

## ENEMIES IN THE WAY

One of the Twelve Stories of Solomon.

BY THE "HIGHWAY AND BYWAY" PREACHER

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Scripture Authority—1 Kings 11: 14-25.

### SERMONETTE.

"And the Lord stirred up an adversary unto Solomon." Man is consciously or unconsciously working out the purposes and plans of God. The good are the positive forces, the evil the negative forces; the one is constructive, the other destructive. In co-operation with the good and in spite of the evil God is working out his will in the world. Even the wrath of man is made to praise God.

The phrase which we have quoted above is a singular one and presents a mystery concerning God's ways which offers a difficulty to some people. But this difficulty disappears when we realize that it is a declaration from God's point of view.

From God's point of view his is the master hand which directs each move on the chess board of human life, so that the evil forces are but working out their own defeat and aiding in the final triumph which is to be his. From the human point of view only the surface facts are apparent, and it would seem as though events transpired independent of God's will and in spite of his best purposes.

There is a sense in which man may be independent of God, and choose a way which is contrary to God's will, but he who knows the end from the beginning sees a thousand and one ways in which the very energies of evil may be harnessed to the working out of the Divine will.

So in these troubles which arose to threaten Solomon and endanger his kingdom we find that it was God who was operating to the punishment of Israel and her king because of their sin and wickedness.

But God used the human forces as his rod of chastisement, and events followed only their natural development. Seeds had been sown in the past which in the course of the years germinated and then bore fruit as the iniquity of Solomon provided the favorable soil and conditions.

And yet it was the Lord who stirred up these adversaries against Solomon, and while Hadad the Edomite and Rezon the son of Eliadah and the other adversaries conspired against Solomon and sought to accomplish their own selfish aims and work out their own revenge, they were but executing the judgment of God to the purging of his people from their sins and the bringing to pass of the ultimate triumph of his righteousness in the earth.

What a long process it is and how untrusting and faithful God is. To the finite mind it sometimes seems almost a hopeless struggle. As we contemplate the powers of evil and the weakness and sin of those who profess to be God's people playing into the hands of the evil forces, it looks as though everything was going wrong, but we need to get the vision of David which enabled him to exclaim hopefully and joyfully: "I had fainted unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."

### THE STORY.

WHAT distress and unrest the gully heart nows as the occasional rumblings of present trouble tell of the gathering storm. How often on a summer's day when the sky has been bright and the air filled with the songs of birds and all seemed so full of joy and peace, there has come the speck of a cloud in the distance, there has flashed out for an instant the fiery tongue of the lightning, and the low faint rumble of thunder has come to the ear, all telling of a gathering storm, but as one has turned his face upward towards the sun and again has listened to the songs of the birds, the thought of the coming storm has been forgotten in the delight which is found in the beauty and the brightness of the moment. Then again comes the lightning flash a little more vivid than before and the voice of the thunder becomes more insistent, and again with startled vision one sees that the cloud speck has grown. But it seems so far away after all, and it is so bright and cheery all about that one persuades himself that the storm will not come thither, and so again the cloud and the lightning and the thunder are forgotten as one becomes absorbed in the pleasure of the moment.

So was it with Solomon. The riches and splendors of his kingdom were unsurpassed by any of the nations about, and as the years had come and gone the king had given himself up more and more to the ease and delights and luxuries with which he was surrounded. Step by step he had yielded to the enervating influences of palace and harem, and more and more had he

come to live on that sensual plane where the pleasure of the moment is of more concern than any reward which self-denial might claim in the future.

Pleasure is enervating, and offers productive soil in which the seeds of trouble may grow. Solomon with his growing love for the ease and pleasures of life became more and more petulant and exacting with those upon whom rested the administration of the affairs of the kingdom. There was a constantly increasing extravagance in maintaining the royal household, for with the multiplying of the high places to the gods of the many princesses of the harem, had come the inextricable and voluptuousness attendant upon the ceremonies and festivities. This placed an additional burden upon the people, for from them must be raised the increasing amounts needed by the king. The collectors of the tribute were forced to be more exacting, and all manner of corrupt methods were countenanced so long as the required amount was forthcoming. This must naturally lead to discontent on the part of the people and undercurrents of murmuring began to be heard upon every hand.

