

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

From the New York Observer.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

Y. REV. HENRY M. BROUNT, D. D.

FEB. 17.—The Conversion of the Jailer.—Acts 16: 25-40

GOLDEN TEXT.—Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.—Acts 16: 31.

As the Gospel finds no two souls in precisely the same mental and moral state, so the experience of no two persons brought under its power will, in all respects, be the same.

1. Songs in the night.—It was now midnight. And Paul and Silas were in "the inner prison" at Philippi, that prison which was farthest from light and fresh air, probably damp and cold; their feet "fast in the stocks," an instrument of torture as well as of confinement; their lacerated and bleeding backs smarting from the "many stripes" which had been cruelly laid upon them.

Here is an indication of the power of the gospel. Could one be in a worse plight than these men. They had no earthly assurance that they would ever come out alive. What sustained them? They were sure God's eye was upon them; that the Master knew they were there; that he could deliver them if their earthly work was no longer needed; that death could not separate them from his love; that in Christ's keeping they were forever safe.

What a contrast there is here to what we often witness, indeed, to what may be sometimes true of ourselves! In the midst of countless mercies, of blessings, all undeserved, with no ill, save such as our own faults may have brought upon us, how often we murmur and complain! We think we have a hard time; too many burdens and crosses; too few comforts and delights. Is there not something wrong with our faith? It must be very weak. Have we aught of it?

2. Prayer wonderfully answered.—The answer, in this instance, came in the earthquake which opened the prison doors and loosened the prisoners' chains. Whether the earthquake was a miracle, or a providence, is a question one need not concern himself to answer. It was of God; it brought more than deliverance; and this clearly came in answer to their cries. It was a testimony to others that God was with them; that their gospel was from heaven. Why do we have no such wonderful answers to prayer? Were we to pray with like joyful trust and to give ourselves, as these men did, over to the Master's direction and disposal, perhaps we might have them. Possibly we now do, but fail to connect the mercies with our too distrustful petitions. Then, God knows best how to give and how to deny. Our faith may need the discipline of delay, even of denial.

3. A heart prepared for the saving message.—Roused from his slumber, the jailer, who doubtless slept where he could see the prison doors and always had his sword at his side, at once saw that the doors were open, and inferred that the prisoners had fled. The Roman law made the jailer responsible for a prisoner, and liable to the punishment due to one who should escape. This man, like many better men of his day, looked upon suicide as a simple and proper way to escape from dishonor and suffering. Drawing his sword he would have killed himself but for the interposition of the Apostle, who hastened to assure him that the prisoners were all there. "Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said: 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?'"

It is not likely that Luke has recorded every word that was uttered. But enough is told us to make it plain that the trembling of the jailer, and his ever memorable question, are by no means to be explained as incited by fear of the magistrates. The prisoners being safe, he had no occasion for such fear; or had such fear still lingered, Paul and Silas were not the ones to protect him. Moreover, the answer of Paul and the welcome the jailer gave to it, makes it certain that the latter had other safety in his mind. He may have already listened to these men, on some of the "many sermons" since their arrival in Philippi.

Philippi. And now the wonders of this night, and the strangely unselfish conduct of these preachers, assured him that their words are true. His conscience is fully aroused; his judgment is convinced. He knows, he feels, that he needs "to be saved."

Just what was the preparation for the saving message thus wrought? It was "the alarm of an awakened sinner for the safety of his soul." A startling event, bringing the sense of the nearness of death close home, was one means to this. Awe of these strange godly men was another. The Spirit, which opened Lydia's heart, deepened the feeling. The man's inner eye was looking, beyond any power of earthly magistrates, to a "judgment to come."

4. The one way to be saved.—Paul's answer to the jailer's question was one with which all New Testament readers are familiar. He did not say: "Your fears are groundless, irrational, without foundation; divert yourself, dismiss your apprehensions; fear is an ignoble, base motive, cowardly and selfish." It is now the fashion, even with some who set up to be Christian teachers, to say this. Paul assumed that the jailer's fears were just, reasonable, and to be effectually cured only by a clear answer to the eager question.

