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BLOOMSBURG, PA., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1888.

A SIN NOT TO BE FORGIVEN

BY LIERIE W. CHAMPNEY.

It is not my purpose to exonerate Allan Halsey. Doubtless he richly deserved the punishment which he brought upon himself, but his fault at the first was an inconsiderate

one, and the system of hypocrisy in which he found himself entangled was entered upon

from the good natured impulse of shielding

his friend. That friend was Andrew Steele

They had been chums throughout their col-

lege course, but their paths had diverged

widely during the four years which had

elapsed since their parting under the shadow of alms mater. Steele had studied for the

"It would give you a chance to improve your style, by a comparison with that of the most cloquent and scholarly men of the day. It would broaden your theological ideas, and

would broaden your theological ideas, and give you points in composition and delivery. If you will submit to taking a few hints from me I can put you up to a thing or two. There are certain dodges that these great guns are not above using, which are remarkably kill-ing, and I doubt whether they are ever taught in the seminary. If you are going in for divinity you might as well be at the top

of the heap, a regular doubly distilled D.D., and the pastor of a wealthy city church. I have come to the conclusion that the ministry is a better field for a smart man than

journalism, and I almost regret my choice. You see you have less competition; nearly all the brilliant fellows take to the law, the

regular digs to medicine, the long headed ones to politics or business, those mistaken beggars who care more for glory than gold

hang on to art or literature, while only the chaps without any particular vocation are left for the ministry and the book agencies. Now don't flare up. Can't you see that it is the luckiest thing in the world that it is soi If you have a clear idea from the start what you mean to accomplish, you can just sail in

you mean to accomplish, you can just sail in like a whale among the fishes."

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like a whale among the fishes."

Andrew Steele answered quietly: "You do not understand my aims. I am physically unsuited to lead the career you have marked out for me. I have not sufficient health to carry out what I wish, and that is to teach the suffering to endure."

Halsey scanned his friend anxiously. "You do look a trifle used up," he said. "I am glad I accepted your invitation to spend a fortnight with you, for I am going to take you in hand. We will pass a week or more in the woods; hunting and camping will soon give tone to your mind, as well as to your complexion, and you will bid goodby to morbid self abnegation as soon as you land a four pound bass." ALMONDS, POP CORN

pound bass."

But Halsey found that he had a difficult task upon his hands. His friend's melan-choly was deeply rooted in a frail physique. The dark woods and mountain solitudes seemed to increase his gloom. He took no interest in sport of any kind, and it was evi-dent that some settled trouble was preying upon his mind.

"What is its Steeless Its. LIQUORS

upon his mind,
"What is it, Steele?" Halsey asked
one evening as his friend sat mostily
and dejectedly regarding the smoodering embers, "Is there a lady in the or is it money? Out with it like a man; the very telling of the annoyance will make it seem less. I'll warrant you that

Pve been in a dozen tighter places."
"It is my health," the other replied. "I fought for it all through my college course, but it was of no use. Two years ago I broke down utterly with nervous prostration. I left the seminary, and was recommended to put myself under the care of a Dr. Corcoran, of —. It was a most providential thing. He took me into his family and his good wife nursed me like a mother. I was so weak that I could only lie still like a little child and watch the leaf shadows of the maple playing upon the wall. I was with them three months, and they treated me like a son. You have guessed that there was a lady in the case. Before the three months were over I had fallen in love with Miss Corcoran." We are offering great inducements to persons desiring to

"Very naturally and quite the proper thing under the circumstances. I suppose she brought you your gruel and rend aloud to you, fanned your fevered brow and all that. I only wish such a piece of good luck would rail

"You are quite wrong. In all that time I never saw Miss Corcoran." Halsey whistled.

