

Scripture Readings.

How much then is a man better than a sheep? Matt. 12, part of 12th verse.

Now it is a good thing to be strict and right in good things. But when men attempt to accuse and teach Jesus, the great teacher of all truth, they are very far astray. Jesus went on the Sabbath day through the corn, and his disciples plucked some ears and did eat to satisfy their hunger. The Pharisees saw it and accused Jesus of wrong doing, to allow such a trespass on the Sabbath. But he reasoned with them; but to no purpose. He told them that he was lord also of the Sabbath. He healed a withered hand, also various kind of diseases on the Sabbath. The Pharisees held a council against him to destroy him, and he said unto them, What man shall their be among you, that shall have one sheep and it fall into a pit on the Sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it and lift it out? Now they must have been confounded for they made no reply. Then he asked this question How much then is a man better than a sheep? Jesus told them what a man would do on the Sabbath and justifies him in it. Now, a sheep in a pit seems to be the first in his mind of all the animal creation, to illustrate man as in a pit of sin. Because of their worth. No animal gives the farmer better returns from year to year than the sheep. Then wool is made into various garments and worn by mankind from the highest to the lowest. Their increase in many cases is doubly sure and their flesh is among the best of food for man. Then their innocence and kind nature; and with many other animals God has given us the sheep for our use. He had made us for his use, his service, his honor, and his glory. But man fell from his high position, the care and use of all the fruit in that beautiful garden, (with the exception of one tree) but through the influence of the devil he disobeyed God. Broke God's commandments and fell into a pit of sin, taking down with him all his posterity and whether we know or think of it by nature we are all in a pit of sin; out of the reach of man or angels and none but Jesus by his strong arm of mercy can lift us out. Which he delights to do when we call upon him in our low estate. God the father gave us his beloved son to die upon the cross for that purpose. God loves the work of his hands and the souls of men which must live as long as eternity lasts. God has not dealt with us according to our sins, or he never would have provided a way of our escape from eternal ruin. Now, the Pharisees did not think that Jesus had any reference to them, when he, as an illustration spoke of a sheep in the pit. But his object was to convey to them the fact that they were there as well as all other unregenerate souls, and that he was ready and willing to lift them out even on the Sabbath day. But they did not think it was necessary for Jesus to have any anxiety in regard to them (for they think they are all right and always were from childhood). We hear one thanking God that he was not as other men, because he did so and so. We do not suppose that God noticed him for he prayed this with himself. We would not condemn them as the worst of all God's creatures; for they believe their is a God and they are doing his will. Not so with some degraded drunkards, and murderers, who are deeper in the pit of sin than they. Some will ask are there two classes of sinners? We answer, yes. Some believe that there is a God who rules and reigns in the universe, but they fail to see anything wrong with themselves. Then there is the ungodly sinner deeper in the horrible pit and miry clay than they. A good minister speaking to an infidel in reference to God and eternity. The unbeliever said it is no use for me to talk with you, or you with me, as I do not believe in a God as you do. Very well, says the believer I have read of you. Read of me, where did you ever see my name in public print? Well, I have read in the bible where the fool says in his heart there is no God. Then there is a great difference in the natural nature of man. Some of us has seen it in this light. Two men may drink glass about; the same quantity from the same bottle until they are both unable to walk or stand still. One is childlike and harmless, could be led along by any friend who would take pity on him; while the other is most raging mad, and shows more of the nature of a tiger or a bear than a man. He will blaspheme and want to quarrel with his best friends. Now, man is not only down in the horrible pit of sin, but deep down in the miry clay. For God has concluded them all in unbelief that he might have mercy upon all even the vilest of the vile. None are so deep in the pit of sin and transgression but Jesus can reach and is able, and willing to lift them out; even on the Sabbath day. God has made man in his own image, a rational and intelligent being, to know right and wrong and holds him accountable for the knowledge and gifts he has given him and capable of enjoying everlasting peace above, or to endure eternal punishment and despair. How much then is a man better than a sheep? It is well for any who may read these lines, who can say in the language of the psalmist, He took me out of the horrible pit and miry clay, and established my goings. It is a great thing that are goings be well established in righteousness. He put a new song in my mouth even praises to his holy name.

T. E. BABBITT,  
Gibson.

Nov. 23, 1897.

