

SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL QUESTIONS

GOSPEL MESSAGES.

Rev. George H. Hepworth's Sermon in the New York Herald is Entitled "Nothing is Small"—An Address by Evangelist D. L. Moody on Bible Texts.

The New York Herald publishes the complete result of its recent competition for prize sermons printed in its columns. The first prize was awarded by the Herald itself, and the second, third and fourth prizes were decided by the vote of its readers.

First prize, \$1000, to the Rev. Richard G. Woodbridge, of the Central Congregational Church, Middleboro, Mass. Subject, "The Power of Gentleness."

Second prize, \$500, to the Rev. W. S. Perkins, pastor of St. Paul's Universalist Church, Meriden, Conn. Subject, "Burdens Bearing."

Third prize, \$300, to the Rev. John D. Long, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, Babylon, L. I. Subject, "The Good Side of Life."

Fourth prize, \$200, to the Rev. Edwin P. Parker, pastor of the Second Church, Hartford, Conn. Subject, "Law of Kindness."

Dr. Hepworth on "Nothing is Small." Text: "Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

I know of no part of Scripture which gives me more good cheer than this. It contains the kindest and most encouraging statement of fact that ever fell from the lips of Christ. It oftentimes wonders what circumstances suggested this object-what impelled Him to put a gentle hand on our shoulder, as though to say, "Be not troubled. To do things well is to do God's work in God's way. Nothing is trivial that is worth doing at all."

It is true that not every man can be great in the sight of men, but every man may belong to heaven's nobility. There are men in the humblest walks of life who will be crowned crowns in the hereafter because they did their simple duty in a simple fashion.

When we get into the other world we shall be profoundly surprised to find that the Lord's standard of greatness is not measured from that to which we have been accustomed. We regard social position, wealth, intellectual culture as of prime importance and rather imagine that the Lord will hesitate to condemn any one with three enviable possessions. But it is clear that we and He do not agree, for with Him a pure heart and a sweet, placid and gentle life are worth more than all the coveted crowns in the hereafter because they did their simple duty in a simple fashion.

When we step across the border we shall find that many of our earthly ideas of value are either mistakes or prejudices, and that lives are more precious and profitable only in proportion to their spiritual symmetry and beauty. The more a man does for others, therefore, the more he does for himself, and if he cares only for himself, to the neglect of others, he has to go into the primary class in heaven and learn what true religion means.

Someone said to me recently in despairing tones, "My life amounts to so little. I live the humblest and most unimportant way, and if I should drop out of existence it would make no difference to anyone." If that were true it would be very sad. But this man was to my mind one of the world's heroes, and I know his environment, and knew what he had done with it, how much he had made out of it. Yes, he was a manual laborer, and his hands were grimy with toil. He was a kind, in overalls. He was the guardian angel of an aged mother who thought herself in heaven long before she went there because the son was so like Providence. He strained every nerve to give his boys an education that they might be fitted to do better work than he had done.

You say "All this is a matter of course." Then I add, and God's blessing is a matter of course.

That was a narrow life? No; it was as wide as God's love could make it, and as noble as an archangel's. He who does the little duties of life with a large heart makes himself great in God's eyes. You can better afford to stand before God in honest rags than in the purple and fine linen of dishonesty.

The important question to be answered here is, "Who are you? But what are you?" Your pocketbook does not weigh as much as your moral principle in the scales of God.

It is rank heresy to say that your life is worthless if you are doing your work well. Heaven is full of princes who found it hard to pay the rent of their earthly houses.

Never allow yourself to say, and especially to feel, that the work you are doing is insignificant or the place you will fill is of no importance. To do that is to make an uncalculated criticism on the Lord, for you hereby declare that the work He has set you to do is not worth doing. If there is a mistake anywhere it is in your opinion of the value of things and not in His judgment as to what you should have done. You have no right to hold any such opinion, and if you do it is because your ideas are based on false principles.

