

BACCALAUREATE SERVICES HELD LAST EVENING

Rev. H. G. McClusky Delivers the Sermon—A Very Charming Duet Sung by Mrs. J. W. Falter and Miss Vallery.

Last evening the baccalaureate services of the Plattsburgh high school were held in the First Presbyterian church and was attended by a very large congregation that appreciated to the fullest extent the beauty and impressiveness of the services that meant so much to the young men and women just leaving the public schools to take up their duties in life. The members of the class were seated at the front of the church, and made a most pleasing picture as they listened to the sermon prepared especially for this important event. The meeting was a union one in its nature and the congregations of the Presbyterian, Methodist and Christian churches joined in the observance of the occasion. The prayer was offered by Rev. C. S. Perlee of the Christian church, while the scripture lesson was given by Rev. F. M. Druliner of the Methodist church. During the services several special musical numbers were given of a very high standard and were well given. The choir of the church gave as the anthem the soul inspiring song, "Onward Christian Soldiers," which was given in a most inspiring manner. The Plattsburgh male quartet, composed of Messrs R. W. Knorr, H. G. McClusky, Bert Knorr and Herman Hough, gave a most pleasing number, "One Sweetly Solemn Thought" while Mrs. J. W. Falter and Miss Mathilde Vallery sang a most charming duet, "Oh, Divine Redeemer" by Gounod, and the sweet voices of the talented ladies made the number most enjoyable. The sermon delivered by Rev. H. G. McClusky, pastor of the Presbyterian church, was one of exceptional force and filled with words of wisdom for the young people who are now taking up their part in the active life of the community. The sermon was as follows, and is without a doubt one of the best ever delivered in the city:

"The Forward March of Life."

Exodus, 14:15, "Speak to the Children of Israel that they go forward." and, Exodus 25, 40, "See that thou make all things after the pattern that was given thee in the mount."
—Exodus 14, 1-18.

A young man in the Adirondack mountains reaching the wharf too late to take the boat to his camp that night, decided to walk the distance of three or four miles around the lake. It was a new route for him but he was sure he could not lose his way. At first the trail was easily followed. After an hour it dwindled away and disappeared. The bushes became thicker, the mountains nudged him down close to the swamps, darkness was fast approaching, he was unarmed against forest beasts, the mosquitos swarmed thick about him, he became weary, and slightly fearful. But he came to this conclusion: The mountains have kept me from going wrong to the north, and the lake has guided me on the south, the camp must lie ahead, and to go back now is impossible to-night. I must go ahead. He gathered up all his courage, broke through the bushes, waded the swamps, the briars tore his flesh, the mosquitos sucked his blood, but he was soon rewarded in finding the camp and shelter. Similar is life's march. So often our trails fade away, our difficulties accumulate, our enemies are numerous, darkness of despair settles on us, then it takes the courageous heart to face the situation and do the only thing to do, go forward. Think! on my left I have been guided by the mountain of God's righteous laws: on the right I have not crossed the waters of dishonesty and impurity, I must be on the right path, I will not give up I will go forward. You will win.

Such was the situation with the Children of Israel. They had been in Egypt 430 years. Enslaved, they had been robbed of their rights and liberties. They had made a break for freedom. They were headed toward the land of Promise. Almost immediately they came to the Red Sea which seemed to be a barrier too great to surmount. It was here that so many of them gave up in despair and wanted to turn back. Better be enslaved in bondage than to be drowned in the sea. It was here that God's words came to Moses, their leader. "Speak to the Children of Israel that they go forward." They did and the sea opened before them. Later the waters that were bitter became sweet,

manna came to nourish them in the desert, water ran from the rock, enemies were defeated, and when at last they did lose heart at the giants reported ahead they retreated and they lost 40 years of their life, until a new generation of great courage could be amassed when they again went forward and won the prize of their march.

This is the message that I think God wants me to speak to you at this time—Go Forward. I want to add another part to it, found in Ex. 25, 40, and also quoted by Paul in Heb. 8, 5, "See that ye make all things after the pattern given you in the Mount." The Mount was where Moses received his laws from God. They were the guide for them in old testament times. The Mount is the culmination of the life of Christ and was from there that He said "Go and Preach the Gospel into all the World." The Gospel was the pattern that he gave to the world. Before we go any farther in this message tonight, I want to urge that this is the only pattern that will lead any in a successful march of this life.

Our land of Promise is Perfection. Be ye perfect even as your Father in Heaven is perfect, is our command. "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge will give at that day; and not to me only, but to all them that love His appearing," is the promise. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good work, is our equipment, knowing we can do all things through God who strengtheneth me."

