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From the New York Observer

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS. Third Quarter.

BY REV. HENRY M. GROUT, D. D.

Lesson 11.

IDOLATRY PUNISHED. Ex. 32:26-35. Golden Text:-"Little children keep yoursel rom idols. Amen."-I. John 5:21.

Central Truth:—Only spiritual worship is true and acceptable to God.

Not long after the events connected with the giving of the law on Sinai, Moses was again called up into the mountain. Here, after some other communications, God met him in a glorious munications, God met him in a glorious cloud, the sight of which was like de-vouring fire. It was at this time that God showed to him the pattern of the tabernacie, and gave directions with re-spect to its furniture and service, and the consecration of Aaron and his sons to the priest's office. Solemn charges were added with respect to the keeping of the Sabbath. Also the two tables of testimony were given to him. His stay lasted forty days and forty nights, dur-

ing which he neither ate nor drank.

Meanwhile, quite other scenes were transpiring in the camp below. To the people the absence of Moses seemed long. More than a month before they had seen him pass into the luminous and seen him pass into the fundous cloud and disappear from sight. What if the "devouring fire" had consumed him? In their impatience they lost faith in God and in Moses. They must set out anew; under a new leader, which would be Aaron, and under another symbol of the divine presence, if not another God. So they said, "Up, make us gods which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, we know not what has become of him." Aaron had not the courage and faith to refuse. He took the earrings and other ornaments of gold which they brought him, and made an image. Doubtless it was like the Egyptian Apis, to the worship of which they had been used in Egypt. It had the form of a calf, or agricultural ox, and represented the powers of nature. Then he said: "These be thy Gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Israel."

The Lord was greatly displeased. He told Moses what had been done, and threatened to destroy the whole people. So far as appears only the earnest inter-cession of Moses saved them. As Moses went down from the Mount he heard the sound of revelry in the camp; for Aaron had proclaimed "a feast to Jeho-vah" in honor of the idol. In his indignation he cast the tables out of his dignation he cast the tables out of his hands and broke them. This lesson is an account of the punishment inflicted upon the people for their sin.

One question likely to arise in connection with the lesson is, What was there so very sinful in what they did?

It was a direct and plain breaking of one of those commandments which had

one of those commandments which had but just been given them. Amid great signs, and in the most solemn manner, God had just said to them: "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image or likeness" for the purposes of worship. It was thus an act of disobedience in the very face of Jehovah. It was also a violation of corenant vows, for they had said: "All that the Lord hath spoken unto us, we will do." But this was not all. Idolatry is a

peculiarly dangerous sin. It is not likely that Israel meant to cast off Jehovah. Aaron said when he had finished the calf, "To morrow is a feast to the Lord." Idolatry is a transgression of the second commandment, not of the first. It is an attempt to escape the sense of the spiritual presence of a holy God. In part it is an effort to make worship easier, to save the trouble and weariness of spiritual effort, to escape labor of the Then, it is an attempt to bring God down to man's spiritual level. The thought of the worshipper never habitually rises above the moral level of the creature it has framed to represent him. The image never includes—it excludes -the idea of God's purity. It is a deholy God in their knowledge. inates in a sensual tendency, and leads to sensual practice. This is always the case. The heathen gods never made their worshippers pure. It was natural that, having got their calf to represent Jehovah, Israel should give themselves to licentious revelries.

No special difficulty is to be found in

the manner in which punishment was inflicted. It was needful that it should be made to appear that God is earnest in his commands, and that sin is both hateful and unsafe. And he may choose his own agents for the fulfilment of his righteous will. But was there no disrighteous will. But was there no dis-crimination in the judgment inflicted? Doubtless there was much. First, the penitent were invited to stand apart and show themselves on the Lord's side. Then it is to be remembered that when Moses stood in the camp "he saw that the people were naked." Many were fresh from their orgies; not yet sobered to decency and quiet. These still thronged the camp, while the more orderly had taken warning, and gone to their tents. On these grosser offenders the avenging Levites fell. Thus God made himself known as holy in his ha tred of sin, and discriminatingly just in his punishment of it.