No matter how humble your sphere, fill it full by pouring your love and the qualities of character into it. A pool of water is a thing of beauty when the moon shines on it, and the smallest soul that ever breathed is a miracle when the spirit of God is reflected there.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

REPORT ON MINES.

The advance sheets of the first annual report of Robert Brownlee, chief of the bureau of mines and mining, was made public last week. Mr. Brownlee says there is no question that if the mine rules were more vigorously enforced the number of accidents in the mines would be very materially reduced. "Some people," he continues, "attribute the cause of some of the experienced miners' deaths to morbid curiosity to see the crowd and hear something new. Others He Himself accused of being after the fishes and the cures. They did not care about His message."

"All these people soon got tired of following Christ; but I can vouch for one thing—that no man for eighteen hundred years who has followed Jesus Christ, for what He has ever been disappointed. He is all that you make Him to be. Some make a little Saviour, because they think little of Him."

What says ye, you that are here-to-night? Come, tell me. I could go through the crowd and find just the same motives actuating you as those who followed the Lord in Palestine. There are some men back there who came to see the crowd. Another has come because his wife has been nagging at him for the last three weeks, and he promised to come. Another has come because he has nowhere else to go. He says that if he had a good comfortable home you would not find him here. Another one comes to hear the singing. "I'm glad he wanted to hear something anyway. Although some of you have come with low motives, thank God you have come at all, and you may change your mind before you're through. I'm glad to have a chance at you, whatever your motives for being here may be."

"Here is another text I want to read: 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.' So many people think that they will attend to temporal things first, and after they have made a comfortable fortune and settled down they will attend to eternal things. God says, 'No. You cannot attend to temporal things first. I think if this were really done you would never come to want.'"

"I have been besought on all sides to preach sermons on capital and labor and similar subjects. My friends believe as long as you start right and follow that text you will turn out right in the end. I believe so many don't get on because the Kingdom of God comes last, not first, with some of the thousands of young people the morning. Christ would not even allow a man who followed Him to bury his dead father before he had obtained the Kingdom of God. I believe there are thousands of thousands of young people who have written on the flyleaves of their Bibles by some loving father or mother the text I have quoted, from Matthew 6:33."

"If Moses should suddenly appear here what do you suppose would be the first words he would say to you? If you asked him to come to the platform and take my place, he would say, 'The choice is between life and death. Choose life.' If Hezekiah were to come here what would he say? I think he would ask you, 'How long halt ye between two opinions?' If Miss Wilson should appear here would she say, 'Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.' Suppose that little tent-maker, Paul of Tarsus, were here. He would shout, 'Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation.' And if Jesus Christ were to appear among us He would say, 'Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.'"

HOW TO AVOID YELLOW JACK.

Professor Klek Says It is Easy to Avoid the Germs. Uncle Sam has only to issue an order to his troops to "cook your food and boil your drinking water" to render the whole of the United States immune from yellow fever, according to Professor Edwin Klek, of Rush Medical College, Chicago, an account of whose discovery of yellow fever germs was published a fortnight ago.

The simple precaution of boiling and cooking had been followed the army would have been practically immune from the disease.

The event of war with Spain the American troops sent to Cuba were forced to depend largely on food canned in the United States, which would lessen the danger considerably. It is Professor Klek's theory that the familiar injunction of the Chicago Health Department to "boil the water" would complete the safety of the troops from the disease, whose ravages are more to be dreaded than Spanish bullets.

THE SAN JOSE FRUIT BUC.

New Jersey Is Its Eastern Home, According to Entomologists. The Agricultural Department has just issued a bulletin on the San Jose scale in California, prepared by Entomologist L. O. Howard. It is of much interest at this time because of the recent edict of the German Government prohibiting the importation of living plants, fruits, etc., on account of the alleged discovery of scale on peas shipped from California.

The bulletin says that in the fall of 1895 the insect was reported as being in twenty States, but in comparatively few localities in each with the exception of New Jersey, which was overrun by it. In 1897 a field inspection in Virginia, Maryland, Illinois, Ohio, Georgia and several other States showed that in them the insect was almost as widespread as in New Jersey, while twelve States and the District of Columbia have been added to the number containing infested points.