'Whom having not seen I love,' I used to repeat to myself again and again in those days. Miss Corcoran was in Philadelphia completing a course of medicine which she had begun with her fathar. They told me that she was fitting herself to go out as a mis-sionary, and she wished to make herself useful among the women and to gain admittance ful among the women and to gain admittance to the haroms as a physician. Dr. Corcoran's family was a large one, there were others staying in the house and I was given her room. I have never known much about women, and all the dainty fittings of that room were a revelation to me. It seemed to bring me very near to her, and, as I told you, I used to lie and study one object and then another, and it seemed to me that I could im-agine from them just how she looked as well as her tastes and mental characteristics. There was a cabinet desk beside the window and the carpet in front of it was more worn than before the dressing table. That told its story to begin with The decorations of the room were of an eastern character. An India shawl was draped to form a curtain, a Tunisian prayer rug was spread beside the bed and a Daghes-tan one in front of the grate. There was a Moorish plaque over the mantel, and boxe of Japanese lacquer, a bamboo easy chair from Calcutta, Turkish embroideries and scarfs, and other suggestions of the Orient scattered about. This was not the indis-criminate gathering of a fashionable dovotee of bric-a-brac; there was a consistent method in all and it indicated a fixed purpose. All the trend of her mind was to the east, and the books in her small but well selected library showed the same taste. As I im-proved in health I read them through, and sometimes returned to make a note in answer sometimes returned to make a note in answer to the pencited queries upon the margin. She had been studying Arabic, but seemed interested in all Asiatic literature, and had secured everything that could be had through translations from the "Arabian Nights," and the "Koran" to Matthew Arnold's works, and the poems of Omar. There was a portfolio of photographs and engravings, reproductions of the works of French oriental painters, views from Dore's Rible, photographs of Palestine and Egypt, the String and Opera Pianos. These Pianos are all first-class Our leading Organs are the celebrated ESTEY, MILL. Our leading Sewing Machines are the celebrated WHITE, NEW DAVIS, NEW DOMESTIC, NEW ITOME, HOUSEHOLD, ROYAL ST. JOHN and STAND-ARD ROTARY Sewing Machine, the finest and best photographs of Palestine and Egypt, the bazars of Cairo, the gardens of Damascus and the minarets of Constantinople, and the library showed that she had read and studied of all. She was one of those women of whom it could be said that to know her was a lib "I should think so," Halsey replied. "Do

you know, my friend, that it strikes me that so much knowledge suggests a rather mature person, and not exactly the frivolity of sweet

"No, she was not very young—33. I learned by consulting the family Bible, and I saw her portrait in her father's study when I became well enough to walk about the house. A sweet, girlish face it was, enough to steal any man's heart away; but I loved her before I saw it—for the beauty of her mind."
"And have you never seen her or told her."

I saw it—for the beauty of her mind."

"And have you never seen her, or told her of your affection?"

"I have never seen her. I went back to the seminary, completed my course, doing double work in the following year in order to make up for lost time. But in the midst of my work I thought continually of her. I wrote to her, told her something of the interest with which she had inspired me, and begged to be permitted to correspond with her. She replied courteously, giving her reasons for declaring the porrospondence. I wrote again and again, correspondence. I wrote again and again, but she would not reply. After graduation I visited Dr. Corooran, and told him every-

thing. He heard me very kindly, but was inclined to treat the whole matter as entirely imaginary. His daughter was still away from home, and would remain so for a year longer. He talked to me very seriously about my health, and told me I was in a fairer way to be buried than married, and he should disapprove of his daughter's becoming interested in me solely on that ground. Gehome for a year or more, he said: 'rest and

terested in me solely on that ground. 'Ge-home for a year or more,' he said; 'rest and exercise; make a sound, healthy man of yourself; and when you have done that, some and see us again, and I will introduce yo. to my daughter.'"

"Why in the name of common sense haven't you followed his advices" haven't you followed his advice."

'I have done so, Halsey, as far as is possible. I have put myself in training as though I were going to row with a prize crew; but you cannot realize the difficulties of my position. I am a minister without a parish, and so belong to everybody. I have done more work the past winter than any regularly settled pastor of my acquaintance, and I have had before my mind always my own personal, private desire to fit myself for a foreign field, so that some time if I win Miss Corcoran—and if I gave up that hope I should give up everything—we may go out to our of alma mater. Steele had studied for the ministry, growing gentler and more melancholy, narrow chested and possibly narrow minded, but always pure of soul and tender of heart, as he bent over his books. Halsey, on the contrary, had plunged at once into the world. His alm in life was to become a journalist. He could adapt himself easily to circumstances, and when he found that the highest prizes were beyond his reach he lowered his ideal and accommodated himself to the actual, and at the end of four years was quite content with what he would have spurned at the outset, a regular position as pulpit reporter of one of the leading newspapers. give up everything—we may go out to our life work together. We have a returned missionary at Sunderland, and I am studying Turkish with him. I want to have some ac-quirements which will recommend me to the board, so that I may not have to waste a year on the field in preparation." papers.
"I think a little of my experience would do you good," he said to Steele, as they sat together in the summer on the clover under the old orehard trees of his friend's home.

"You appear to have carried out Dr. Cor-coran's advice in regard to rest to the letter," Halsey remarked dryly. "I wonder you haven't engaged some rabbinical old clothes man of the Bowery to instruct you in He-brow, and taken a dip into Chinese by way of

pastime."
"I studied Hebrew at the seminary," the other replied, not perceiving the irony in his friend's remark. "I think I have made the most of my opportunities, but now, just when I need it most, my brain fails me. I nust preach at Ramoth Gilead next week, not my head is in a whirl. I can't settle on and it is uppermost in my mind the whole time, that is uppermost in my mind the whole time, and it was while puzzling over that subject that I fell into the state of ruin from which

Dr. Corcoran rescued me."
"Steele," exclaimed Halsey, "you have Steele, exclaimed Haisey, 'you have acted like an idiot. If you want to marry Miss Corcoran and sail away to Joppa, which I consider a very sensible idea, as the sea voyage would build you up and foreign travel is just what you need to top off your education and fit you for a shining position, a candlestick on a hill and not a city under a bushel, you know—if this is your little game, I say why in the name of common sense do you pay any attention to side issues? Why don't you say to Ramoth Gilead: 'Gentlemen, you may go to Jericho. I have other fish to fry!"