There is nothing more touching in all the story of Moses' life than his manner of speaking to the people after the sin and its punishment were over, together with his prayer in their behalf. There was truly in it all "an intensity and self-denial of love, unequalled by that of any man except Paul." The result, too, indicates at once the power result, too, indicates at once the power and limitations of prayer. It prevailed in part. By his angel, God would still go before his people. Nevertheless, it was still needful that, in visiting, he should "visit their sin upon them."

to escape.

2. There are other forms of idolatry 2. There are other forms of idolatry than that particular one into which Israel fell, or than those which are now found in heathen lands. Anything is an idol by means of which we help ourselves to shut out or obscure the sense of God as spiritual and holy. Church forms and ordinances, and even the church as an institution may be so used. The disposition to rest in human guid-The disposition to rest in human guid-ance, and to accept human standards may spring from the same root.

The readiness of some to excuse the idolatry of the heathen has no jus-tification in the facts. It is not a struggle upward. It is a gravitation down-ward. God made man upright. Images and like "helps" to realize God are his own sinful inventions. The fruit of any and all forgetfulness of the spirit-uality and holiness of God has always appeared in the dominion of the earthly and sensual. The end is bitterness and death.

4. God has himself come down to us in the only way by which we can be lifted up. Jesus is no false representa-tion of him, but "the express image of his person." In him the holiness and grace of God at once appear. To turn to any idol is to "trample under foot the Son of God." He is our one, true,

glorious, saving Mediator.

5. God is pleased when believers intercede for sinners. He is not unmoved

by their entreaties.

6. To be on God's side is to be ready 6. To be on God's side is to be ready for any service he may assign to us, however painful it may be. Neverthe-less it is to be on the right side. It is also to be everlastingly safe and blest.

PROSPERITY IN THE SOUTH.

THE RAILWAY BOOM -- INFLUX OF CAPITAL-From the Washington Post.

Petersburg, August 16.-The tide of immigration appears at length to have taken a southern course in consequence of the manifest prosperity now so prevalent in different parts of the South. In the last year and a half over \$100,000,000 of capital has been invested in railroads, etc., in the South, exclusive of large amounts ex-

pended in the Southwest. Syndicates have been formed in various States, such as the Georgia Paeific, with a capital of \$12,500,000; the Cincinnati and Georgia, with a capital of \$22,000,000; Norfolk and Western (Va), about \$13,000,000; the Erlanger, about \$10,000,000; Richmond and Danville (Va), \$18,-000,000; the Louisville and Nashville, about \$6,000,000; the Baltimore and Ohio, \$5,000,000 in a new southern road, while your enterprising paper recently contained an article ex-hibiting the large amounts being expended in the extension of the Chesabeake and Ohio to Newport News, thus opening up the most direct route for shipments to Europe. These large sums are being invested in the construction of main lines as a general thing, from which numerous branches will speedily be extended in every direction

Indeed, there is such a boom in southern railroad stocks that fortunes are rapidly made by judicious invest-In a recent article in the ments. New York Herald it is stated that in Atlanta, Ga., "one gentleman \$1,8100,000 on the rise in East's see and Virginia stocks another ed \$70,000, and still another \$1,000. In Augusta and other Georgia cities were cleared by the rise of Georgia railroad stock from 85 to 185; of Central from 90 to 165; Memphis and Charleston from 40 to 93, etc.' The enterprising gentlemen who control these southern roads are offering such inducements as will make it to the interests of settlers to come south, where climate, health, easily improved lands—now rapidly increasing in prices—all conduce to afford a fine field for permanent investment or

speculation. Cotton factories are springing up in vice of men who liked not to retain a all directions, and having the advanthis is a slander—the men are the extages of close proximity to the raw material, which can be purchased from the producers direct, thus saving transportation, commissions, storage, etc., with ample water power and cheap labor, no factories in the world can successfully compete with them. The large amount of northern capital now invested in the construction of various manufactories all over the South shows that these advantages are beginning to be appreciated. The mineral resources are also receiving serious attention, and mines are being explored and millions expended in developing these almost inexhaustible reurces, as the most casual inspection of any northern mining journal will