A list of fifty-five fruit and shade trees and ornamental shrubs affected by the pest is given. Considerable space is devoted to a discussion of the remedies suggested to kill the pest.

FILLED CHEESE EVIL. The Exportation to England Has Caused Injury to American Trade. United States Consul Dickinson, at Nottingham, England, has sent the State Department, Washington, an interesting report upon the quantity and quality of cheese sent to Great Britain by America. It is in it points a moral and conveys a warning to exporters who have been in the habit of sending "filled cheese" to foreign lands instead of the pure product. The result of this kind of fraud has cost American cheese dealers thousands of dollars in trade lost during the last few years. Canada has gained what we have relinquished. This gradual change of relations has been going on since 1881. That year the United States sent England nearly 148,000 pounds of cheese. The "pure" product was then at the top of the British market.

CONGRESS.

Senators.

In the Senate Monday Mr. Bacon (Dem., Ga.) gave notice of an amendment which he intended to offer to the joint resolution for the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands. It provides that the joint resolution shall not be operative and of binding effect, either on the United States or on the republic of Hawaii, until it has been consented to and approved by a majority of the electors of the Hawaiian Islands—all male natives over 21 years old, and all male naturalized foreigners entitled to vote; the time and manner of the election to be prescribed by the president of the United States.

A feature of the Senate proceedings Tuesday was an extended speech by Mr. Caffery (La.) in support of the pending National quarantine bill. Mr. Caffery said the United States Government was the only authority which could make a quarantine effective, and he added that he was as staunch a State's rights advocate as any man. State quarantines were, he said, utterly powerless against an epidemic of yellow fever. Mr. Caffery (Mo.) on the committee on territories, in calling up the measure making further provisions for a civil government of Alaska, said the committee had not deemed it wise to provide for a legislative assembly for Alaska on account of the nomadic character of the inhabitants and the vast extent of the district.

Mr. Hale, chairman of the naval senate, called up the Maine relief bill, and it was passed without a vote of debate by a unanimous vote last Wednesday. An amendment to the sundry civil bill is pending. One of these bills is an appropriation of \$250,000 to furnish supplies to the destitute people of Cuba.

Thursday Senator Thurston delivered a speech on the Cuban situation.

House. After various corrections had been made in the record, Chairman Boutelle of the naval affairs committee, called up the Maine relief bill for the relief of the sufferers by the destruction of the United States steamer Maine in the harbor of Havana, Cuba. It reimburses the survivors for losses of personal effects. One of these bills of those who perished a sum equal to 12 months' pay, not, however, to interfere with the right to pensions.

The naval appropriation bill was reported to the House Tuesday, carrying a total of \$35,683,068, an increase over last year of \$3,764,432 and over the current estimates of \$2,514,824. For the increase of the navy the bill allows to be constructed by contract three sea-going coast-line battleships, designed to carry the heaviest armor and most powerful ordnance, displacement 11,000 tons, with the highest practicable speed for their class, to cost exclusive of armament, not exceeding \$3,000,000 each, one to be named the Maine; six torpedo boats, 150 tons displacement, and six torpedo-boat destroyers, about 250 tons displacement, to cost not to exceed \$2,340,000; and one gunboat, to take the place of the United States steamer Michigan, to cost, exclusive of armament, not over \$200,000, to be built on the Pacific coast.

The army reorganization bill was adopted unanimously by the House committee on military affairs, and it was subsequently reported to the House. In passing upon the measure the committee has disposed of a significant point as to the President's functions in war. It is in favor of the establishment of the third-battalion war formation only upon the declaration of war by Congress or a declaration that war exists. The committee in its report cites official reports as showing the increase of the enlisted force of the line of the army needed to change it from a peace to a war footing, and puts the enlisted strength at 104,354 men, an increase of 25,000 over the present strength. The pay aggregating \$4,928,800. The officer the same number of troops under the provisions of this bill in time of war would cost \$1,078,000. This, the committee concludes, effects a saving in organization of \$3,850,200 per year.