The Goal of our life's march is not merely the salvation of the soul when God shall come to judge the quick and the dead. Some people seem to think that Christianity is getting to heaven by doing the very least possible to gain admission into the Pearly Gates. Christianity is a struggle to make a man the very best man here in this life. We do not have to wait until we die to be made perfect. Our goal of perfection includes every phase of life. A young man came to the mission chapel in Korea to be a Christian. He had fingernails six inches long. That was his sign of high social standing. He was told to go to work on a stone pile if he were to join forces with the others to live at the mission house. He refused. It would break his nails, and he by labor would lose his high class. In a few days he came back, went to work after clipping his nails. You cannot be a drone and gain in the march. The perfection of God's pattern in Christ is trying to accomplish perfection in business, society, government, literature, philosophy, art, science and ethics as well as religion. In this strife, it has to contend with a power that is working through the influence of Satan that is trying to defraud, degrade and destroy. All these parts of life's varied course, if conducted from the pattern from the Mount become honorable, successful and inspiring. But where the pattern is picked out of the valley of the mind of man, they have been made the means of dissension, blood-shed, and despair. If you are to be engaged in business, let me urge that you conduct it on Christian principles. Remember the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. Be honest in your dealings and always fair. A Christian is not a molly-coddle. Christ's instruction to his disciples was to be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves. Oh, the frauds in business and the distress it causes. Society is good, but needs to be made better. Its object is to be sociable, but it is too often governed by the pattern below. Just we, and no more, is its motives so often. You treat me and I will treat you. It is getting no where, but going around in a circle. The pattern from the Mount is this: "If ye do good to them that do good unto you, what thank have ye? for sinners do even the same. But do good to your enemies and give hoping for nothing again, and your reward shall be great and ye shall be the children of the highest."
—Luk. 6, 32-36.

Government—Oh, the selfishness of government—How it has failed in the world. Nations envious, distrustful, hateful, can but come to wars. It is but the case of Israel calling we will have a king to rule over us. The pattern is taken from man below and not the God above. The forward march of nations will not come until they take their pattern from the Mount: "Bear ye one another's burdens."

Literature—go forward literature. Tell me, which is the literature that lives? The myriad minded Shakespeare lives because he best was able to depict the human heart. His works are a mirror of the times and in them we can see the very thought and motives, but he never took his readers into the highest realm of purest motive. Victor Hugo, has written perhaps the world's greatest novel, and he there nobly convicts a mean heart, and inspires in it a desire for virtue,

the championing of the oppressed, patriotism and brotherly love. These are high motives, but fail to reveal as the pattern that of the Mount. Browning, Tennyson, Cowper, Wordsworth, Shelley, Keats and many others have scintillations of Divine (Millon) wisdom, but its brilliancy is not such that radiates the soul with Divine Love. (Lowell) What can we say of the present literature? It is the product of modern thinking and acting. It is too materialistic, and also too sentimental. It is romantic, it is socialistic, it is ephemeral and colloquial. The world has yet to see a great writer who combines great courage with a deep spiritual life, combined with literary genius able to lift modern thinking into the mind of Christ, thus to lead this mind to know God. So much of our—shall we call it literature—is searching the sunlight of true down in the valleys of the wisdom of the mind of man instead of on the mountain top of God's eternal truths.

Science.—You have done wonderful things in the last century. It seems as though you have been the voice of God speaking to us from out of nature. But science has a still greater mission. It is to go forward until it confirms the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the father of Christ our Lord, and will aid in bringing this world to its knees before God.

Philosophy.—We admire your mighty efforts. We praise your undaunted courage; we marvel at your depth of wisdom. But philosophy in all its power has not taken us above the clouds. It has not reached the Invisible. Like the tower of Babel it has taken from the earth to build into heaven and it has not succeeded. Aristotle, Plato on to Fichte, the idealist, Schopenhauer, the pantheist, Strauss, the rationalist, Herbet Spencer and his psychogy, and the logic of John Stuart Mills, all including the evolution of Heckel and Darwin are mighty examples of mighty minds, but have failed to produce an infinite, immanent and personal God. Drummond has come nearer the true philosophy of life when he says we cannot rise to the heights by propelling from below, but only as we are pulled up from below. As the flower finds itself being moulded into its various beauty of color not by a power within itself, but by the rays of sun from above infusing its life and being lifted, and as the rain that comes down from above has first been pulled to the heights by the same power of the sun, so man finds that he is not lifted unto God by that power that is within him, but realizes that the completeness of his life comes from above, and there is the greatest philosophical truth in the words of our Savior, "I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto me." Go forward philosophy, but do so by taking your premise from the Mount, instead of the valley.