Northern capitalists are also forming companies for the purpose of loaning farmers money at seven per cent. nterest. One gentleman has \$3,000, 000 so invested. The want of capital and the incubus of carpet-bag legislation have heretofore greatly retarded the prosperity of the South, but with these removed she enters upon a career unexampled in the history of this

Northern men are daily visiting this ection in search of homes, finding, as they do, from the experience of their neighbors who have been here, that they are cordially received by all classes of the people. Lands at pres-ent are cheap, and even where they are poor from the effects of injudicious farming, they recuperate with wonder-

ful rapidity. Your correspondent recently drove

The Centre Jemocrat. as we take refuge by repentance and produce eighty bushels per acre, worth faith in Christ, the sinner cannot hope here now \$1,10 per bushel, besides corn which will make fifty bushels per acre, and other crops in propor-tion. One hundred bushels per acre an unusual crop of peanuts, which shows that money can be made by farming here.

The people do not take so much interest in politics as formerly; are more liberal in political opinions, and are developing a degree of business enterprise that augurs well for the future. The sympathy for the wounded President is universal, but this is is not at all surprising to any one familiar with the characteristics of the people.

It has frequently been asserted by prominent southern men that a foreign nvasion would at once and forever disabuse the northern mind of the de lusion that there exists anywhere south any degree of hostility towards the General Government. It is to be hoped that a similar effect may be produced by the conduct of the southern people in respect to the great national calamity through which the country is now passing.

The American Baden.

CLOSING DAYS OF THE SEASON AT SARATO-

GA-EXTRAVAGANCE UNBOUNDED. The last days of August never witthe hotel piazzas. The season is drawing to a close in a blaze of glory never equaled in the brilliant annals of this world renowned resort. Of all places letter. in the world this is the spot to see the greatest extravagance in dress and manners to which a lady can resort, and in justification of this remark I would here note a dress observed on the promenade.

A white brocade short skirt, the flounces kilted and lined with red. An overskirt of scarlet brocade, with red and white bows, the jacket white, with shoulder cape and cuffs of scarlet, and scarlet hat elaborately set off with red and white plumes. lady was a blonde, young and pretty. Dresses are worn on the street here fit only for the ball room. White is the fashionable color and is trimmed elaborately with lace. A plush or bro-cade jacket is sometimes worn with muslin if the morning is co and the effect is very jaunty. Hats are not generally worn this season except to breakfast, and the ladies ride bareheaded in the omnibuses and often in the open carriages to the lake.

Quite a funny scene occurred on front piazza of one of the large hotels a day or two since. A very pretty little widow was approached by married lady, whose husband given to flirting, and quite a lively bout ensued to the amusement of the few outsiders who were present.

The enraged married lady insisted do so again-

To which the little widow replied good naturedly: "My dear madam, point your husband out to me and I'll promise never to look at him again, no matter how handsome he is.

Now, it happens that the gentleman serned is a little fellow and quite od-looking, but the widow denies all intention of casting "love glances" at him. The laugh is against the married lady, who, by the by, is a large, good-looking woman, and who evi-dently intends to enforce a woman's rights in the case of her own husband. The married men are awful flirts in Saratoga. There are scores of men here whom it would require a detective to discover whether they are husband or bachelor. These dubious and mysterions males are to be met with agent. everywhere-at the races, at the lake, on the road and on the piazzas of the various hotels. It is fun to watch them. Talk about "women flirts"perts. They practice flirtation, they are all the time on the lookout for it and are actively engaged in it, and they flirt all the same, married or

The racing season just concluded has been remarkably successful. The fashionable habitues of Saratoga turned out en masse, decorating the grand

stand with their elegant toilets. Saratoga is a very "rosebud garden of girls" this year. I never saw so many young and pretty women at any former season. And the jeunesse dores is also well represented. Have you ever observed how very handsome, as a rule, our middle-aged men are? This will strike an observer at once in Saratoga. I know it has been said that American men are all either very young or very old, and become Sir Charles Coldstreams at a very early age, But this is not true. I think our American men, between the ages of forty and fifty, are very insinuating to susceptible females. According to Balzac, it is at the age of fifty-two that a man is most dangerous to the heart of a woman; and he ought to know, for it is said of him that each of his stories is dug out of a woman's

As the train was approaching Cleveland it parted in the middle, and the bell-rope snapped off like a thread, the end of it striking an old woman on the bonnet. "What's the matter?" she exclaimed. "Oh, the train's broke in two," replied a gentleman who sat in the next seat. "I should say so," the old lady said, looking the old lady said, looking the lookin

A WESTERN STORY.