Gen. Wheelock of Alabama Friday introduced in the house a bill providing "that in the event of an act of war declared by Spain or any other foreign nation prior to the meeting of the next session of congress, the president of the United States is hereby authorized to accept letters of volunteer purchase arms and munitions of war, to equip troops for active service, organize such troops under brigades, divisions and armies for active service, appoint necessary general staff and other officers, and such field and company officers as may hereafter be selected by proper authority, and do any other act necessary to the safety of the country."

Mr. Wheeler also introduced a bill to amend the act of March 3, 1879, and its honor and prestige." The second section appropriates the necessary money to carry out the provisions of the act.

Labor World. Mexican miners get 37 1/2 cents a day. Trades unions are causing an advance of wages in Japan. The laundry workers of Syracuse, N. Y., have just organized. The street railway workers of Denver, Col., are well organized. Utica printers have voted to assess themselves one per cent. on all earnings for the shorter workday fund.

Striking employes in most of the New England cotton mills refused to work without getting the increase demanded. The 1100 operatives of the Whittenton Cotton Mills, at Taunton, Mass., have returned to work after a five weeks' strike. Postmaster Dickinson, of Detroit, Mich., has yielded to the protest of organized labor in that city against putting mail cars on street railroads.

President Mahon, of the Street Railway Workers' Union, advises his constituents to move for less hours per day, wherever possible, success at once. In the factories of Osaka, Japan, the average wages of the men are twenty cents, of the women 13 1/2 cents a day. The price of meals at boarding houses is about seven cents a day.

In Holland women and persons of either sex, of whatever age, are now forbidden to begin work earlier than 5 a. m., or to continue at work after 7 p. m.; nor may their work exceed eleven hours a day in all.

Twenty-four New York clergymen endorsed the short-hour bill for drug clerks. A velvet mill at Mystic, Conn., has recently been erected for a firm that has come here from Germany. Work was begun with one hundred operatives, but the number will soon be considerably increased. Utah has a law which fixes eight hours as a day's labor in the mines and smelters of that State. It was enacted in Territorial times, but still holds good, and the Supreme Court of the United States has just affirmed it.

A monument has been erected at Florence, N. C., to the memory of T. W. Talbot, founder of the machinists' organization in 1888. Talbot was killed several years ago while in the act of horsewhipping a man who had insulted his daughter.

THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COMMENTS FOR APRIL 3.

Lesson Text: "The Woman of Canaan." Matthew xxv. 21-31—Golden Text: Matt. xxv. 25—Commentary on the Lesson For the Day by the Rev. D. M. Stearns.

21. "Then Jesus went thence and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon." The herald of Christ having been cut off, and thus His own death, humanly speaking, having been made more sure, He sets forth the great truth, by the only miracle recorded in all four of the gospels, that He is the true bread for the perishing, sufficient for all. He only can still the storms of this troubled life, and He will in the morning watch, but He will not accept the position of King till then. Those who would make Him King are more occupied with their hands than with their hearts. They draw nigh with mouth and lips, but their heart is far from Him, and even the disciples do not understand that it is the heart that God looks at and what He wants there is truth, humility and faith in Him, although this was plainly set forth in their Scriptures. See I Sam. xvi. 7; Ps. li. 6; Mic. vi. 8; II Chron. xx. 20, l. c.

22. "And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts and cried unto Him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David. My daughter is grievously vexed with a devil." It is only in the faith which shines brightly in the darkness of the night that the Spirit is first heard of and seen moving. So it is ever. The devil is allowed to work in order that the works of God may be made manifest (John ix. 3; III. 4). As far as we know the only place the Son of God was seen on the plain of Dura was in the furnace with those who had unbounded faith in Him.

23. "But He answered her not a word, and His disciples came and besought Him, saying, Send her away, for she crieth after us. He knew the case thoroughly and that to deal with it, silence is best, and delay is not unkind. The Lord waits that He may be gracious; blessed are all they that wait for Him (John xli. 6; Isa. xlvi. 1). He saw her faith grow even under His silence. It was a good deal to her that He did not say no and drive her away. The disciples were like most of us, selfish, and wanted quietness for themselves; they had not learned to live unto others and forget self. Have you?

