

## OLD SAWNEY'S LECTURES

August 20, 1902. Wednesday morning.

Proverbs VIII 1-11

"Doth not wisdom cry and understanding put forth her voice." My son, Solomon is here speaking of a scientific education. Solomon was dealing with a semi-barbarous people. He was the author of many books on different subjects. He put these truths into poetry so that the people might better remember it. The vulgar mind grasps a rhyme.

The figure is that of a man standing above the gates of the walled city and crying out to a multitude. There were no newspapers in those days and men used this means in order to publish news of any kind. Wisdom does not here mean Christ as many claim for it is said of wisdom "I love them that love me and they that seek me dilligently early shall find me." The beauty of Christs life was that he loved those that did not love him.

I would rather know things than to have things. Money is a servant, a tool. I would as soon cling to a plow or any other thing as to cling to money.

August 21, 1902. Thursday

Ps. I. 6 verses.

You absorb your enviroment my young friends, and you can choose your enviroment I have no respect for the counsel of the ungodly. When I am conscicous that the almight arm is beneath me I can laugh at all mankind.

God has written his laws in nature. Men of all ages have searched for God in nature but God knew that men needed something more so he sent inspired men to write his law and we have it in this bible.

My son, to meditate means to study. If I study arithmetic I study. I study God's law and I'm happy in it. It's God's law here that two and two make four . I don't know whether it makes four on the other planets or not. May be it makes five over there.

The fellow who arouses every faculty of his mind and studies his lesson with

intense energy is bound to succeed. Hobson did something difficult and is famous today.

Some of these days this class I am now starting in Caesar will read the XIV Chap. When my class got to that chapter only seven of the boys could read it. Today I remember those seven boys but I don't remember the ones that couldn't read it. When old man Birgham asked those who couldn't read it to move across the room, how glad I was that I was one of those who staid in the class. Your father and mother want a man out of you. They want whole wheat they don't want chaff. If one of you fellows that can't read Latin were to get out in a multitude of real men some one would step on you. God gave you a spinal column. Have more backbone than a fishing worm, my son.

My son, I want you to be a good man and I want you to be a happy man and that is why I read you this psalm. Now let me read it without comment. Let us pray.

My son, there's a tremendous philosophy in the attitude of the body. Now my son if there are any of you who do not kneel tomorrow morning you will be called out.

Now I am going to talk to you about your expenses. Don't wait for me to call you out by name before you come up and settle your account. I like to see people punctual.

My son, don't ask me to pay your laundry bill, I never paid one in my life. My circular states that washing is included in the board. A man many times a millionaire sent his grandson to me. The boy padded his account. The old man came to see me about it. Traveled many miles. Was deeply mortified at the boy's conduct. He instructed me to send him an itemized account thereafter.

My mother was a widow with eleven children to educate. She sent me to School. She wanted me to be economical but she didn't want me to lack good books. I paid nineteen dollars for a Greek Grammar. Some fellows are not men -- they are simply an attachment to a pocket book. I would rather have a pocketbook attached to me. Don't make a display of your money. Don't accept a treat unless you can treat back. If I couldn't pay the fiddler, I wouldn't dance. I am going to tell you how I find out

things. I couldn't be guilty of espionage it is so foreign to everything in my heart. I shall not peep through your window. Your associates will betray you. let me give you a case. I had a bad boy in school who planned to have a carousal. The boys swore secrecy. But it got out. The boys thought a boy named Rufus Polk told it but he didn't. Rufus was a good boy. He died a member of Congress not long ago. The very boy who planned it wrote to a pal in Michigan. The pal left the letter in a coat that needed mending, an old maid found it and sent it to me. The boy had spent his society's money for licuor. About fifteen dollars.

The boy who goes back on his mother will go back on anybody on earth. I was tied to my mother's apron string. I hope to be tied to her apron string through eternity.

Never do anything on the sly as long as the world stands. If you come down here with coarse and unrefined language you tell us that boy didn't have a good mother. You may say it's egotism but I never used profane words in my life. Not that I was too good but I was too loyal to my mother. I have sent as many as twenty boys away from my school at one time. If you are profane, I'll send you home, do you hear? When you persist in defending a wrong principle it is a crisis in his life too startling too think about. Don't be overtaken in a fault.

Now my son if you get sick I will send a message to your home at my expense. (Here he told of a man who was hindered by floods and got to Bell Buckle just as his son died. The boy heard the train but did not live to see the father. (How much more serious is moral sickness.