Simply because Ramoth Gilead lies in my way. It was the birthplace and early home of Dr. Corcoran. It was through him that I received this call. And he writes me a very pleasant letter apropos of the subject. This

is what he says:

My DEAR STEELE: It is a long time since we have heard from you, and I trust you have Improved the time by laying in a good stock of health. I have some little influence with the board, am in fact their health inspector, and I happen to know of a mission which I think you would like, and for which I think you admirably qualified. I won't ask you to come or an uncertainty, as I can arrange for an examination a little nearer your present residence. The church at Ramoth Gliead will give you a call as candidate in a few days. I have a number of trustworthy spies in the place and if they send me a good report of your physical condition (I have no doubt in any other particular), I will send your

make in to the board and they will probably make you a proposition soon. This does not compromise you in the least, for you need not accept the offer when it comes. Before you refuse, however, we would like to have you make us a visit and let us talk over the matter together. Faithfully yours. GIDEON CORCORAN. P. S.—Mrs. Corcoran unites with me in this invitation, and my daughter, who heard much of you and will be with us, will be happy to meet you.

"There it is—the opportunity of my life slipping from my bands. If I were to see Miss Coreoran to-night I could talk to her of nothing but the unpardonable sin."
"O, come now," Halsey replied, cheeringly, "you have given me a tolerably connected account of the whole affair, and I dare say you will make your way with the young lady. What bothers me is what sort of an impression you will make on those Ramoth Gilead farmers as regards health. It's a pity you haven't a physique like mine; but never mind, all will end well, and we will meet again in Ispahan or Babylon—you the patricularly and the second of t again in ispanan or Badylon—you the partia archal head of a nuncerous family and I the war correspondent of The Daily Shouter. You must write up your experiences and I will bring them home and see that they are well brought out and that you get a pretty penny out of the affair. Or you may get yourself lost and I'll enact Stanley to your Livingstone and we'll advertise each other from Dan to Beersheba. You must put thi unpardonable sin nonsense out of your head and put your best foot forward generally. Don't bother about thinking up a new ser-mon; give them one of your old ones, but put a lot of vim into it. Beat the dust out of th

pulpit cushions. Let them know that you are alive." Steele shook his head sadly. "I want then to know that I am a strong, well man, and I feel a lassitude creeping over me which makes the lifting of that fishing rod a diffi-

cult task." cult task."

"Cheer up! cheer up!" exclaimed Halsey.
"You will be rested in the morning; it is all
that confounded Japanese and Turkish study;
all you need is a little muscular Christianity.
Take a leaf out of Charles Kingley's book;
buy a pair of boxing gloves, and I'll pummel
faith, hope and charity into your poor little
shriveled body."

The next morning Andrew Steele was de-

The next morning Andrew Steele was de lirious. It was with great trouble that his frie d conveyed him home. On the morning after their arrival the sick man had a lucid interval. He regarded Halsey with wistfu dry eyes, "It has come," he said. "I've broken down. If I could have held out three days longer"-"You are right, old fellow," Halsey re-plied, cheeringly: "give up to it completely: let the disease do its worst, instead of trying

to fight against it, and it will spend its force "But I must send a supply to Ramot Gilead," he inurmured; "I promised to preach for them to-morrow, and there is no time to secure any one else."

secure any one else."

"I will go for you," Halsey exclaimed, impulsively, "and read one of your sermons."

His friend was sinking into unconsciousness again, but he grasped the idea partially and smile of unutterable relief cha ure from his face.
"You will take my place," he said in a ton

of perfect confidence and profound gratitude; "you will do everything for me better than I could do for myself. I can endure anything In a few moments he was quietly sleeping

"I must not betray his trust," Halsey said to himself, as he rummaged through his friend's lesk; but the drawer which probably contained the sermons was locked, and he could not find the key. He glanced at his watch; he had barely time to catch the train. "Never mind," he thought, "I have a dozen of good ones by the ablest New York divines in my shorthand notebooks. I will read one or two of them." Hastily throwing the note books and a few necessary articles into a hand bag, he set out for Ramoth Gilead. The station was merely

a platform in the wilderness. The little set-tlement lay three miles away, around the spur of Mount Haystack. An elderly man

spur of Mount Haystack. An elderly man was waiting upon the platform and shook hands with Halsey, remarking: "You are Mr. Steele, I spose. Dr. Corcoran has written us all so much about you, that the whole parish feel as if they knew you, though there isn't one of us that has ever set eyes on you."

