate system of drainage."

"Undoubtedly the burden of doing the detailed and special part of the surveying will always fall upon the states," remarked the governor, "but much of a general nature at least should be done by the federal government, such, in part, for example, as the uniform extension of accurate geodetic control points, and precise level benchmarks, over areas where no basis measurements now exist, and where the regular preliminary topographic mapping by the federal bureau may be definitely postponed; the measuring in second-feet of the flood volumes in streams and rivers, as well as the minimum flow, with more extensive and uniform record of the climate features governing them; and the more systematic collection of data, and continuous keeping of records of the underground water supply in areas where such information is vital."

An interesting report of conditions in the state of Washington was made to the congress by Gov. M. E. Hay.

He stated that the irrigated area in his state embraced 400,000 acres but that as soon as projects now under construction are completed the irrigated area will be 800,000 acres additional.

He estimated that the possible irrigable area in the state was over 3,000,000 acres. This does not include the western portion of the state where heavy rainfalls obviate the necessity of artificial irrigation.

Although lumber has been generally regarded as the main source of the wealth of Washington, the governor made the astonishing statement that it would not be long before the products of the irrigated farms of the state would rival in wealth the combined returns of cereal farms and the lumber industry.

The governor stated that the public service commission in his state was keeping an eagle eye out for all fraudulent irrigation projects and land grabbing schemes in the determination of preserving of the lands for the home builders.

DEPTH FOR IRRIGATION DITCH

To Make Soil Retain Moisture It Must Be Kept Well Mulched—Deep Plowing Necessary.

If the soil is dry and hard and the water will not go into it, the irrigation ditches must be made below the hard layer of soil. It is necessary in many of the orchards to make the ditches with a plow. Make them deep with wide bottoms where the soil is heavy or made up of fine particles. In light sandy soil it is not necessary to make the ditches so deep, the ordinary shallow, narrow-bottomed ditches are good under such conditions, writes R. E. Tremble of Wenatchee, Wash., in the Western Farmer.

To make the soil retain moisture it must be kept well mulched, a dust mulch is very good, but it must be kept well worked and the mulch should be three or four inches deep.

Another great help in making the soil hold moisture is to keep a good quantity of humus in the soil. This can be done by plowing under cover crop or by applying manure, or both. The best method for our conditions, since there will be always a shortage of manure, is to grow a cover crop and add a small quantity of manure to the cover crop and plow both under together. We must provide for the continuous additions of humus to the soil for in this district the humus is very soon consumed out of the soil.

For a soil to properly receive the moisture from an irrigation, it must be in good physical condition. It is impossible to properly irrigate a soil which is in a poor physical condition. Many orchard soils are in a poor physical condition purely because they have not been properly plowed, or what is worse, have not been plowed at all. With orchards properly plowed at the right time, irrigation is much more efficient, and it is easier done.

Care of Garden.

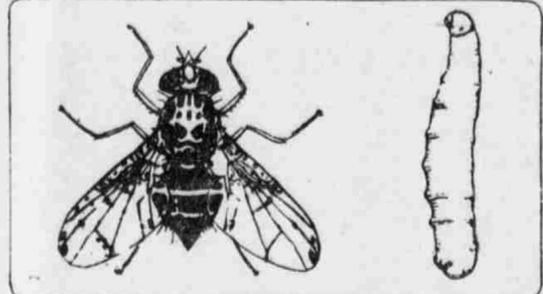
The garden is the best-paying piece of ground on the farm, if properly cared for, and the labor required to care for it is not so great if it is laid out with the design of getting the most possible for the amount of labor expended. It should be so arranged that a large share of the work can be done with the horse.

Rye Straw.

Rye straw is to be strictly kept away from sheep, especially ewes; the risk of ergot in the straw is to be avoided on account of the danger of abortion by its serious effects in this way.

MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT FLY IS SERIOUS DRAWBACK TO SUCCESSFUL CULTIVATION

Considerable Interest in Very Destructive Insect Recently Aroused by Action of Department of Agriculture in Calling for Hearings on Advisability of Quarantine.



The Mediterranean Fruit Fly and Larva. (Greatly Magnified.)

The recent announcement of Secretary Wilson of the department of agriculture of his purpose to hold hearings for the purpose of determining the advisability of a quarantine against importations of plants, fruits or trees from countries where the Mediterranean fruit fly is known to exist, has aroused considerable interest in this very destructive insect, and there have been many demands on the department for information concerning it. To meet this demand Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the bureau of entomology, has had prepared a circular—No. 169 of his bureau—of which A. L. Quaintance is the author.