Rightly understood, the answer of Paul on this occasion is not only the true, but a sufficient, one for all. And yet it is important to understand it rightly. Our Saviour often gave its substance in other forms. He said: "Take up thy cross and follow me;" "come to me;" "repent;" "ask, seek, knock;" "he that believeth shall be saved."

True faith sees in Christ the sinner's Saviour from sin's power as well as its curse. It goes to him, and accepts him, as such. This implies that the true believer is now desirous to be rid of sin as well as guilt; to be fully saved, not saved in part. So, crediting all that is told us of this divine Saviour, he puts himself into that Saviour's hands for pardon, strength, guidance, and every spiritual good; takes him in every office and work in which he is presented; trusts him only, him fully. To the earnest seeker this is clear and sufficient.

5. Some signs of true conversion.—The jailer was now eager to hear the whole "word of the Lord," and to have this word come "to all that were in his house." A new spirit came over him; namely, one of kindness and love; hard and unfeeling men were made keepers of criminals, but this man now tenderly washes these prisoners' stripes for which he had before evinced no care, brought them to his house, and set food before them. Moreover he "was baptized, he and all his household;" thus accepting the badge of discipleship as well as the seal of forgiveness and grace. And all this was at great peril of bringing upon himself the hatred which had overtaken Paul and Silas. The fear of God and love of Christ now lifted him above fear of men.

6. A Christian asserting his personal rights.—Discovering that they had gone too far, learning, perhaps, that the men they had so unjustly treated were Roman citizens, the magistrates "sent the sergeants, saying, 'Let those men go.' But Paul refused to be thus released. He had been openly beaten in violation of law, and now he would not suffer these unjust magistrates to escape responsibility for what they had done. They would quietly hush up a matter only dishonorable to themselves. He declined to let them off in that easy way. But all this was not for his own sake. It was not pride or self-will. It was in the interest of justice, and of the Christian cause, which would be all the bolder and safer for it. So we are to stand up for rights when the cause of righteousness and the safety of the Church are at stake; and to surrender them when greater good is thus accomplished.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- 1. Where unbelief is full of fears and complaints, faith trusts and sings.
2. The heartiest, gladdest singing in this world is in Christian lands, in hearts to which Christ has brought peace and hope.
3. Some who cannot speak for Christ, may sing for him; and there is great power in that; none of our churches make too much of song.
4. Many a cry, like that of the jailer, rises in the heart without reaching the lips; do not suppress it; Christians are glad to hear it; to utter it is to deepen the sense of need; be thankful for any influence which wakes it.
5. The jailer, like Lydia, at once welcomed and obeyed the gospel message. To delay is to form, and then fix, a habit which may never be broken up.
6. He who has found Christ a Saviour will confess him as such, and as Master and Lord also. Lydia and the jailer did this by the appointed ordinance, "straightway." In our own easier times there is more peril of self-deception, and so converts are detained awhile for trial. But this should never be too long. There is more safety in the fold than without; and the Master wants us there.

Gen. Hancock's Vacation.

HOW HE ENJOYED HIMSELF, AND WHAT HE SAW ON HIS WESTERN TRIP.

General Hancock returned to New York on Wednesday last from his California trip, on which he departed in search of health two months ago. He dropped quietly in on Governor's Island in the morning, and was unpacking his trunks when a reporter called on him in the afternoon. When asked concerning his trip he said:

"I went out by the Northern and came back by the Southern route. I went directly through to San Francisco. It was a delightful and recuperating change. My health has been entirely restored. I was hurt before I went West, and feeling very badly. But I have gotten entirely over that, and expect to resume my command at once upon hearing from Washington. I had two months' leave of absence. General Sheridan voluntarily assumed command during that time."

"Where did your journey take you from San Francisco?"

"I went to Los Angeles, Yuma, El Paso, Tucson, San Antonio, Hot Springs, Little Rock, Helena, and St. Louis. From Helena I went into the country some thirty miles, to my son, who is a planter there, for a week. I came from San Francisco around by our Mexican border, as you see. The Southern railroad is practically our Mexican and Southern frontier. With its construction and operation we shall hear very little more now of the Indian raids with which that section formerly was greatly afflicted, and which compelled the Government troops to constant activity there. The railroad enables troops to be moved rapidly from point to point across the country. It permits them to be massed at any desired point, instead of having small bodies placed all along the river as heretofore. The cattle raising industry attracted my attention both going and coming. I saw the great cattle ranges both on the Northern and on the extreme Southern route. The cattle men are very much troubled just now in Texas by the fencing question, which will have the tendency to deter investment, awaiting its conclusion. Capitalists will not invest their money until they know just what they may expect."