Up to this moment all that Halsey had intended was to explain the situation, and to offer to supply his triend's place by reading some of the sermons with which his shorthand note book was abundantly supplied. Now the idea struck him that he might do his friend a good turn by actually personating Now the idea struck him that he might do his friend a good turn by actually personating him. The deacon had just shown him that this was possible. Why not do it! His self esteem told him that he could make a favorable impression upon these country people, and that a report would be sent to Dr. Corcoran of the athletic appearance of the Rev. Andrew Steele, which would secure his friend the position he wished. Personally, the whole thing appeared to him in a ludicrous light. It appeared to him in a ludicrous light. It would be another racy experience of life, and

club, "The Free Lances." There was a risk of detection, but that only added fascination to the enterprise. His decision was made in a twinkling, and he shook hands with the deacon with quite a ministerial air.

"I am going to take you to our house," the deacon remarked, as he led Halsey to his horse and buckboard, which were hidden in a group of sycamores at a little distance from the track. "You see it rather tires the doctor to have company put up at the parson

"I am glad of that," thought Halsey, won "I am glad of that," thought Halsey, wondering how he could have stood the two days'
scrutiny of a doctor of divinity, adding
aloud: "I am sure I shall enjoy myself with
you, and I hope you will tell me something
about your people, and what kind of preaching you like up here."

"Well, young man," the deacon replied,
"we like the Gospel. Some of the oldest
amongst us are fond of points of doctrine,
but the most part are spiritual babes and
have to be fed on milk. They can't stand
stronger most than free agency and free or-

tronger most than free agency and free or-lination. We are mostly plain people, too. dination. We are mostly plain people, too. We like plain living, plain dressing and plain speaking. We don't take much stock in a man who quotes Strakespeare in his ser-mons or that wears jewelry, or that is over particular about his victuals."

Halsey stole a hand furtively within his linen duster and removed a diamond stud of which he was not a little vain. He had bought that a bargain of an acquaintance who was obliged suddenly to raise a sum of money, and it had only been a perfectly safe invest-ment of a little spare cash, but people here could not understand this, and it was just as could not understand this, and it was just an well to suppress its glitter for the present. He was glad that he had chosen a black necktie that morning, and was still more thankful that he had not thrown away his last white one after wearing it to Mrs. Delano's german at Narragansett pier.

The good deacon was evidently pleased with the young man's deference in asking his opinion, and he gave it liberally. "We all think a sight of the old dector," he said; "it's almost more than some of us can bear to

almost more than some of us can bear to think of his being set aside from this pulpit. The more you can show the people that you haven't come to take his place; that you look up to him as your father in Israel; that you

consider yourself put here only to stay up his hands as Aaron and Hur did, those of Moses, the more you will please them. He will sit in his pulpit on Sunday, and of course you will six him to make the longest prayer."

"All of them, all of them," Halsey ex-claimed, eagerly. He had not before consid-ered the contingency of being obliged to ad-dress the Supreme Being in mock devotion, and he was glad to be relieved from this act of hypocrisy.

of hypocrisy.

"I suppose you've not been ordained yet,"
the deacon continued, "and it will be the doctor's part to pronounce the benediction. Any
other little attentions which you can show other little attentions which you can show him will better your chance with this congregation." The deacon seemed to take it for granted that Halsey's su-preme aim in life was to settle down as assistant preacher in this obscure town, and the young man laughed inwardly scornfully reviling the notion; while he re-plied with the utmost deference, "I will eneavor to bear your advice in mind."

They passed scattering farms, and on

of these the deacon pointed out a man clad in russet blue overalls, faded blue shirt and flap-ping straw hat, who was engaged in breaking ping straw hat, who was engaged in breaking a yoke of oxen, as an important magnate in the church. "That," said he, "is Brother Slocumbe, He was a Methodist before he joined our communion, and there's nothing now that he likes better than a rousing camp meeting. He's a hard worker, and generally sleeps through the morning service, but he gets considerably refreshed in mind by wenting, and he can be derended upon to over evening, and he can be depended upon to oc-cupy the time if he's wanted. He's fond of a pretty lively kind of preaching, with a good deal of thrashing around. The doctor's get-ting too weak lunged for him. He likes to ing punishment and the danger of falling from grace, and when a man procedure

ing punishment and the danger of rating from grace, and when a man preaches he wants him to preach all over."

Halsey made a mental memorandum to give to Brother Slocumbe one of the strongest sermens he could find the next evening, and he listened eagerly for further suggestions.

