

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson in the International Series for January 27, 1901—Christ Silences the Pharisees.

THE LESSON TEXT.

34. But when the Pharisees had heard that He had put the Sadducees to silence, they were gathered together. 35. Then one of them, which was a lawyer, asked Him a question, tempting Him, saying: 36. Master, which is the great commandment in the law? 37. Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 38. This is the first and great commandment. 39. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. 40. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. 41. While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42. Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is He? They say unto Him, The son of David. 43. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call Him Lord, saying, Lord, say thou unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? 44. If David then call Him Lord, how is He his son? 45. And no man was able to answer Him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask Him any more questions. GOLDEN TEXT.—What think ye of Christ?—Matt. 22:42.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The events studied in this lesson occurred on Tuesday, April 4, A. D. 30. This was the last day of Jesus' public teaching, and the lesson properly includes that teaching which was occasioned by the opposition of the rulers. Jesus relates three parables: (1) of the two sons; (2) of the wicked husbandman; and (3) of the marriage of the king's son. The Pharisees question Jesus about tribute, the Sadducees bring up the question of the resurrection, and the lawyers chime in with questions about the great commandment. The analysis of the lesson text takes up two points: 1. Question Concerning the Great Commandment.—Ver. 34-40. 2. The Pharisees Asked a Question.—Ver. 41-46.

When Jesus came to the temple Tuesday morning He met the chief priests and elders, who were very angry at what had been done during the last two days. They greatly desired to put Him to death, but did not dare do so. They made friends with different sets of people who were generally enemies of each other, but were agreed in determining that Jesus should not be king, and together they planned to tangle Jesus in His talk if possible. They appointed different persons to try Him with hard questions, hoping that His answers would give them some chance to say that He had broken their laws.

But He saw through all their cunning questions and mean plots to take Him say or do something they could use against Him. The first set of messengers asked Him by what right He had dared to cleanse the temple, and who gave Him authority to teach there. He answered them by asking a question they could not answer; then by speaking the parables of the Two Sons, the Wicked Husbandman, and the Marriage of the King's Son, in each of which He condemned the Jews most severely for their wicked rejection of Him. You will find these in Matt. 21:28-42; 22:1-14. The next set tried to entrap Him in regard to the tax paid to the Roman emperor (Matt. 22:16-22). Then came the next set with a silly question about relationships after death (Matt. 22:22-23).

Finally another group put the question in verses 35, 36 of our lesson. The books of Jesus' time were all written by hand. The men who did the writing were called scribes; also lawyers, because besides writing the law they explained it. They thought if Jesus singled out one commandment as the chief, they could charge Him with disrespect to all the others.

Jesus Himself had no need of any other law than that of love. If instead of a rule for each sin we accept one rule to "Love the Lord our God with all our heart," that leaves no room to love wrong things. So we shall not need to be told not to do them.

What the Jews were looking for was a son of David, who should sit upon the throne of his father and restore the glory of that earthly kingdom which was now only a fast-fading memory. In the prophecies respecting the Messiah there were clear flashes of divinity, but they persistently shut their eyes to them. What they wanted was not God invested with all the awful beauty of holiness, but a sort of Jewish Caesar surrounded with all the pomp and circumstance of temporal power. They had seen but one side of the Scriptures, and so when Jesus turned up the other they were utterly confounded.

Jesus Christ is not only the Son of David and the Son of Man, but the words of Scripture and the wonderful works in history unmistakably proclaim Him to be the only begotten and well-beloved Son of God.

Our Respect.

Men don't want our pity, they want our respect. They want the recognition of common humanity. To help the world we must have a deep respect, man for man.—Rev. A. S. Hoyt.

Memory a God-Given Faculty.

There is a forgetting that is just as sinful as neglecting.—United Presbyterian.

Needs the Great Physician's Care. Moral darkness is moral disease.—Barn's Horn.

The indiscriminate lash will drive devils into the by for one it drives out.

