

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

From the New York Observer.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS

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

July 27.—Kindness to Jonathan's Son.—2 Samuel 9: 1-13.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Thine own friend and thy father's friend forsake not.—Prov. 27: 10.

A little more than twenty years before the time of this narrative David was a hunted fugitive. Jealous of his favor with God and with men, and perceiving that he was himself the setting and that David was the rising star, Saul seemed bent on taking his life. It was at that time that Jonathan, Saul's son, made with him a solemn covenant. Jonathan, the natural heir to the throne not only saw that it was of the Lord that this distinction should fall to David and not to himself, but, with noble disinterestedness, he acquiesced in it. But he could not be indifferent to the welfare of his own children and descendants; and so, as they parted for what seemed likely to be the last time, he craved from David a pledge for himself and them. "Thou shalt not only while I live show me the kindness of the Lord, that I die not; but also thou shalt not cut off thy kindness from my house forever; no, not when the Lord hath cut off the enemies of David every one from the face of the earth" (1 Sam. 20: 14, 15). The pledge was given, and the time seems to have now arrived when it is to be redeemed. Note some of the things here brought to view.

1. A magnanimous king.—David was now at the height of his prosperity and greatness. The too common effect of such elevation is to chill the warmer impulses of the soul. The prosperous man is to often hard, proud, heartless. Such had not been the effect upon the son of Jesse. Pausing in the midst of his successes and honors, he makes inquiry whether there are any yet left of Saul's house, that he may show him kindness for Jonathans sake. Then having learned that a son of Jonathan himself still lives, he at once sent messengers to fetch him to himself.

Note here a number of important marks of a magnanimous spirit: (a) An old friend is not forgotten. A large part of human happiness is in the joy of friendships. The friendships of early life are often the most unselfish we ever form. And, if they were pure and helpful, it is wise and noble to keep their memory alive. A generous heart will not willingly break with an early friend. (b) A covenant promise is kept. One reason for showing kindness to the son of Jonathan was that David had promised to do this. Promises, agreements, pledges, contracts of any kind should be sacredly kept. Not always, however, is this done. Some are all too ready to agree to anything another may desire, but are careless with respect to the fulfillment of promises. This is not even honest. It is at the opposite pole from magnanimity. That one may be able to do as he agrees, he should be cautious in making agreements; but having given his word, he should let no inconvenience or pain or cost keep him from making it good.

(c) The object of kindness is sought out. Jonathan's son, here named, was born after David and Jonathan last met and parted. David did not know that Jonathan had ever had such a son. But this did not satisfy him. He made inquiry. Even fairly generous men sometimes content themselves with giving aid to those who solicit it. This was not the way of him who came to seek as well as to save; to seek that he might save. Love goes after the lost sheep. The most worthy sufferers are often modest. They hide their misery. It is noble and Christlike to seek them out.

(d) The kindness is rendered without any prospect of return. What requital could Jonathan's son make for the good David had it in his heart to do? None. Much of the world's kindness is carefully bestowed on those who can show the same in return. This is not real kindness. It is selfishness. Social life is full of this. But "if ye salute your brethren only or show kindness only to those who can return it, what do ye more than others?"

2. An unfortunate prince.—The inquiry of David resulted in the discovery of a son of Jonathan who had no doubt been carefully concealed. At the time of the death of Saul and Jonathan he was but a child. His nurse, hearing how the battles in which they were slain had gone, fled with the child in her arms. And in her haste she had either let him fall, or stumbled and fell with him, causing an injury from which he never recovered. He was ever after lame in his feet. For security he was taken beyond the Jordan, and there found a home in the house of Machir, a wealthy man of Gilead. It also appears that the royal estates had become the property of the new King David, or had been taken possession of by relatives. And so, though born a prince, and of the noblest of fathers, he was now both

crippled and poor. Moreover, he had lived hitherto not simply in obscurity, but most likely in concealment.