Now boys must not be over one minute in getting to class no matter where on the grounds they are. I used to use the Chinese plan on my class. The Chinaman calls his ducks to the feeding pond and killed the last duck.

Friday. August 22, 1902. School Opened By Bro. Curry.

Eccl. "A good name is better than precious ointment.

All joined in Lord's Prayer. W. R. Webb Jr. (Son Will) warns new boys about

the strict observance of school rules. Boys must be at the Church at eleven. They must not talk in Church.

Boys must know their lessons today. All the beginners must be able to decline mensa or come back tomorrow. He told at this point about a negro boy who coked at the summer school who learned to decline mensa from hearing the boys recite. Now he continues to decline it to the amazement of the other negroes. Boys must write home and let parents know they are here.

Sat. August 23, 1902.

Last night we had a Y.M.C.A. Social at the school house in addition to our regular afternoon meeting. About a hundred boys were present. Stuart Mims a former teacher in this school made an interesting talk on Christ as a friend.

Sunday. August 24, 1902. 3:30 p.m.

Exercises conducted by Secretary of Correspondence School of M.E. Church. Cunningham.

Lesson I. Psalm.

The idea that a Christian is the divine son of God is to me the most involving thought. (His illustration of the little watch wheel keeping step with the stars was very pretty.)

Monday. August 25, 1902

Lesson: Christ and Nicodemus

Nicodemus may have come at night because he feared public sentiment. He may have thought that Christ would have more leisure. It is a tedious performance to get an interview with a government or president, etc. Have you heard of the man who stood up on a pedestal and starved himself in order that he might become more spiritual. If he had starved himself until he didn't weigh a pound he would have still been flesh. I don't know of a better time for a boy to begin a new life than at the beginning of school. You say that Menelaus and Diomedes and Ajax were great fellows but this grand old book says that he that master himself is greater than

these. I don't have to go to history to see heroic conduct. I see it here. A boy in school ran before a fellow who was striking at him with a bat. I complimented him. The school laughed in                      This same fellow in less than a year defended some women and children from a mob of tourists. That was during the period of reconstruction which was worse than war. I know. I lived through it. Another boy was persecuted because of his religious convictions. I took him aside and told him that some day God would give him an opportunity to show his heroic spirit. We started home one afternoon when we heard screams from the pasture where I kept a very fierce bull. He was running madly after a screaming negro girl. That boy dropped his books jumped the fence, ran between the bull and the girl and turned him away from her, then out ran the bull and gained the fence. Next morning I told the school that there was never a greater piece of heroism.

When I was a boy my mother gave me enough money to buy two tickets and told me I might go to the circus and take a friend if I wanted to but she said "I would rather you wouldn't go. For her sake I have never entered a circus tent. When in Paris, Boston and elsewhere a stranger I still remembered my mother's request.

I was a soldier four years and was never punished. I have seen men hung up by the thumbs for disobedience, loaded with guns, shot, etc. The easiest way out of everything is to obey. I have to obey the laws of gravitation. I have to obey the laws of my body. The laws waste and energy, etc. When I was sent to prison during the war, they searched me and said "there is the dead line". I staid there for months and never went near it. Some fellows did and were shot. Every now and then some fellow would keep edging up to the line until the sentinel would have to kill him.

I wouldn't disobey public sentiment unnecessarily but if it is necessary, be strong enough to stand alone.

Now my son you've got to obey the rules of this school and that's the easiest way out of it. We won't have many rules in this school but they must be obeyed, pleasantly if you can BUT THEY MUST BE OBEYED.

Mr. Blanton lead us in prayer. Wait a minute Mr. Blanton. Now every boy must get on his knees. (Mr. Blanton is principal of Ward's School, Nashville)

Two boys were reported for talking in Church yesterday. One was a new boy and was excused. The other must come back next Saturday and copy a sermon that will take him two hours and a half.

Boys may keep their shotguns and rifles but if you have pistols you can't sign this pledge until you give them up.

Tuesday. August 26, 1902.

Be seated when I come in the room.

Lesson. A Soft answer turneth away wrath.

The very beginning of social adjustment is when a boy goes away from home to a boarding school for the first time.

First, I learned to adjust myself to my school mates, then to college mates, then to men in the army.

My son, you must never consider yourself an exception socially. There are many factors in social adjustment.