"What did you see of interest on the Pacific coast?"

"Every thing is very bright there as far as I saw it. There has been a most wonderful advancement in that country since I left it, but the change has been made, I am told, within ten years or less. It is twenty-two and a half years since I left California. I went there twenty-five years ago. The evidence of their prosperity are to be seen in every direction. It is due in a measure to the extension of the railway systems to the Pacific and up and down the coast. These have increased the population, with which increase has come the discovery that land before supposed to be fit only for herding wild horses or cattle is possible of the highest cultivation, with the most satisfactory results. It was in Southern California, in and around Los Angeles, that the most remarkable evidence of growth and prosperity were presented—it was something marvelous. Part of it is attributed to the Southern railroad, which has afforded them a means of marketing their supplies. Their fruits, vegetables, and grains find ready purchasers in Arizona. The land in Southern California is capable of a degree of cultivation that is simply wonderful. There are fine hotels in all the chief cities and towns."

"I should like, General, if you have no objection, to make some political inquiries."

"That is a topic upon which I have made an inflexible rule not to talk. My position in the army makes it improper for me to discuss political subjects. When I was a candidate for President it was expected and demanded that I should make public expression of my views upon public matters, and was then excusable. It would not be excused if I should do so now. I have not spoken on politics since my candidacy for President ended. I have seen various reports of expression of opinion said to have been made by me. They were invariably false. One such report appeared in a St. Louis paper the day after I left there. It was wholly without foundation. No, I cannot speak on that."

A Romantic Railroad.

There came to Chicago, last week, as host and entertainer of Duke Gwin, in a special car, a young man whose career has been almost as romantic as the "duke's" is famous. Jerome A. Fillmore is his name. Born and reared on a rocky farm in Pennsylvania, he attended a country school in summer with bare feet and a straw hat, with his hair sticking out of the crown. One day, when he was about twelve years old, surveyor came by his father's farm with their tripods, to survey the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western rail-

roads. The boy looked on curiously and wondered what it meant. Next year the rails came and with them a locomotive. That was enough for the boy. He would neglect his chores and steel off to watch the locomotive. He refused to study. He would steal rides on the gravel trains and associate with the workmen. When the road was completed and coal trains were put on, one day Jerome turned up missing.

Active search was made, and in a week or so the fat, sturdy boy was found. He was a brakeman on a coal train at \$25 a month as a starter. The agent near his father's farm had put him on the road, and the old folks were furious. That was about twenty-five years ago. There is no need to follow the boy in his course. It was always upward. Last week he came to Chicago with his family and Duke Gwin, in a special car, as general superintendent of the Central and Southern Pacific railway system, and everywhere recognized and admired as one of the finest railway managers in the United States. His salary is \$15,000 a year, and it would, perhaps, be doubted before he would be allowed to leave the company's service. Boys, the chances are not all gone by any means.

The Shopping Craze.

Shopping is the art of wearying one's self in the attempt to find out what one does not want. The pleasant fiction obtains in certain fashionable circles that shopping is the labor attendant upon providing the children and madam with clothing and the house with furnishings. But no gentleman who has escorted a lady or two through a four-hour shopping tour, and at the end carried as a net result six towels, a few handkerchiefs, a ribbon or two, and forty-three dress patterns, will dare to care to maintain that shopping is business. It is a woman's pastime. It is to her what a shooting match or a fishing excursion is to the average man. He does not hit the bull's eye or catch the big fish, to any great extent; but he has the tramp, he gets tired and secures a good appetite for his dinner. In both cases it is not the result, but the pursuit that pleases. How much fun there is in ranging through a score of shops and pricing things that she has no intention of buying, in hunting for bargains that are never accepted when found, and allowing the imagination to clothe her in "purple and fine linen" at a cost of gingham and calico, no man ever has or will comprehend. A man is a nuisance to a shopping lady, and shopping is a nuisance to a man. Where the fun comes in he fails to understand. When he has occasion to buy anything he rushes into a store, asks for what he wants, inquires the price to show that he is wide awake, says, "do it up," pays the money and is gone. She asks for the goods, feels of them in a knowing way, asks the price twice—the second time as though she felt sure she had misunderstood the first time—and immediately becomes convinced she can do better elsewhere, or begins to doubt whether it is what she wants. She rushes wildly into the next store, prices the same goods and finds them higher; goes to store after store, looking at other things that she thinks she may some time want, gets led off on false scents and comes back to the first store to find that all the goods she looked at in the morning are sold, and finally goes home with a few patterns and a paper of pins, without the goods that she came out in the morning fully intending to buy.—Commercial Magazine.

