

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

From the New York Observer.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON

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

SEPTEMBER 7.—Confidence in God.—Psalm 27: 1-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.—The Lord is my light and my salvation.—Psalm 27: 1.

As a whole this psalm is a trustful song. And this is the more remarkable for the reason that it was composed in circumstances of difficulty and danger. Possibly it was written when David fled before Abalom; and possibly when Doeg spoke against him to Saul. The psalm itself discloses the fact that the writer was encompassed by enemies eager for his destruction, and that he was without human help. He had but one resource, and that was in God. But to him he looked with a trust at which half believers can but wonder. The psalm specially instructive as showing some important effects always to be expected from true Confidence in God. Note what these are:

Such confidence lifts above fears (1-3).—The Psalmist was in danger, and was not indifferent to it. He was neither stolid, nor reckless. He valued life, and was not insensible to pains. The strongest have their quakings and he had his. Just now he had been wrestling with half-despair. And yet he triumphs. What enabled him to do this? He tells us: "The Lord is my light and my salvation; the Lord is the strength of my life."

"Light" here stands for inward cheer. "Salvation" is safety, "Strength" is a stronghold. So, what the Psalmist says is that, amid foes and dangers, he is serene and safe. He is as one in a strong fortress. And the sense of this comes of his confidence in God.

Where else is there support like this? The stoic bows to fate; submits to the inevitable; summons pride and will to his help, and crowd down his fears. But his heart is joyless; he bids it, Be still! He has no comforter, no helper. The believer has both. He looks up, and his eyes rest on an all powerful, all-wise, ever-living ever-present God. With this Being he is in friendly relations. Sinner though he is God is now his God, reconciled, trusted. So the Psalmist can say, "my light my salvation the strength of my life." Why should he fear? How safe always! Happy believer: precious faith!

2. Such Confidence prompts to yet closer relations with God (4-6).—From declaring his sense of safety the Psalmist goes on to speak of his chief desire and most eager purpose: "One thing have I desired, that will I seek after."

Note here that (a) "God judges us very much by our desires"; and that (b) "holy desires lead to resolute action." We cannot too carefully watch our desires.

What was it which David's confidence in God led him to "desire" and "seek after?" He was a fugitive: did he most long to get back to his home, his palace, his friends, his comforts, his luxuries, his honors? No; but "to dwell in the house of the Lord; to behold his beauty and to inquire in his temple"; that is, abide under the shadow of the sanctuary, be of the Lord's household, live in the midst of the symbols and services of worship, send his days where he could contemplate God's majesty and grace, and learn more of his character and will.

Is not this one effect of faith always? The more the believer knows of God the closer he would come to him. And there is no better place to find him out than the sanctuary. God meets his children there; and there they worship and inquire of him. Loss of interest in it is a sign of religious declension. But true interest never rests in its forms, its symbols, its services. It uses these as means. What it desires and seeks in them all, is God,—nearness to him and acquaintance with him.

There is something very pleasing in what the Psalmist goes on to name as one incentive to this desire and search after God. "For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion," etc. Commonly the royal pavilion was in the centre of an army, and around it the mighty men kept guard. What a figure this is of intimate friendship and safety! A like figure is the high "rock" inaccessible to hostile feet beyond the reach of deadly missiles.

Is it strange that, at the thought of all this, the Psalmist should lift his head and, promise joyful sacrifices, and break forth in song?

3. Such confidence incites to prayer (7-14).—The Psalmist's sense of security and favor was not unbroken. In the midst of his exulting, clouds returned. His song was interrupted. How often is his the believer's experience? The sense of God, as reconciled, is dimmed: But, even in returning darkness, his confidence did not utterly fail: only now its effect appeared in another way. It moved him to prayer.

Note some characteristics of his prayer:

(a) He cried to be heard: "Hear, O Lord!" "answer me." Faith would be, submissive, accepts denial without complaint, and yet desires and pleads for the things it asks. Formalists are content with "saying prayers;" believers pray.

(b) He cried "with his voice." God hears the lowest whisper, the faintest breath. Nevertheless it is a good thing to pray audibly. It quickens feeling. It detains thought from wandering. Then, by hearing your own voice in secret you learn to use it with less fear in public.

(c) He took courage from God's invitation and promise: "When thou saidst 'Seek ye my face,' my heart said: 'Thy face, Lord, will I seek.'" Faith leans on the divine word. On what else should it lean? Therefore study the word; make it a business to understand the promises; treasure them up in a careful memory.

(d) He recalled past mercies: "Thou hast been my help." Some say prayer is useless; such never greatly tried it. Experience would have taught them better.

(e) Be rested on the proved tenderness of God: "Should father and mother forsake, the Lord may be trusted to take me up." God is known as the helper of the helpless.