"We've a sprinkling," said the deacon,
"Tm thankful to say it's only a sprinkling,
of folks who think more of culture than they
do of religion. The Pearce girls rather lead here on matters of education. They read German and attend the summer school of philosophy at Concord. When they don't find fault with the minister we all take it fo granted that he's some. It would be a grand thing if you could show them that you know as much as they do, but you don't look as if you were equal to it, and you needn't put yourself out for them. There are the Rogerses, who used to be Episcopalians; they'll be bothering you about a responsive exercise, but don't you give in; we've fit that for five years, it would cost too much to get it printed, it's too much trouble to get used to,

and it looks like going over to Rome."
Halsey rubbed his forehead thoughtfully.
Should he give the Misses Pearce one of
Felix Adler's lectures before the Society of Ethical Culture or one of Joseph Gook's dis-quisitions? If the Rogers family held the traditions of Mother Church he thought he

traditions of Mother Church he thought he could slip in a selection from Cardinal Mc-Closkey which would please them. Their ride was over, and the deacon's wife greeted them cordially and welcomed them to a hot supper of fried chicken, "riz" biscuit and green tea. At the close of the re-past the deacen remarked, "There's a prayer meeting appointed for to-night at our house. It isn't very well attended generally, but curlosity may bring some few out to see

you."
"A prayer meeting! Consternation," was
Halsey's thought. "What shall I do!" What he said was: "I suppose the doctor will come and lead the meeting."

"The doctor's a-coming," the deacon replied; "that's his buggy coming up the hill."

A well worn and dusty chaise stopped at the gate, a venerable man alighted, and the gate, a profehly young lady, who

accompanied by a sprightly young lady, who sprang nimbly to the ground, making only a good natured pretense of accepting the assistance of the courteous old gentleman. Halsey was introduced at the door and received the good minister's rather formal and priestly benediction with a feeling something like that of shame. He turned for relief to the young lady, to whom the doctor motione him with a wave of the hand and the rathe unsatisfactory introduction, "My niece Orient." What was he to call her! Nothing for the present, since they were not upon a footing which would permit the use of her Christian name; but as he glanced at her bright attractive face with its mischlevous smile, he felt that an intimacy which such a form of address would indicate with a bewitching little personage like this would do much to reconcile a man to even this desert solitude. She had a bright, intelligent counat repartee, and was as completely at home and unembarassed in his society as a city belle. In chatting with her he quite forgot to prepare his thoughts for the coming ordeal of the prayer meeting. The people began to gather. The deacon introduced Brother Slocumbe—who had exchanged the overalls for his store clothes, but about whose freshtallowed cowhide boots the scent of the stable still lingered. The Pearce girls came attended by a lantern and a dog. They were very plain, and not at all young. Halsey the west and a dog. They were yeary plain, and not at all young. Halsey thought discourteously that if the lantern flamed brightly enough to display their faces the protection of the dog was entirely unnecessary. The deacon's wife brought in lamps and a few well thumbed hymn books. The deacon roused Halsey from his pleasant obat with the remark. "I cuess all a come chat with the remark, "I guess all's come that is coming," and the doctor, handing him a Bible, insisted that he should take charge

of the meeting. "Will some one select a hymn?" he asked in fear and trembling, and one of the Misses Pearco started "Sweet Hour of Prayer." At its close he read a chapter from the Gospels chosen quite at random. Having closed the Bible he called upon the doctor to lead in pray-Bible he called upon the doctor to lead in prayer, and endeavored during its slow progress to evolve some train of thought suitable to the occasion. Suddenly the story of Blind Bartimans, which he had just read, suggested a sermon of Henry Ward Beecher's. His short hand report book was in his pocket, and fortunately, the notes were legible. Before the doctor had reached "Amen" he had selected two pages, had read them over twice, and was prepared to repeat them in an off hand manner, with quite the air of

giving utterance to something entirely his own. As he began he noticed that the eyes of the doctor's niece were fixed upon him as though in anticipation of keen enjoyment. "He is going to get into a muddle," they seemed to say, "my attention will add to his embarrassment, and I am going to be very nice and attentive,"

Halsey spoke fivently and saw her air of amused superiority fade into one of blank wonder, which said plainer than any words, "I have made a mistaken estimate of this young man's abilities; he is not such a nimy as he looks."

After speaking for twenty minutes, Halsey

as he looks."

After speaking for twenty minutes, Halsey apologized for occupying so much time, gave out another hymn and called upon the deacon and Brother Slocumbe to fill the remaincon and Brother Slocumbs to fill the remaining minutes with prayer and exhortation.

