

THE REAR VIEW

There's an unpleasant feature connected with passing through a city or town on a train, and that is, one rarely ever obtains a correct view of the city, as only the rear of the places of interest can be seen. When riding in a street car we pass by the front and thereby get a correct view of things, but when entering a city on a steam car we see the back porches, the woodsheds, the back yards and the rough board fences. All is seen from the rear. The beauty is on the other side. So it is in serving God by faith. At present we only see through a glass darkly, but by and by, face to face. *"Then shall we know even as also we are known."* At present God's providence and leadings often appear unreasonable and strange. It's difficult for the heartbroken mother who is sobbing beside the casket of her child to attribute its death to the work of unfailing mercy and boundless love. From our narrow view-point, it is quite difficult to see how the loss of cattle, wealth, friends, children and health could work out endless gain for afflicted Job. Again, from our narrow cell and hazy viewpoint, even the death of a child of God seems painful and awful, but this is only due to our seeing things from the back yard.

PULLING UP GRADE

Again, among the many things connected with railroad life that deeply impresses is observing a heavily loaded freight train is going up grade. There's many features about this that remind us of the faithful. The train does not run as fast up hill as it does on level grade, particularly with a large load, but yet it still keeps pushing onward and upward. So it is with the child of God. There are times in a Christian's experience when everything seems to work against them, but this is the time like the giant freight engine we must hold on and push ahead by faith and prayer; and by so doing will overcome the hill of difficulty. 'Stand-fast' and 'Hold-fast' are two very excellent maxims for the Christian to keep in mind. Many times we may not be able to accomplish much, but we continue on.



The writings of Brother Humphrey have been condensed and lightly edited.

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Train Leaving Auburn Station
Eugene Sintzenich - 1852

LIFE IS LIKE A MOUNTAIN RAILROAD



Life is like a mountain railroad,
with an engineer that's brave;
We must make the run successful,
from the cradle to the grave;
Watch the curves,
the fills, the tunnels;
never falter, never quail;
Keep your hand upon the throttle,
and your eye upon the rail...

– Charles D. Tillman

LIFE IS LIKE A MOUNTAIN RAILROAD



LIFE IS LIKE A MOUNTAIN RAILROAD is not about an old famous song written over 100 years ago. It's not about famous art. As a matter of fact, it's not about fame at all, but it's about one of God's smallest servants ever. One who stood tall in humility, rich in truth, and courageous in service;

J. M. Humphrey

Jerry Miles Humphrey was an African American preacher/writer of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who as a black man at the turn of the 20th Century preached the saving, righteous, holy truth of salvation, as delivered to him in the Holy Word of God! This is something the mighty and great, in the best of times, fear.

Gutsy Brother Humphrey, as a young man, traveled often on trains and became quite familiar with the rails, thus, some of his writings illustrates a spiritual comparison between a Christian and America's young railways. This tract has been prepared to introduce you to this wonderful man of God, and allow him to share with our generation the things that never grow old.

LIFE'S RAILROAD

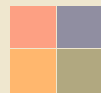
We're trav'ling o'er the track of time,
From this to worlds unknown,
To share a home of joy sublime,
Or share the sinner's doom.

How vain are all the things we see,
How transient earthly joys!
What madness all its seeming glee!
What phantoms all its toys!

Man's soul is all there is below,
That has eternal worth;
It fits itself for weal or woe,
Each moment while on earth.

Then let us take the safest track,
And all our sins renounce,
For this we know—we'll not come back;
We'll go this way but once.

An old proverb says:
Always think twice before speaking once.



Consider always life's race:
*'Until our fruits are unto righteousness,
our salvation is incomplete!'*
— James Jones

CONSTRUCTING A RAILROAD

One of the many striking features about a railroad which is quite suggestive when scanned from a spiritual standpoint is found in the construction of the road. The preparatory steps are so similar to a soul making ready for heaven that one cannot help but notice. Let us briefly note some of the many ways in which building a railroad bears this striking similarity. The first men on the scene are the surveyors, whose duty it is to devise, plan and mark out a straight course. All unnecessary curves and crooks are to be avoided. So it is with one who is making preparation to spend eternity with a holy God and holy angels in a sinless heaven. All dishonesty, crookedness and deceit must be eliminated from their lives, and they must make straight paths for their feet. What saith the Scripture on this? **Isaiah 1:16-18**, *Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; learn to do well; Seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, Judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*