

PAINT AND PAINTING.

Painting damp wood impairs the texture and induces dry rot. From a sanitary point of view painted walls are best; the worst is a papered wall. Two ounces of dragon's blood dissolved in one quart of turpentine, gives a good mahogany stain. As a filler and putty, some painters use plaster of Paris, mixed with weak glue to the consistency of putty. Putty can be kept soft by covering with water, or, still better, with linseed oil. Any good putty will harden on exposure. When mixing tints in the light, it must be remembered that the color will not appear quite the same in a partly darkened room. All light tints are more or less affected by the application of clear varnish over them. It is better to mix a little of the color in the varnish. If your brush was not cleaned at the proper time, and has become hard, put it in linseed oil and heat the oil until the dried paint is loosened. Dry burnt umber mixed in vinegar makes a good walnut stain, as does also one pound of dry Venetian red mixed in one quart of turpentine and one pint of alcohol. To test the durability of colors in paint, apply a coat of strips of thick paper and nail them on the wall, exposed to the strongest possible light. Over one-half of the sample or samples of color, fusten heavy paper, excluding all light. After a few weeks remove this covering and note the difference in the exposed and unexposed portions.—The Master Painter.

SERVE THE RICH AND GREAT.

The salary of Queen Victoria's chief valet, who looks after the wine, is \$500 a year. The washing of the clothes for the English royal household costs more than \$3,000 per annum. Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont prefers her new servants of herculean proportions. Her new footman is about seven feet high and otherwise in proportion. Forty servants is the average number employed by the Astors, Vanderbilts and other multimillionaires, with an average payroll of \$1,000 a month. The Rockefeller servants are on duty certain hours, with certain hours for themselves, and they remain indefinitely, none ever leaving of his own accord. Very many marry, and their children, too, remain as part of the family below stairs. There are 1,500 people upon the German emperor's list of employes, including 800 women servants, who are engaged in looking after the 22 royal palaces and castles that belong to the crown. Their wages are small. The women receive not more than \$12 a month and the men servants from \$15 to \$25 a month. The court of Pope Leo XIII. comprises 1,000 persons. There are 28 valets, 120 prelates, 170 privy chamberlains, 6 chamberlains, 300 extra honorary chamberlains, 130 supernumerary chamberlains, 30 officers of the nobles guard, 60 guardsmen, 14 officers of the wisw guard and police guard, 7 honorary chaplains, 20 private secretaries, 6 stewards and masters of the horse and 60 doorkeepers.

BEFORE THE FOOTLIGHTS.

London has 45 theaters. Emma Eames takes great care of her voice, and says she "lives by the thermometer as most people do by the clock." "There is only one thing I enjoy more than singing," said Jean De Reszke the other day. "That one thing is bicycling." Frank Hunter Potter, a nephew of the Episcopal bishop of New York, is a grand opera tenor, whose stage name is Sig. Filippo. Sara Bernhardt in 1873 earned \$40 a month. During the last five years her average earnings have been \$100,000 a year. The singing of certain masses has been forbidden in the Roman Catholic churches of Cincinnati because they so closely resemble operatic music. The manager of a London music hall announces that anyone who purchases tickets for the performance may have his or her teeth extracted for nothing. The climax in a new English melodrama is a marriage ceremony performed in a church by a burglar, who, being interrupted in stealing the silver communion utensils, puts on the rector's robe and reads the service.

GATHERED FROM ABROAD.

Kissing a woman's lips is a gross insult in Finland. The Singalese, after extracting the honey from the bee, chew up the insect itself. The Chinese tael is a coin which has never existed. It is simply a unit used for convenience. Fashionable Japanese young ladies when they desire to look attractive, lid their lips. A Swiss village is to be constructed at Paris for the exposition, at a cost of \$40,000. The revenue of Denmark is 40,000,000 crowns, one-half of which sum is absorbed by military expenditures. Waiter girls in some of the large lunch cafes receive no wages, because they get as much as three or four dollars a day in fees. Since 1879 more than 3,000 houses have been detained and closed in Berlin on account of their unsanitary condition. When a dog barks at night in Japan the owner is arrested and sentenced to work for a year for the neighbors whose slumbers may have been dis-

CHRIST FREEING FROM SIN.

Sunday School Lesson in the International Series for March 6, 1899.—John 8:12, 31-36.

[Specially Arranged from Peloubet's Notes.] GOLDEN TEXT.—If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.—John 8:36.

THE SECTION includes the whole chapter.

TIME.—October 11, A. D. 29, at the Feast of Tabernacles; the day after the last lesson. The eighth day, a special solemn assembly, kept like a Sabbath, after the conclusion of the feast (Lev. 23:36); the temple would then be thronged with worshippers.

Place.—In the temple at Jerusalem, first in the court of the women where were the treasure boxes (v. 20), and later in the court of the Gentiles, where only would they cast stones at him.

THE LESSON.