(f) He was not eager to have his own way, but said: "Teach me; lead me."

(g) One thing more; he was willing to bide God's time. One of faith's grand marks is its willingness to "wait." He who confides in God will be patient. If answers are delayed, he will "put a cheerful courage on," and stand all ready to receive the anticipated response whenever the glad time shall come. To "wait on the Lord," is thus to stand by ready to receive, and to do what the Lord may bid. David had "fainted" but for this trust. Trust and "wait"—this is faith's final word; a great lesson, a lesson it is good to learn.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. Note a difference, the sinner is full of self; the saint is full of God. The name of "The Lord" occurs thirteen times in these fourteen verses.

2. The fountain from which the believer draws is inexhaustible; he has no want God cannot supply.

3. How much it means that the humblest believer can appropriate all there is of power and wisdom and grace in God, as his own. He says "My," "Mine."

4. The new heart is one which has discovered "the beauty of the Lord."

5. When God says, "Seek ye my face," he speaks in command as well as invitation. We must seek to find. If we do seek we shall find.

6. What hinders our having confidence in God? Nothing but refusal to part with sins. There is no other hindrance. But that is insuperable. How can one look confidently into the face of one whose law and pleasure he is trampling under foot?

A Metropolitan Host.

Joseph Howard, in one of his New York letters to the Philadelphia Press, gives the subjoined interesting reminiscences of a once famous hotel proprietor: The Astor House was built by the original proprietor, John Jacob Astor who sold it to his son William B. for one-dollar. My impression is that at the old man Stetson opened the house in 1837, taking his family to live there with him, and from that time until somewhere in the seventies, he controlled it absolutely. Although to the elder Stetson, still living somewhere in Massachusetts, the fame and glory of the old-time Astor House belonged, it was in the latter days of his life there that much of its modern reputation was made. Under the management of the Stetsons it passed through great commercial convulsions, its proprietor being the companion and friend of the most eminent men in the country, intelligent large hearted and well informed.

Of the unwritten history of the country Mr. Stetson has in his possession more than any contemporaneous person, and he knew more of the private history of the leading men of the country than any person whose name now occurs to me. One of the most famous rooms in the Astor House was No. 11, on the parlor floor, near the ladies' entrance. It is doubtful whether any room in the country has had a greater influence on the destinies of the Union than room No. 11. It was occupied by Daniel Webster, Henry Clay, Thurlow Weed, William H. Seward, General Scott, Rufus Choate, Horace Mann, Zachary Taylor and others of like note. Among his intimates Mr. Stetson classed the gentlemen named and also Martin Van Buren, James Buchanan, Franklin Pierce, Abraham Lincoln, General Grant and Admiral Farragut.

Mr. Stetson had the ability to completely captivate those with whom he conversed, and young Charles was always at his father's side. There was an air of frank benignity in his manner, of tenderness in his tone, and he was unquestionably sincere in his efforts to please. For many years he was noted as one of the best talkers in the country. For half a century he was the intimate

companion of one of our eminent public men. His information, anecdote, incident and story about the Whig and Republican parties were monumental in their extent, interest and fascination. His correspondence with public men was extended.

Although Daniel Webster frequently occupied room 11, he preferred, when in this city for more than a night, the adjoining rooms, 12 or 13, consisting of parlor bedroom and dining-room. Come when he would by night or by day, Mr. Stetson compelled all who occupied them to vacate at a moment's notice, and so marked was the impression produced upon Mr. Stetson by the happy hour spassed with his friend and adviser of Marshfield in these rooms that, at the death of Mr. Webster, the partitions that divided the apartments were torn away that they might not be used again by any other guest. In later years they were the private breakfast room of the ladies of the house. Mr. Webster said that many of his happiest hours were passed in those rooms and that the cheery voice of the liberal host, which always welcomed him as he crossed the threshold, was music to his ears. From these rooms, worn and weary, Mr. Webster was conducted by Mr. Stetson, on whose friendly arm he leaned when he took his last trip to Marshfield, whence he was never to return. As he passed into the marble-tiled corridor, Mr. Webster turned to Mr. Stetson, who was supporting him on the left, and rested both of his withered hands upon the broad shoulders of his friend. "Farewell, old friend" he said. "We have known and loved for more than thirty years. You will find a little present in the office. Good bye." Before his death at Marshfield, he wrote the last letter he ever penned, to his lifelong friend of the Astor.

Call for Greenback Convention.

[By request of the State Chairman, we re-publish the following:]

The State Convention of the National Greenback Labor party will be held at Bellefonte, on Thursday, September 18th, 1884.