Whether these murmurings of discontent reached the ears of the king or not certain it is that they spread to the surrounding nations so that Hadad the Edomite heard of it in Egypt whither he had fled years before to escape the unrelenting vengeance which Joab, the captain of David's army, had inflicted upon his father's house and his father's people.

And way to the north to the city of Damascus came tidings of these things and were as sweet music in the ears of Rezon, the son of Eliadah, for said he:

"Now, perchance I will be able to repay Solomon for all the evil which his father David did unto my master Hadadezer when he destroyed Zobah and killed the people thereof!"

Secretly, therefore, Rezon sent emissaries into the land of Israel, and they found no difficulty in reaching to the very heart of the royal city of Jerusalem, for the open relations which Solomon had established with all the nations about had made of Jerusalem a perfect thoroughfare for those of other lands, and as one after another the high places were set up and the gods of all the nations about were openly honored and served, these foreigners came to feel quite at home. Thus it was that the spies of Rezon found it an easy task to remain at Jerusalem and to follow the trend of affairs, and enable their king to make incursions into the northern part of the kingdom. And when the army of Israel was sent to intercept and punish these marauding bands, these same spies in Jerusalem were able to keep Rezon informed of every move of the advancing army.

Thus it was that Rezon became a sharp thorn in the flesh to Solomon, and brought to him days and nights of anxiety and distress. And well it would have been if these periods of trouble had driven the king from his sinful pleasures and the following of the strange gods back to the true God; but, instead, Solomon sought to drive away his troubled thoughts and to stifle his uneasy conscience by plunging yet deeper into the whirl of festivities and pleasures which marked this period of his reign. Not a day but what some one of the many, many high places was the scene of a gorgeous and gay assemblage, and often there were half a dozen festival occasions in full play simultaneously, and to these idolatrous celebrations Solomon suffered himself to be drawn by his wives.

So it came to pass that the sins of Solomon offered the opportunity to his enemies of troubling the kingdom and bringing distress upon the people. And while Rezon served as a menacing hand at the north, Hadad returning from Egypt, where he had won great prestige and power with Pharaoh, having married the sister of the wife of Pharaoh, came into the south country and was not long in stirring up trouble for the king there. "Who is this Hadad that would dare to narrow the borders of Israel?" demanded the king one day, petulantly, as report reached his ears of the increasing power of a band of men who had come into the south country and were extending their influence over the people there.

And when the king was told that he was the son of the Edomite king whom Joab the captain of his father's army had slain, he was troubled, and when he learned further that he had just come from Egypt and was in special favor with Pharaoh, the powerful ruler of Egypt, he feared greatly, saying:

"Shall we indeed suffer the loss of our kingdom to the south? Now is coming to pass that which the prophet Ahijah declared should be."

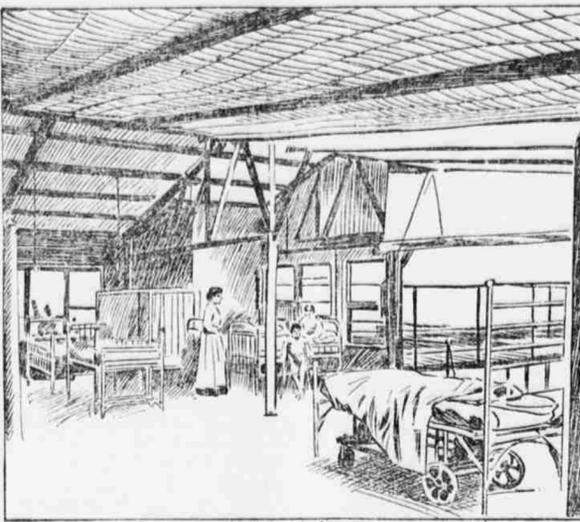
"Yea, but did not he say that it should not be during thy days, but during the days of thy son when he should come to the throne?" asked one of Solomon's advisers, reassuringly.

"Verily I believe thou art right," exclaimed the king, with a sigh of relief, and at that moment a courier announced the departure of the company for the festivities to the god Chemosh, and King Solomon arose and went with them.