At the close of the meeting the doctor shook hands with him, with genuine approbation. "The Lord has committed a great talent to your trust, my son," he said to him in the dusk, as Halsey helped him into his

stop to consider this. They accepted what he said as true, and listeded to the brave, earnest words with kindling enthusiasm.

took her seat before him. The look of sur

"Who told you that I have had any such

experiences?" he asked, smiling, while a fear of detection seemed to numb all his facul-

"In your very interesting talk at prayer

meeting last evening you described the Jeri-cho road, and incidentally referred to the Bedouins in a way only possible to one who

Halsoy breathed more freely. He thought he could explain all satisfactorily, though it was certainly unfortunate that he had given Mr. Beecher's description of the Jericho road in the words

of an eye witness. "My Palestine tour was a very meager one," he apologized. "It was only one of Cook's vacation tickets. I cannot

presume to any deep knowledge of the man ners and customs of the Orientals," and then as he had recently read Bayard Taylor's "Land of the Saracen" and Warner's "In the

Levant," he proceeded to give interesting de-scriptions of imaginary adventures among the Arabs. The superintendent's bell sounded

as he was describing a bazar at Damascu and to his confusion he found that he had no touched upon the lesson, or given any ethno

legical information concerning the Jebusites and the Girgashites. Nevertheless, the fact remained that the class had been vastly en

tertained. He had ascertained, too, by

roundabout questioning, of which he was heartily ashamed, that however conversant the doctor's nicee might be with other cities, she had never been in New York, except to pass from the Grand Central to the Jersey City depot, and had never heard any of the New York minister.

had seen both."

conveyance. "Go not out to the battle in your own strength. Remember the admonition of the King of Israel, 'Let not him that girdeth on his harness, boast himself as be that putteth it off,' "His niece was shyer than she had been before the meeting. Evidently she was impressed with Halsey's superior abilities, and the young man's heart swelled with clation. As he returned to the house the Missas Pearce were just leaving with their

the Misses Fearce were just leaving with their smoky lantern, and he could do no less than offer to see them home. The way was long and it was pitchy dark when he returned, give.

V. 24. No doubt these servants were officers to whom some public trust had been confided. And this special one had probbut the eldest Miss Pearce had insisted on his but the eldest Miss Pearce had insisted on his availing himself of her lantern. "You can give it to me at church to-morrow," she said, "and you will rurely fall into the brook without it." As there really seemed some probability of this, Halsey took the lantern, at the same time reproaching himself for his politeness. The descon had told him so much of the plain and simple minded character of his hearers that he de-termined to avoid all flights of oratory, and termined to avoid all flights of oratory, and to give his audience a sermon as full of common sense as could be found in his collection.

A lecture by the Rev. Robert Collyor struck him as most likely to be popular. It abounded in incidents of country boys coming to high positions by unremitting toil and determination. He read the lecture well, with much of the hearty manner in which it was originally delivered, for he was a capital actor in annateur theatricals, and was accustomed to a manne his friends, by divine "reserved." termined to avoid all flights of oratory, and tomed to amuse his friends by giving "per-sonations" of the different public men with whom he was familiar. While in the full whom he was familiar. While in the full flight of successful oratory, while he felt that every eye in the house was fixed upon him, and that perhaps no one present had ever heard more effective speaking, his eye which ran before his tongue, discovered a danger in the path. Mr. Collyer spoke of his own early experiences, of the cottage in Yorkshire with its floor so white that you might have enten your dinner from it, with no harm to anything but the floor; and Halsey in his anxiety to escape this trap fell into a worse one, for skipping the description of his English childhood, he launched inconsiderately into particulars of his thirst for study and

God, will always extend it to man.

V. 28-30. It is a most significant point into particulars of his thirst for study and reading as a youth, how "The Pilgrim's Progress" and one or two other books were the constant companions of the forge. Halsey's white and shapely hands hardly carried out the assertion that he had been trained to a blacksmith's trade; but his hearers did not the total considering. that it was when the "servant went out." I.e.—from his lord's presence—that he found his indebted fellow servant. He had no time for such search when he stood before his lord. when he went out from his presence, he could look up the little matters of his fellow servant's indebtedness to himself. And what a contrast is here! "Ten thousand talents" on the one side, and a "bundred pence" on the

Halsey finished his sermon in an agony of apprehension. He wiped away the beads of perspiration from his forehead, and during the singing of the last hymn regarded the congregation furtively from behind his handkerchief, expecting in some faces at least to read scorn and denun-ciation. Instead of this there was a look of pleased surprise and ad-miration on every countenance. He miration on every countenance. He turned slowly to the right, where the choir sat. There, too, an open eyed and open mouthed delight was everywhere displayed. There was one face, however, which he could not see, though he would have given much to have known its expression. The doctor's niece sat at the cabinet organ, with her back toward him—a lithe, willowy figure using the pedals with vigor and the stops with a freedom and grace which betokened more skill than was usual with the organist of a country choir. Her auburn hair was knotted in a loose, abundant mass on her delicate neck. Her bonnet was a dainty creation with a decidedly Parisian air, and her hands, though ringless, were exquisitely modeled. "Take her to the city," Halsey thought, "and no one would detect her country training." no one would detect her country training."
Then came a swift conviction that this was no rural maiden; everything combined to indicate the influence of the city. Yes, he was in danger of detection, and it was from this quarter that he must guard against it.