Religion.—We want to go forward to the very best religion there is on the face of the earth today. Man needs religion like the flowers the sun. Are you satisfied with your religion? What is it? Are you bowing down to idols of wood and stone? So do the Confucianist, the Brahminist; but here we see manhood in a very low ebb. The Mohamedan worships Alla, but has murder in his heart for the gentile. He that bows to a fetish is slavishly bound in superstition. Let us turn to Europe and see their religion. They are cultured. Just now one look takes our breath in horror. God forbid that I adopt that religion. To America, I read its literature, I view its plays. I study its corporations, I behold its city life and see and am convinced that America, too, is dwelling in the valley of greed, pleasure, and egotism. True religion, where are you and how may you be found? 'Tis true, you will not find it as the outstanding quality of nations, today, nor does it impress itself upon you from the vision of public life, but it is here. There are those that have not bowed the knee to Baal. We have the homes such as Burns tells us in his Cotter's Saturday Night. How the father comes in from the field. "At length his lonely cot appears in view, beneath the shelter of an aged tree; the expectant wee things, toddlin', stacher through to meet their dad. The simple home, the mother wi' her needle and her shears, makes old clothes look amais as weel's the new. How a strappan youth raps and brings the sparkle to Jenny's eye, after the supper of halesome porridge at which guest aloses shares: The cheerful supper done, wi' serious face, They round the ingle form o' circle wide; The sire turns o'er with patriarchal grace, The bid ha' bible, ance his father's pride: His bonnet reverently is laid aside, His lyart haffets wearing thin and bare; Those strains that once did sweet in Zion glide, He wales a portion with judicious care: And "let us worship God," he says, with solemn air.

Tis true that "From scenes like these old Scotia's grandeur springs, that makes her loved at home, revered abroad," and such scenes as these are the factors that are stabilizing America, but we need more, and religion will not go forward until more of our homes will make it a part of their family daily worship. Thus we have outlined our goal. Let us urge this class now as you are looking out upon a world—a life—that you recognize this goal, and may I speak to you that you go forward to attain it.

1. A forward march calls for sacrifice. People will live contentedly in stifling quarters, during the erection of the new spacious home. You will endure bravely the present cramped school house; next fall you will see the newer and larger erected near you. That is those that have not been honored as you by graduation. I ordered a child's wagon sent to my house one day, and when it came I saw that it was too small, but the little girl had gotten into it and was so delighted that I had a hard time trying to convince her that she must let me take this back and wait a week for a nicer and larger one. She believed the time to take the pie was when it was passing. In the winning of Barbara Worth, in the 2d chapter is well described the journey over the hot sands so long on shortened rations of water. Pat, the Irishman, raving with thirst and unable to stand it longer, jumps for the canteen to drain its contents but as he did so he looks into the barrel of a huge 45. He had to sacrifice that drink for the good of the whole party, or drink and die in the act. The children of Isreal failed to look ahead at the blessings of the land that they would occupy, but with eyes riveted on the present, they saw only gloom and hardship. They complained against God and Moses. They did not care to sacrifice. Every successful man that you see before us today, if you will read his life you will find that he endured years of curtailed pleasures with work and labor, arduous and prolonged. It does seem that to live a Christian life in this world, it is to give up much of the pleasure that we find here. "Moses chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season." It pays, in good conscience, in a life of honor, in love of God, in everlasting life.

2.—The forward march says, "Good-bye" to the past. Whatever the past has meant to you, either of joy or of ease, it has gone. He who thinks over the past and lives in it is a dreamer. The future is what you have to meet. Think over it, plan over it, meet it prepared. This is one thing I do, forgetting the past and reaching forth the things that are before, I press on toward the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

3. You go forward by love. Love in the highest sense. How much of that we call love is merely the sensual and the selfish. Love as that of Christ where says, "Love your enemies—love your neighbors as yourself." The love that hates no one, the love that cannot be done by the enemy, the love that makes you see the good there is in people, and makes you want to give everyone a ray of cheer of sunshine.

"When you see a man in woe, Step right up and say hullo; Say hullo and how do you do, How's the world a usin' you. Slap the fellow on the back, Bring your hand down with a whack, Walk right up, don't go slow, Grin, and shake, and say hullo. Is he clothed in rags, O sho, Step right up and say hullo, Rags in but a cotton rull, Jut for whappin' up the soul. And a soul is worth a true, Hale and hearty how do you do, Don't wait for the crowd to go, Step right up and sal hullo. When big vessels meet, they say, They salute and sail away. Jut the same are you and me, Lonesome ships upon the sea. Each one sailing his own jog, To a port beyond the fog, Let your speakin' trumpet blow, Lift your horn and say hullo. Say hullo, and how do you do, Other folks are as good as you, And when we leave this house of clay, Wanderin' in the far-away. When we travel to the strange, Country together side the range: Then the souls you've cheered will know, Who you be, and say hullo." —Foss.