Once a Corporal, Now a Minister. M. Präscheck, who now enters the Austrian cabinet as minister in the place of Count Aehrenberg, is a farmer in a small way who derives a portion of his income from the retail sale of the milk of his cows, having a farm of about 60 acres.

He put in three years in the army,—not as an officer, but as a bugler, and figured as such in the reserve forces of the army with the rank of corporal.

# OPEN AIR WAR ON PNEUMONIA



OPEN AIR ROOF WARD—AWNINGS DOWN

That fresh air is the best kind of medicine for almost every kind of disease which in any way affects the respiratory organs is coming more and more to be realized. Years ago persons suffering from bronchitis, pneumonia and kindred ailments were guarded with the most zealous care lest the least whiff of fresh, cool air should strike them or even enter the room where the patient was confined. And to the common mind even to-day pneumonia is associated with warm rooms protected from every draught, with efforts to keep the temperature equable. But such methods no longer receive the indorsement of the professional men whose business it is to keep pace with the latest developments of medical and surgical science. It is no longer the close room where the pneumonia patient is kept sheltered but in the apartment where the greatest amount of fresh air can be secured. Perhaps the Presbyterian hospital of New York has taken the most advanced steps in respect to this open air treatment for pneumonia, and a visit to their roof ward would come as a shock and a revelation to many who still hold to the old method of treatment.

There on that high, exposed place, with only canvas awnings to shelter from snow or rain are to be seen a score or more of patients on iron beds, their pallid faces upturned to the winter sky, their breath frosted by the keen wind, and the falling light of the bleak winter day giving an aspect of utter dreariness to the wind-swept space.

"These," said the doctor in attendance, with a comprehensive sweep of arm over the still, white faces, "are our pneumonia patients. We have now about 45 in all. Here is where we bring them to combat the disease. See this one—high fever, delirious when brought in, now resting comparatively easy—asleep, as you may see. This other, a child four years old—here, put your arms under the cover—there, now, keep still and go to sleep. Afraid of the dark? It won't hurt you. Go to sleep now. You'll wake up feeling all right."

Yet here were pneumonia patients, many of tender years, exposed to every winter blast that blew; no roof overhead, only an awning that could be slid over rods in case of rain or sleet or snow. It seemed barbaric. The doctor said that it was only revolutionary.

Here is Dr. William P. Northrup of the visiting staff of the Presbyterian hospital, and it was due to his strong faith in this radical idea, and to his insistence in the virtues of the open-air treatment for all suffering from pneumonia and acute infectious diseases, such as typhoid, scarlet fever, diphtheria, etc., that this open-air ward was established on the roof of the hospital.

"In one sense it is an experiment," Dr. Northrup said, "and in another it is not. I have employed the treatment in private practice and have been more than satisfied with the result. It is an experiment only in the sense that this is the first time it is being tried out in a hospital and on a large scale. It was only at the beginning of this winter that the ward was made ready for the reception of pneumonia patients. That is the only type of disease that we are treating in it now."

"The result has been satisfactory. It has been conclusively shown that no harm has followed the sending of the patients directly into the open air, and conspicuous benefits have been noted. The patients are less nervous, their sleep is better, and this conserves their strength; they are able to take more nourishment, and once past the crisis their recovery is more rapid."

"It is not claimed that the open-air treatment kills bacteria. It is not even sure that it shortens the period of the disease. But it is sure that it enables the patient to bear up against the poison, helps him throw it off, renders breathing less difficult, induces restful sleep, increases appetite, aids the assimilation of food—in short, contributes in every way to his betterment and harms him in no way at all."

The establishment of the open-air ward was the result of Dr. Northrup's

recommendations and the munificence of Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, who bore the expenses of the undertaking, and who has shown much interest in the experiment, being a frequent visitor to the institution.

What led to the adoption of the open-air ward was the successful outcome of an experiment which directly preceded the permanent installation of the ward.

"A portion of the roof," Dr. Northrup explained, "was extemporized into a roof garden for the benefit of the sick children who were sent to the hospital for treatment. A framework of iron piping, covered with canvas was made to lean to, around the sides of which canvas curtains were adjusted. The arrangement was crude, but did good work in summer and early fall. What was pronounced a very cozy place for a family picnic party in September or October was by the same persons denominated desolate in November and December. However, it was airy, well sunned, and endurable. The children spent six hours a day there all winter, the entire ward being emptied out upon the roof, while their ward below on the first floor was well 'blown out' through the wide-open windows."

