

PARABLE OF THE POUNDS.

LUKE 19: 11-27.

GOLDEN TEXT:—'So, then, every one of us shall give account of himself to God.'—Romans 14: 12.

Central Truth:—'Patient fidelity shall, in due time, receive rich reward.'

This parable is not identical with that of the Talents recorded by Matthew. Between the two there are striking resemblances; but the points of difference are more marked and great. They were spoken at different times and places, and are unlike in structure and purpose.

In his journey to Jerusalem our Saviour had reached Jericho. As he entered the town he healed the blind Bartimeus and another blind man whose name is not given. He visited the house of Zaccheus; and it was probably while standing at his door that he spoke the parable of the Pounds.

To understand its meaning it is to be noticed that, in his present approach to Jerusalem, our Saviour was accompanied by increasing crowds of expectant people. They saw in him their long-promised Deliverer and King. They thought "that the kingdom of God should immediately appear." Moreover, they had false ideas of what that kingdom was to be. Even the disciples looked for personal greatness and ease, not for trial and patient and often lowly service.

It was to correct these notions that the Saviour now addressed the eager company. The form of the parable was drawn from actual history. It was by no means an unheard-of thing for a prince of noble birth to go to a far country (as Herod and his son Archelaus went to Rome) to submit his claims and receive a royal title. Jesus himself was the real Nobleman, and heaven the far country to which he was soon to go. He was now in his state of humiliation. Reascending where he was before, he was to receive "dominion and glory and a kingdom." By his Spirit he would always abide with his people, but in his visible person he would for a time be absent. As a test of their fidelity he would commit to his servants, left behind, important interests. But, having received the kingdom from the Father, he would in due time return. Then to each would be given gracious reward. All judgment having been committed to his hands, he would come to judge.

It is to be observed that to each of the servants he gives the same,—namely, a pound. Evidently this does not stand for mental gifts and possessions. For in respect to these God's servants greatly differ. More likely it stands for the grace which is common to all. To know the truth, to be hopefully a disciple, to be accounted God's redeemed child, is a great opportunity for service. It opens the way to honor our Master. It is a ground of great obligation. God calls his own that they may bear witness for him. Thus he tests them. Thus character is developed. Thus fidelity is evinced. In this all God's children are equal. Each has his pound.

Doubtless the great practical truth of the lesson is, that just according to our use of opportunities to serve shall we be judged. Differing degrees of faithfulness will determine the differing rewards. He who does much for Christ will be the more richly blessed.

There is great cheer in this for the self-distrustful. Heavenly treasure will not be determined by the talents we possess or the places we fill. Have we been faithful? That will be the all-important question.

There is also a very important lesson here with respect to the nature of the Christian's reward. It will not be to bask in sunshine, or to give ourselves to beatific visions, or idly to worship and sing. Heaven will lack no pure delight; but here we are taught that the rewards of service will mainly consist in enlarged opportunity. To have been faithful with little will be to be made ruler over much. The spirit which has learned to delight in consecrated service, in loving work, will have so much the wider sphere. This is not the heaven the sensual and the selfish covet. Nevertheless it is the true heaven, that "joy of our Lord" on which the faithful are hidden enter. The difference in our future blessedness as compared with the present will largely be, that, together with enlarged being and scope, we shall have escape from weakness and earthly ills. The testing will be over. Character will be established. All conditions will favor peace and joy.

The penalty of the unfaithful will be bitter indeed. Even opportunity is taken away. Unloving, unfit for either service or the companionship of those who delight to serve, nothing is left but separation from the true and good.

It is plain that by the "citizens" who would not that Christ should reign over them are meant those who openly reject his service. Defiant and scornful, their punishment is as severe as it is hopeless.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. Our great concern should be not to determine just how soon or in what precise manner the Lord will come again. Far more important is it that he should find us ready.

2. The highest human ambition is not to be learned, or rich, or "cultured," to possess superior attainments, or to fill a conspicuous place. To be humbly, steadfastly, diligently doing his work, is far better. Such will the King delight to honor.

3. Just to be a Christian—pardoned, renewed, saved,—opens boundless opportunity to do good. To enter the Christian fold is the first step in the highest usefulness. It is to begin service, which may forever widen.

