

CHAPEL -- Tuesday Morning, October 20, 1925

Robert H. Wright.

Evolution

What is evolution? You know there are people in the world today who are afraid of the word. I am going to talk to you girls just a little bit about it because I feel that it is a public duty. The world is afraid of that word today. There are people, good people, in the world who honestly believe if you believe in evolution that there is positively no saving your soul on this earth, that you are gone, that it is absolutely the work of the devil, and they honestly believe it. You are going to hear it everywhere you go for the next year or two, maybe longer, I don't know. It is one of those things that people have picked upon and are making it a whole group thought. I am sorry that it is so, but it is so.

I feel that as a public servant I need to get some things clearly before you because we don't want to let anything in this world come between us and the right kind of spirit life, and we do not want to be afraid of changes and new ideas and new thoughts. We want to be able to take hold of them, weigh them in the balance, find the truth and discard the chaff.

Certain men, years and years ago, noted that there were changes taking place in the vegetable kingdom and in the animal kingdom, that flowering shrubs and plants were changing, and that by working with them you could improve them and make them better, that you could improve your seed corn, that you could improve your wheat, that the farmer by making close observations could develop something better than what he had. There were changes taking place in what we call the vegetable kingdom. They found also that they could improve race horses and farm animals of all kinds by the right kind of selection and the proper kind of breeding. They noted these changes and they noted changes all around them. They spoke of these changes that were taking place as improvements, or evolving something better, or evolution. Well, they are taking place, and we see them, and we know it is so, call it whatever your please, improvements, if you want to. You may be like that good woman who was taken

to the hospital for an operation, and her husband came to see her. The nurse said to him, "you can't see her, but she has been operated on and is improving". He came back that afternoon and she said, "you can't see her, but she is getting along very nicely, she is improving". That night the same thing. The next morning and the next afternoon the same thing happened. The next morning he came again and they said, "we are sorry, but your wife has just died". He said, "Madam, pardon me, but I want to ask you one question - did she die improving?" We sometimes misread the changes that are taking place, perhaps, and we call them improvements.

Now, young women, I haven't given you a scientific definition, but that in a general way is what evolution is. There came a man along and noted these changes. That man did not have a thing to do with it, but he happened to be called Darwin, and he got up a theory about these changes. He attempted to explain all the changes that had taken place. He advanced a theory and that theory is called Darwinism. He believed, that is he said he believed, that when you run these changes back that there was just one little protoplasm and that man came from this low order and that is the thing that people are talking about today and calling evolution, It isn't evolution at all, It is an attempt to explain. That is all. And that is the thing that the churches and leaders of good people are actually fighting about today. Now, you want to know what I know about it. I don't know anything. I will tell you more about it tomorrow.