

Youth's Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Sunday, May 7th, 1866.

LUKE xviii. 13-31: The ruler hindered by his riches. 2 SAMUEL viii.: David subdues his enemies. Recite—MARK x. 23-28.

Sunday, May 14th, 1866.

CONCERT: or Review of the past months' subjects and lessons.

Causes and Cures.

BY REV. JOHN TODD, D. D.

Most of my readers know that within a few years, at great trouble and expense, our Apianians have introduced the "Italian Bee" among us. It is said that the first queen bee imported cost three hundred dollars. It is claimed that they are hardier, more industrious, will work earlier and later, will defend their home, and, withal, are not so irascible as the common bee. To much of this, as well as to their beauty, I can subscribe. But to the last commendation, their gentleness and suavity, I cannot assent. I have had too much evidence of their quick pugnacity to concur.

But I took up my pen to speak of another buzzing, darting, and stinging insect, which seems to have the hardness and the fierceness of the white-faced hornet, and the quick sting of the Italian. It is known by different names, as "Gossip," "Slander," "Back-biting," etc. It seems to frequent all houses, and is at home alike in the hovel and in the saloon of the rich. Who does not fear it? And who has not been stung by it? We all complain of it, fear it, and yet are careful to gather the eggs, and hatch them at our own firesides. Perhaps my reader can recall the times when he has smarted under its infliction.

Without the figure, let us look a moment at the cause of so much evil-speaking, gossip, or slander, even in christian communities.

1. It is easier to talk about people, and the people around us, than about anything else. Let two neighbors meet, what can they talk about easily? They are not read in history, they have no science to discuss, they are not posted up in politics, they have not any great question of commerce to discuss, and the world is a blank to them out of their own circle. But they do know who are moving, who are making new purchases, and what is going on around them. They see every movement on the checker-board before them. If Mr. A. has been cheated in a horse, if Mr. B. has bought a very poor cow, if Mr. C. has been very hasty in his bargain, if Mrs. D. has a new dress that is "extravagant," or "awfully homely," if young E. is becoming rowdyish, and young F. is sent home from college, and if Mrs. G.'s "help" has left her in "dudgeon," everybody knows it. And why should not everybody talk about these things? It is the easiest way to get up a conversation. It is not, of course, malice, nor is it intended to be "meddling," but it's taking the readiest way to talk about something which all can talk about. What a dry world it would be if all such wells were closed up! And why should we grudge others the privilege which we claim for ourselves? Let them talk, and remember they can't talk about anything else.

2. There is a little of the crab in us all, so that we do not swim exactly straight-forward. In other words, every man has his own weak spot, and there is the shadow of the ludicrous falling upon us all. So that there is hardly a man in the circle of your acquaintance, concerning whom you may not tell something that borders on the ludicrous, especially if we have a certain knack of setting it off. These weaknesses are common property, and are sure to be held up again and again. We do so. Others do so. And we must expect it to be so concerning ourselves as long as we live, and even after men are dead and buried these remain, the only immortality on earth which many have. By repetition, and accretions, and little embellishments, a small mistake or a small weakness becomes a great affair. I have often heard facts stated about myself which I have found very difficult to identify with anything in my own experience. Don't others find it so?

3. There is also in the human heart, even the best of hearts, something of jealousy or envy left, and though we would not "for the world" injure the good name of our neighbor, yet we, unconsciously to ourselves, find it difficult not to let the weak points of others be known. We may think it is all in pure good will, or that we are only paying back what we receive, or it may be that we don't stop to analyze our motives; but the fact is certain, much of the evil speaking or gossip grows out of envy or jealousy. I am inclined to think that people are seldom conscious of this cause. But the feeling is human that if we can "level down," we shall do the same thing as if we had elevated ourselves. If Mr. P. and Mrs. R. have such weaknesses or imperfections, what is it but proving that we are as good or better than they? If young S. who is to marry Miss Joner next week, is so an ass, and we shake our heads gravely and "hope it will turn out for the best," what is it but saying that we should never let our daughters run such awful risks?

Shall I now briefly mention how we can do much to cure this evil, and thus prevent a great amount of hard feeling and ill-blood?

1. Remember that it takes two to slander, or gossip—one to speak, and at least one to hear. People often congratulate themselves that they never spread the report, and they never said the hard things, or made the insinuations, when

they sat and with greedy ears drank it all in and enjoyed it, and the speaker and retailer knew they enjoyed it, notwithstanding the feeble, "I hope it's not so," or "I can hardly believe it," which they may utter. If none were encouraged by good hearers, all this would be done away. Bear in mind, then, that the hearer of slander may often be more guilty than the utterer—seldom less so. If you want to cure the evil, guard your ears as well as your lips.