I. Christ Like the Pillar of Fire in the Wilderness, guiding His followers safely through the wilderness of life, and the church through the unknown future to the perfect Kingdom of Heaven. V. 12. "Then spake Jesus again." The day before Jesus had used the splendid ceremonial of the water in the golden pitcher, drawn from the pool of Siloam and carried in festival procession, with songs of joy, waving of branches, dancing and music, to the temple, as a symbol of the fact and a means of proclaiming the fact that He brought to all men the water of life. Now He uses another ceremonial to symbolize and proclaim that He is the "light of the world."

Jesus was at this time (v. 20) in the court of the women. Close beside Him were two gigantic candelabra, 50 cubits (7½ feet) high and sumptuously gilded, on the summit of which nightly, during the Feast of Tabernacles, lamps were lighted which shed their soft light over all the city. "He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness." These lamps, and the ceremonies connected with them, according to Prof. Dods, were in commemoration of the pillar of fire that led their fathers in the trackless desert on their long journey from Egypt to the promised land.

II. The School of Christ.—V. 31. "Then said Jesus," or better, as R. V., Jesus therefore said, because many had believed on Him after His proclamation that He was the Light of the world, and His teachings in answer to the objections of the Pharisees (vs. 13-30). "Which believed?" Had believed Him, believed what He said, believed that He spoke the truth. "If ye continue in My word," Abide in it, live under the influence of His teachings, accept them, obey them, make them the guide of life. "Then are ye My disciples indeed!" A disciple is a learner, one who accepts another as teacher and master, one who accepts His teachings and follows His example. Hence a true disciple of Christ is a true Christian.

III. The Glorious Liberty of the Children of God.—Vs. 32-36. 32. "And ye shall know the truth." This is closely connected with the previous verse. By continuing in His word they should know the truth; that would be the result of their training; and this would bring to them both individually and as a nation the boon they were all longing and struggling for, liberty. "And the truth shall make you free." It would have saved the nation from the bondage of captivity to Babylon centuries before, it would save them from bondage to the Romans.

33. "They answered Him:" Skin-deep discipleship took offense at a promise in which it detected a view of its present condition which it resented. "We be Abraham's seed;" "The dignity of a free man, as Godet says, shone on the brow of everyone who bore the name of child of Abraham."

"And were never in bondage to any man;" They did not consider their relations to the Roman empire as slavery. They enjoyed individual freedom. "How sayest thou," etc.: Because the promise of freedom implied that they were slaves. The most slavish of slaves are those that do not know or realize that they are slaves, who love their chains, who imagine that they are doing their own will, and are masters, because they so willingly yield to the domination of evil desire.

34. "Whosoever committeth sin:" The verb is in the continuous present. "As the servant," the slave, the bond-servant, "of sin." He has a free will, without which he can be neither a slave nor a freeman; but he himself is in bondage, as long as he commits sin. And this in three ways: (1) The sinner is fettered and restrained from doing right freely.

35. "And the servant," bond servant, "abideth not in the house for ever." The reference is probably, according to Stier and Bengel, to Ishmael, a son of Abraham by his bond servant Hagar, who did not abide in the house, and who was not the heir of the promises, while Isaac was the son and heir (See Gal. 4:22-31). "But the Son abideth ever:" Those who are sinners, though they profess to be in the kingdom, cannot remain there. But true disciples abide there forever.

36. "If the Son:" The Son of God, who always remains, and has the power to make His servants free. "Shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Really free. They would have true freedom as sons of God, and all the privileges of that freedom, abiding forever. Their nation would remain, themselves would be a part of the Kingdom of God.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Jesus Christ, by the truth, makes us free from sin and the love of sin; and when we are free from sin, the chains of sin are broken, and the slavery of sin has ended. Jesus Christ, by the truth of His friendship, of the fatherly love of God, of the promise that all things shall work together for good, and by bringing us into the truth of friendship with God, and obedience to His laws, delivers us from the galling bondage of anxiety, and fear, and care.

Sympathy.

"What's the matter with Freddie?" asked the boy's father. "He's worried over his studies. He has an example that says if he has 10 and pays 50 cents for some potatoes and 75 cents for a steak and various sums for other things, how much will he have left?" "Well, tell him not to bother. I'm not going to have the careless innocence of childhood disturbed by any such useless trouble. It'll be time enough for him to face the awful problems of life when he grows up and has grocery bills of his own."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

She Was Thinking of It.

Mrs. Elverson—Oh, Mrs. Downslough, I heard that your daughter Mabel is engaged to Fred Waddington. Mrs. Downslough—Yes; they expect to be married some time during the winter. Why, what makes you look so funny? Do you know anything about him? Mrs. Elverson—Oh, no; nothing much. I was only thinking. Once when he was a boy I heard our minister say he expected him to come to a bad end.—Chicago Daily News.

An Indistinct Impression.