"What kind of cases were sent to the roof? All cases. On many days every case in the children's ward was sent to the roof. Exceptionally, where the case was considered unfit for removal, such as one having a weak heart, or one just recovering from an operation, or when an extension apparatus was attached to the bed, a child or two remained in the ward. This was regrettable, because the ward could not then be adequately aired through wide-open windows. By all cases I mean pneumonia in all stages, appendicitis, meningitis, burns, fractures, etc."

"Most onlookers have wished to know details about pneumonia cases taken out of doors on the roof. All pneumonia cases in the height of fever, while the stimulating effect of the pneumotoxin was full on, were regularly on the list to go to the roof for six hours on pleasant days. That did not mean avoiding winds or cold with sunlight, but avoiding rain or snow."

"It has been noted by the nurses that the children on rainy days, after being confined to the ward all day, become restless and peevish toward evening. When returned from a good airing on the roof they are hungry and sleepy. At night their sleep is quiet, profound, unbroken."

"This 'roof ward' only illustrates the greater emphasis now being laid by the medical profession on fresh-air treatment."

### POISONING FROM MOTOR GASES.

Prove in Some Cases Very Harmful to Motor Occupants.

A curious and interesting fact regarding what may be called "automobile poisoning" has been recently communicated to the Paris Society of Legal Medicine by Mr. Marcel Briand, as reported to La Nature. Says this paper:

"The waste gases are capable, if the journey is a long one, of producing real symptoms of poisoning. Some automobilists have actually been obliged to give up their favorite sport because of the gases which, penetrating in small quantities even to the interior of the vehicle, cause them present trouble. The waste gases not being adapted for contact with our bronchial tubes, it is proper to notify the automobile makers that the floors of their machines should be made at tight as possible, in order that passengers may be protected from these products, which may, at the very least, cause distressing headaches."

### Where They Went.

A business concern in Park row which runs about all night had missed scores of incandescent globes lately. Since these globes are fairly expensive and the item of loss had become pretty sizable, a detective was put on the job. It took him just 24 hours to find that the globes were as good as cash over the bars of the Park row and Bowery gin-mills—one globe, one drink of whisky.—New York Sun.

## IN THE PUBLIC EYE

### HANDLED GOTHAM PANIC



William A. Nash, president of the Corn Exchange bank, probably did as much as any man in New York to put a stop to the recent panic.

J. Pierpont Morgan alone excepted. When the flurry came on he was made chairman of the clearing house committee, and it fell mainly to him to pass upon the securities offered by banks in need of assistance, to decide which should be aided and which suspended. He was regarded by the other bankers as the balance wheel of the Wall street situation. Nor is this his first experience of a panic, for in 1903 he was one of five men who, as executive committee of the clearing house, had that panic in charge. His sound common sense, his keen business methods and his far-sighted mental vision in each case saved him from making any very grave blunders, and he came through both ordeals with flying colors.

Mr. Nash commenced life as messenger boy in the bank of which he is now president. He won his advancement step by step, through his own efforts, and 25 years from the day he entered the bank he was its president. It then had a capital of \$1,000,000; now it has \$8,000,000. He was the father of the branch system and the Corn Exchange was the first bank to open branches when the law was passed authorizing it to do so. To-day it has 22 branches and minor depositories throughout the city of New York.

Mr. Nash holds the idea that hard work, no matter how intelligent, will never raise a man very much above his fellows, unless it is combined with the power of thinking for one's self and aiding his superiors with suggestions. A man who can do this can practically dictate his own terms in the banking world.

### CHANCELLOR MAY RESIGN



Chancellor von Buelow, finding that it requires a man of more than the average attainments to fill the shoes of the late Prince Bismarck and to conduct the affairs of the German empire, is said to be on the point of retiring to private life. His uncompromising attitude towards the socialists, who are rapidly gaining in strength, has been the means of blocking many of the emperor's schemes and has caused the utmost difficulty in his getting the money he wants for an immense army. He has won for himself the hostility of some of the court favorites, because he has denounced their scandalous behavior, and he has even made enemies in the emperor's own household by his opposition to the marriage of the crown prince to the beautiful Cecilie, because she was the daughter of a Russian grand duchess whose escapades were the talk of all Europe. All this has reminded Germany that Von Buelow was not so very impeccable himself when he was a young man, and that his marriage to the lovely Princess Camporeale was achieved only after she had run away from Count Charles von Doenhoff, her rich but aged husband.

