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## James Stanley Durkee sermons8421300

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This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 14, 2025.  
Description is written in: English.

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

[burke@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burke@library.columbia.edu)

URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary
<b>Creator:</b>	Durkee, J. Stanley (James Stanley), 1866-1951
<b>Title:</b>	James Stanley Durkee sermons
<b>ID:</b>	8421300
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1897 -- 1947
<b>Physical Description:</b>	16 linear feet 16 linear feet; 16 boxes
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	James Stanley Durkee was a Baptist and Congregationalist minister who served in Maine, Massachusetts, and New York. He was the last white president of Howard University (1918-1926) and presided over Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims in Brooklyn, New York, from 1927-1941. The collection contains handwritten and typed sermons, sermon outlines, notes, extracts, and newspaper clippings, arranged in chronological order.

### Preferred Citation

Item description, James Stanley Durkee sermons, 1897-1947, box #, folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

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## Biographical / Historical

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James Stanley Durkee was a Baptist and Congregationalist minister who served in Maine, Massachusetts, and New York. He was the last white president of Howard University (1918-1926) and presided over Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims in Brooklyn, New York, from 1927-1941. The majority of his sermons deal with purely religious themes, but many touch upon contemporary topics as well as the relation of science, art, and literature to Christianity. Durkee was born to James and Elizabeth (Dennis) Durkee in Carelton, Nova Scotia on November 21, 1866. In 1897 he received a bachelor's degree from Bates College in Lewiston, Maine and on August 4 1897, married Florence Marion Robbins, of Yarmouth, Nova

Scotia. Durkee was ordained as a Free Baptist minister in 1898 and that year began his first appointment at the Free Baptist Church in Auburn, Maine, where he served until 1901. From 1901 to 1909, Durkee served as a pastor at the Free Baptist Church in Boston, Massachusetts. During these years he received a master's degree from Bates College and Cobb Divinity School and a PhD from Boston University. From 1909 to 1918 he headed the South Congregational Church in Brockton, Massachusetts. In 1918, Durkee accepted the presidency of Howard University. While he succeeded in securing major federal funding, he also alienated prominent black scholars and restructured the liberal arts and professional programs to concentrate authority in the office of the president. In 1925, dissatisfied students led an eight-day campus wide strike. Following the protests, W. E. B. DuBois ran a series of critical editorials in *The Crisis*, accusing Durkee of treating students and black educators at Howard "as a subordinate caste." Durkee resigned in 1926. Following his resignation, James Stanley Durkee accepted a call from Plymouth Church (Congregational) in Brooklyn, New York in 1927. In 1934, Durkee oversaw the consolidation of the congregations of Plymouth Church and the Church of the Pilgrims, which became known as Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims. Durkee's interest in Plymouth Church history is reflected in lectures on founder Henry Ward Beecher and in his arranging a return visit from former slave Rose Ward Hunt, whose freedom Beecher and his congregation purchased. Durkee retired in 1941 and died in Hyattsville, Maryland on September 28, 1951. James Stanley Durkee authored eight books on Christian themes and wrote poetry throughout his life. He presented sermons regularly on the WJZ "Friendly Hour" radio program in the 1920's and 30's and was active in numerous Christian organizations and the prohibition movement.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains typed and handwritten sermons and sermon notes, many of which refer to contemporary events. Most of the sermons are tied together with string and include a speaking outline. Durkee stored his sermons in brown paper wrappers marked with the sermon name, number and date(s) and location(s) delivered (Durkee frequently re-worked and re-used sermons). The dates on the finding aid correspond to the first time the sermon was delivered. All folders contain complete texts unless indicated as "Sermon Notes." Durkee titled most of his sermons and began to title regularly in 1906. Titles ending with an ellipsis in the finding aid are drawn from the first line of an untitled sermon. Durkee made some notes and wrote drafts on the reverse of Howard letters and flyers, and printed material from pastorates in Maine, Massachusetts and New York. A small number of the sermons include letters from congregants and colleagues. These unusual items are noted in the finding aid. Durkee saved newspaper clippings relevant to his sermon's themes and these appear throughout the collection. In addition to purely religious themes, Durkee spoke on contemporary topics and on art, science, and literature in relation to Christianity. Topics include education, the Great Depression, labor, Nazism, politics, racism, temperance, United States history, and World Wars I and II. The following numbered sermons are not in this collection and were not in the original donation. Other archival repositories may contain some of these: #37, 585, 856, 881, 882, 979, 1012,

1016, 1048, 1049, 1053, 1057, 1059, 1061, 1065, 1068, 1070, 1072, and 1084. A note in Sermon 946 provides this key to handwritten symbols: > = "of the" \ = "of" / = "the" U = "in"

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged in one series in roughly chronological order (and numerical order by sermon).

