

## The Making of a Man

By

Rev. H. P. Robinson

Text: "*Be thou strong therefore and show thyself a man*" (I Kings 2:2).

[Editor's Note: I thought it would be interesting to put up a couple of Rev. Robinson's sermons in original form. Most of them are not in good enough shape to scan like this, but this one works well as a scan. You will see typos and misspelled words and notes penciled in, some of which are illegible. Although he typed many of his sermons, the typewriter he used was quite primitive and makes the copy hard to read, especially with the aging of the paper. This one was typed on a better machine.

Also, note that this is different from most of his sermons. I get the feeling that it was an address to a formal meeting of some kind, perhaps a patriotic gathering because of the conclusion and its application to pre-World War II involvement by the United States.]

*M...*

## THE MAKEING OF A MAN.

From the time that the black plague of sin like a specter of the night <sup>emerging from.</sup> came stalking out of the great somewhere into the paradise of God, and cast its mantle of death upon the human race, there has been a grim struggle on the part of every man that has tried in the face of this handicap to climb the ladder of success. It has been the plan of God for man to rise from under this yoke of bondage and prove himself a man. Everyone that has made this his goal has been able to fill an important place in life and make a worthy contribution to the world. God honors real manhood. When you number the heroes of the past, they stand out like mountains above molehills when compared to the modern beer-drinking, liquor-soaked leaders of today.

"Be thou strong and show thyself a man" This was the last command given by king David to his son as he passed the scepter and crown from his feeble hands to the strong young hands of Solomon. The life of David was not one of peace and rest; instead, it was one long, bloody struggle from boyhood to the day of his death, a struggle that proved him to be a man in the thickest battles of his life.

When the first king of Israel, who stood head and shoulders above all his hosts, had lost his manhood and miserably failed, Israel scattered over the hills like sheep without a shepherd. They needed a man to lead them to victory and be their king, so God sent them to the house of Jesse called David from following the flock, and anointed him king. When Goliath marched before the armies of Israel and King Saul sat trembling in his tent, pleading for a man to go out and fight the ~~giant~~ Giant, David came from the sheep fold, and achieved a marvelous victory over this formidable foe. Although David's enemies rose against him, and the journey to the throne ~~was~~ was long and hard, God saw his heart and character, and knew that he would make a man. One of the greatest tributes that the bible pays to any man is embodied in the wonderful words spoken of David, "He was a man after God's own heart."

In every age and generation there have been a few big jobs waiting for big men to fill them. Daniel is a striking example of a man who filled such a place in his day. When Isreal hung their harps on the willow trees by the rivers of Babylon, there they sat down and wept as they remembered the smoking ruins of the holy temple on the hills of Zion. In that far off land of Babylon they were slaves to the heathen, but in that wicked city there was one man that stood alone in the spotlight. When they offered him a seat at the kings table, he refused, saying, "I had rather have bread and water and a good conscience than to sit by the king and drink the best wine in the kingdom and have a debauched soul". When the decree was signed and inevitable death had cast its dark shadow across his path, Daniel stood alone and proved himself a man. When kings were dying and dynasties were toppling, and the finger of God was writing the eternal doom of the first world empire over against the walls of Belshazzers palace as the drunken king went down the line in disappation and disgrace, Daniel in calm serenity was writing his name among the names of those that will hang on the walls of Gods hall of fame, when the nations shall stand on the mountain tops of eternity, where all men will receive their eternal reward.

- Dare to be a Daniel
- Dare to stand alone,
- Dare to have a purpose firm,
- Dare to make it known.

*The heights of great men reached & kept  
 where men attainit by steady will & light  
 but when possible their compasses stay  
 where lacking respect are shunned*

In the early part of the nineteenth century when other young men were wasting their lives in the pleasures of sin, there was one young man in the heart of this great country of ours unknown to society, who was spending the late hours of night by an old log fire in his fathers humble shack, digging out an education and counting the cost of success. When other young men were waking up with booze headaches, Abriham Linclon was pulling on his old fashioned boots saying, "I'm going to be a man", And one morning when the world awoke to its desperate need and began to search for a man capable of filling a heard place, it Found Abriham Linclon and raised him from obscurity to the highest pinnacle of popular favor.

3

The heights of great men reached and kept  
Were not attained by sudden flight  
But they while their companions slept  
were toiling upward in the night

Abraham Lincoln faced life's problems squarely and showed the world what a man could do. The same thing could be said of all national heroes, not only of our own country but of every land, they have been great souls like bright stars apart, shining in radiant splendor upon their midnight throne far above the ordinary man, but we need not think that such a power is just a divine gift reserved only for a favored few, it is within the reach of all to achieve such an ideal. But it must come through concentrated effort through sincere desire, through earnest and steady work.

At eleven o'clock on the eleventh day of NOV. 1918, the most vital important peace treaty in the history of the world was signed at Versailles by the great men of the nations. As the news flashed down the front-line trenches to the blood-soaked war-weary American dough boys in No-Mans Land struggling to break the impregnable Hindenberg line, white flags began to rise along the Western Front. The War was over, the World's most baffling problem had been solved: never again would be heard the sound of trampling armies, the groans of the wounded and dying would be forgotten, no more would the Unknown Soldier make his grave on the hills of a glory-battlefield.

But alas! this dream of ~~short~~ peace was ~~ended~~ short lived. Even today we tremble with fear as we hear coming to us from across the great waters of the Atlantic the ominous beating of war drums, the marching of armies, the heavy rumble of war clouds as they rise and gather.

Never before in the cycle of the past ages has the world needed men as it needs men now, real men, who can shoulder responsibilities, iron out the complicated problems of our political and economical life and keep God first in everything.