The "White Lady."

A few nights ago the famous "Weisse Dame," or White Lady, the spiritus familiaris of the Hohenzollern family, is reported to have been seen by the sentinels before the Alte Schloss. The legend of this apparition is well known. An ancestor of the Hohenzollerns, Countess Orlamund, is said to leave her grave and, in solemn and measured step, the corridors of the Alte Schloss in Berlin whenever any member of the family is about to die. Notwithstanding their profound scepticism, most Berliners, strangely enough, still believe the story of the White Lady. The capital is quite excited over the pretended apparition. All are talking about it and wondering what member of the dynasty is next destined to die. The White Lady is a ghost who has frequently been seen in different castles and palaces belonging to the royal family of Prussia. She is supposed to forebode the death of some of the royal family, especially one of the children. Her last appearance was in 1879, just prior to the death of Princess Waldemar. A soldier on guard at the old castle was witness of the apparition, and in his fright fled to the guardroom, where he was at once arrested for deserting his post.

Twice she has been heard to speak. In December, 1828, she appeared in the palace at Berlin and said, in Latin, "I wait for judgment." Again at the castle of Neubaun in Bohemia when she said to the Princess in German, "It is ten o'clock," and the lady addressed died in a few weeks.

There are two white ladies in fact one the Countess Agnes of Orlamund, who is referred to by our Berlin correspondent, and the other the Princess Von Rosenberg, who lived in the 15th century. The former was buried alive in a vault in the palace. She was the mistress of a Margrave of Brandenburg by whom she had two sons. When the Princes became a widower Agnes thought he would marry her, but he made the sons an objection, and she poisoned them, for which crime she was buried alive. Another version is that she fell in love with the Princes of Parma and made away with her two daughters, who were an obstacle to her marriage, for which crime she was doomed to "walk the earth as an apparition."

The Princess Bertha is troubled because an annual gift which she left to the poor has been discontinued. She appears dressed in white and carrying at her side a bunch of keys.

A Pathetic Romance. Hop Lee is a laundryman in Junction City, Montana. A tribe of Indians was encamped across the river, and, as usual visited the town. Hop became enamored of a female of the party, and offered to share his rice and laundry back room with her, a proposal she at once accepted. Hop at once sent \$5 to a St. Paul firm to get a present for the bride, and received in return and elegant silk dress, with a train about five feet long. Arranged in her garments Mrs. Hop crossed the river to exhibit herself to her people. After the first murmur of astonishment at her appearance the warriors held a brief consultation, and agreed to alter the dress so as to conform strictly with their idea of the proper thing for a squaw to wear. They set to work with their knives, and carefully cut away that portion of the dress below her knees, distributing the waste among themselves. When the squaw returned to her husband he turned her out of the house, and she returned to her people to receive the sympathy due a heart-broken bride.

A writer in the Washington Star suggests a novel plan for providing for the poor of that city. It is nothing more nor less than to have the pokerplayer contribute. He says there are 500 games going on every night in private houses and he asks the host to take 10 cents from the pot of every hand played, retain the same as treasurer and place the amount retained every week in the hands of a grand treasurer, and he in turn to pay the money so received over to the treasurers—equally divided,—of the different charitable associations of the city for the alleviation of the many poor and distressed applicants for charity. In this way he figures that about \$2,500 could be raised every night which would certainly go a long way towards relieving the poor of the city.