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Telephone: (212) 851-5606

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URL: <https://library.columbia.edu/locations/burke.html>

### Revision Description

PDF converted to EAD and description updated by Leah Edelman. 2023-01-04

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Access

The following boxes are located offsite: Box 1-16. Please note that requests for use of boxes held in offsite storage must be made three business days in advance.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

W. W. Rockwell, UTS librarian, received James Stanley Durkee's sermons from Richmond, Virginia in 1931. The papers arrived folded, labeled, and packed in gun boxes that bore

the label of a Brooklyn storage firm where Durkee appears to have deposited the sermons during his lifetime.

### Processing Information

Durkee's original system, reflected in his numbering, is maintained in this collection. The resulting order is almost, but not entirely, chronological. Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper as needed. The finding aid was created by April Holm in 2009, and edited by Leah Edelman in 2023.

### Conditions Governing Use

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Sermons, American
- Durkee, J. Stanley (James Stanley), 1866-1951 -- : Archives
- Durkee, J. Stanley (James Stanley), 1866-1951 -- : Sermons

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## Burke Library record group:

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General collections

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## Collection Inventory

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### James Stanley Durkee sermons, 1897 -- 1947

Physical Description: 16 linear feet 16 linear feet; 16 boxes

Conditions Governing Access:

**Conditions Governing Access**

This series is open for research.

**Arrangement**

This series is arranged roughly chronologically.

**Scope and Contents**

This series contains typed and handwritten sermons and sermon notes, many of which refer to contemporary events. Most of the sermons are tied together with string and include a speaking outline. Durkee stored his sermons in brown paper wrappers marked with the sermon name, number and date(s) and location(s) delivered (Durkee frequently re-worked and re-used sermons). The dates on the finding aid correspond to the first time the sermon was delivered. All folders contain complete texts unless indicated as "Sermon Notes." Durkee titled most of his sermons and began to title regularly in 1906. Titles ending with an ellipsis in the finding aid are drawn from the first line of an untitled sermon. Durkee made some notes and wrote drafts on the reverse of Howard letters and flyers, and printed material from pastorates in Maine, Massachusetts and New York. A small number of the sermons include letters from congregants and colleagues. These unusual items are noted in the finding aid. Durkee saved newspaper clippings relevant to his sermon's themes and these appear throughout the collection. In addition to purely religious themes, Durkee spoke on contemporary topics and on art, science, and literature in relation to Christianity. Topics include education, the Great Depression, labor, Nazism, politics, racism, temperance, United States history, and World Wars I and II. The following numbered sermons are not in this collection and were not in the original donation. Other archival repositories may contain some of these: #37, 585, 856, 881, 882, 979, 1012, 1016, 1048, 1049, 1053, 1057, 1059, 1061, 1065, 1068, 1070, 1072, and 1084. A note in Sermon 946 provides this key to handwritten symbols: > = "of the" \ = "of" / = "the" U = "in

**Title/Description****Instances**

Sermons 1-70, 1897 -- 1899

box 1

**Scope and Contents**

1 1 Sermon 1: Phil 3:10, "Great Ambition," 2 Jan 1898  
 2 Sermon 2: Luke 24, "Why Seek Ye the Living Among the Dead...", 25 Dec 1897  
 3 Sermon 3: 1 Cor 3:11-13, "For Other Foundation Can No Man Lay...", 16 Jan 1898  
 4 Sermon 4: Heb 12:27, "Unshakable Things," 18 Jan 1898  
 5 Sermon 5: 2 Cor 3:18, "But We All, with Open Face ...," 30 Jan 1898  
 Notes on reverse of letter on Howard University letterhead  
 6 Sermon 6: John 4:35, "Say Not Ye, There Are Yet Four Months and Then Cometh Harvest...", 6 Feb 1898  
 7 Sermon 7: Luke 2: 44, "But They, Supposing Him to Have Been in the Company...", 20 Feb 1898  
 8 Sermon 8: John 10:10, "I Come That They Might Have Life...", 20 Feb 1898  
 9 Sermon 9: Job 38:22, "Hast Thou Entered into Treasures of Snow...", Jan 1897  
 10 Sermon 10: 1 Cor 3:16, "Temples of God," 26 Feb 1898  
 11 Sermon 11: Luke 5:4, "With Christ, Success; Deep Water Fishing," 18 March 1898  
 12 Sermon Notes 12: Matt 28:19, "Great Commission, Sept. 1897  
 13 Sermon 13: Jer 6:16, "Thus Saith the Lord, Stand Ye in the Way and See...", Nov 1897  
 14 Sermon 14: Col 3:1, "If Ye Then Be Risen with Christ...", 10 April 1898  
 15 Sermon 15: Rev 21:7,