A man is not superstitious because he believes in the supernatural. It is easy to slip up on an ally.

So long as there are feather-brained girls and broken-down counts in the world there will be Cheap Titles, good American money and cheap foreign titles. And so long as these marriages are "arranged" we shall find a familiar story every now and again in our morning papers. The amounts and the titles involved may be changed, but the details will be essentially the same, very truly remarks the Saturday Evening Post. It is easy to understand how the silly daughters of weak mothers, feeding on the novel of gush and "good society," possessing the fripperies of an education and initiated into the third degree of snobbishness through the open sesame of newly-come wealth, should think a million none too dear for even an uncertain count. But it will always remain a mystery that men whose dollars have been made by the ability to gauge the weakness of other men should hand over their daughters to foreigners whom they would not trust in any capacity in their offices. Yet they do it, and their experience costs them anywhere from five hundred thousand to five million, according to the ability of their particular noblemen to lose and to spend. Though nothing, no matter how unsavory, seems to grieve an American family when it is trying to swallow a title, it usually has a reserve of common sense which asserts itself in the end. We have grown so used to reading of this almost inevitable end that it has become the veriest commonplace of scandal. Yet the average American never sees that threadbare chronicle of neglect and ill-treatment of a countrywoman that he is not stirred to wrath, simply because he is an average American with all that that implies in his attitude toward womankind. And better than musty patents of played-out, frayed-out nobility is the instinct of chivalry.

This is not a bad one, told in the London Express, of an American gentleman who was recently stopping with his wife at the Hotel Cecil. On their first evening there he happened to retire somewhat later than his spouse. Arriving at the door of what he imagined to be his room and finding it locked, he tapped and called "Honey!" No answer came, and he called again and more loudly "Honey!" Still he got no reply, and, becoming somewhat uneasy, he shouted the endearing term with his full lung power. This time a reply came, and in a male voice: "Go away, you blithering idiot! This is a bathroom, not a blooming beehive!"

"I don't often see a thief or a bad man with big ears and a large mouth," said a city magistrate from the bench the other day, in commenting on the physiognomy of a 15-year-old boy, charged with assaulting an old apple man and then stealing his wares. "I like to see a boy with ears," observed the judge. "I am inclined to give you a chance, my boy, on the strength of your big mouth and generous ears. You've got a good face. A man with little ears like a fox's or a squirrel's won't always do. They need watching."

"Speaking of sales," says the Kennebec (Me.) Journal, "there have been some stories told of the rummage sales which have been so popular this fall. At one such sale in a Maine city, among the curious wares displayed was a set of false teeth. And not only did several would-be customers try them to see if they would fit, but at last a customer bought them and carried them off in triumph. This is the solemn truth."

It is reported that 70 families of Boer refugees are to form a settlement between Hicksville and Syosset, in Nassau county, Long Island. This project is backed by the Boer refugee aid committee, composed chiefly of members of old Dutch families in America, who have relatives among the Boer fighting men and officials. A tract of land which will permit the allotment of from 5 to 25 acres to each of the 70 families has been purchased.

Among those people with somewhat peculiar ideas of morality must be included that West Virginia minister who thought it a shameful sin to dance, and yet who did not hesitate to carry a pistol and shoot down a man who protested against that view of the question.

A silk mill in Charlotte, N. C., is run with negro labor entirely, a colored man named Thurston being superintendent. He maintains discipline among the hands, male or female, by whipping those who break rules.

The postal service establishment of the United States is the greatest business concern in the world. The revenue of the post office of New York is more than \$5,000,000 yearly, with a net profit of \$5,000,000.

A Chicago physician a few days ago was paying \$3 a square inch for skin from the hands of 20 persons, which he requires for grafting on a boy whose hand was badly lacerated in a sand paper machine.

Michigan's law against betting on horses makes the offense punishable equal to the amount of the bet. It is not more than \$5,000.