Le Roy the Western robber who was recently lynched, was outwitted once. It was in November, 1879, and the scene the Wosion Pass Road near Ranche, nine miles below Leadville. In the coach were seven gentlemen and one lady. At intervals during the day road agents had been the topic of discussion, and the lady remarked that all the money she possessed was safely tucked away in her left over-shoe. Curly Hooker was driving, and, and it looked as though the journey would be made in safety, when the stage stopped and Curly cried down through the boot:

"For heaven's sake, keep quiet and don't shoot ?"

The next moment there came a word of command, and a murderous looking revolver, at full cock, appear-ed at one of the windows. A second we propose to let the dead president ed at one of the windows. A second weapon of like dimensions came in sight at the opposite window, and the woman screamed in truly feminine fash- ed is taken from the original. ion. slight form, the face concealed by a domino and black felt hat, appeared.

"Step out, please," said the owner, blandly: "toll must be paid by all pilgrims at this point."

"Hands up," said the voice again as the first passenger stepped out, and be administration; but upon a careful relively, too, for I haven't shot a man view of all my conduct I should not essed greater crowds than thronged lively, too, for I haven't shot a man since yesterday and am aching to get in practice again!"

His commands were obeyed to the

All were ranged in line in snow, and the boyish looking leader first searched your correspondent. The first thing found was a railroad pass, and scanning it for a moment, the bandit said :

"I always respect the press; I am Billy Le Roy, and I ask you to let me

All were examined except the lady and a gentleman at her left, and little money was found. "Beg pardon, The Miss," said Le Roy, as he rifled her pockets. As the road agent turned to the remaining passenger, the latter

> "I haven't got over \$25 to my name, but if you'll let me go I'll tell you where you can get over \$400."

Le Roy had already found the pas senger's pocket-book, and as it was not

heavily laden, replied:

"Well, fire away, it's a bargain."

"In the left over-shoe of the woman" answered the tell-tale.

Despite the woman's protestation her shoe was removed and the money appropriated. Then orders were given to return to the stage; they were obeyed; Curly Hooker was told to drive on, and in a few moments the stage was bowling away from the eventful spot.

An indignation meeting was imme that the widow had been easting soft diately held, and it was suggested that glances at her husband while at the dinner table, and "that she must not lady should either be lynched or thrown out of the stage to perish in

> Allow me to utter a word of explanation," said the brute, in a suave tone, at this point. "I am the agent for a St, Louis company who have purchased an interest in the Pendry group of mines at Leadville, and in my valise I carry \$60,000 of the purchase money. The expressage rate on so great a sum is so heavy that I thought it safer to adopt this method of carrying it through. I knew very well that if the robber found nothing he would search our baggage, and so played the roll of informant and out-

On arriving at Leadville the lady, who proved to be Mrs. Winnie Purdy, was presented with \$1,000 by the

A TOUCHING INCIDENT.

From the Cincinnati Saturday Night.

One of the most touching things we much money, or life either, but she preferred giving up the former rather looked it over carefully to see that she that he should credit her only ninetyglar, looking about the scantily furnished apartment; a "child's bracelet, ring anything will be thankfully received. She had nothing more she him. "Your husband was a soldier, was he not?" She acknowledged that he was, and killed in the war. Then he must have had a revolver,' he continued, scarching her counte nance. "Ah you grow confused, you stammer; your manner betrays you. Get that revolver at once and give it to me." In vain the women implored him to spare that harmless trinket, many things when in distress, but had always held on to that. But the rob-ber was unrelenting. Sobbing bitter-ly the poor woman went to a bureau

EX-PRESIDENT BUCHANAN.

REPRODUCTION OF A LETTER OF 1861.