"He that Overcometh Shall Inherit All Things...", April 1897  
16 Sermon 16: Acts 16:25, "Bound or Free," 17 April 1898  
17 Sermon 17: Matt 6:10, "Thy Kingdom Come," 1 May 1898  
18 Sermon 18: Luke 24:49, "And Behold I Send the Promise of My Father upon You...", 27 Feb 1898  
19 Sermon 19: Mark 7: 24, "He Could Not Be Hid...", 15 May 1898  
20 Sermon 20: Luke 13:24, "Strive to Enter in at the Strait Gate...", 5 June 1898  
21 Sermon 21: Ps 144:1, "Real Warrior," 19 June 1898  
22 Sermon 22: Luke 2:14, "Odd Fellow's Strength," 26 June 1898  
23 Sermon 23: 2 Kings 6:17, "And Elisha Prayed...", June 1897  
24 Sermon 24: 1 Cor 18:12, "Study of Reflections," 5 June 1898  
25 Sermon 25: Matt 6:11, "Daily Bread," 24 July 1898. Notes on Reverse of Memo re Howard Medical College  
26 Sermon 26: Gal 4:1, "Heir or Servant," 31 July 1898  
27 Sermon 27: 2 Kings 3:16, "And There Were Four Leprous Men...", 4 Aug 1898  
28 Sermon 28: Matt 9: 28, "Believe Ye That I am ...," July 1898  
29 Sermon 29: Luke 16:9, "And I Say Unto You, Make to Yourselves Friends of the Mammon of Unrighteousness...", Aug 1898  
30 Sermon 30:1 John 4:8, "God's Plan of Salvation," 9 Oct 1898  
31 Sermon 31: Mark 4:29, "Harvest Thoughts," 16 Oct 1898  
32 Sermon 32: "Bells and Their Call," 30 Oct 1898. Includes First Free Baptist Church program.  
33 Sermon 33: John 14:31, "Arise Let Us Go Hence...", 23 Oct 1898  
34 Sermon 34: 1 Kings 20:40, "Busy Here and There," 6 Nov 1898  
35 Sermon 35: Mark 10:44, "Service Determines Greatness," 13 Nov 1898  
36 Sermon 36: 1 Cor 2:14, "But Natural Man Receiveth Not Things of the Spirit of God...", 14 Aug 1898  
37 Sermon 38: Luke 2:7, "And Laid Him in a Manger...", 25 Dec 1898  
38 Sermon 39: Ps 102:27, "God's Plan in the Centuries," 1 Jan 1899. Includes Plymouth Church letterhead  
39 Sermon 40: Acts 26:16, "But Rise and Stand Upon Thy Feet...", 11 Dec 1898  
40 Sermon 41: Prov 23:10, "Old Landmarks," June 1897  
41 Sermon 42: Jos 9:10, "Discouragements," 15 June 1899  
42 Sermon 43: Ex 14:15, "And the Lord Said Unto Moses, Wherefore Cries Thou Unto Me...", 29 Jan 1899  
43 Sermon 44: John 11:25, "Resurrection Life," 22 Jan 1899  
44 Sermon 45: Matt 4:19, "Fishers of Men," 5 Feb 1899  
45 Sermon 46: Jer 12:5, "Failure in Little Things Means Failure in Great Things," Oct 1897  
46 Sermon 47: Is 60:13, "And I Will Make the Place of my Feet Glorious...", 5 March 1899  
47 Sermon 48: 2 Kings 4:6, "Lesson of Oil Increased," 12 March 1899. Includes letter Edward Balloch to Durkee re Howard Medical College  
48 Sermon 49: 2 Kings 4:33, "Secret of Power," 19 March 1899  
49 Sermon 50: Is 61:1, "Man in the Iron Mask," 26 March 1899  
50 Sermon 51: Matt 28:7, "He is Risen...", 2 April 1899  
51 Sermon 52: Jer 2:13, "Idle Dream of a Self-Dependent Life," 23 April 1899  
52 Sermon 53: Ps 20:7, "Staking Our All Upon What?," 11 June 1899  
53 Sermon 54: 2 Cor 3:18, "Reflectors," 18 June 1899