2. Set a guard at the door of your lips. When you cross the threshold of your neighbor's door, when you sit down at your table, make the solemn resolution that you will say nothing about the absent which you would not be willing to have them hear. It is no less needful at home, at the family meal, where a severe, or a sour, or an envious spirit is often created and nurtured—thoughtlessly, no doubt, in very many cases, but none the less injurious for that. Happy that family where the table is the place of pleasant, instructive, and social intercourse, without the drawback of severity or the alloy of bitterness.

3. Resolve that whenever you hear any ill spoken of any one you will say something good about him; there is no one concerning whom you cannot honestly do this if you try. This habit—and I have known such as never did otherwise—will sweeten your own spirit and that of the company. It is like the prophet casting the branch into the bitter waters. It is bringing the brazen serpent at once, as soon as the serpents begin to bite. Make it a matter of convenience to see what are the teachings of the Bible in regard to the tongue; and see how much danger it carries, what wounds it can inflict, what flames it can kindle, what evils it can create, what miseries, it can entail. Make it also a matter of earnest prayer that you may set a guard at the door of your lips, and become a perfect man, because you offend not with your tongue.

What shall you do when slandered? Bear it in silence. Don't run about to deny or to explain. If the reports are in any measure true, reform and make them untrue hereafter. This is a kind of bee that you cannot fight. You must be quiet and let it have its buzz, and it may be sting. But suppose there be not a word of truth in it! So much the better. It will be very easy to live it down in that case. Remember that a falsehood won't hurt you. It is what we do, and not what people say we do, that hurts us. So long as reports are not founded in truth they do no hurt. They have no sting. Never be worried at anything which you have not actually done. A great truth that.

Slavery in South America.

There is still a wide field for Anti-slavery efforts on this continent, as appears from the following advertisements from the leading newspaper of Rio Janeiro, Brazil, the *Journal de Commercio* of November last.

"Auction of slaves" this day, the 23rd, at eleven, 71 Rua da Alandega (Custom-house street). Castro Bittencourt will sell to-day in his warehouse, at eleven, punctually, a number of slaves, among them small negroes and negroes, black men who can cook, wash, and starch, black women for labor and for hire, and who will all be sold on account of the proprietor in liquidation of accounts."

In the paper of the 24th an auction of sixty-seven "well conducted slaves" from a coffee plantation, including several families, is advertised. Each journal contains five or six closely printed columns full of advertisements of slaves for hire and for sale by private contract. Here are a few of these advertisements:—

"To be sold, three brown girls, two of them suitable for housemaids and the other for wet-nurse, as she has excellent milk and she has two little boys with her; to be sold together or separate. Whoever wishes for them, to apply, &c."

"To be sold, because the mother cannot nurse her, a child a month old. Apply at No. 20 Rua do Sabao."

"To be sold a black woman of the Mina tribe (African born); perfect fruit seller, producing a milreis (2s. 3d.) a day. Apply, &c."

"To be sold in No. 29 Rua do San Jose, a choice lot of thirty slaves, including a blacksmith, a mason, two carpenters, a barber, a cook (the most perfect to be met); young negroes from ten to eighteen years old, negroes of same age, blacks of both sexes, for domestic service and agriculture."

"To be sold, a beautiful female slave, who can wash, starch, and cook; price, 1,050 milreis (about £11). Apply, &c."

"To be sold, for 1,200 milreis (£135), a black girl, who washes, cooks, and starches. Apply, &c."

"To be sold an elegant and very pretty choice Creole girl, well made and strong, being the most beautiful article in the market—all good qualities guaranteed. She can sew, do crochet, dress a lady, wash, cook in perfection, starch ladies' clothes, and do all service. Apply, &c."

"To be sold, a lovely Creole woman, twenty-four years old, beautiful face, and strong, pregnant (five months gone), perfect cook, washerwoman, and dressmaker, doing all she does with much ease, and easily pleased. At Rua do Rosario, No. 112."

"To be sold by a private party, two nice little negroes, one twelve and the other twenty; a black woman, African born, thirty-two years old, who is a good washerwoman and cook. In the Passage of the Senate, A, first floor, till ten o'clock."

A GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR AND HIS PARTNER.—He saw the medical superintendent and said, "I don't wish to go over the asylum in the usual way, but to mingle with the patients as if I were an officer, a surgeon, or even one of themselves. By so doing I shall be better enabled to judge of their intellectual state, and of their progress in the direction of sanity." "With pleasure," said the doctor; "it is Saturday, and we usually have a dance on Saturday night. If you go into the ballroom, as we call it, you will see them dancing and talking without reserve." "Would it be objectionable if I—a—danced with them?" asked the official. "Not at all," was the reply. The official walked into the ballroom, and, selecting the prettiest girl he saw for partner, was soon keeping up a very animated conversation with her. In the course of the evening he said to the doctor, "Do you know that that girl in the white dress, with blue spots, is a very curious case? I've been talking to her, and I cannot, for the life and soul of me, discover in what direction her mental malady lies. Of course, I saw at once she was mad—saw it in the odd look of her eyes. She kept looking at me so oddly. I asked her if she did not think she was the Queen of England, or whether she had not been robbed of a large fortune by the volunteer movement, or jilted by the Prince of Wales, and tried to find out the cause of her lunacy; but I couldn't, she was too artful." "Very like," answered the doctor; "you see she is not a patient, she is one of the housemaids, and as sane as you are." Meantime, the pretty housemaid went to all her fellow-servants, and said, "Have you seen the new patient? He's been dancing with me. A fine tall man, and beautiful whiskers! but as mad as a March hare. He asked me if I wasn't the Queen of England; if a volunteer hadn't robbed me of a large fortune; and whether the Prince of Wales didn't want to marry me. He is mad. Isn't it a pity—such a fine young man?"—*Illustrated Times*.

A LESSON IN ACCENTUATION.—The following anecdote respecting "musical accent" is old, but good enough to bear repeating:—"At a trial in the Court of King's Bench, (June, 1833) between certain Tweedledums and Tweedledees, as to an alleged piracy of an arrangement of 'The Old English Gentleman,' T. Cooke was subpoenaed as a witness. On cross-examination by Sir James Scarlett, that learned counsel rather flippantly said:—Now, sir, you say the two melodies are the same, but different. What do you mean, sir?" Tom promptly answered:—I said that the two notes in the copies were alike, but with a different accent." Sir James:—"What is a musical accent?" Cooke:—"My terms are a guinea a lesson, sir." (A loud laugh) Sir James (rather ruffled):—"Don't mind your terms here. I ask you what is a musical accent? Can you see it?" Cooke:—"No." Sir James:—"Can you feel it?" Cooke:—"A musician can." (Great laughter.) Sir James (very angrily):—"Now pray, sir, don't beat about the bush; but tell his lordship and the jury, who are supposed to know nothing about it, the meaning of what you call accent!" Cooke:—"Accent in music is a stress laid on a particular note—as you would lay a stress on any given word, for the purpose of being better understood. If I were to say, you are an ass, it rests on ass; but were I to say you are an ass, it rests on you, Sir James." Reiterated shows of laughter by the whole court, in which the bench joined, followed this repartee. Silence being obtained, Lord Denham, the judge, with much seeming gravity, accosted the chopfallen counsel:—"Are you satisfied, Sir James?" Sir James, deep red as he naturally was, had become scarlet in more than name, and in a great huff said:—"The witness may go down."

THE SOLAR SYSTEM.—If our young readers will commit to memory the following lines, they will ever after have a correct idea of the arrangement of our solar system. It will fix it in the memory like the length of the months by the old "Thirty days hath September," etc.:

Poised in the centre hangs the glorious SUN,
Round which the rapid MERCURY doth run;
Next, in due order, VENUS wheels her flight,
And then the EARTH, and MOON her satellite;
Next fiery MARS pursues his round career;
Beyond, the circling ASTEROIDS appear;
The belted JUPITER remoter flies,
With his four moons attendant through the skies;
The belt-ringed SATURN roams more distant still,
With seven swift moons he doth his circuit fill;
While with six satellites, that round him roll,
URANUS slowly circumsolves the whole.
But far beyond, unscanned by mortal eye,
In widening spheres, bright suns and systems lie,
Circling in measureless infinity!
Pause o'er the mighty scenes, O man! and raise
Your feeble voice in the CREATOR'S PRAISE!

CURE FOR HICCUGHS.—Dr. Pretty, an English physician, claims to have found a very simple means of arresting the hiccup. It is sufficient to squeeze the wrist, preferably that of the right hand, with a piece of string, or with the forefinger and thumb of the other hand.

WORLDLY PLEASURE.—No worldly pleasure hath any absolute delight in it; but as a bee, having honey in the mouth, hath a sting in the tail. Who sees an ox grazing in a fat and rank pasture, and thinks not that he is near to the slaughter? Whereas the lean beast that toils under the yoke is far enough from the shambles. The best wicked man cannot be so envied in his first shows as he is pitiable in the conclusion.

MAJORITIES AND MINORITIES.—A witty writer says:—"It is a great mistake to think that the majority are always in the right. They were not so in the matter of the Flood—it was a comfortable thing to be in the minority then—and they've been wrong several times since."