That the Mediterranean fruit fly is a most serious drawback to the successful cultivation of fruit in the countries where it is established, there can be no question. Indeed, the cultivation of fruits is scarcely possible in the worst infested regions. The fruit-growing industry of Bermuda was practically destroyed many years ago by the introduction of the insect into that island. Its introduction into the United States in all probability would be calamitous to the orchard interests of our more southern states and of California, in which regions it would find conditions very similar to those in countries where it now exists in most destructive numbers. By the establishment of a strict quarantine, such as proposed by the secretary, it is believed that it will be possible to prevent disaster to the American fruit industry.

The greatest amount of damage is done to the ripening fruit by the female, which, with her sharp ovipositor, pierces the fruit and deposits the small glistening white eggs just underneath the skin. These hatch in a very short time, two to four days in midsummer. Their development, however, depends upon the ripeness of fruit—in all probability if the fruit is green, the eggs will not hatch. The larvae or "maggots" when hatched at once

begin to feed on the pulp of the fruit. In apricots they make straight for the center; in peaches and other fruits they are more inclined to work out in different directions. When fully developed, which usually requires a fortnight or three weeks, they leave the fruit, which has previously fallen, and enter the ground. Here they soon change to the pupal stage, and remain for 12 days to three weeks, when they become transformed into a fly, completing one generation.

The governments of certain countries have put in force regulations for the enforced control of fruit flies, and in each instance the principle followed has been the inspection of orchards and cleaning up and destruction of all fallen fruit. At the present time the United States authorities are experimenting with the "poison-bait" method of controlling the insect, similar to that tried in South Africa. In that case the bait consisted of a solution of five gallons of molasses, one pound of arsenate of lead, and 25 gallons of water. This was used in the form of a spray evenly distributed over the trees, bushes, prickly pears, etc. Not only were thousands of the flies prevented from reaching maturity, but the deposition of eggs in the fruit already ripening was almost completely stopped. The fruit on all the late varieties of treated trees ripened perfectly, and was sold on the market and guaranteed free from the maggots. On the trees that were not sprayed the situation was just the reverse, almost every ripe fruit being infested by maggots ranging from newly hatched to fully developed. The pupa were also present under some of the decaying peaches, and there were numerous flies flitting about the trees. The poisoned-bait method of controlling the fly appears entirely feasible in this country, especially in more or less arid regions, where the spray cannot be washed off by rains, and is not otherwise disturbed.

GRAPES NOT HURT BY HONEY BEES

Busy Little Workers Never Puncture Skin of Luscious Fruit, Says Expert.

There are some subjects on which it is impossible to convince our older farmers and fruit growers that their inherited notions are at fault. No amount of scientific assertion and demonstration by the highest authorities avail to change their opinions or to make them hesitate to assert and reassert them in their communications to agricultural journals and in meetings of societies where such questions are discussed.

One of these is that under certain climatic or other conditions wheat seed is transformed to chess seed; and another—much vouched for at this season—is that bees are injurious to grapes, says a writer in the Farm Progress.

Again and again have the most careful observers announced in lectures and published horticultural journals, that they had never seen a honey bee cut the skin of a ripe grape or of any other fruit.

Of course, it was freely admitted that bees were often seen sipping the juices of grapes that had been pecked by birds or clipped by the sharp jaws of wasps and other insects; and in this they do no harm, for a punctured or injured grape is of no further value to the vineyardist.

In an endeavor to settle this matter beyond dispute, Dr. Riley, while entomologist of the Department of Agriculture, authorized one of his assistants to investigate the matter thoroughly; and to do this a portion of a grape trellis with bearing vines enclosed in the most secure manner under a wire screened tent of considerable size, together with a hive of bees, with sufficient honey for their sustenance. As the grapes ripened the clusters were under almost constant inspection during the daylight hours, and, though the bees buzzed about them, never once during a period of several weeks was a bee seen to cut a grape, though when some were partly crushed by the attendant, the bees were eager for a sip of the fresh juice.

It would seem that nothing could be more conclusive for the exculpation of the bees from the charge of being depredators in vineyards, backed, as it is, by many other observations on

the actions of bees in the open; and yet the same charge is made, year after year, by grape growers who experience loss in having their clusters mutilated, and who seem determined to consider the harmless bees as the principal source of the trouble.

FERTILIZER FOR GREENHOUSE USE

Many Weed Seeds and Disease Germs Contained in Ordinary Stable Manure.

The use of rotted stable manure as a source of greenhouse plant food has been the custom for so many years that more effective forms of plant food make headway slowly; yet this rotted stable manure has many disadvantages. It always contains more or less weed seeds as well as disease germs, and it supplies plant food in available form very irregularly.