In the early part of Mr. Lincoln's administration ex-President Buchanan in a letter to a life-long friend, briefly and pointedly referred to the closing scenes of his own administration : and now that his acts, (after a lapse of twenty years, and when nearly all the members of his cabinet are in their graves,) are passing the ordeal of vere criticism, and the Philadelphia Times calls upon the public men of that day to put upon record all they speak for himself through his written word. The extract herewith append-The door was opened, and a opening and closing paragraphs of the letter being purely personal, we omit them.

WHEATLAND, pear Lancaster, September 21, 1861.

"I had a hard time of it during my change it in a single important measure if this were now in my power. When the official documents and the facts come to be presented to the public, I entertain no apprehension as to what will be their verdict. On the one side I had been violently opposed by the Republicans from the beginning, and on the other side the leading secessionists were estranged from me from the date of my message on the 3rd of December, and soon after, when I returned the in-solent letter of the South Carolina Com-missioners to them unanswered, all intercourse, political or social, between them and myself ceased. I was on the next day, or a day or two after, violent-ly attacked in the Senate by Jefferson Davis and his followers, and the letter which I had returned was submitted by him to that body and published in the Congressional Globe. I pursued my own steady course from the beginning. The Charleston authorities were distinctly notified, over and over again, that if they stacked Fort Sumter I should consider this attack as the commence ment of a civil war. I need scarcely say that I agree with you in approxing since the Confederates commenced by the attack on Fort Sumter. It would probably have commenced early in January had the Senate confirmed my nomination of a collector for the port of Charleston.

"I remain, very respectfully your riend, James Buchanan."

VENNOR'S PROPHESIES.

OW THEY ARE ELABORATED AND MISREP m the Philadelphia Times.

"Oh, yes; I'm taking things easy ust now," said Henry G. Vennor, the Canadian weather prophet, to a re-porter of the Times last evening in a Chestnut street jewelry store. working only when the humor seizes me, and besides there is so much to see in and about the city that my time is almost wholly occupied with my wife in visiting places of interest. I cannot stay any longer than Monday, when I want to run down to Washington for a day or two. My almanac for 1882 will then require some attention and I will close up the work as much as possible before turning to Montreal. J. M. Stoddard & Co., of Philadelphia, will publish it and will have it ready for the public by the middle of October. It will contain nothing but original matter, which I am preparing from month to ready prepared, and I am writing the American part in this country. I am holding back the probabilities until the last moment, notwithstand: of a robber and a poor lone woman near Franklin, Ind. The robber came Stoddart's urgent demand for them. to her house at night and demanded I am a trifle uncertain about one or her money of her life. She hadn't two of the fall months, and I want as

much time on them as I can get. "I am always misrepresented, "For instance, I make a than the latter, so she brought her continued. "For instance, I make a store and placed it in his hand. He forecast of the weather for a certain month and bring the predictions down didn,t palm off any twenty cent pieces to quarters—not weeks, mind you—for quarters, and facetiously told her and accompany them with about forty words of explanation. Then when four cents on the trade dollars, chiding they are published I see that some her for taking them at their face one has taken the liberty to insert the value. Haven't you anything else of days of the week and exact dates, value?" inquired the bold bad bur, with the archive and exact dates, places. I never make predictions so close as that. I must have five days time to cover them safely. People look upon my work as purely sensareplied, with a sigh. A thought struck | tional and are always ready to make adverse criticisms when a miss occurs. What I would like to see is more peo ple studying the weather and making predictions. Anybody can do it by patient study and observation. If they would they could have a chance to make good 'hits' and to get abused

when predictions failed. "The American Signal Service is a good thing and I hold it in the highalmost the sole memorial of the hus-band she had lost. She had pawned main imperfect. You will see by the reports that a storm is now raging along the coast of the Southern States and is traveling east and north. A day or two ago I saw the Signal Service predictions and I said to Mrs.
Vennor: 'That comes wonderfully
near my figures.' I said that the
storm, with high winds and rain, would PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. God is very earnest in all his requirements. The way of obedience is the only way of peace and safety.