The princess found the rambling old Roman palace lonely with only her husband, a man old enough to be her grandfather, for company, and she was attracted by the young attaché of the German embassy.

Without any pretense at secrecy the princess left her husband and fled from Rome with her young lover. That of course terminated Von Buelow's connection with the embassy, and few people would have given much for his chances of advancement in diplomatic life. The appealing charm of his wife, even then little more than a child, her rare beauty and their fidelity, coupled with Von Buelow's own undoubted talents, kept him in the imperial favor, and he was sent from one embassy to another until he returned to Rome as German ambassador.

Roman society conveniently forgot the elopement, and Von Buelow having married the lady when her husband had divorced her 11 years after the elopement, they were received into the most exclusive circles. The incident is now being recalled in Berlin society, however, and strong pressure is being brought to bear upon the emperor to induce him to dismiss his chancellor.

### EX-SENATOR'S FLIGHT



Warner Miller, formerly United States senator from New York and once prominent in Republican politics as leader of the "Halfbreeds," has fallen as a result of the Martinique disaster several years ago, "bankrupted by the acts of God and William Nelson Cromwell," as one of his friends expressed it.

He did not own a foot of land in Martinique, nor did he have a dollar invested there, yet the terrible explosion of natural forces that blew off the top of the mountain, wiped a city from the face of the earth, laid waste the fields and caused much destruction among the shipping caused his ruin years later. Deeply interested in the Nicaragua canal project, Miller had invested much of his money in it. The United States had virtually decided to undertake the work. Miller stood to make a fortune. Then came the disaster, which brought with it the fear of similar outbreaks in Nicaragua. The Panama canal people had meantime come to their senses and were preparing to make an equitable bargain. The Nicaragua canal project was dropped and Miller was deeply involved. To meet his obligations he disposed of his pulp mill and lumber holdings and pinned his faith to the Sierra Consolidated Gold Mining Co., a West Virginia corporation. He held about one-third of its total stock of \$3,000,000, hoping to recover his standing through that, but the mines never became producing properties, although he held on for 12 years, and in the end it came to crash, bringing Miller down with it.

Miller first came into prominent notice when Senator Roscoe Conkling and Thomas C. Platt resigned their seats in the senate, to appeal to the people for their indorsement. They failed to receive the indorsement they sought, and Miller became senator to succeed Conkling. He never did anything remarkable in the senate, and retired almost as obscure a personage as when he entered.

### TROUBLE IN INDIA



Lord Elgin, secretary of state of the colonies, is accused by the British press of being responsible for the latest ferment in the Transvaal by allowing the colonial legislature to treat British Indians as criminals and send them to jail if they refuse to register their finger prints and other marks of identification. Many of the proud-spirited high caste Indians have gone to jail rather than submit to such an indignity, and in a few days their "martyrdom" will be known all over India.

Just as the stories sent home by Indian residents of the Transvaal before the Boer war of the powerlessness of the British there brought on several uprisings and two rather serious wars on the northwest frontier, so the story of the treatment of these Indians now may be the cause of still more serious troubles.

Lord Elgin is said to have explained that he was forced to consent to the registration law of the Transvaal on threat of a rebellion, but if he yielded to such a threat he shows himself to be a much weaker man than he was ten years ago when he was viceroy of India. The frontier was then in a disturbed state and the Afghans, stirred up by Russia, were committing outrages. Lord Elgin took upon himself the responsibility of sending an army to bring the disturbers to terms, which he did in short order.

Lord Elgin, although a Scotch nobleman and a descendant of an uncle of King Robert the Bruce, was born at Monklands near Montreal, while his father was governor general of Canada. The latter died in Canada when the present Lord Elgin was a lad of 14. The family had been in the British diplomatic service for generations, and the name was known all over the east.