Quick Railway Time. Rockford, Ill., Jan. 1880. This is to certify that we have appointed Frank P. Blair, sole agent for the sale of our Quick Train Railroad Watches in the town of Rockford.

ROCKFORD WATCH COMPANY. BY HOMER P. HULLAND, Sec. Having most thoroughly tested the Rockford Quick Train Watches for the last three years, I offer them with the fullest confidence as the best made and most reliable time keeper for the money that can be obtained.

I fully guarantee every Watch for two years. FRANK P. BLAIR, No. 2 Brookhoff Row. All other American Watches at reduced prices.

DIGHTON, Jan. 27, 1882. The Rockford watch purchased Feb. 1879, has performed better than any watch I ever had. Have carried it every day and at no time has it been irregular, or in the least unreliable. I cheerfully recommend the Rockford Watch. HORACE B. HORTON, at Dighton Furnace Co.

TAUNTON, Sept. 18, 1881. The Rockford Watch runs very accurately; better than any watch I ever owned, and I have had one that cost \$150. Can recommend the Rockford Watch to everybody who wishes a fine timekeeper. S. P. HUBBARD, M. D.

This is to certify that the Rockford Watch bought Feb. 22, 1879, has run very well the past year. Having set it only twice during that time, its only variation being three minutes. It has run very much better than I ever anticipated. It was not adjusted and only cost \$20. R. P. BRYANT.

The oldest and best appointed institution for obtaining a Business Education. For circulars address P. DUFF & SONS, To impart a Practical Business Education in a few years and with great success, was the aim of Duff's College, No. 45 Fifth Avenue. The faithful student has here facilities for such a training as will qualify him for an immediate entrance upon practical duties in any sphere of life. For circulars address P. Duff & Sons, Pittsburgh, Pa. Duff's Bookkeeping, published by Harper & Bro., printed in color, 400 pages. The largest work on the science published. A work for bankers, railroad, business men and practical accountants. Price, \$2.00.

Get your Job Work done at the CENTRE DEMOCRAT.

DUNN, VONARA & CO., COBURN, PA. DUNN & YEAZEE, Centre Hall, Pa.

NEW STORE.

Largest Stock. Newest Goods. DUFF & SONS, VONARA & CO. CHEAPEST STORE in Centre County. WE BUY FOR CASH and get the DISCOUNTS OFF. GIVE US A CALL. DRY GOODS, Notions, Boots and Shoes, Groceries, Provisions, Salt and Fish. WE BUY IN LARGE QUANTITIES and can buy CHEAPER than way. SPECIAL BARGAINS For the next 30 DAYS.

COBURN, PA.

SWAYNES' OINTMENT. THE GREAT CURE FOR ITCHING PILES. AN UNFAILING REMEDY FOR ALL SKIN DISEASES. TETTER, ITCH, SORES, PIMPLES, ERYSIPELAS, RING WORM, ECZEMA, etc.

HEALTH IS WEALTH! DR. R. C. WELCH'S GREAT REMEDY FOR ALL SKIN DISEASES. A complete and reliable treatment for all skin diseases, including itching piles, tetter, itch, sores, pimples, erysipelas, ring worm, eczema, etc.

No party in politics, nor any sect in religion. THE GREATEST AND THE BEST. THE LARGE DOUBLE WEEKLY. RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR. NEW YORK OBSERVER. (Established 1823.) No paper in the country has a more experienced and able corps of Editors. Dr. Francis Prime, stands at the head of the editorial fraternity and his letters and editorials still enrich the OBSERVER. Other among its editors have had the training of a quarter of a century for their work.

A LIVE NEWSPAPER. giving every week a READER'S GUIDE full of instruction, encouragement and truth; and a SPECIAL SERIES containing all the new, vigorous comments upon current events, and a great variety of choice reading. The price is \$3.15 a year. For more full and complete information, send for a copy of the "READER'S LETTERS," an elegantly bound volume of 400 pages, containing a portrait of the author. Sample copies of the OBSERVER will be sent to any address free. New York Observer, 31 & 32 Park Row, N. Y. Lowest prices. Everything new and fresh, at Garman's.