The first is that those with whom you come in contact must know that you are sincere. Truth is above everything else. It is the foundation. Without it character is a failure. The "Wise man" in order to teach us social adjustment begins with speech. "If you must speak," says the wise man "Speak gently." I have more respect for the fellow that fights than for the miserable sneak that stirs up a fight. Don't be a "go between". Don't bear tales.

Financial success means that one has secured the patronage of his neighbors. My son, in your social adjustment be sure to get the facts. (Sometimes a boy tells me that his county surpasses this. I simply get the U.S. Census and show him that our county has ten times the taxable property of his county. Be sure you have a correct standard. Here are two boys disputing about the size of a hog. To the boy who has seen show stock, a 1400 lb. hog is a big hog. To the boy from Mississippi where they put the hog in a gourd and hold him up to a

persimmon tree to feed him that hog is a large one.

I never tell a boy that this is an easy place. You seniors, remember in reading Caesar, Sallust, etc. that when the writers wish to compliment a man they always said he cold and heat. (sic.) You may write home and tell them it's hard here but tell them you can stand it. If the bed is hard tell them it is as hard as the beds of Pompeii. Tell it in a classic way. Let them know you have learned something.

The biggest thing God ever made is a manly man.

If a boy can't walk a mile to school there isn't anything in him.

Let us pray.

Now my boys there are a few things I want to say. The first day I said nothing on this subject, the second day I asked you to kneel, the third morning when I called on Mr. Blanton to pray, I said "Hold on Mr. B. some are not kneeling. This morning every boy knelt. I'm glad of that. Now let that be a settled fact. I won't stop to discuss it. You know it's right. If I go to the Episcopal, the catholic, or any other church, I would conform to their customs.

I don't want these little boys to look at a book after supper. I want them to go to bed and sleep. I want every boy to sleep eight hours every night. (Each class was granted its grounds on condition that the members will keep its division of the fence in repair, and report every boy that goes on its grounds.)

Wednesday. August 27, 1902.

Lesson. O Lord, Our Lord. How excellent is thy name in all the earth, etc.

How am I have dominion my son. What gives me dominion. It is intelligence. Let us pray.

Yesterday, I was specific in my request about boys staying on his own grounds and yet there are some boys here who can't stay on their own grounds.

(Several boys were reported for trespassing.) There are no common grounds.

Study hours run from sundown till twelve o'clock next day with the privilege of eating and sleeping all you can.

These little babies if they will stick their fingers in a bowl of water then pull them out and look at the holes left in water will see how much they will be missed if they drop out of the world. An Irishman got drunk and went to sleep on a tombstone. When he awoke he read "Not dead but sleepeth." He said "Faith and if I were dead I'd own it." There are lots of dead boys in these Latin Classes that won't own it. When there is any doubt about a patients being dead or alive, a physician will sometimes put a hot wire against the body.

You cannot afford to be inaccurate in your work. The boy that misses one example in a hundred would lose a place in a butcher's shop. A banker wouldn't keep him if he missed one example in a thousand. If one of these seniors were to make a fine entrance examination at Princeton his name would be known to President Woodrow Wilson at ~~the~~ first cabinet meeting.

The boy in the snior class if he wants to make a record must begin today, this morning learn one thing, then another and another. Boys, listen, Sention must make a record.

Thursday. August 28, 1902.

Lesson Psa. VII. Rev. W. H. Cotton.

Boys, I would like to see the boys make a good showing in their contribution to the church. The quarterly meeting will be held today. Now you Metho~~d~~ist boys see Mr. Will Webb today and make your contribution.

Boys, I didn't talk to you yesterday about home-sickness and this morning two boys went home. Did you ever see a calf weaned? Don't he paw tremendously.



I had a young man in school who was homesick. He said he couldn't understand the books he had. I took him to the bookstore and bought him a First Reader. He told me that if I would give him his books back he would go to work. He did and in five years he was supt. of Public Inst. in his county.

Friday, August 29, 1902

Lesson: "Therefore I say unto you take no thought of your life," etc. My son you are fortunate. Some of these new boys are bewildered, they don't know where to take hold of this lesson. They will know though and some of them are going head in their classes.

My son I wouldn't sit around and growl. That's shoddy. That's scrubby. If you are dissatisfied with your board, don't growl about it, just take your landlady aside and tell her you would like some gingersnaps.