54 Sermon 55: Gal 6:17, "Stamped By the Service," 2 July 1899 55 Sermon 56: Is 1:18, "Come Now and Let us Reason Together...", 20 March 1898 56 Sermon 57: Matt 25:19, "Our Trusteeship," 16 July 1899. Includes postcard from L.L. Wirt re Paris in World War I, 12 June 1915 57 Sermon 58: Ps 23:1, "Our Shepherd God," 23 July 1899 58 Sermon 59: Jer 10:1, "Hear Ye the Word...", 30 July 1899 59 Sermon 60: John 16:33, "Two Laws of Life," 11 Sept 1899 60 Sermon 61: James 3:4, "Lessons From the Ships," 17 Sept 1899 61 Sermon 62: Rev 14:15, "Thrust in Thy Sickle and Reap...", 24 Sept 1899 62 Sermon 63: 1 John 3:1, "Christian's Element," 1 Oct 1899 63 Sermon 64: Ps 104:26, "There Go the Ships...", 15 Oct 1899 64 Sermon 65: John 1:41, "We have found the Messiah...", 22 Oct 1899 65 Sermon 66: Luke 7:14, "And He Came and Touched the Bier...", 29 Oct 1899 66 Sermon 67: John 4:29, "Is This Not the Christ...", 5 Nov 1899 67 Sermon 68: Josh 4:6, "Our National Monuments," 12 Nov 1899 68 Sermon 69: Is 43:8, "Duty of Those That Can See, To The Blind," 19 Nov 1899 69 Sermon 70: Matt 6:33, "First Things First," 26 Nov 1899

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Sermons 71-144, 1899 -- 1902

box 2

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2 1 Sermon 71: Ps 116:12, "What Shall I Render Unto the Lord...", 30 Nov 1899 2 Sermon 72: Matt 27:22, "Pilate's Dilemma," 3 Dec 1899 3 Sermon 73: Acts 27:27, "Coast Dangers," 10 Dec 1899. Includes letter to Durkee from Robert Brooking, 29 Oct 1928 4 Sermon 74: Matt 2:11, "And When They Had Found Their Treasures...", 24 Dec 1899 5 Sermon 75: Acts 26:19, "I Was Not Disobedient Unto Heavenly Vision...", 31 Dec 1899 6 Sermon 76: Ps 147:16, "He Giveth Snow Like Wool...", 7 Jan 1900 7 Sermon 77: Ez 21:21, "For the King of Babylon Stood...", 14 Jan 1900 8 Sermon 78: Acts 27:38, "They Lightened the Ship...", 21 Jan 1900 9 Sermon 79: James 4:14, "For What is Your Life..." 28 Jan 1900 10 Sermon 80: Mark 16:3, "Removing Obstacles," 4 Feb 1900 11 Sermon 81: John 19:22, "Our Books of Life," 25 Feb 1900. Includes Howard Event Program, 1922 and Durkee's "My Creed." 12 Sermon 82: Mark 10:51, "What Wilt Thou That I Should Do Unto Thee..." 4 March 1900 13 Sermon 83: John 17:23, "I in Them...", 11 March 1900 14 Sermon 84: Acts 16:25-26, "Can Prayer Break a Chain?" 25 March 1900 15 Sermon 85: Luke 16:25, "Old Negatives Reprinted," 1 April 1900 16 Sermon 86: Matt 21:10, "Triumphal Entry," 8 April 1900 17 Sermon 87: Rom 6:4, "Like as Christ was Raised up from the Dead...", 15 April 1900 18 Sermon 88: Josh 5:12, "New Food in the New Land," 22 April 1900 19 Sermon 89: John 10:30, "I and My Father