4. It is a great mistake to plead want of talent or opportunity as an excuse for indolence in the Lord's work. The Master expects service from all. No

excuse will appear good when we give our account.

5. The great peril of the Christian is self-indulgence. Indeed, a selfish, self-pleasing Christian is a contradiction. For such there is no place in heaven. Against such a spirit there is need of ceaseless vigilance and prayer.

6. The Last Day will be truly a "revelation of the righteous judgment of God," it will reveal the judgment as righteous. Out of their own mouths will the wicked be condemned.

7. It is sometimes said that it is better to be an open rejecter of God than an unprofitable professor. Such a view is not countenanced in this parable. The idle servant is excluded from all glory and heavenly joy; but the condemnation of those who said, "We will not have this man to reign over us," is more startling in its severity.

8. Is it not a great blessing to be still living in the midst of opportunity to make sure the "Well done" of the Divine Master? For such may also make sure an exceeding great reward. Even for the saved there will be degrees of glory. Every cup will indeed be full; but what a difference will there be in the capacity of the cups! "Have I consented to Christ's rule?" should be my first eager question. "When the Master comes will he find me in the ranks of the faithful?" should be the second.

THE DUKE D'AUMALE.

ROMANTIC CAREER OF THE RICHEST OF FRENCH PRINCES.

Paris has above all cities an exclusive hierarchy tenacious of caste. Entrance to the Faubourg St. Honore implies sixteen quarters at the least. For a century these great families, the pale spectre of that splendid noblesse that dazzled the courts in the days of the Bourbons, have lived in exclusion. During the Empire they held austere aloof from the parvenu monarch and alluded to the Emperor and Empress as M. and Madame Bonaparte. An event that draws them from their seclusion interests all Paris, and what interests Paris, Victor Hugo says, must necessarily be of interest to the world. This event was the appearance of the Duke d'Aumale the other day as the master of ceremonies at the academic reception of Roussea as the successor of the late Jules Favre among the immortals. The Duke is the fourth son of the Orleans King Louis Philippe. About his life there attaches more scandal and piquant on dit than any member of the House of Bourbon since the merry and valorous monarch Henry IV.

The Duke has been for forty years a force in a certain sort in the salons and the policy of France. He came into notice in scandal and tragedy of tone and incidents in keeping with the lurid annals of his house. It was the Duke d'Aumale who succeeded to the colossal inheritance of the Prince de Conde, Duke de Bourbon—the last of the great race of Conde. The Prince's properties and revenues exceeded in affluence the Crown revenues and lands. He was an old man when Charles X. was driven from Paris, in 1830. He had been an exile during the great revolution and on the return of the Bourbons his estates were restored, with accumulated interest, at the national expense. During his exile he had fallen in with an English adventurer, named Daws, whom he caused to be created Baroness so soon as the King was in power.

This woman was mad for social recognition. The Prince d'Aumale, to give her the entrée to the courts of the Tuileries and the title of Baroness. The Baron soon discovered the relations between his wife and the Prince and blew his own brains out. She was none the less bent upon being the leader of the court of Maria Amelia, mother of the Duke d'Aumale. The Queen knowing the woman's hold upon the old and childless Prince de Conde, encouraged her hopes, but made as the price of recognition the adoption by the old Prince of the Duke d'Aumale as his heir. One morning the Prince de Conde, who had arranged for a grand hunting party near his chateau, was found hanging to his window, strangled to death. The affair was wrapped in profound mystery, but a suit brought by certain friends of the Prince left no doubt that he had been foully dealt with the very day after he had been induced to make a will in favor of the fourth son of the house of Orleans, which he held in cordial hatred. There was no doubt whatever that the mistress had either made way with the last of the Condes or had admitted the assassins to his chamber, as she alone had the keys.

The Duke d'Aumale, in spite of the proof of fraud and murder, gained possession of the estate. He became at once a potent personage in the monarchy. His excesses were the talk of the clubs, and when, in 1848, the Republic drove his father, King Louis Philippe, out, he carried a splendid fortune into exile. He resented a fling made against the venality and avariciousness of his family, as well as against the parsimony of the King, by Prince Napoleon Jerome, the present pretender, and sent him a challenge from Chiswick, near London, where the Orleans family had established themselves in regal conditions, in the very walks and haunts of Pope. But the Emperor forbade the combat, and it was from this that Prince Napoleon derived the character of coward and nickname of "Plon-Plon," by which he is known to this day.