That is going forward by love. 4. You will need faith. Faith in things; faith in man; faith in God. If you make a deal with another, do not be afraid to let go your end until you get a hold on the end of the other. We must trust and go ahead. A boy had a dream: A rich man came to him and said "take my riches and use it and take my place as the rich man of the community. A doctor came to him and said, I am going to give up my practice and I want you to

take my place and be the doctor of this town. A judge came to him also and said you take my place on the bench. An the town drunkard came to him and said, I want you to take my place in the town." The boy awoke. It was a dream, but he realized that some day he had to take the place of some one, and you are going out to take the place of some one whom you have thought of before as part of the city life. Prepare yourselves and have faith, and when it comes you will be capable to serve in a good capacity. While crossing Lake Michigan one dark night, I went up on the deck to the pilot's wheel. All was dark except for a light that lighted up the compass. On the side of the compass dial there kept flashing continuously this word, ahead, ahead, ahead; the captain said nothing, it was all dark out over the waters of the lake, but he would turn the wheel now and then, look at the compass and all the time there kept flashing the little word, ahead. He was running that boat on faith. That trusting to the rules being right, that the compass spoke the truth about the location, and that the flash spoke the truth that they were going ahead, and after a few hours the lights of the great city of Chicago came into view ahead, and we were landed safely into the harbor. Is not life with us the same? Our future all unknown. We are guided by the rules—"Obey my voice and I will be your God." This is all we have to do, and God will take charge of the future.

I do not ask to see the distant scene. One step is enough for me. Finally, All progress you make in life will count you little if you have not concluded in the Eternal Life. "What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" We need personality today in all avenues of trade and knowledge. But if it is the personality of a mere man, than such will not help one very far, but if it be that of a man plus that of God in a man than such personality will give others an inspiration for eternity. "He that believeth on me, the works that I do he shall do also, and greater works than these shall he do." I care not how a man has risen

and sought recreative rest in scenes that once charmed me—in society where I was welcome; but the common talk of daily news, of politics and trade, was senseless as the chatter of the jays in autumn forest, and cries in these words: O, man who begot me! O, woman who bore me; Why, why did you call me to being and to breathe? With ruin behind me and darkness before, I have nothing to long for, or live for but death." His wife was taken by sickness to a bed where death was to be her constant watch till the end. The despair that he had from his own mother's death was again a thousand times overwhelming him now. He had loved his wife as any man can love. He heard death say: "This casket here—suppose we loose the clasp. These are her jewels—pretty gifts of yours, those slippers on the rug, the time will come when you will kiss the soles." He knew he had done her the wrong of always refusing to accept her God. How pure she had always been. Her last request was, as she had had a pre-mortal conversation with his departed mother who said she must once more speak to him and he would be saved. "You have now but one resource—you are shut up to this—you must bow down and worship God; and give your heart to him, accept his love for you, and feast your excellence in Him. Pray said the spirit of my mother and of God and of my wife. O, God be merciful to me, a reprobate, I have blasphemed thy name, abused thy patient love, and held from thee my heart and life, and now in my extreme of need I come to thee." Multitudes responded with, Amen. She died. He kissed her with calm, saying, "The Lord hath given, the Lord hath taken away, blessed be His name." He had attained the goal. Let me speak that you 1916, go forward!

A SPECIAL 30 DAYS SALE

FARM IMPLEMENTS!

Commencing Saturday Morning, May 27th,

and continuing up to and including June 27th, we will offer all our big line of Farm Implements at greatly reduced prices. This is surely the golden opportunity to buy your farming equipment, at the time all such goods are rapidly advancing in price, we are offering them to you at a reduction. Look over the following articles, compare the prices and come in and let us talk Farm Machinery to you:

One wood wheel farm truck	.....	\$45.00	value at \$40.00
One iron wheel farm truck	.....	32.50	" " 27.00
Four V. A. John Deere cultivators	.....	27.50	" " 21.00
One John Deere shift seat cultivator	.....	29.50	" " 22.00
One John Deere hammock seat cultivator	.....	30.00	" " 22.00
One Sattley hammock seat cultivator	.....	29.00	" " 22.00
One Sattley balance frame	.....	27.50	" " 21.00
One Sattley Walker	.....	17.50	" " 14.00
One two-row stalk cutter, all that we have left	..	51.00	" " 40.00
30 tooth harrows at per section	.....		4.00
Three-hole cookers, Blue Bell oil burner	.....	13.50	" " 10.00
Peerless Steam Washers	.....	5.00	" " 3.00
John Deere Binders, (the best on the market) can save you from \$20 to \$25 as long as they last.			

Star Litter Carriers at wholesale cost price.

Big Discount on all Farm Implements, Buggies and Wagons for the Next 30 Days

BIG DISCOUNT ON HAY FORKS!

J. L. BARTON & CO.,

(Successors to G. P. Eastwood)

Plattsburgh, : : : : : Nebraska

See the kinds of fancy stationery, the latest up-to-date, and sure to please, at the Journal office.