SUSPECTED MURDER BY A PHYSICIAN IN GLASGOW.—During the past month public interest has been greatly excited by the apprehension of one of the physicians of Glasgow, Dr. Pritchard, of Sauchiehall-street, on suspicion of having poisoned his wife and mother-in-law. Mrs. Pritchard was taken ill some four or five weeks ago with a complaint which was said by her husband to be gastric fever. Her mother, Mrs. Michael Taylor, came from Edinburgh to wait upon her, and of course resided in Dr. Pritchard's house. About three weeks ago Mrs. Taylor was one evening suddenly seized with violent illness, and died in a few hours. Her body was removed to Edinburgh, where it was interred. As for Mrs. Pritchard, she appeared to be recovering, and had so far regained her strength as to be able to sit up in the drawing room. At the end of the week, however, she had a relapse, and medical skill proving of no avail, she died somewhat suddenly on Saturday morning. On Monday week Dr. Pritchard conveyed her remains to Edinburgh for the purpose of interment. During his absence suspicions were aroused, and on his return from Edinburgh he was apprehended and taken to the Central Police Station, where a room had been prepared for him. He has since been removed to the North Prison. A post-mortem examination of the body of Mrs. Pritchard has been made by Dr. MacLagan and Dr. Littlejohn, but so far as we can learn, nothing has transpired to criminate the prisoner. The medical examination, however, has not yet been completed. The stomach of the deceased has been handed over to Dr. MacLagan for chemical analysis, and it will be some time before the cause of death be accurately ascertained. Meanwhile the authorities are making active efforts to hunt up every item of evidence that is likely to form the groundwork of suspicion.—*London Paper*.

SINGULAR ACCIDENT TO A CHILD.—A few days since a singular accident occurred to a little boy about four years of age while travelling on the Great Western Railway, and it is marvellous that it was not attended with fatal consequences. It appears that the child was in the charge of his mother, and they were passengers in a Bristol train for London. He was near his mother, leaning against the door of the carriage while the train was proceeding at full speed between the Reading and Twyford stations, when suddenly the door opened and the poor little fellow fell out. The feelings of the mother may be better imagined than described. She was greatly distressed, and imagined that of course he had been crushed to death beneath the wheels of the remaining carriages in the train. Fortunately, the train stopped at Twyford, and she there alighted and made known to the company's officials the sad occurrence of the loss of her child from the carriage. Acting upon the advice given her, she returned by the earliest train to Reading, and on her arrival at the station and making inquiries of the officers she was astonished to learn that he was safe, and received with unbounded feelings of joy her child without having sustained any injury whatever by the fall from the train. The little fellow, it seems, after the accident set off to walk towards Reading, and was very fortunately quickly met by one of the company's men at work on the line, who took charge of him and conveyed him to the station at Reading. The early discovery by the man was most timely, otherwise the poor child might have been killed by some of the subsequent trains.—*Id.*

TROUBLE WITH THE MORMONS.—There are indications that serious trouble may yet grow out of the condition of affairs among the Mormons in Utah. It will be remembered that a law of Congress, approved July 1, 1862, forbids and punishes polygamy by a fine of \$500 and imprisonment for 5 years. Recent letters represent that the Mormon leaders, and as many of their followers as are able, are in rebellion against this law. The same statute forbids any religious or charitable corporation to hold real estate in value above \$50,000. The whole church is in deadly rebellion against this law. Of course no Federal officer, military or other, can hold friendly relations with them while they continue in open defiance of the government, without being guilty of complicity with traitors, but so far from regarding himself a criminal, Brigham Young carries himself with the utmost haughtiness, insisting that the Federal commander in Utah shall recognize him as his superior. The position and pretensions of the Mormon leaders thus bring them in direct antagonism with the United States, and one party or the other must submit. Gen. Connor, the present commander of the Federal forces in that region, maintains that the only peaceable solution of the difficulty will be found in encouraging and protecting by force the free utterance of thought and opinion among the people, which will weaken their spiritual despotism by multiplicity of sects, and take from the leaders their political supremacy, and in opening the rich mines in the neighboring mountains and thus out-numbering them at the polls by a mining population.

Meanwhile the increase of the Mormons by emigration goes steadily forward. Trains numbering as many as 5000 people have recently crossed the wide desert which divides them from the States. When once there, they are as effectually walled in as if in prison and read nothing and hear nothing but from Mormon sources. They are set back in the scale of civilization more than a century, and their preachers give them little beside a gospel of work. In Utah, which claims a population of 100,000 people, with a metropolis (Salt Lake) containing some 20,000 people, there is not a single book-store, and scarcely a book is ever sold, while newspaper literature, except such as the Mormon organ supplies, is equally meagre.