After the close of service the superintendent of the Sabbath school was introduced, and Halsey was invited to take the Bible class. He found himself confronted by three seats full of whispering and giggling young misses, who relapsed into apparently awe struck silence upon his introduction. Prominent among them were the two Misses Pearce, and Halsey remarked inconsiderately: "I have brought your lantern, as you suggested. It is behind the outer door." His announcement was greeted by a violent blush on the part of the older Miss Pearce, and a giggle from her sister, which started a subdued titter throughout the entire class. Halsey dunly received that Misses Halsey dunly received that Misses.

started a subdued titter throughout the en-tire class. Halvey dimly perceived that Miss Pearce tooked upon his attendance upon her the night before as a roamatite secret, which without number. Is not this just the mean-ing of the ten thousand talents of the parable! "We cannot answer him one of a thousand."

a had many agreeable conversations was Mrs. Anson Burlingame in Bermuda last winter and have since formed an entirely

even now. Many times Mr. Burlingame would have occasion to make some journey by land or trip on the rivers, while she would follow with the children and servants at a slower pace. Then, when danger of any kind was threatened, when annoyances were to be overcome and varied troubles to be avoided, all was done with strict reference. to her best welfare and wishes with a spontaneous good nature and solicitous painstaking which gained her affectionate respect for the polite and philosophical nation. "You do not, you cannot know the Chinese!" she once exclaimed, "any more than a stranger can know and judge of Americans by hoodiums and loafers. Howevy buys and tramps. I know it is unreasonable in me to feel so, for I am aware of the ignorance of the best Chinese character prevailing; but when I see in-dignities put upon them, either on the streets or in the newspapers, I am at once touched

New York ministers [TO BE C STINUED.] Hope for Young Men.

Who says that there is not hope for the coung men of to-day! Of Amherst's ninetyhree freshmen but seventeen smoke tobacc A tabacco report from the class three year from now will be interesting.—New Yor

Never wash woolen goods or blankets on a cloudy stay.

The self consum d in the United States knew, which is actually painful.—Core is said to amount to 2,000,00° barrels per Linn Deniels in New York Graphic.

LESSON VIII. INTERNATIONAL SUN-

TEACHING FORGIVENESS

DAY SCHOOL SERIES, FEB. 19. Text of the Lesson, Matt. zvill, 21-35

Golden Text. Matt. vi, 17-Memorise

(From Lesson Helper Quarterly, by permission of H. S. Hoffman, Philadelphia, publisher.)
Notes.—My brother, or fellow disciple. Seventy times seven, or indefinitely for 450 times; clearly mark the unlimited exercise of forgiveness. Take account, see how much they owed. Servants, officers, or those in charge of some trust. Talents, a talent was 3,000 shekels, and a shekel of silver was about fifty cents. Went out, i. a., from his Lordie presence. Hundred pence, a pence was the presence. Hundred pence, a pence was the Roman demartus, valued about fourteen cents. Wroth, very angry. Tormentors, officers of the prison. Likewise, in the same way. Trespasses, sins or wrongs against

V. 21. Moved by our Lord's dir. V. 21. Moved by our Lord's directions as to the treatment by his disciples of their offending brethren, Peter comes with the very practical question as to the extent that forgiveness might be required of him. He wanted to know how often he must forgives Clearly he thought there was a limit to its exercise and a point beyond upon which he could not be required to go. Now the rabbis taught that three was that limit. Peter, therefore, doubled that number and added one to it, and then thought that even the one to it, and then thought that even the master could ask no more. We can smile at the carnestness of the man, the darkness that the earnestness of the man, the darkness that still shut him in and his struggling toward the truth. But just here, how far—how very far—do many of the professing people of the Lord stand even in this dispensation of the spirit below Peter's "seven times!"

V. 22. How heavenly these words are Clearly "seventy times seven"—400 times—are an unlimited number! "Even as I had pity on thee" is the divine measure. And until that is reached we must forgive as freely as we have been forgiven.

freely as we have been forgiven. V. 23. The whole doctrine of forgiveness is

confided. And this special one had prob-ably farmed out some portion of the king's domain. In no other way is it easy to see how such an enormous debt could be created. For a talent of silver would be about \$1,500, and "ten thousand talents" would sum up to \$15,000,000. A talent of gold would, of al5,000,000. A talent of gold would, of course, be proportionably greater. And if by this enormous sum the master meant to represent our sins against God, it is a most teiling point that this great debtor was found when "he had begun to reckon." No extended search was needed. The proof lay upon the surface. The records of the case at once revealed it. There was the proof of the debt. And there was no escape from it. And if that great debt represent our sins before God, how fitting is the statement, "one fore God, how fitting is the statement, "one was brought unto him, etc." For this debtor would not have come of himself. The king's mes engers brought him. And so in the case of our sins. The king has many messenger of our sins. The king has many messengers to bring us into his presence and open before us the record of our sins. And as we survey the record, there is no answer to the question, "Is not thy wickedness great, and thine iniquity infinite?" Job