"I dunno's I exactly agree wif dat speakuh," remarked Mr. Erastus Pinkley, as he was walking home from the lecture with Miss Miami Brown. "At what point does yoh comprehension get stalled?" "Well, ef he says he favors de policy of expansion, I dunno's I un'stan's 'im. But ef he favors de expansion of policy, I's right wif 'im."—Washington Star.

His Rich Trail.

"Dawson's an awfully extravagant chap." "Yes, he is." "Has he got much money back of him?" "I'm afraid he has—more, in fact, than he has ahead of him."—Harper's Bazar.

A Woman's Aim.

Bride—If you ever flirt with any other woman, Harry, I will shoot you! Harry—What! Could you aim a gun at your own husband? Bride—Yes, I could and would. Harry (relieved)—Well, then, I should be perfectly safe.—Harlem Life.

A Base Slander.

"It is claimed by the complainant that you assaulted him," said the magistrate. "He lies, your worship. I never touched him. Bobson and Tibbs picked him up and carried him to the pump. All I did was to work the pump handle."—Tit-Bits.

His Status.

Book Agent—What kind of a man is your neighbor, Mr. Puffedup? Farmer Hornbeak—Wa-al, I cacklerate he imagines that there won't be any more wet weather this season unless he withdraws his objection.—Judge.

Not Such a Big Fool.

Emily—I am so unhappy. I begin to see that Arthur married me for my money. Her Dearest Friend—Well, you have the comfort of knowing that he is not so simple as he looks.—Tit-Bits.

In the Big Race.

The race is not in every case. Unto the swift, they say. And by that self-same token he that leads the fastest life may be passed by the man who "pegs away."—Chicago Daily News.

OH, THE DIFFERENCE.



"What a wretchedly dark hole this is, now!" "Do you think so? Before we were married, you always said it was the most delightful in Brighton—so few lamps."—Ally Sloper.

A Sermonette.

Whate'er betide, O murmur not—Waste no good breath upon your lot; Lo! while you grumble, flesh and time, Which, well put in, might earn a dime.—Detroit Free Press.

Poetry and Reality.

He—I'd go through fire and water for you, dear. She—Never mind that. Would you agree to go through the operation of making fire for me?—Yonkers Statesman.

Often Done.

"What is an investigation, Uncle Rodney?" "Investigation? Why, it's hunting up a lot of blame and putting it on somebody else."—Puck.

The War in Vain.

"I do wish the United States would get possession of the Canary islands." "Why?" "Because it would make good singers cheap, wouldn't it?"—N. Y. Truth.

A Libel on Collegians.

Mrs. Benham—I wonder why our boy hasn't written lately. Benham—He's probably having good luck at poker.—Town Topics.

A Club of One.

"How do you keep so young, Mrs. Lighthouse?" "Well, I never worry about my age."—Detroit Free Press.

Guess Again.

Clerk—What kind of gloves, madam—walking gloves? Miss Wayback—Mercy sakes, no! I don't wear gloves on my feet.—Judge.

The Chose Slavery.

Ethel—I have the choice of being an old man's darling or a young man's slave, and I've decided to be a young man's slave. Clara—My dear, I think you are foolish, but I wish you happiness. Clara (a few years later)—What became of that meerschaum pipe brother John gave you husband Christmas? Ethel—I burned it up.—N. Y. Weekly.

The Word and the Deed.

Mrs. Uptown—This is strange. Here's a letter from the hired girl I discharged the other day for refusing to do things the way I wanted them done, asking me to send her trunk. Mr. Uptown—There's nothing strange in that. Mrs. Uptown—Yes; but she signs it "Your obedient servant."—N. Y. Evening Journal.

Too Weighty Commitments.

"What was this row about?" said the policeman. "It all came about," the father-in-law explained, "by some of those cheeky boys throwing shoes at the bride." "Well," said the policeman "that's customary." "Yes; but not horseshoes"—Odds and Ends.

The Wed-Up.

Mrs. Hayricks—What makes you so sure there won't be no more fightin', Joshua? Mr. Hayricks—Hain't the board of strategy down to the grocery store disbanded? If that don't settle the hull business, gosh hang it, what will, I'd like to know!—Chicago Daily News.

The Law of Approximation.

Blinks—Do you suppose it's ever possible to come anywhere near the size of a man's income? Jinks—Yes; just take the figure he gives to the assessor, add it to the figure he tells his friends and then divide the result by two, and you'll have it near enough.—Town Topics.

Wouldn't Take Chances.

Smith—One can't always judge a man's patriotism by his conversation. Jones—No, I suppose not. Smith—Take Brown, for instance; would you call him a coward? Jones—Well, er—I might if I was sure he wouldn't fight.—Baltimore Life.

Give Him a Chance.

Tramp—Could yer give a poor man a pie or cake, ma'am? Lady—Why, you have a big lunch there now, sir. Tramp—I know, but de doctor sez I must spend an hour at my meals, ma'am.—N. Y. World.

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