The business of the Convention will be to select

- 3 Electors-at-Large,
27 District Electors,
1 Congressman-at-Large,
1 State Chairman,

And to take into consideration such other business as may come before it.

All citizens who are in favor of the resumption of activity and prosperity to our labor and manufactures, and of creating a PEOPLE'S PARTY for the correction of our industrial evils and the inauguration of governmental reform, and of GEN. BUTLER for President, are earnestly requested to take part in this Convention.

In this the National party seeks only the initiative, and asks the assistance of all Anti-monopolists, Greenbackers, Independents, and all who feel the need of a change in our industrial, financial and moral condition.

T. P. RYNDER,
Chairman National Party of Penna.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—A great crisis in your individual and industrial affairs is upon you.

More than one-half of the iron works of the country are idle:

More than one-half of the spindles of the country are idle:

More than one-half of the miners are idle or on short time:

More than one-fourth of the working capacity of our transportation lines are idle:

With overflowing granaries hunger stares the workingman in the face:

With overflowing production of cotton and woolen goods the workingman sees and feels the daily need of proper clothing for himself and family:

With heavily laden books and counters the merchant sees no demand for his wares:

With half our iron manufacturing plants idle nearly fifty millions dollars worth of iron and steel was imported last year:

With our laborers idle hundreds of thousand of foreign paupers and contract labor slaves, the surplus spawn of the foreign breeding-grounds of despotism, socialism, pauperism, and licentiousness, have been thrown upon us to supplant or degrade native or naturalized American labor. All the misery now upon us, and all that stares us in the face, is the result of this labor importation and the inhuman monopolistic policy of contracting the money of the country.

The United States Treasury held on the 1st of July \$487,573,881 of gold, silver and legal tender money which, (less the certificates in use—\$167,573,651), or \$320,000,000, was as useless for labor and business as though sunk in the sea, and every dollar of which was and is needed in business:

The United States imported nearly \$500,000,000 worth of dutiable goods in the last year, the product of foreign labor and foreign machinery, while our mills and labor were idle, \$300,000,000 worth of which could and ought to have been made in this country.

The United States have imported

more than two millions of laborers in four years, for none of whom was there need in the shrinking condition of our business.

These conditions are radically wrong and require a radical remedy.

The remedy can only come through political action.

The old parties offer no remedy, but an unseemly fight as to which shall have the 100,000 federal offices.

The National or Peoples Party demands a prompt and efficient remedy, and points out the means.

By your votes in 1877 you compelled the old parties to adopt a portion of your principles, enough to set the people at work, and give us what prosperity we had from 1879 to 1883.

Your present duty is to organize for the coming election.

Organize in your shops; organize in your fields; in your school houses, in your townships, in your counties, in your legislative and congressional districts, and send delegates to this convention.

Organize because it is your duty to your own families, to humanity and to God. God has promised to be with those who meet in His name, and the place to do God's work is in prosperous and happy families rather than in penal and charitable institutions.

The private of an army must always win its battles, but remember that today your leader is the ablest living American Statesman, the boldest and ablest politician and exemplar of true Americanism—the great American commoner.

You may or may not be able this year to elect BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BUTLER to the presidency, but if you give him the vote you can and ought to give him, the old parties will rock and reel to their destruction, and you will compel a faithless congress to give relief to our depressed industries.

Organize BUTLER CLUBS everywhere. When organized report to me.

Efforts are on foot to make this State convention the grandest in our history. But do not wait for a State Convention. See your neighbor or friend, and ask him to vote with you for a resumption of labor and prosperity. For our cause,

Yours truly,

T. P. RYNDER,

Chairman State Ex. Com. of the National Party of Pennsylvania.

Milesburg, Aug. 28th, 1884.

The Bush House, one of the leading hotels of the state, has agreed to entertain delegates at \$1.50 per day or at proportionate fractional parts thereof. This hotel is capable of accommodating a large Convention.

Centrell, a village of two hundred inhabitants, in Van Buren county, Iowa, is being scourged by a disease which is believed to be a violent type of gray or bloody flux, though some of the physicians pronounce it cholera. The disease comes on with cramps, succeeded by bloody discharges and spasms. The deaths are one in every four attacks. Thirty-two persons were sick on Monday, and ten deaths had occurred. The neighborhood is not in the usual line of travel.

BAGGAGE DELIVERY AND LOCAL EXPRESS.

I would announce to my old friends and patrons and the public generally that I have reorganized the Baggage Delivery and Local Express business, and respectfully solicit a liberal share of patronage. BUSINESS MOVED WITH CARE AND SATISFACTION GUARANTEED in all respects. I would also say that I have first-class Kinding Wood for sale, and all orders left at Cedar & Son's office will be promptly attended to.

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