24. "But He answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." So had commissioned the Lord (chapter xv. 2). He might now have added, "But they have rejected Me, therefore have I come to you," but it was not necessary. He saw her faith still strong under all this, and he felt delighted that she was so patient. "Other sheep I have, which are not of this fold. They also I must bring, and they shall hear My voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd one day more." He has not done.

25. "Then came she and worshipped Him, saying, Lord, help me." How His heart rejoiced in the clinging of this helpless one. He longed to help her. He intended to do it, but he did not quite time. The need is not personally hers, but the daughter's, so how her cry still is, "Lord, help me." When we by faith in Christ receive Him, and are assured by His word that He will help us, we are accepted, justified, and that some day we shall be like Him (Eph. i. 6; Rom. v. 1; I John iii. 2), is not all this in order that we may one day be like Him in the case of others and bring them to Christ?

26. "But He answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread and eat it to the dogs." His words look hard and that now we feel that we are not like Him. He is "God manifest in the flesh," and there is naught but love in all this. We must trust Him and wait patiently, and that He will do for us what we cannot do without cause all that He has done (Ezek. xiv. 23).

27. "And she said, Truth, Lord. Yet the dog eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." She had addressed Him as Lord and Son of David, and now as Master. Let Him say what He will, let Him do what seemeth Him good, she will trust Him equal to 66 rods. Ruth to Naomi, and like Itai to David, like Elisba to Eljah. Nothing can drive her away. She has come for somewhat, and she will have it—if only a dog. He said to her Master, He is so very great and so poor and needy.

28. "Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith. Be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that hour." So she triumphed, her faith in Him gave her her heart's desire. He intended to do it. I doubt not that He took that journey in order to do it, but there is a time that is always best. He keeps us waiting, it is because He is saying to us as to His mother at the marriage, "Mine hour is not yet come." It is something to say, "Can our faith bring us to others?" Let this case answer, for we have no reference to the daughter's faith. He said, "Great is thy faith," yet the daughter was made whole.

29. "And Jesus departed from thence and came nigh unto the Sea of Galilee, and went up into a mountain and sat down there." He took the long journey to be a proof, and to try, and to do wonders for His hidden one. We read of nothing else that He did at that time. He sent Philip, one of the seven, a long journey to bring joy to the Ethiopian. He sent Galilee from heaven to instruct the man of comfort Zacharias. He sent an angel to the ship in the storm to comfort Paul. There is nothing too wonderful for Him, and He is always "this same Jesus (Acts i. 31)."

30. "And great multitudes came unto Him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them." What a sample of what His Kingdom will be. "The inhabitant shall not say I am sick, the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquities" (Isaiah xlii. 24). It will be a coming down to earth. One does not wonder that they wanted to take Him by force and make Him their King (John vi. 15), for when hungry He could feed them, when sick He could heal them, and if they did He could bring them to life.

31. "Inasmuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see, and they glorified the God of Israel." But why did they wonder? This was just what Isaiah said that their Messiah would do (Isa. xxxv. 5, 6). Why did they not welcome Him and submit to Him as their Messiah, that they might as a nation obtain joy and gladness and have sorrow and sadness flee away? No, they were not ready for God's thoughts and they glorified Him. Like their forefathers they wanted a king like other nations.—Lesson Helper.

The gun-carriage that survives the tests given it before its acceptance by the ordinance inspectors of the German army need not fear for the emergencies of actual campaign. Near the arsenal at Mandau a train has been built covered with all sorts of obstacles. It is in imitation of bad roads at one part, is crossed by a ditch at another, and there are realistic imitations of mountain passes and ravines.