The latest bulletin of the department of labor contains three statistical tables of unusual interest, showing the number and cause of deaths, during the last fiscal year, in 129 cities having a population of 30,000 or more. Like all statistics, these figures sometimes require to be explained, says Youth's Companion. For instance, the highest death rate of any city in the country—almost 35 to the thousand—is that of Charleston, while New Orleans, Savannah and San Antonio all had a death of more than 25 to the thousand. But this does not prove that they are unwholesome places. Each has a very large colored population, and exceptional mortality swells the general average. The really "deadly" cities are foreign ports, like Bombay, where the death rate is sometimes over 64 to the thousand. With the exception of Rockford, Ill., the most healthful cities seem to lie west of the Mississippi. Seattle heads them, with a death rate of only seven to the thousand. St. Joseph, Mo.; Portland, Ore.; Lincoln, Neb.; Tacoma, Wash.; Sioux City, Ia., and Rockford, Ill., all have a death rate of less than ten to the thousand. The death rates of New York, London and Paris are over 19 to the thousand. Coming to specific diseases, Chelsea, Mass., shows the smallest percentage of deaths from consumption, and Houston, Tex., seems to be free from pneumonia. The fewest deaths from typhoid took place in Fall River. In Charleston there was but one death from diphtheria, and in more than one-third of the cities no death was caused by malarial fever. It is interesting to note that Salt Lake City records the largest number—about 11 to the thousand—of deaths from "old age"; that Auburn, N. Y., had the smallest proportionate number of deaths by violence; that the fewest deaths from heart disease took place in San Antonio, and the fewest from apoplexy in Spokane. Almost every city, in fact, has "something to brag about," and as a whole the tables indicate that our chief centers of population are healthful as well as prosperous.

About three years ago the Christian Commonwealth colony was founded in Muscogee county, Ga., a few miles from Columbus, by 40 men and women, with some children, from Ohio. They were an exceptionally intelligent and worthy body of people. Plain cottages were built and a common dining hall, which was also used for religious services, was established. The first year was a prosperous one. Fine crops were raised and good prices secured for the products. A sawmill was built, a gristmill and a broom factory were profitably operated, and a dairy not only furnished the community with all the milk and butter needed, but afforded a surplus for the market. Then new members came and trouble began. Many shirked their work, gossip and scandal became rife, debts were incurred which there was no money to meet, and now it is announced that the colony has gone to pieces.

In the will of the late Charles H. Hoyt, the playwright, an interesting issue is made on the subject of co-sinship. The basis on which Mr. Hoyt disposed of his fortune is thus defined in his will: "The testator has no relations nearer than cousins to be considered, and his cousins and distant relatives have never shown by any act any desire for his friendship or good will; hence he has deemed it more consistent with fair dealing and justice to dispose of his property to those who during his life have been his constant companions and well-wishers." There will be a contest over the will, it is said, in which the problem of cousins will be exhaustively handled.

Some boys in Macon, Mo., recently fed the contents of a box of seidlitz powders to a goat belonging to a family which had recently moved into the neighborhood. Then taking it for granted that he was thirsty, they led Billy to a near-by trough and permitted him to drink heartily. Soon the fizzing began and the goat tore down the street toward the woods at a reckless pace. Some negroes living several miles out of town claim to have seen Old Nick himself, as they verily believed, rushing along the road in broad daylight. His majesty resembled an enormous goat, they said, but they recognized him as the devil, because he was spitting fire and brimstone.

Just previous to the recent election a Tennessee editor foolishly ventured on a forecast of coming events and invited his readers to watch the result and see how far he missed. In his latest issue he manfully owned up as follows: "We are now able to state we missed it by exactly the space between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans east and west and from the great lakes to the Gulf of Mexico north and south."