On the fall of the empire d'Aumale returned to Paris. His name had become known for intrigues even in London, but he had bravely become settled in his chateau when Paris was agape over his escapades. His most widely gossiped liaison was with Madame-moiselle Croizette, the rival of Sarah Bernhardt in the Comedie Francaise, whose beauty ten years ago was the reigning theme in the clubs and on the boulevards.

But the Duke d'Aumale is a crafty fellow, who hopes to secure the crown one of these bright days. He managed to ingratiate himself with Thiers during his presidency and was made president of the Bazaine court-martial. He was restored to his rank in the French army, and is now Lieutenant General and Inspector General of the forces. He was sure of being MacMahon's successor, either as king or dictator, and

has taken his disappointment with a good deal of manifest chagrin. He was elected member of the Academy of France in 1871, and only figured as a speaker week before last at the reception of Rousseau, who succeeds the great Republican orator, the late Jules Favre. It fell to the lot of the Duke d'Aumale to make the speech of welcome, and with his usual adroitness he succeeded in avoiding any of the burning questions which it would be dangerous for a princely person to meddle with in the present democratic effervescence of the French electors.

As may be inferred, the occasion was one big with importance to the aristocratic caste. The Faubourg St. Germain was out in such an array as few Parisians remember since the days of the "King." The "immortals" of the Academy seem to be the last vestige of the old condition of things, and upon their rare reception the haute noblesse turn out to mark their reverence for the only institution that has survived the sacrilegious hand of revolution and democracy. It was Richelieu, the original and prototype of Bismark, who founded this serene and illustrious Sanhedrim, and the body exists to this day almost on the plan drawn up by the great and unscrupulous prelate, the "Cardinal King," as he was called, quite as much in hate and fear as in awe or reverence.

Admission to the "receptions," as the installation of an immortal is called, is no easy matter even for the elect of the Faubourg. A duchess may be seen put to the severe shifts and intrigue of an ordinary plebeian in the rare cases where dukes and princes are to be seated as members or act as masters of the stately ceremonies. The home of the "Immortals" is called the "Palace of the Institute of France." It is historical in the most sinister and picturesque sense. Its foundations are those upon which the mysterious "Tour de Nesle" rested; from which the profligate Queen Marguerite of Burgundy flung her lovers into the Seine when she had no further desire for them. The gabled tower in which her amours were carried on is still shown in prints in the neighborhood, but the river has been very much narrowed since those days, and a wide and sumptuous roadway runs between the old tower and the water.

The amphitheatre or reception hall of the Institute is about the size of the old Senate room in Washington and right under a miniature dome. At best not more than three hundred people can be squeezed in. As the Duke d'Aumale was to figure on this occasion as the master of the ceremonial and eulogist of the new member, in addition to the scores of duchesses and minor nobility there were queens and ex-queens and the Marchale de MacMahon, Duchess of Magenta.

Kentucky Boy Marksman Sixty Years Since.

In Mr. Josiah Quincy's reminiscences of Washington in 1826 we find the following:

Another remembered occasion was a state dinner of forty ladies and gentlemen, very splendid and rather stiff. My place was next a pretty Miss Ballet, of Kentucky; but, to say the truth, the conversation rather dragged between us until I discovered that we had a mutual friend in Larz Anderson, of Cincinnati. I had known Larz well in college, and remember when he arrived in Cambridge, a small, flaxen-haired boy, accompanied by two companions from the distant West. They had come all the way from Kentucky on horseback, their effects being borne in saddle-bags behind the riders. There was no public conveyance, the roads were execrable, and this manly mode of traveling was then the only way of getting to Harvard. Now, I happened to have a story to tell about my friend Anderson, which I felt sure would gratify the pride of a Kentuckian; and as I have not recorded a word of what my fair neighbor said to me, I can only fall back upon what I said to her, and the substance of my tale might be written out thus:

Oxford street, in Cambridge, is at present a very decorous thoroughfare; not at all adapted to the wild sport of turkey-shooting, for which purpose the ground it occupies was used when I was in college, we stood with our backs to the site of Memorial Hall, and discharged rifles at long range at a turkey which was dimly discernible in the distance. A small fee was demanded for the privilege of shooting, and the turkey was to be given to any one who could hit it. But, except for some chance shot, like that made by Mr. Tupman when out rook-shooting, it was safe to predict that nobody would hit it. The usual end of a Harvard turkey-shooting was the departure of the proprietor of the turkeys with all his birds and all our sixpences. Still, there was the excitement of a lottery about it, if nothing else. The ball, if discharged, must strike somewhere; and if so, why might it not happen to strike the turkey? The logic was simply irresistible. A fowl of that magnitude would be a most desirable addition to the meagre fare furnished by the college commons; and so the rifles cracked, with small results to the students and splendid profits to the turkey-man. One day a little tow-headed fellow appeared on the field and desired to take part in the sport. Though he seemed almost too young to be trusted with a rifle, the master of the fowls (foreseeing future gains) was quite willing he should try. He must first receive proper instructions about the holding and pointing of his piece, and then there would really be no danger. Young Larz received the directions with great good nature, raised the rifle, and down went the turkey. The man stared with amazement, and then broke into a smile. "Try it again, young one," said he, "most any one can throw sixes once, you know." Another bird was procured, and the ball flew to the mark with the same result. The law of chances was now so overwhelmingly in favor of the turkey-man that a third bird was set up with some confidence. Again the boy raised his rifle, and that third turkey was added to the banquet upon which his friends would regale. "Well, where in?"—in the United States, let us call it—"did you come from?" exclaimed the master of the fowls, who began to realize that his occupation was gone. "I came from the State of Kentucky,

answered Larz Anderson, proudly; "and next time you meet a gentleman from that State, just remember there's not much you can tell him about a rifle. That's all."

And thus it was that our good friend Anderson broke the ice between pretty Miss Ballet and myself at that solemn dinner of high state, nearly fifty-five years ago.

FEDERAL FINANCES.

Sec'y Windom Calls in Coupon Fives.

HOLDERS CAN EXTEND AT 3 1/2 PER CENT—THE SAME PRIVILEGE ACCORDED \$250,000,000 REGISTERED FIVES.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—Secretary Windom today issued the 103d call for bonds, with a provision for the continuance of 5 per cent at 3 1/2 per cent. The call gives notice that the principal and accrued interest of the five per cent coupon bonds issued under the acts of July 14, 1870, and January 20, 1871, and now outstanding and uncalled, will be paid at the Treasury, in Washington, on the 12th of August, 1881, and that the interest on said bonds will cease on that day, and none of these bonds will hereafter be exchanged for registered bonds bearing 5 per cent interest; provided, however, that in case any of the holders of the said coupon bonds shall request to have their bonds continued during the pleasure of the Government with interest at the rate of 3 1/2 per cent per annum in lieu of their payment at the date above specified, such request will be granted if the bonds are received by the Secretary for that purpose on or before the first day of July, 1881.

The Secretary also announces that until the date mentioned (July 1, 1881) he will receive for continuance in like manner, subject to like conditions, any of the uncalled 5 per cent, registered bonds of the acts of July 14, 1870, and January 20, 1871, to an amount not exceeding \$250,000,000, the remainder of the loan being reserved, with a view of its payment from the surplus revenues.

Foreign holders of any of the 5 per cent bonds above described may have them continued as above provided upon the receipt of the bonds at the Government agency established for that purpose at the banking house of Messrs. Morton, Rose & Co., Bartholomew Lane, London, England.

Upon the receipt of bonds to be continued as above provided the interest thereon to August 12, 1881, will be prepaid at the rate the bonds now bear. The department will pay no expense of transportation on bonds received under the provisions of this circular, but the bonds returned will be sent by prepaid registered mail unless the owners otherwise direct.

