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The Phonograph, which is frequently a source of irritation, is never quite so exasperating as when the operator switches on the phonograph, which says and repeats and repeats: "The line is busy; Please ring off." There are people who think the monotonous and imperturbable voice belongs to the operator at "Central," and so try to argue. The initiated hang up the receiver and wait. They know that the order comes from a machine; that they are experiencing a commercial application of what was only a toy a few years ago. Mr. Edison's wonderful invention is still a toy in the sense that it is sold, with varied and increasing sets of records, for purposes of amusement; but also it has many curious and interesting applications to science and industry. It has been used for ethnological purposes in Borneo by Prof. Haddon; in Uganda, by Sir Harry Johnson, and in northern Siberia by two explorers from the Smithsonian Institution. In those widely separated fields it recorded and preserved the speech and songs of native tribes; and in Africa, too, it copied and reproduced "speech" of monkeys, for Prof. Garner. The phonograph, says the *London Companion*, never forgets and never lies. Not long ago a man died—intestate, it was supposed. But one evening a member of his family chanced to place a cylinder in the phonograph which had stood in the dead man's room. The machinery was started, and a voice, as it were from the grave, began the old formula, "I, So-and-So, being of sound and disposing mind," and went on through the whole of a "last will and testament." The heirs were so fully convinced that the voice was that of the dead man that they accepted his division of the property. The uncanny machine prompts both to speculation and regret. Will it be the means by which the voices of the great men and women of to-day shall be heard by future generations? If only it could bring back the remote past! One would give much to hear Demosthenes denounce Philip, or to learn how Cicero pronounced the words in which he arraigned Catiline; one would go far to hear Washington's farewell to his generals or the calm and noble speech which crowned the life of Nathan Hale.

The value of the onion as a medicine is just being found out. Doctors are of the opinion that it is a preventer of smallpox and will arrest the spread of many other diseases. The onion is a household remedy which every mother has used for coughs, colds and croup for generations, but now its virtue is being tested in a more scientific way. Onions promote sleep and quiet irritable nerves. They are said to improve the eyesight. They are known to improve the complexion. They are, in fact, a most healthful and beneficial article of diet, and if they could be made to taste and smell like oranges or apples their popularity would be far greater than either of the fruits named.

THE SUBURBAN GIGGLE.

Mirthless, Spasmodic Cachinnation Peculiar to Some Out-of-Town Residents.

"There is no doubt about it, in my opinion," remarked a fair suburbanite, according to the *New York Tribune*. "People deteriorate by living in the country. The men give up dressing for dinner and become slovenly in their apparel and careless about their manners, and the women acquire a certain rustiness, which is very recognizable. The funny part of it, too," she continued, "is that they all acquire a certain resemblance to each other in appearance and manners. This shows itself especially among the young women who have been born and bred in genteel suburbs. I do not mean common people at all," she explained. "I am talking of those of a good social class, who are well connected and reasonably well off, but who, nevertheless, are hopelessly provincial. As I belong to the species myself," she interpolated, "I suppose I can say what I please, for I make no doubt that I am as bad as the rest. Have you ever noticed, by the by, how many country women have the same curious, nervous little laugh? Now, I am sure that must be due to suburban living, for I have heard precisely the same giggle at widely divergent places. It is a perfectly mirthless, spasmodic cachinnation, delivered either before or after a sentence, as: 'How are you, hee-hee-hee?' or 'I nearly missed my train. Hee-hee!' And so on. One woman I know has got so into the habit of pre-mising everything she says with what I call the suburban giggle that not long ago, when I met her wearing mourning and spoke to her sympathetically, she answered me: 'Hee-hee! Yes, my poor aunt is dead, and I am going in for the funeral!'"

Mother's Ear

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson in the International Service for June 21, 1903—Paul's Charge to Timothy.

THE LESSON TEXT.

(2 Tim. 3:14-17, 4:13)

14. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.

15. And that from a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

1. I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom;

2. Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine;

3. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables;

5. But watch thou in all things, endure affliction, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry;

6. For I have many that are idle, vain talkers, they are ignorant of the things which say, but have no faith;

7. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept my faith:

8. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day; and me also will He appoint.

GOLDEN TEXT—There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.—2 Tim. 4:8.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

It is not the soldier who knows only the barracks and parade ground who takes the most satisfaction in his military career, but the one who has been in bitter battles and upon toilsome marches; Paul had the experience of the fighting soldier. His life was menaced with plots; he was beset by mobs, dragged before magistrates, scourged, imprisoned, stoned and endured hardships both by sea and land. His final words were those of an exulting conqueror. To feel as he did when expecting to die by the sword, one must be able to say with him, "I have fought the good fight, and I have finished the course, I have kept the faith."

The story of the book of Acts breaks off suddenly, leaving Paul in prison. The facts of his later life are very uncertain. Many scholars believe that he was executed at the close of the imprisonment of the last lesson, and that the second letter to Timothy was written within a few weeks of that to his old friends at Philippi (studied January 11). Most, however, think that Paul was released and had complete freedom for five or six years, was arrested a second time, condemned and beheaded, and that it was during this second imprisonment and just before the final trial that this letter to Timothy was written. The letter is studied here as giving us the last word from the great apostle. It is, as Bishop Lightfoot has said, "Paul's last will and testament."

"Knowing of whom thou hast learned them?" A Christian mother and grandmother (1:5). "And that from a babe?" The training of the Jewish children in the Old Testament Scriptures began at the age of five. "The sacred writings?" That is, the different books of what we call the Old Testament. "Make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus?" Paul claimed that the Old Testament pointed men clearly and distinctly to Christ Jesus, the Jews' Messiah and the world's Saviour. "Every Scripture?" In the 50 places where this word occurs in the New Testament it means the Old Testament.—R. F. Horton. "Inspired of God?" The revised version gives the correct reading. The old version that "all Scripture is given by inspiration" while true is not the correct rendering of this passage. Every God-inspired Scripture (and Paul was unquestionably thinking of the sacred writings of the Hebrews when he spoke) is profitable for teaching, etc. "Furnished completely unto every good work?" The knowledge of God and His gradual revelation of Himself and His will to men found in the Old Testament is, says Paul, a very important part of the spiritual equipment of the man of God.

"I charge thee?" A solemn charge from the aged apostle to the young Christian just at the beginning of his work. "The Word?" The Gospel truth of salvation from sin through Christ. "In season, out of season?" That is, all the time. "For the time will come?" It had probably begun when Paul wrote, "Having itching ears;" listening not for the sake of profiting by the Gospel truth but for diversion or amusement—following religious fads. The world is still full of those who are ready to run after the newest counterfeit religion. "Suffer hardship?" The experience of Paul had shown him that the life of the missionary pastor was not an easy one. "An evangelist?" One who evangelizes, that is, preaches the Gospel.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

Punishment is not persecution. We should abide in the truths that we have learned, knowing of whom we learned them—sainted mothers, etc.

Fortunate is that one who has known the Scriptures from a babe! They will ever light one's pathway. The Scriptures are not for comfort merely, but to equip one for work for God and for man.

There is still such a need of workers! To accomplish much we should work in season, out of season.

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Discussed. "How did you spend your visit to the Bermudas, Uncle?" "I was a good deal disappointed. The onions didn't come up to my expectations. Why, gosh, the salt water made onions right!"—Chicago Tribune.

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