XXII, 5. V. 25-27. All these incidents are necessary to the parable as illustrating a bunan transaction, and are not to be regarded as measuring the divine mode of forgiveness. Two great truths are illustrated by the parable, i. c.

1. There is no limit to the exercise of for-

other. Yet this taking by the throat, this Pay me that thou owest; this casting into prison—how clearly all this tells of one who has no sense of forgiveness in his own ex-

side of the parable, the operations of the "man king." Beyond question, v. 34 modifies and explains v. 27. Clearly the debt that was forgiven could not be enforced, and the debt that was enforced could never have been forgiven. So that the principle here involved is that the reality of the divine foress in a given case will be shown by the reality of our forgiveness of those who sin against us. There is no such thing or re-enorcing the penalty of sins that had once seen forgiven. The unmerciful servant was not troubled by his great debt. He would willingly have made it larger if he had not been brought to the king. It was only the penalty that troubled him. And he whom that servant represents is the man who hought he was converted when he was only errified, and who had no use for the love of fod beyond the fact that in some way it could save him from the penalty of his sin.

And when he goes out from the Lord's presence; when his sense of danger is lost in the promises of the Gospel, the current of his old nature flows on as before. Why should he not have his hundred pence! Why should he not claim that which is his due! And so his claim to be forgiven is proved by the ruling spirit of his life to have been utterly without foundation. The principle, therefore, holds good in every case, that he who refuses to forgive shows that he himself had never been forgiven. And now, in reviewing this parables we been

1. That the duty of forgiveness is absolutely unlimited. How, indeed, can it be otherwise, if it flows out of what God has done for us i "Even as I had pity on thee," is the d'vine rule. Therefore to one who has been himself forgiven the right to refuse forgiveness does not exist. How can we reach the limit of our "seventy times seven!" 2. Our sins against God are practically

his too public return of the lantern had thoughtlessly divulged. After the opening hymn the doctor's niece left the organ and 3. The offenses of our fellow men against ourselves are, in comparison, insignificant. Viewed in any other light, neasured by any other standard, they may be very great. But prise and shy appreciation which he had thought he had discovered in her face the night before, had given place to a puzzled doubt, a grave winder which showed that something in the morn-ing's sermon had troubled her. Halsey's other standard, they may be very great. But
the parable sets the one over against the
other; our 10,000 talents, with our fellow
servant's 100 pence. And that comparison
remains. And the practical operation of this
truth is that because God has forgiven us
we ought also to forgive one another. It follows from this that the power leading to forgiveness is not one of the
forces of our nature. It is not native amiability of temper. It is simply and alone glance fell before her earnest one—he could not confront those questioning, truth loving eyes. The lesson of the day told of the early inhabitants of Canaan. As they read the text he asked himself what he knad or could tell them of the Girgashites, the Amalekites, the Perizzites, the Hittites, the ability of temper. It is simply and alone the sense of God's pardoning love to us, flowing out in forgiveness to others. As a necessity, therefore, where the sense of that love Amorites, the Forbanes, the Hittles, the Amorites, the Hivites and the Jebusites. At the close of the reading the doctor's nicce asked a question: "The Bible Dictionary says that the descendants of these tribes are the Bedouin Arabs. Will you tell us something is absent, that forgiveness cannot appear

new conception of the Chinese character. She says that the American people only see the refuse of the Chinese nation. Among all the people she has met, and certainly Mrs. Burlingame is sufficiently traveled, she thinks Burlingame is sufficiently traveled, she thinks the Chinese most exquisitely hospitable. The cultured classos are agreeable and courteous in the extreme, extending to travelers and guests all the distinguished attention which is often rarely to be found hers. When living in China it was, of course, necessary for themselves to preserve some degree of state and ceremony, and she depended almost ab-solutely upon her Chinese major domo, who, although a servant, was nevertheless invalu-able in assisting her to maintain the proper able in assisting her to maintain the proper etiquette and position required. Desirous of living in the American style as much as possible and of presenting the people with American dishes as well as customs, she often found it very difficult in that strange climate and country to procure the material for a truly American dinner. But this priceies head butler of hers was always capable of ransacking the whole country to set forth the beneate tables.

The care taken of herself and children also was sufficient to stir her heart with gratitude even now. Many times Mr. Burlingame