Are One...", 29 April 19002 20 Sermon 90: Heb 13:8, "Jesus Christ, the Same Yesterday and Today and Tomorrow...", 6 May 1900 2 21 Sermon 91: Luke 22:27, "Service Determines Greatness," 10 June 19002 22 Sermon 92: Is 55:2, "Fruitless Labor," 17 June 19002 23 Sermon 93: Sg 2:1, "Rose of Sharon," 24 June 19002 24 Sermon 94: Matt 3:8, "Blessed Are the Pure in Heart...", 1 July 19002 25 Sermon 95: Ps 139:17, "Thinker and His Thoughts," 15 July 19002 26 Sermon 96: Rom 6:23, "For the Wages of Sin..." 29 July 19002 27 Sermon 97: 1 Cor 16:9, "For A Great Door...", 2 Sept 19002 28 Sermon 98: 1 John 4:12, "Power of Love," 16 Sept 19002 29 Sermon 99: Deut 11:18, "Therefore Shall Ye Lay Up These My Words...", 23 Sept 19002 30 Sermon 100: John 1:11-12, "Higher Lifting the Lower," 7 Oct 19002 31 Sermon 101: Phil 3:12, "But I Follow After...", 14 Oct 19002 32 Sermon 102: Phil 3:10, "Knowing Christ," 28 Oct 19002 33 Sermon 103: John 19:41, "And in the Garden a New Sepulcher...", 4 Nov 19002 34 Sermon 104: Job 38:19, "Where is The Way Where Light Dwelleth..." 11 Nov 19002 35 Sermon 105: Matt 5:8, "Blessed Are the Pure in Heart..." 25 Nov 19002 36 Sermon 106: John 16:27, "For the Father Loveth You," 2 Dec 19002 37 Sermon 107: 1 John 3:1, "Behold What Manner of Love..." 9 Dec 19002 38 Sermon 108: Rom 10:13-15, "For Whosoever Shall Call Upon the Name of the Lord...", 16 December 19002 39 Sermon 109: Luke 2:15, "Let Us Now Go Even Unto Bethlehem...", 23 Dec 19002 40 Sermon 110: Is 42:4, "He Shall Not Fail...", 30 Dec 19002 41 Sermon 111: Ps 90:16-17, "Let Thy Work Appear Unto Thy Servants...", 6 Jan 19012 42 Sermon 112: Heb 8:5, "See, Saith He...", 27 Jan 19012 43 Sermon 113: Num 11:29, "Would God That All the Lord's People...", 3 February 19012 44 Sermon 114: John 4:38, "Our Heritage," 10 February 19012 45 Sermon 115: Matt 2:1-2, "Behold There Come Wise Men...", 17 Feb 19012 46 Sermon 116: Matt 25:21, "Entering Into the Joys of God," 24 Feb 19012 47 Sermon 117: 1 Chr 26:27, "Out of the Spoils Won in Battles...", 3 March 19012 48 Sermon 118: Matt 25:10, "Shut Door," 10 March 19012 49 Sermon 119: Gen 37:3, "Now Israel Loved Joseph...", 24 March 19012 50 Sermon 120: Luke 2:49, "And He Said Unto Them, How Is It That Ye Sought Me...", 31 March 19012 51 Sermon 121: 1 Cor 6:14, "And God Hath Both Raised Up the Lord...", 4 April 19012 52 Sermon 122: 2 Cor 4:18, "Looking at Things We Cannot See," 14 April 1901 2 53 Sermon 123: John 15:5, "Source of Power," 21 April 19012 54 Sermon 124: Matt 13:55, "Is Not This The Carpenter's Son...", 5 May 19012 55 Sermon 125: Matt 17:3, "Immortal in Other's Lives," 19 May 19012 56 Sermon 126: Luke 14:10, "Friend Go Up Higher," Revision of # 818, 26 May 19012 57 Sermon 127: Hab 2:1-15, "All the Ministers of Maine...", reTemperance, 2 June 19012 58 Sermon 128: John 6:5-15, "Feeding the Hungry," 9 June 19012

59 Sermon 129: John 8:12, "I Am the Light of the World...", 16 June 19012 60 Sermon 130: 2 Cor 10:5, "Captive Thoughts," 30 June 19012 61 Sermon 131: I Kings 19:12, "And after the Fire...", 14 July 19012 62 Sermon 132: 2 Cor 5:14, "Motive Power," 25 July 19012 63 Sermon 133: Matt 11:25, "Thou Hast Hid These Things...", 17 Nov 19012 64 Sermon 134: Luke 24:39, "Convincing Touch," 15 Dec 19012 65 Sermon 135: John 14:6, "Life That Prevails," 19 Jan 19022 66 Sermon 136: Ps 90:17, "Beauty That Transforms," 26 Jan 19022 67 Sermon 137: Rev 21:10, "And He Showed Me That Great City...", 3 Feb 19022 68 Sermon 138: "Invisible Things of God Reveled by the Visible," 2 March 19022 69 Sermon 139: 2 Kings 8:22-54, "Out of the Depths...", 9 March 19022 70 Sermon 140: Job 5:17-18, "Behold Happy Is the Man Whom God Correcteth...", 6 April 19022 71 Sermon 141: Matt 22:42, "What Think Ye of Christ," 13 April 19022 72 Sermon 142: Matt 14:16, "Plenty of Food; Country Boy," 20 April 19022 73 Sermon 143: I Sam 4:9-10, "Quit Yourselves Like Men and Fight," 27 April 19022 74 Sermon 144: Rev 2:17, "To Him That Overcometh Will I Rise...", 4 May 1902

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Sermons 145-229, 1902 -- 1904

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