How many and strange are the changes of condition in this life! They are also now utterly beyond our prevention and foresight! The son of the proudest king may live and die a beggar. The children of the strong and prosperous may pine in weakness and want. Should this make us unhappy? Should it make parents more eager to lay up for children? Neither. But it should make us eager to train them in the fear and love of God. If they are his true children, their happiness will never depend upon their bodily health or their outward condition. They will have inward resources of peace, a share in the true riches; the sure friendship of God; a portion far better than we can ever give or purchase for them.

3. The kindness of God.—It was this which David promised to show to the house of Jonathan (1 Sam. 20: 14), and which it was now his desire to render. This is in many things unlike that of men. God respects the lowly; and, for such as trust his grace, his mercies are everlasting. David would show kindness for God's sake, and with a bounty and freeness like that of our heavenly Father.

4. A kindness for another's sake.—The main point of the narrative is just here. Not for my Mephibosheth's own sake, but in memory of the generous, noble friendship of Jonathan, his father David would now show kindness by the son. The principle is familiar.

The unknown youth, who would gain the ear of a stranger, procures a note of introduction from one who is better known, and regard for the latter respects for the former. Many a son gains great advantage at the beginning of his career from the good name of his father; and this advantage is not limited to a place in a store or shop or a scholarship at school. It includes the trust, honor and open door to privilege and opportunity, earned by the father's integrity and public service. Here is an incentive to parents to do well for their children's sakes.

Then, God declares this to be one of the principles of his own providential dealings. For Moses' sake and David's sake he more than once put off deserved judgements. For the fathers' sake he blessed the rebellious children. His mercy is pledged to children's children, of such as keep his covenant. How often do the blessings of piety descend from one generation to another. Here again parents may find an incentive to religious fidelity and trust.

But especially does the principle appear in God's way of saving lost men. It is not for our own sakes, or because of any good in us, or in reward of any deeds or prayers or gifts or attainments of ours, that he pardons our sins, and gives us needed grace. It is for the sake of his own dear Son, who died for us, the just for the unjust, that he stoops so low and lifts us so high. Here is ground for hope. We may now receive what we can never deserve. Here is occasion for gratitude. Not for works of righteousness we have one hath been saved us, but of his own mercy through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

5. Loveless lift up.—No doubt the prostration of Mephibosheth when brought before David was in part due to fear. For it was the fashion of Oriental usurpers to put the kindred of predecessors to death. But it would seem that mingled with the fear there was also an element of humility and of trust. And this was richly rewarded. The king received him to his heart, his palace, his table; and ever after he dwelt in Jerusalem, and had princely treasure as his own. It was like that which comes to the humble and trusting sinner, when God takes him into his own divine house hold.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- 1. Note the lasting value of friendship with the pure and true.
2. Like David we should seek opportunities of serving the needy.
3. Since we are daily recipients of the kindness of God we should be always showing the same to others.
4. As David sent for the cripple and poor and bereft son of Jonathan, that he might give him a place near the throne, so Jesus stoops to lift us to a throne in heaven.
5. The son of Jonathan had only to believe and humbly accept the good offered to him; and so God only asks humble faith from us. Another's merits may stand for ours. For Christ's sake he freely offers to us exhaustless treasure and companionship with himself and all his own.

ROMANCE OF THE WAR.—The Green-castle Press tells the following story: "Nearly all of our readers we suppose are acquainted with the romance connected with the 136th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers. A fragile and feminine-looking person belonged to Co. F. of that Regiment, and gave his name as Frank Mayne. Mayne did not associate with any of the members of the company except a man by the name of Fitzpatrick. While the Regiment was encamped at Cloud's Mill, below Alexandria, in Virginia, Fitzpat-