The amount of the coupon bonds above referred to which are now outstanding and covered by this call is about \$120,000,000. The total amount of the registered 5 per cent bonds is about \$250,000,000. The privilege of extending registered 5 per cent bonds at the reduced rate of interest being limited to \$250,000,000 of them, which the Secretary of the Treasury intends to pay absolutely out of the surplus revenues. It is believed that the department that much more than \$250,000,000 of these registered bonds will be offered for continuance, but all applications received after the maximum of \$250,000,000 shall have been presented will not be entertained.

Up to the close of business to-day there had been received and counted at the loan division of the Treasury Department \$143,081,950 of 6 per cent bonds for continuance at 3 1/2 per cent. There are known to be about \$17,000,000 more of these bonds now in the Treasurer's office which have not been acted upon, which will swell the aggregate amount received for continuance to more than \$170,000,000, leaving but about \$80,000,000 yet to be heard from. No returns have yet been received from the London agency.

The Royal Marriage at Vienna.

The marriage of the Crown Prince Rudolph of Austria and the Princess Stephanie of Belgium was most imposingly solemnized at the Church of St. Augustine, in Vienna, on Tuesday, the 10th instant. An immense multitude collected in the streets through which the imperial and royal personages proceeded to the church. An hour before the commencement of the ceremony the church was densely crowded by a brilliant and striking assembly. A fanfare of trumpets signalled the arrival of the cortege at the church door, where it was received by Cardinal Von Schwarzenberg at the head of his clergy.

Their Majesties took seats under a canopy over a throne. The bridal pair proceeded to their places before the sanctuary rails, where they offered a short prayer. After a brief address from the Cardinal the marriage ceremony was proceeded with. At the moment the rings were exchanged peals broke forth from the bells of the city, and salves of artillery were fired. At the conclusion of the ceremony a Te Deum was sung, after which the Hofburg Choir executed an old German march. The newly-married pair, accompanied by the other imperial and royal personages, then returned to the City Palace of the Hofburg.

What is the Bible Like?

It is like a large, beautiful tree, which bears sweet fruit for those who are hungry, and affords shelter and shade for the pilgrims on their way to the kingdom of heaven.

It is like a cabinet of jewels and precious stones, which are not only to be looked at and admired, but used and worn.

It is like a telescope that brings distant objects and far-off things of the world very near so that we can see something of their beauty and importance.

It is like a treasure-house or a store-house for all sorts of value and useful things, and which are to be had without money and without price.

It is like a deep, broad, calm flowing river, the banks of which are green and flowery, where birds sing and lambs play, and dear little children are loving and happy.

That Hubbell Letter.

From the New York Herald.

The facts in relation to the Garfield-Hubbell letters have not yet been fully published. They are these:

Mr. Jewell was constantly complaining of the backwardness of the Washington people in making contributions to the campaign funds, and President Hayes was applied to by the chairman of the National Executive committees jointly to use his influence with the departments to procure subscriptions. This Mr. Hayes cunningly evaded, and Mr. Hubbell then set about working the departments himself. His success was not very encouraging, and at last the star route contractors were thought of as a promising plan, the other government contractors having been pretty generally assessed. Brady was sent for, and Hubbell asked him for aid, suggesting that he ought to be able to raise a large amount from the star route contractors who had made so good a thing out of the government. Brady told Hubbell that the star route contractors were pretty sharp people and that he would not ask them for a large contribution without having something to show to prove that the request came from Mr. Garfield. It would be useless, he said, to do so, as they were capable of supposing that he or Hubbell might want the money to put into their own pockets. Mr. Hubbell wrote these facts to Mr. Garfield, who knew what the star route contractors were worth, and urged him to write Brady a letter asking him to apply to the contractors for assistance. Hubbell also complained of the backwardness of the departments in subscribing to the funds, and suggested that it might be advisable to touch them up as well. It would be curious reading if that letter could be obtained for publication. After the receipt of Hubbell's communication Mr. Garfield had a conversation with ex-Senator Dorsey, and asked his advice as to the expediency of writing to Brady on the subject of getting contributions from the star route contractors. Mr. Dorsey in good faith counseled against it, and suggested that a letter couched in general terms might be addressed to Hubbell, which he might show to Brady and which Brady might, if necessary, show to the star route people from whom he was expected to raise money. This advice was followed, and hence the Garfield letter to Hubbell, which begged assistance from Brady, the head of the star route service, and inquired "how all the other departments were doing." This letter was first carried round by Hubbell to all the departments to stir them up to activity and was then handed to Brady to be used to obtain contributions from the star route contractors and their "doubles." This is the true history of that episode of the campaign.