Judgments may be delayed, but, save

Your correspondent recently drove in the next seat. "I should say so," tender recollections. "Must you have the old lady said, looking at the it?" said she, as she advanced with broken bell-cord. "Did they s'pose a trembling steps toward him. "Yes, I must," laid the robber extending his hundred acres in peanuts, which will hold the train together?"

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gently pressing the trigger for the last time. There was a loud report and the robber tumbled over dead. The mine, but I think we will not quarrel community ought to pension that wo-man. right away. I suppose there is room for improvement on both sides. I use Montreal as my storm centre and make all my observations and forecasts from that point. By comparison I can tell that when there will be a certain kind of weather in Montreal another kind will prevail in the Southern States and still other kinds in other sections. I have been quoted as aying that the basis of my work is a omparison of cause with cause, effect with effect, and season with season,' or omething of that sort. I don't think any one heard me say that, for I never

entertained such ideas."
Mrs. Vennor, wife of the "prophet," enjoys her trip through "the States" greatly and is enthusiastic over Amer-ican scenery. Of medium height and handsome figure, with dark hair and eyes, the clear Canadian complexion low, smooth voice, there is nothing remarkable to point her out as the wife of the "prophet." The most casual observer seeing the Princess Louis and Mrs. Vennor together could not but notice in them a similarity of face, form and figure.

TAKING A LONG JOURNEY.

WE'VE A LONG JOURNEY TO GO AND GRAND-PA'S BABY MUSN'T GET TIRED. the Detroit Post and Tribune

When one of the trains of this city came in at midnight a few nights ago, an old man was found sleeping one of the seats; the conductor flashed his lantern in his face; the brakeman stirred him up, and one or two passengers looked at him carelessly, but no person seemed to belong to

him. He was neat and clean, but thin and wasted by old age or privation. All sorts of troubles were mapped out on his clean, withered face, but the main thing just then was to get him awake and on his feet and out

"I say, old man," yelled the conductor in a seven league voice, "get out of this; do you hear? This is Detroit. If you've got any friends they'll be looking for you.'

He opened his eyes so wide and sudden that the brakeman and conductor and the curious passenger fell back on each other in a heap, but only his lips moved;

"Where's Gracie?"
"Who?" asked the conductor, reovering his official voice.

"Little Gracie—grandpa's little pet! I brought her with me. Is she there?"
"I guess he is not wide awake yet," said the curious passenger. "Suppose you help him to his feet.'

Conductors are expert in helping people to their feet, and this one was no exception to the rule. He took the old man by the coat collar and stood him up, but he sank down again the next moment, limp and motionless. Just then a depot hand came in.

"The baggage master wants to know what you're goin' to do with that mite of a deal box over there. He don't want any of that kind left over, and there ain't no direction on it but

'Graci "That's her !,' said the old man, and he stood up feebly. "Take me there. We're going a long, long journey— Gracie and me; a long, long journey, but it don't seem as if I knew the way right clear."

They took him into the depot and laid him on one of the benches, and put his old carpet-bag under his head, but he still fretted for his "leetle Gracie-his pet," and at last they consoled him by telling him she was resting, was asleep, and must not be

ten upon it in lead pencil, was safe enough with the other "freight," and the old man slept peacefully at last. Some kind soul threw a rag over him near morning and asked him what train he was waiting for; but all the answer be made was a feeble Thank'ee; call me at sunrise. We're

going a long journey, Gracie and me." He was called at sunrise by a voice that none may refuse, and when a light shone into the flood of rosy dreary room he was up and away-gone on his long journey. Only the vorn out body was there, and yesterday it was laid away with "little Gracie" in the strangers' lot at Mount Elliott, alone, unknown, yet possibly in as "sure hope of a gracious resur-rection" as if marked by thirty feet of monumental clay.

A good wife greets her husband at the door with a smile and a kiss provided he gets it before midnight, and his breath don't perspire the fumes of poor whiskey. But after that hour the fountain of her friendship freezes up, and she stands on the top stairs with a broken wash dish in ne hand and her marriage certificate in the other.

"In what condition was the triarch Job at the end of his life?" asked a Sunday-school teacher of a quiet looking boy at the foot of the class. "Dead," calmly replied the boy.