rick was taken suddenly ill and removed to the hospital in the latter place. In a few days he died, it was said, of small-pox. Mayne displayed considerable grief over the death of his companion. He procured a pass to Alexandria soon after on the plea of business, but never returned. It was thought that he had deserted. Soon after a soldier was wounded in Western Tennessee and upon being taken to the hospital it was discovered the soldier was a female and none other than Frank Mayne. A few weeks ago a member of the 126th Regiment was standing in the railway station at Altoona when he was approached by a man who proved himself to be Fitzpatrick who was supposed to have died of small-pox. He explained how he and Mayne wishing to transfer the scenes of their military exploits from the East to the West, had feigned sickness and then escaped from the hospital and was joined by Mayne, they both joined an Ohio Regiment, after which they were wounded while in battle, and Mayne discovered to be a female. Mayne is his wife and they are now living happily in Illinois. He and his wife receive pensions under the names of Fitzpatrick and Mayne, and on this account he would not tell his real name.

How the Kisses Dwindled Down

A recently deceased Frenchman kept a novel record. Twenty years ago he married, and on his wedding day took the original resolution to keep a yearly account of the number of kisses exchanged with his wife until their union became severed by the death of one or the other. Just before he died he confided his account to a friend for publication. During the first year of wedded life the kisses exchanged reached to colossal figures, 36,500, or a hundred a day on an average; but in the following twelve months there was a notable decrease, not more than 16,000 being inscribed on his register, while the third year shows a still greater falling off the average number of kisses being but ten a day. And after a lapse of five years a further reduction is recorded, and the account keepers' task was simplified, for only two kisses were exchanged during each twenty-four hours—"one on rising, and on retiring to rest." Later on, during the last ten years of his married life, they "only kissed each other on leaving for or returning from a journey," and he had very little trouble in making up his annual domestic statistics.

The Religious Issue.

Says the Lancaster Intelligencer: The attempt of some of Mr. Blaine's super-viceable friends to drag religious issue in to the presidential canvass has been a misadventure. It was ill timed and impertinent, and has very naturally been a boomerage. We do not see that it matters much what religion Mr. Blaine has nor what other religion his mother had nor how much his father lacked in having any religion. But the boast of some of his understrappers that he manipulates the "Irish vote" and "the Orangemen's vote" and "the Catholic vote" with such versatility as would leave a line of luminosity in political management, has directed attention to his record.

One of the facts adduced by the discussion over this nimble statesman's aptitude is that some nine years ago he ran a red mouthed Know Nothing campaign in Maine. He was chairman of the state committee of his party, championing the election of Gen. Plaisted to Congress against the Democratic candidate who happened to be an Irishman and a Catholic. In that campaign a circular was distributed, bitterly assailing Plaisted's opponent, simply because he was a Catholic. It contained such bitter expressions and bold lines these:

Do the Protestant Democrats of the Fourth district desire to be represented in Congress by a Roman Catholic? James C. Madigan, the Democratic candidate for Congress in the Fourth district, is a very zealous Roman Catholic. It is believed by many that he is a lay member of the secret order of Jesuits, just as the late Senator Casserly, of California, was. Casserly was elected to the Senate by Jesuit money—\$100,000 contributed by that order—and the fact being discovered, Casserly at once resigned his seat, rather than stand an investigation and thus expose the workings of the order. * * * The whole energy of the Catholic Church is now exerted to increase its power in the Congress of the United States. The Papists everywhere are watching the result of Madigan's campaign in this district, and it will be hailed everywhere as a great triumph for the Catholics if a New England Protestant district sends a Roman Catholic to represent it in Congress. Are the Protestant Democrats of the Fourth district willing to aid in building up the Roman hierarchy? Answer at the polls on the 13th of September, and if you do not feel willing to vote for Gen. Plaisted, at least cut Madigan's name off your regular Democratic ticket. Remember that you owe more to religious sentiments than you do for your party; and the proper rebuke to your party for asking you to vote for a Roman Catholic is to support Gen. Connor for governor and Gen. Plaisted for Congress.