A Runaway Train.

IT COMES INTO ALTOONA AT THE RATE OF TWENTY-FIVE MILES AN HOUR.

A dispatch from Altoona dated May 16, says: One of the most miraculous escapes in the history of railroading happened here this evening to the Cincinnati express, due here at 9 o'clock, in coming down the mountain. The engine lost control of the train by the automatic air brakes becoming unmanageable to hold the large train of twelve cars. The engineer whistled "down brakes" and came into the depot at the rate of twenty-five miles per hour whistling for clear track, which had the effect of bringing thousands to the depot to see her steaming through at a terrible rate, but fortunately an engine which was in waiting at the Ninth street crossing was run into and stopped the runaway train. Three engines were disabled, the cylinder heads being blown out. The passengers were terribly scared. Never since Altoona was a railroad centre has an accident occurred which created such a panic. The engineers, Aaron Dougherty and Geo. Cassidy, deserve special mention and credit for remaining at their posts. No persons were hurt.

Crop Failure in England.

The World's special cable letter says that there is every prospect of another bad harvest in England. Drought and late frosts have already killed oats and barley, and the growth of wheat has been arrested at the most critical period of the season. As Mr. Jennings points out, there has not been a really good harvest in Britain since 1874, and another failure will seriously aggravate the stagnation and depression which prevail at the great manufacturing centres. "It is an ill wind which blows nobody good," and the Western farmer with his largely increased acreage of cereals' sown this year will profit by the misfortunes of his sorely beset English brother.

Make Home Cheerful.

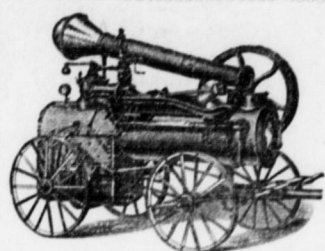
In a recent lecture Rev. Dr. Vincent was unparing in his condemnation of the practice of debarring children from the use of the house—all parts of it—as their home, and saving the carpets and furniture at the cost of their comfort and the risk of their ruin. If quiet was the great thing wanted, he recommended the parents to go to the cemetery; they were sure to find it there. For his part he wanted his boy to feel that the freest, jolliest place on earth was his father's house.

The census of 1881, in England, reveals the startling fact that a decrease in the population of rural parishes in the west of the country is going on with a rapidity which threatens almost entire depopulation. Towns are becoming villages and villages hamlets, while hamlets are passing out of existence.

A statement just issued by the board of revision of taxes of the valuation of the real and personal property of Philadelphia for the present year shows an aggregate subject to city taxation of \$343,669,129, being an increase over 1880 of \$7,001,295.

A young lady of Madison, Wis., received many anonymous poems of an amorous and flattering character. She finally submitted them to an intimate friend, a married lady, who recognized the handwriting as her husband's, and was a slight storm in that household.

New Advertisements.



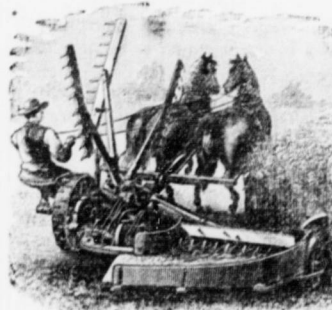
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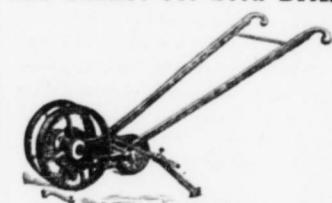


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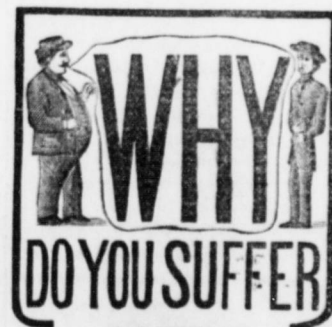


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