A real estate dealer of Kenosha, Wis., is having papers prepared in a number of novel suits which he intends to bring against half a dozen well-to-do residents of the city. He found that many of the trees on one of his tracts of land had been gnawed by horses to such an extent that they are dying. He claims to have located the owners of the horses, and it is against them that he

At last accounts, the deposits in the savings banks of the United States amounted, in round numbers, to \$2,200,000,000—an impressive total, which represents an average of nearly \$50 for every man, woman and child in the country. An analysis of the figures discloses a singular concentration of savings banks. More than four-fifths of the deposits, or, to be more nearly exact, a little more than 87 per cent., are in the 11 New England and middle states, leaving less than 13 per cent. distributed among the other 34 states. There can be no question that savings banks encourage thrift, says Youth's Companion. People are a great deal more likely to lay something by for a rainy day if they feel a reasonable assurance of finding it when they need it, with a pleasing addition of interest. These figures show that large sections of the country are entirely without savings banks. It is the consideration of this fact which gives weight to the argument for the establishment of a postal savings-bank system. There is much to be said in favor of that system; yet when we examine the practical working of the British post office savings bank, which has been suggested as a model for this country, the result does not encourage imitation. For the last four years the bank has shown a yearly and increasing loss, and the London Times declares it insolvent. In view of this fact, congress may well hesitate to establish postal savings banks. Without waiting for action in that direction, communities which lack institutions for savings may wisely devise means to found them, and to foster and safeguard them by state legislation.

The annual report of the federal life-saving service is one that is read by few and cuts little figure among the department publications, and yet it deserves to be widely read as a record of heroism and service to humanity performed by the life guardsmen who patrol our ocean and lake coasts to save life and property, justly observes the Chicago Tribune. During the last fiscal year 700 shipwrecked persons have received help at the stations. The value of property imperiled was \$9,737,290, and of property lost \$2,245,800. Out of 3,436 persons whose lives were in danger only 53 were lost. To accomplish these results has cost the government \$1,535,936, an insignificant sum when the number of lives and immense amount of property exposed to loss are taken into consideration. The men who perform these services are heroes, and yet the general superintendent says that certain of them "are among the poorest paid servants of the government"—an injustice which congress should remove. If any men deserve to be well paid it is our coast life guardsmen.

Borrowing a convict from state prison to open a safe seems rather a startling thing to do. A dispatch to the Chicago Tribune from Columbus, O., tells of such an occurrence: "In order to secure valuable papers belonging to her dead husband, Col. F. J. Pickard, a civil engineer, who died a few days ago, an expert safe-blower, now a convict in the state penitentiary, was loaned to Mrs. Pickard by the warden to open the strong box in which the papers were kept. The prisoner was conveyed in a closed carriage to the safe, which he blew open, and was then returned to his cell. All Col. Pickard's private papers were locked up in the safe, and the plan of securing the services of a burglar was adopted. It took the convict 12 minutes to open the safe."

R. Moore ran for justice of the peace in Bourbon county, Kan., at the recent election, and was defeated. He publishes an affidavit regarding his election expenses and gets in a fling at his successful rival in this fashion: "Uniontown, Kan., Nov. 28, 1900: Not having any blanks, and being a law-abiding citizen and a defeated candidate for justice of the peace in Marion township, I hereby certify under oath that I did not expend one cent to secure my election. I further swear and firmly believe if I had spent \$500, and had two butcher shops to back me, I could have been elected to a ten-dollar office."

A divorce petition filed in court at Hutchinson, Kan., recites the story of an extraordinary courtship. The woman says she didn't want to marry her husband, but one afternoon he and his sister got her into a buggy and drove about the country all night, the pair taking turns in pleading with her to consent to the marriage. At last, near daylight, she consented out of sheer exhaustion; and without giving her a chance to repent the man drove her back to Hutchinson and married her.

A Baltimore department store offered its patrons a bargain-counter Thanksgiving dinner of a dozen courses for six people, all for the modest sum of 97 cents. It was very filling for the price, says a local exchange, and likewise an interesting illustration of the development of modern shopkeeping.

The recent census shows that about 12 per cent. of the population

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