

# **JONATHAN UPGRADE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649619108

Jonathan Uplade by Wilfrid Earl Chase

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**WILFRID EARL CHASE**

**JONATHAN  
UPGLADE**



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**BY**

**WILFRID EARL CHASE**

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Printed by CANTWELL PRINTING CO.

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Published by W. E. CHASE, Madison, Wisconsin

Price, \$1.25

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## MY DECISION

It is early June—to me one of the most beautiful times of the year. I have rowed across the lake, and here, out of the world of men, I am. The hour set for my decision is at hand; it finds me seated on the green bank beneath the spreading lindens.

The leaves above me seem to murmur, "Be true to that 'low whisper' within thee". The spring that wells up at my feet utters, in rippling notes, the same inspiring words. The goldfinch sings, with exquisite sweetness and tenderness, the same words, "Be true to that 'low whisper' within thee".

Two careers lie before me, and the time to choose has come! Thanks to you, leaves, waters, birds, and all else so kind and beautiful! Thanks to you, you make it easier for me! Still, I knew well enough, when I pushed my boat from the opposite shore, what my decision would be; and may I not say that months ago, yes, years ago, I knew that it would come

## Jonathan Uplade

at last to such an hour as this and that I should decide—aright?

Yes, two careers lie before me!

The one, the career of a minister of a fashionable church, keeping within the bounds of convention, carefully avoiding any act that would jeopard his popularity or position, doing a small good where he might do a great one.

The other career, that of a man who bravely stands upon his feet and says: "The age in which I live is semi-barbarous! Its ideals are low, and should be raised! True men are needed! Henceforth, tho popularity and position be denied me, I will be a true man, I will speak the truth!"

Yes, the hour is come, and I say,—“I will be a true man! I will speak the truth! And, if necessary, I shall fight the battle out alone!” But it is not necessary, for well I know that at least a few kindred spirits are in sympathy with my work, and lend their influence, tho it is partly silent, to aid me.

## MY PHILOSOPHY

Last Sunday I announced that today I should preach a sermon of special importance—a sermon that probably would be a surprise to you. I am glad to see that you have shown your interest by attending in unusually large numbers.

Nearly five years ago I came to this city as the newly called minister of this church. I came with a desire to do good service and with a moderate amount of enthusiasm. I have preached sermons that seem to have been acceptable, and have tried to perform the various social duties of a minister. Few complaints have reached me, and I think few have been made. I think the general opinion of my congregation and of the city at large is that my work has been successful. Probably I have done considerable good, but—I could have served you ten times better except for one reason. How many of you can guess that reason? I shall state it plainly:—it is for the reason