

BY REV. DR. TALMAGE.

THE VISIT OF ELISHA TO THE WOMAN OF SHUNAM.

And it fell on a day, that Elisha the Shunamite, where was a great room...

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SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON FOR SUNDAY, SEPT. 3.

20. "For this cause therefore have I called for you to see and to speak with you, because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain."

21. "And they said unto him, We neither received letters of thee concerning Jesus, neither have we seen him."

22. "But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest, for concerning this sect we know that every where it is spoken against."

23. "He expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus both out of the law of Moses and out of the prophets from morning until evening."

24. "And some believe the things which he spoke, but some will not."

25. "And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed after the Paul had spoken unto them, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers."

26. "For the heart of the people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull, and their eyes have they closed, lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, lest they should be converted, and I should come and take away their sin."

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RELIGIOUS READING.

THE HOME OF THE SOUL.

What a beautiful thought was that of Moses, the man of God, "O God! thou art our dwelling place in all generations!"

The holy apostle affords us the example of staying himself upon the same consideration. Since such is the steadfastness of the Most High, every word of His is reliable, every promise is worthy of unintermitted trust.

So saith St. John, "He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God." To dwell in God, or to have God for our dwelling place, implies reconciliation, for "how can two walk together," much less dwell together, "except they be agreed?"

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TEMPERANCE.

WHAT THE ALCOHOL-KEEPIER IS KEEN.

Dr. James Stewart, an English surgeon, in a recent lecture makes a distinction, not commonly made, between drunkenness and inebriety.

1. Drunkenness is a vice, inebriety a disease; the two terms must not be confounded. 2. The disease of inebriety once established may be transmitted to the patient's offspring either in the form of the alcoholic diathesis, epilepsy, chorea, insanity, or even tendency to crime.

3. The child of an inebriate parent will not be a transmission of the alcoholic diathesis to his or her offspring. 4. To prevent the development of the alcoholic diathesis in other directions—such as epilepsy—sudden excitement of the emotions and sensibilities, such as might be produced by corporal punishment by strangers, should in all cases be guarded against.

5. The prophylaxis inebriety the principle to be acted on with regard to children's training is, that if you accentuate the good we attribute to the child, the child will be a first cousin should be absolutely interdicted.

It is a common idea that alcohol produces a warming effect in cold weather; this is a fallacy. It depends, in the first place, on the fact that the alcohol appears to expand the nervous system causes an increased blood supply to the surface of the body and, secondly, in all probability, on the blunting of the sensibility of the central organs which are concerned in the sensation of cold.

The future condition of the children of God must be infinitely preferable to their present state. The day tenement which we now inhabit is but a temporary lodging. The mansion to which we are going is "a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

There have been those who have thought with lively pleasure of God as the home of the soul. The last entry of David Brainerd in his diary was, "O my dear God, I am speedily coming to Thee, O Lord! Hasten the day, O Lord, if it be Thy blessed will!"

It is a striking fact that the cholera source in Hamburg was said to be in large part contributed by a priest who drank alcohol regularly, and that the disease, on the whole, was largely from the same cause. This might be a mere coincidence if it were not a matter of history that during every severe cholera epidemic in this country the mortality was much greater among liquor drinkers than among abstemious men.

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THE LAW OF POSTAL CARDS.

IT IS A MISTAKE TO SUPPOSE THAT ANY CARD WITH HANDWRITING UPON IT BEARING A CENT STAMP CAN BE LAWFULLY TRANSMITTED BY MAIL AS IF IT WERE AN OFFICIAL POSTAL CARD.

It is a mistake to suppose that any card with handwriting upon it bearing a cent stamp can be lawfully transmitted by mail as if it were an official postal card. The first paragraph of the 273d section of the postal laws and regulations runs thus: "Postal cards cannot be issued by private parties. All cards, other than those issued by the department, containing any writing are subject to postal postage; but if cards contain printed matter only, so as to constitute a circular, but a cent is required on each of them."

When this regulation is not properly complied with, there is very sure to be a tedious delay in the transmission of the card by the postoffice department. Boston Times.

Fraud in Marriage. According to a recent decree of the Austrian courts of law, concealment of age on the part of a bride is sufficient to invalidate the marriage. An Austrian baron has succeeded in obtaining an annulment of his union in consequence of his wife's having pretended, at the time of its celebration, that she was fifteen years younger than her real age. It is the first time on record that a marriage has been dissolved on such grounds as these, and were this interpretation of the law regarding "fraud in marriage" to be accepted in other civilized countries, a very serious state of affairs would probably result therefrom.

TEMPERANCE NEWS AND NOTES.

More people die of drink in Stockholm than in any other city in the world, the deaths from that cause numbering ninety out of every 10,000.

Two hundred and three inmates of the Kansas Soldiers' Home who have been treated for alcoholism, have left the home, able to maintain themselves.

According to a statement lately put forward at the London Mansion House, the city of London drinks every year 45,000,000 gallons of malt liquor, 8,000,000 gallons of wine, and 4,500,000 gallons of spirits.

The man who loves the saloon spends many an hour with convivial companions while he ought to be spending his family, heaping his wife and children with training his little ones in the way of virtue.

Temperance societies are being formed among the Mujiks of Russia. The members undertake to abstain from vodka for a twelve month. The first time one of them breaks his promise he is fined three rubles and receives nineteen strokes of the rod. The second time the punishment is doubled.

The saddest thing is that the drunkard, coming out of his debauch, wants to repent. He says: "When shall I awake? I will seek it yet again." The drunkard loses his moral force, his will power. He becomes a slave to the habit. He is no longer a free man. He knows he is a fool and he wants to be a fool.

There sailing vessels laden with oil have just started on an ocean race from Philadelphia to Calcutta. A purse of \$500 in gold has been made up for the winning vessel. The race should take about four months.

THE SAVED BY A BLOTTER.

A commercial traveler writes to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat: "The blotter in a hotel writing room once saved me from very considerable loss. As a general rule the blotter in a writing room is so dirty and covered up with ink marks that the whole presents the appearance of an Egyptian hieroglyphics. But on this occasion, as luck would have it, the blotter was absolutely new and clean and could be examined very closely. The last man who had been using it was also the first, and as he used rather a liberal supply of ink and wrote rapidly he reproduced almost the entire letter upon the blotter before folding it up. I knew him to be the representative of a large Eastern house in a similar though not rival capacity to our own, and without intending to do so, I found myself glancing at the reproduction of his letter on the blotter. I was struck at once with the name of the house from which I had the previous day taken an exceptionally large order, and reading on I found that he had notified his firm that, acting under advice from a very reliable source, he had decided not to carry out his instructions and sell this firm a bill of goods. I went out at once and made a few inquiries which convinced me that not only was the house in question in difficulties, but that it was also contemplating a fraudulent transfer to defeat its creditors. I promptly wired the house I represented to ignore my letter by mail containing this order, giving the reasons briefly, and following up the telegram by an explanatory letter. Some rather indignant correspondence followed, but this was abruptly terminated by the suspension of the latter and the absconding of one of the partners. I have always held a clean blotter in a hotel writing room with a feeling of veneration ever since."

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