Under ordinary circumstances it would be assumed that Mr. Blaine, himself who is something of a politician, was responsible for no such circular as this; but his candidate of that time, Gen. Plaisted, says that he was with Blaine when this circular was written, and saw Blaine write it.

A Suit Against Elkins.

SEEKING TO SELL PROPERTY WHICH HE OWNS ONLY IN PART. NEW YORK, July 9.—The suit of the Land Company of New Mexico Limited, against Stephen B. Elkins and others, to establish its title to one-fifth interest in the tract of land in New Mexico known as the Mora tract or grant, came up before Judge Lawrence today in the Supreme Court, upon a motion to continue the injunction restraining Elkins from making any conveyance or from transferring to any other party any portion of the land in dispute about 827,000 acres. It is claimed that Elkins had acquired more than two-thirds of the property and was seeking to absorb the remainder, and was threatening to sell the whole tract for seventy cents an acre, which is below the real value. By the consent of counsel the motion was postponed until the first Monday in September. By the order entered the injunction is continued except it is modified so far as not to prevent or restrain Elkins from making any conveyance or disposition he may desire of his own individual share or interest in the land in so far as he would be at liberty to do so had this suit not been brought.

The State Funds.

The State Treasurer, who refuses to comply with the Humes law for the investment of the Treasury surplus in State or United States bonds, reports the treasury balance, exclusive of moneys appropriated in the Sinking Fund, to have been \$1,398,703 84 on the first of July. Of this amount the Penn Bank is charged with the modest sum of \$10,000; the Allegheny National has \$200,000, the first National, Harrisburg, \$104,584, the first National, Uniontown, \$155,000, the National Bank, Fayette county, \$10,000. (Fayette county gets altogether \$215,000,) and the People's Bank, (KEMBLE'S) Philadelphia, \$180,000. These banks and some others with smaller amounts represent parts of the Treasury ring, which have upwards of \$800,000 of State Funds, in the handling of which money is made for somebody, in direct violation of law, requiring the safe investment of the funds in State or Federal bonds, the accruing interest to go to the State. How the State Treasurer and Auditor General can reconcile this contempt of law with their official obligations is one of the mysteries we would like to see solved.—Pittsburg Post.

The Grand Old Party's Only Hope

From the Philadelphia Ledger. NEW YORK, July 9.—Mr. Josiah Quincy of Boston, in this vein writes to the Independent to-day to advise, no matter what may happen, to oppose Blaine and Logan "as the only hope of the party's future usefulness lies in the regenerating influence of defeat." Mr. Quincy would have no objections to Bayard, but in the event of a bad nomination by the Democracy he is in favor of naming a candidate for whom they can vote without a surrender of self respect. These views are in harmony with those expressed by the leading Republican dissenters here, and they may be accepted, therefore, as semi-officially foreshadowing the line of action which they intend to follow after the Chicago Convention has accomplished its work.

Even in Maine there is bolting from Blaine. Hon. D. D. Stewart, who was President of the Maine Senate in 1865, in a letter to the Bangor Commercial says: "I have no interest in his defeat, except that which attaches to every citizen of the United States, if it attaches to any. Prior to 1867 I had entire confidence in Mr. Blaine's personal and political integrity. The developments of that year forced me reluctantly to the conclusion that Mr. Blaine was not a fit person to be intrusted with the Presidency of the United States. No explanation by Mr. Blaine or his friends has been offered since, and none is apparently possible, from the nature of the transaction."

—HOW TO COOK A HAM.—Weigh your ham and wipe it with a damp cloth. Make a stiff paste of cold water and flour, and with your hand cover the entire ham with the paste an eighth of an inch thick. Put the ham thus covered with paste in a pan on a spider or two muffin-rings; pop it in a hot oven and bake from fifteen to twenty minutes for each pound of ham. If the ham is under nine pounds weight fifteen minutes for each pound is sufficient; if over nine pounds, twenty minutes. Being put in a hot oven, the paste immediately forms a thick crust round the ham, retaining all the juice, and when done the skin comes off with the crust, leaving your ham lovely to look at and most delicious to eat.