My son if you put yourself in the right attitude you can't help but grow, whether bodily or mentally.

My son I never asked a man to send to school to me in my life. Some of these boys don't know where to take hold. After a while you will know. A lily can't try to grow. Put yourself in the right attitude to your school, to your teachers, and you can't help but grow.

I want every boy in school tomorrow morning to review everything he has gone over. Every line of Greek and every line of Latin. Then I want him to get a book out of the library and spend the rest of the morning in reading.

I want these little boys to review all the examples in arithmetic that they have gone over. I have had boys, little fellows, in arithmetic who could work the examples as fast as I could read them.

(here he told of an arrogant fellow who came to his school to show a book on short cuts in arithmetic. Mr. Webb gave out an example. Half the class beat the fellow. He left.)

Now I don't want a fellow to look at a book tomorrow afternoon. Take a walk. Go to my jungle and hunt. There are over seven hundred acres and you are welcome to hunt over every foot of it. My son, if there are any boys here who won't write home, I want Mr. Whiteside to keep them here all day Saturday without any dinner. Another thing, boys if you are sick you must write a note to the teacher. I am here in the place of a parent. I must look after you. One day a boy was missing. I searched through the woods and found him unconscious under a tree. He had fallen 66 feet in trying to rob a buzzard's nest.

Sunday, August 31, 1902

Lesson: "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways and be wise, etc!"

Let us pray.

(He requested that the boys not make any unnecessary noise next Sunday afternoon.)

A young man's harvest is in his youth. Wisdom says I love them that love me etc. At your age you can make a splendid life. A common expression is "That first honor men are never heard from." They are always heard from. Robert E. Lee always lead. Gladstone and Dean Stanley were first honor men. Daniel was a first honor man. So pronounced by the examining committee in Babylon. Every boy here can be a first honor man. A man is measured by what he knows and what he does.

For instance, if a man were in poverty yet an authority on astronomy, people would go to listen to him. If a pauper knew botany, people would talk about it. There is a dignity that attaches itself to the man that knows things. The man that knows and don't do things is a sluggard. Combine these things and you have names that will go down to the end of time. When you place the measure of what a man knows and does to Daniel's life you find it almost the highest that has ever been attained. (An example) I had a nice looking boy in school.

He told me what he had studied. I put him in the Senior Class. In a few days I had to put him in a lower class. Finally he struck the lowest class. He came to see me privately. He told me he's never used profane word, etc. His whole life seemed to be that of not doing evil. I told him I could stuff a pair of breeches and it wouldn't do those things you've mentioned. He said he had never though about that before. Consider the nerveless energy of the ant. The great business of this world is to make men. That's the problem in all civilized countries of the world. My son, what is the result? Schools. Go to any wise man and ask him what you must study. He will tell you, your own language first and then study Latin. Go to England, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany, or even Japan, and you will find them studying Latin.

When you want advisedon't go to the loafers; go to the men who have made a success in the profession of making men and ask them what you must study. He will give you just the studies that you have here. Take a six year old child and try to convince him the advantage of knowing his letters. You can't do it. Now when it comes to the question of studying Latin don't put your judgement against the wisest men of the world.

We have trapping in classes to reveal yourself to yourself. Arithmetic is a positive science. Any person in the world can learn arithmetic. There are only four things to learn. Addition, multiplication, subtraction and division. All the branches of Math are simply application of these four principles. All school can do for a boy is to teach him to read. Colleges and Universities can only teach you to read along little higher lines. Boys ought to read books adapted to their age. Read biographies. You boys sit on better seats, at better desks and in a better building than they have at Eton. I've been there. Millionaire aristocrats in England want their boys to learn to stand hardship. There isn't a church in Bell Buckle that isn't better than the church at Eton where Edward VII went to church.

Monday, September 1, 1902

Lesson: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked, etc."

Now is the sowing time. Many a fellow says, "If I had my life to live again I'd do better." I don't believe he would. God is so anxious to make a man that I believe he would give us youth back if we would do better.

God is lavish with seeds. If every acorn grew into an oak the world wouldn't hold them all. Boys are seeds for men and they are everywhere.

Boys don't sow to the flesh. Many a fellow is ruining his health drinking cold drinks.

Don't take patent medicines or any old woman's remedy. An old negro told me about his gathering herbs and making a medicine for 15 cents a barrel. The man who bought it, bottled it and sold it at a dollar a bottle.