Also by fermentation it materially influences the temperature of the seed bed, a temperature we have no means of regulating. The ammonia it contains is not nitrated, hence for forcing it cannot be safely relied upon. For greenhouse work the fertilizer chemicals should be used, such as nitrate of soda, acid phosphate, and sulphate of potash. They should always be used in such proportions that 100 pounds of ammoniate nitrogen are always accompanied by 30 pounds of phosphoric acid and 70 pounds of actual potash.

The quantity to be applied should correspond to about three-fourths of an ounce of ammoniate nitrogen per square yard of surface; that is, to each yard of bench, use about five ounces of nitrate of soda, three ounces of acid phosphate and two ounces of sulphate of potash. A mixture of these proportions may be dissolved in water and applied in small proportions every few days, taking care, however, to cease applications with those plants it is desired to fully mature as soon as the desired growth is made.

Good Pasture Requirement.

Time was when the hogs were supposed to have had excellent care when they had all the grain and slop they wanted in an 8x10 pen. Nowadays a good pasture of clover, alfalfa or rape is considered an indispensable adjunct in the hog raising business by all farmers who are interested in economical pork production.

BACKACHE "GETS ON THE NERVES"

Many who suffer from backache and weak kidneys are unnaturally irritable, fretful and nervous. Not only does constant backache "get on the nerves," but bad kidneys fail to eliminate all the uric acid from the system, and uric acid irritates the nerves, keeping you "on edge" and causing rheumatic, neuralgic pains. Doan's Kidney Pills cure these ills by curing the kidneys. Here's proof:

A California Case:
Mrs. E. Walsh, 160 North Avenue, San Francisco, Cal., says: "I had such sharp, shooting pains through my kidneys it seemed as if a knife were being thrust into me. My back was so lame I could hardly stoop. Doan's Kidney Pills cured me after doctors failed. I have had no trouble since."

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NEITHER HAYSEED NOR ANGEL

But There Need Be Little Question That Young Lady Had Much Ingenuity.

Across the line on the Kansas side where the study of agriculture is compulsory, one of the high school girls took home her monthly report card and proudly announced:

"I took the highest grade in the class in history, English literature and German."

"That's all very well," replied her father, critically examining the card, "but how about this grade in agriculture?"

"Oh, well," explained the daughter, "I'm no hayseed!"

A little farther down a department grade, not altogether satisfactory, appeared:

"And how do you account for this grade in department?" he inquired.

"I'm no bloomin' angel, either," she replied.—Kansas City Star.

Too Much of a Good Thing.
"I was very happy," said the professor, "when, after years of wooing, she finally said, 'Yes.'"

"But why did you break the engagement so soon after?" asked his friend.

"Man, it was she that dissolved it." "Really?" said the friend. "How did that happen?"

"It was due to my accursed absent-mindedness. When, a few days later, I called at her home, I again asked her to marry me."—Youth's Companion.

No Scabs.
Blushing Bride—What was that our friends stuck all over our suit cases, dearest?

The Groom—Honey, love, that was a union label.

The Language.
"So the firm's gone under?" "Yes, I am sorry to see them going up."

If we could see ourselves as others see us we wouldn't believe it.

"PROUD AND GLAD"
Because Mother Looked So Well After Quitting Coffee.

An Ohio woman was almost distracted with coffee dyspepsia and heart trouble.

Like thousands of others, the drug—*caffeine*—in coffee was slowly but steadily undermining her nervous system and interfering with natural digestion of food. (Tea is just as injurious as coffee because it contains *caffeine*, the poisonous drug found in coffee.)

"For 30 years," she writes, "I have used coffee. Have always been sickly—had heart trouble and dyspepsia with ulcers in stomach and mouth so bad, sometimes, I was almost distracted and could hardly eat a thing for a week."

"I could not sleep for nervousness, and when I would lie down at night I'd belch up coffee and my heart would trouble me. It was like poison to me. I was thin—only weighed 125 lbs., when I quit coffee and began to use Postum."

"From the first day that belching and burning in my stomach stopped. I could sleep as soundly as anyone and, after the first month, whenever I met any friends they would ask me what was making me so fleshy and looking so well."

"Sometimes, before I could answer quick enough, one of the children or my husband would say, 'Why, that is what Postum is doing for her—they were all so proud and glad.'"

"When I recommend it to anyone I always tell them to follow directions in making Postum, as it is not good to taste if weak, but fine when it has the flavor and rich brown color." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

Read the little book, "The Road to Wellville," in pigs. "There's a reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest. Adv.