RESULT OF WORKING ON SUNDAY.—Yesterday a certain man of this city, armed with a sickle and accompanied by his little boy, started to the cemetery to cut the grass on his lot. While working among the bushes he stirred up a nest of "bumble bees," and in his excitement and frantic efforts to fight off the bees he flourished the sickle so promiscuously as to strike his son on the hand, cutting entirely off one of the little fellow's fingers. He was immediately brought to town, medical aid was summoned, his hand dressed, and he is now doing as well as can be expected, although he will have a very sore hand for some time to come. The moral of this is: Don't cut your grass on Sunday.—Altoona Tribune.

"Enveloped and Franked."

The Congressional Committee of the Republican party, being debarred by the Civil Service act from sources of revenue that were once readily accessible and always to be depended on, have resorted to the Congressional franking privilege as the next best method of facilitating the cheap distribution of campaign literature.

It would appear, however, from the fact that charges varying from seventy-five cents a hundred to ten dollars a thousand, are now made for partisan documents which were formerly scattered over the land gratuitously, that the Senators and Representatives who are cooperating with the committee for the free transmission of their stump speeches through the mails, do so for a consideration. It is bad enough for Congress to occupy itself with the manufacture of political literature, when it ought to be looking after the general interests of the country, but it is infinitely worse for members to pervert the franking privilege from its legitimate uses in order to get their printed baraganes into circulation. Yet this is exactly what they are doing in connivance with the Republican Congressional Committee.

The civil service law has done a good thing in relieving the Government clerks, department sweepers, room scrubbers, janitors and watchmen from the extortions to which they were long subjected, but as one good turn deserves another, so one reform but shows the necessity of still further reform, and possibly the next will be to do away with the much-abused authority now given to Congress, to impose its campaign tracts upon the United States mails for gratuitous distribution.

Who Oppose Blaine and Why.

Blaine is accepted as a satisfactory man by about two-third of his party, including all the steady old voters, who are faithful to the theory that they ought to support "the devil incarnate" if he gets the regular nomination; but he is opposed by a large, thoughtful, intelligent energetic section of those who have faith in what have been always supposed to be Republican principles and want their votes to be consistent with that faith. And why do they oppose Blaine? He can and does and will shout as loud as any of them for any of the Republican principles or all of them together. But they believe that he is a rogue. They hold that his history exhibits him as contaminated with relation to many dishonest operations, and they believe that his shouting of Republican principles is only the ordinary rogue's ruse to draw attention away from the little games or great games by which he hopes to profit. They believe he is at once the tool and ally of men to whom politics is only a pretext for gigantic public robbery.—N. Y. Herald.

No Relief For Porter.

WASHINGTON, July 9.—The president to-day vetoed the Fitz. John Porter bill. The president, in vetoing the bill, declared that it is either a manifest violation of the constitution or must be regarded as a mere enactment of advice and counsel, lack in the very nature of things the force of positive law, and can serve no useful purpose on the statute books. In conclusion he says, after reviewing the action of the court martial and subsequent proceedings of the investigation board: "I have already in the exercise of the pardon ing power, with which the president is vested remitted the continuing penalty that made it impossible for Fitz John Porter to hold an office of trust or profit under the government of the United States. But I am unwilling to give my sanction to any legislation which shall practically annul and set at naught the solemn and deliberate conclusion of the tribunal by which he was convicted, and of the president by whom its findings were examined and approved."

The Republican National Platform.

From the Boston Herald. The juggling platform completes the evidence afforded by the ticket of the demoralization and decadence of the Republican party. In fact, the demagogism of the resolutions would repel many honest voters, even though the nominations had been less objectionable.

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