"Offhand Joe," the Chippewa chief, who died in Superior, Wis., the other day, is said to have killed more "forthrighters" than any man in the Confederate army. He says he killed 113. He was a sharpshooter, having joined the Confederacy because of a personal grievance against the Federal Government.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

According to the best authorities, there has never been a race of men that was ignorant of the use of fire.

All the swing bridges across the river within the limits of the city of Chicago are operated by means of electricity.

Pneumatic pressure is used to ring a new door bell, the push button pumping air into a tube, which has a piston at the other end to slide out and push the bell clapper.

Bricks made of plaster of paris and cork are now used in the construction of powder mills. In case of explosion they offer slight resistance, and are broken to atoms.

Drumming compasses are being made with a flexible rubber suction cup on one end to fasten to the paper and hold the instrument while the circle is being drawn.

During certain definite seasons of the year sun spots travel across the sun's surface in straight bands. During other definite seasons of the year they travel across the surface in curves.

Sun spots occur in greater or less numbers, new ones forming and old ones disappearing constantly. There is a maximum number at periods about eleven years apart, according to observations made continuously during the present century.

The sun's distance is equal to about two thousand times the diameter of the earth. A train running at sixty-five miles an hour would reach the sun in 175 years. At the rate of two cents a mile the fare to the sun would be about \$1,500,000.

The force of gravity at the sun's surface is twenty-seven times greater than the force of gravity on the earth. An average-sized person would weigh a ton on the sun's surface. The average density of the sun is only a quarter of that of the earth.

Bears sleep for months during the dead of winter. Fattening in the fall, they creep to some cave or hollow tree, and pass there into a state of hibernation, which reduces them, physiologically speaking, to the condition of cold-blooded animals. The vital activities of their bodies are reduced to a minimum, and yet they appear in the spring lean and exhausted by this long fast.

HEAT OF SUN AFFECTS IT MOST.

Influence of Elements on Pendulum at Washington Monument.

"There is a misconception as to the extent of the influence of heat and cold upon the perpendicularity of the Washington monument," remarked a well known engineer to a Star reporter, "and the idea that the monument sways far out of plumb is wrong. The pendulum apparatus which is in use in the monument shows occasional divergencies, but even with the most exact observations made by most competent men, these divergencies are very slight. The apparatus is graduated so fine that it shows a leaning of one-tenth of an inch. Now, I find that the idea very generally prevails that the monument leans away from the sun several feet. This is far from being correct. The heat from the sun affects the monument, as it does the dome of the capitol, but by no means to the extent that is generally believed. In winter time this is much less marked than it is during summer, for by the time the sun warms the structure to any appreciable extent it passes around, first to the south and then on to the west, so that it equalizes its influence. The effect as marked by the pendulum is, therefore, on many days more imaginary than real, though, as I have stated, in very warm weather the pendulum shows a variance of an inch or so from plumb. The same thing occurs in very high brick houses, the 20- to 30 story buildings in New York and Chicago, for instance, but it is so slight and so difficult to measure that no attention is ever given to it. A daily record is kept of the pendulum at the monument, but the matter has been regarded as so unimportant that there has never been any record published. The dome of the capitol being of iron is much more influenced by the sun than the monument, but even this is unimportant and so slight that it has never been accurately ascertained or measured. The word picture of the Goddess of Liberty 'going out every morning to receive the kiss of the sun god' is, therefore, to a very great extent, a fiction, though no doubt a very beautiful one."—Washington Star.

Thomas Jefferson's Ten Rules.

Never put off until tomorrow what you can do today. Never trouble another for what you can do yourself. Never spend your money before you have earned it. Never buy what you don't want because it is cheap. We seldom repent of having eaten too little.

Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly. How much pain the evils have cost us that have never happened. Take things always by the smooth handle.

When angry, count ten before you speak; if very angry, count a hundred.

A Peculiar Town.

The little town of Peculiar, in Cass county, Mo., got its name in rather a curious manner. Its founders got into a count-overly over what they should christen it, and finally they referred it to the postoffice department, saying that they didn't care what name was given the place as long as it was peculiar. One of the Washington officials then, in a spirit of wagging, named it accordingly.