

Chapel, February 16, 1926

In the organization of human society as we find it today I sometimes wonder if a person is really and truly free to think as he wants to think and to say what he thinks ought to be done. There is what we might call community thinking and, after all, doesn't that more or less shape individual thinking. Of course, it does not shape what you think about yourself and your individual problems touch the community, but, after all, doesn't your problem touch the community. In other words, can you be yourself and do the greatest possible service? Can you live by yourself? I doubt it. I doubt that any of us who want to accomplish something worth while in this world can do our thinking except in terms of other folks and the needs and the aims of the community in which we live. And yet there are certain problems that confront us as individuals and certain tasks that come to us as individuals that may not be pleasant and yet we must do them. "The cup that my father hath given me, shall I not drink?" Here was this human being as well as divine with a group of eleven men and people had come to take him and carry him to the court and try him. The enthusiasm of one of his followers had caused him to draw his sword and cut the ear off of one of the servants. That servant had not done a thing to Peter. He had been sent and he had to go or lose his job and work with some one else. The servant perhaps thought he was doing his duty and as a reward he lost an ear. Peter was rebuked, he was told to put the sword up. There comes a time when our closest friends cannot fight for us or do anything except make a bad matter worse -- "The cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink?" In this great scheme of Jehovah, and we like to think that God is working out the organization of human society, I have a place in it and something very definite to do. Some of the things that I have to do are very disagreeable, but it is my task. You can't do the task for me, you can't remove the cup. I must drink it. It is my part to do my task the best that I can to fit in with the great scheme and measure up to the obligations and responsibilities that come to me as an individual and do those tasks and take the punishment if it is

for the common good. I have heard a lot of girls in this world say, "I wish I was a boy." "The cup which my Father hath given me to drink, shall I not drink?" God did not make you a boy, He made you a girl and that within itself gives you a place in human society that no boy can fill. If some boy wanted to be a girl, and I have heard of a few of them -- An Army had received orders to advance and a straggler had dropped out and was sitting by the road crying. Some one said, "what's the matter with you?" He replied, "I wish I was a baby and a girl baby at that". There was a task for him to perform and he was shirking. He wasn't measuring up to his responsibilities. He was trying to get away from the thing God had given him to do, provided his army was on God's side, but the principle was the same. There are certain tasks that are given for every man and certain tasks that are given for every woman and they are ours. We can't change it and I am going on and do the best I can. There comes a time in my life and it will come in yours when it looks like the cup is greater than one can drink, but it is necessary that he drink it for the good of the community, for the good of all concerned. He alone can do this particular task and if he can approach it with the spirit that Jesus approached this trial and his final death and resurrection with the realization that it is the cup which the Father hath given him to drink, that spirit will help one through many a dark place in life when the shadows are falling thick and fast and the veil of darkness is dropping in front of one's face and he can't see the way out, if he will realize that it is the cup which the Father hath given him to drink and that it is his business to drink it, then he can catch the faith that he needs to carry him through and he can stand his part whether it be man or whether it be woman, whether it be boy or old man, or whether it be girl or whether it be old woman -- it's the task that you must meet, it is the cup that you must drink and if we could just approach life in that way with a realization that there does come a time in every human life when even his closest and most intimate friends cannot drink the cup for him, but that this unpleasant thing he must do, it gives one courage, it gives one a willingness to do the unpleasant thing, and that is coming, young women, to all of you. It comes perhaps more frequently now than it did

a few generations back because of the complex organization of human society. It is a wonderful thing to live today, but it carries with it many a bitter cup for each one to drink.