

DAILY JOURNAL

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EVENING MEETING.

Mr. Hamilton :—I have promised myself that I would sometime criticise the habit of making excuses and apologies, when we attempt to do anything: it seems to have grown considerably upon the Community of late. I have met it recently in many ways, when persons have attempted to work out a problem on the black-board, demonstrate a theorem in geometry, or come on to the stage before the elocution classes to speak, until my indignation has been aroused against it. I query if that is not one of the worst influences working among us at the present time, and one that belittles folks and hinders faith more than most anything else. Almost all will remember, that Mr. Noyes criticised this habit long ago. If persons had anything to say, he disliked to hear them begin with an apology.

I have noticed in the elocution class that I attend, that in several instances when persons come forward to speak their pieces, they do it in an apologetic way, and then if they don't succeed very well, they apologize for the failure. I believe we should do better all round if we did just as well as we could, and then took credit for what we are able to accomplish. If you fail don't try to plaster it over with excuses. I don't believe that practice is pleasing to God. I consider it a very vicious habit of spirit, as it destroys all manliness and assurance of heart. We need to cultivate the opposite, as Christians and strong-hearted believers, and go forward, not with false

assurance and pomposity, but with simple-hearted child-like confidence.

The spirit of Christ working in our hearts and lives, instead of making us do less than we expect will enable us to do far better. As near as I can find out there is a great deal of this apologizing spirit in the classes, and perhaps it is one of the most disagreeable things the teachers have to meet. It has its source in egotism and unbelief, and I for one dislike it very much. [Approved.]

Mr. Woolworth :—We hear a great deal said nowadays about breaking up egotism, and in a good many ways we are breaking it up and getting freed from it. And yet this spirit that makes excuses and apologies is egotism trying to save itself. I have no fellowship with it.

W. A. Hinds :—And as usual it defeats its own object.

Mr. Hamilton :—Yes, as William says, it defeats its own object in more ways than one. If a person is going to do anything he wants all the assurance of heart that he can have. If he assumes the attitude that he is not prepared to do this or that, and cannot do it very well, he puts himself into rapport with the spirit that is not able to do it. If a person wants to be overcome by fear, the most sure way is to assume the attitude of fear.

Mr. Inslee :—It is a common saying that those who excel in making apologies are good for nothing else.

Mr. Hamilton :—It is a very good saying. It is best not to go into the battle unless you have made up your mind to fight; but having once entered you should throw away the scabbard. And so of anything: make up your mind to go into it whole-heartedly and run the risk, or else not try at all.—I feel a great deal of interest in this effort to break up egotism in various ways and get our freedom. I believe I have got my share of the work to do. I mean to keep clear of apologies, and if I do not, I hope I shall be criticised.

Mr. H. R. Perry gave us a very interesting and instructive lecture during the meeting hour last night, on the origin of the popular belief so prevalent in Christendom, that the devil is a fallen angel. He thought the idea originated in heathen mythology, and was incorporated into the creeds of religionists, during the dark ages.

SONG OF THE PACIFIC RAILROAD.

Over the rivers, over the plains,
 Over the Rocky Mountains,
 On through the valleys, up to the heights,
 Up by Sierra's fountains:
 Thus we go marching, steady and sure,
 Swinging the pickaxe and shovel,
 Marching on o'er the buffalo fields,
 On by the Indian's hovel.

Down with the ties, down with the rails.
 Up with culvert and trestle!
 On with the engine, coaches and mails,
 Ho! there, the Westward whistle!

Laborers! haste ye over the seas,
 Workers, from all the nations;
 Many we want on ev'ry mile,
 Builders at all the stations:
 Chinamen! from the Yang-tse-Kiang,
 Irish! from banks of Shannon,
 Soldiers! who fought the war to the end,
 Facing the Rebel cannon!

Down with the ties, down with the rails,
 Up with culvert and trestle!
 On with the engine, coaches and mails,
 Ho! there, the Westward whistle!

Glorious labor!—song of to-day—
 Better than war and plunder;
 Banner of empire, leading the way!
 Chariots rolling in thunder!
 This is the dream the prophets beheld—
 This is the ancient vision:
 Banding the earth with progress and truth—
 This is the final mission.

Down with the ties, down with the rails,
 Up with culvert and trestle!
 On with the engine, coaches and mails,
 Ho! there, the Westward whistle!

Builders are we for ages to come—
 Ages of brightest story,
 Blending the nations' hearts into one
 Unity, love and glory.
 Hail! then, the peaceful march of to-day!
 Hail! to the workers in motion!
 Hail! to the hearts that lead in the way,
 On to the Western Ocean!

Down with the ties, down with the rails,
 Up with culvert and trestle!
 On with the engine, coaches and mails,
 Ho! there, the Westward whistle!

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ERRATUM.—An omission occurred in yesterday's JOURNAL, near the bottom of the third page. For "Semi Weekly," read Semi-Weekly Tribune.

Yesterday's temperature—
 7½ A. M., 18. 12 M., 32. 6 P. M., 26. Mean 25½.