Farm and Household.

Storage of Roots.

Beets should not be fed out in the fall for two reasons. First, because the stock does not need them as it will later in the winter and towards spring; and second, because beets, like winter apples, go through a ripening process which improves their quality. When fed to brood sows—and this is the best use that can be made of them—it is much better to feed them during the latter part of pregnancy than the first half, and as our sows are usually bred to farrow in March or April, it is best not to feed the beets until January unless one has an abundance of them. If the proper conditions are observed, says Waldo Brown, beets will keep until grass comes in the spring, while turnips soon grow and get corky, and pumpkins cannot be kept late on account of rotting. In storing roots of any kind for winter there must be good ventilation, or there is danger of heating and loss, and of course they must not be allowed to freeze; but there is greater danger of loss from heating than from freezing. In fixing a cellar to store beets I would raise the floor of the bin four inches from the cellar floor and make the bins about five feet wide with a partition every five or six feet, and would leave a four inch ventilating space at each partition. This can be done by using four-inch studding and putting narrow slats on each side of the studding, with cracks three or four inches wide, for the beets will usually grow so wide that even wider cracks than this can be left without the beets getting through them; and the floor should also be made of slats. Beets stored in this way and with good ventilation from door and windows during the fall will never heat so as to damage. The widows of the cellar should be left open until freezing weather. A cellar can be very easily made frost proof in all ordinary barns if the room can be spared, or if not a cheap building may be put up near the barn or hog house. In estimating the size to build count on about 200 cubic feet for each one hundred bushels. It is not necessary to make the cellar large enough to hold the entire crop; as those to be fed after the middle of March can be pitted in the field and brought to the cellar the first pleasant weather in spring.

In pitting beets I prefer to cover them with earth without any straw over them, and then keep the frost out by a covering of horse manure on the outside of the pit when the ground freezes. When the earth is put on the beets it is wise to have ventilators in the top, which can be made by nailing four pieces of board together so as to make chimneys six or eight inches square, and letting them extend down a foot or more into the beet pile. To prevent the rain from getting in through the ventilators let the boards on two sides be six inches shorter than the others; saw the top sloping, and nail a roof board over it. If there is room to spare in the barn, I would advise that the cellar be made there, and I would not dig down so as to have to carry the beets up stairs. My barn is a basement barn and the cellar—14x24—is on an exact level with the cow stable. My brother put a cellar—15x20—in a barn without a basement, and his is three feet below the level of the barn floor. It should be made rat proof as well as frost proof, and to do this put a cement floor in it, and protect the sides where it is necessary with sheet iron or tin. To keep the frost out you must have double walls with an air space, and good building paper, or leave a space a foot wide and pack with dry leaves and sawdust. I use "eel grass" paper and find it admirable, as a single layer of it between boards is all that is necessary, as it is equal to keeping out cold to four or five thicknesses of common building paper.

If the cellar is at the bottom of the barn only an inch floor will be needed above, as this can always be kept covered with hay, straw or fodder in cold weather; and if, as in my brother's barn, the cellar only extends half across the barn an inch board partition protected with cheap tin or sheet iron will answer for the middle partitions, as the space next to it can be kept full of hay till cold weather is past. Be sure to have strong joists under this floor, so as to support the weight when the space above is filled. If a separate building is to be used outside of the barn a cheap structure can be made and a large fodder stalk built around and over it, but at the end where the door is located a double wall and a storm door will be needed. I buy for all such purposes culled oak lumber, which I get for five dollars per thousand feet and while quite so easy to work, it makes as good poultry houses and cheap outbuildings as more expensive lumber. I should not be afraid to winter a crop of Irish potatoes in one of these "fodder stalk sheds," and if one has no barn cellar it will pay to fix up one of them to store pumpkins and potatoes in for the fall. Should the mercury drop suddenly to zero or below, a couple of coal oil lamps kept burning in a room 10x20 feet will keep the temperature above the freezing point. No roof will be required other than cheap boards for this as the fodder will keep out all the rain. If the farmer can spare the money it is better to make a good frost and rat proof cellar; but as a makeshift the fodder stack plan is much better than doing without any.

The Apple Export Trade.

(FROM N. Y. EVENING POST.)

The export trade in apples from this port begins to assume considerable proportions early in November, and the shipments to New York—the greatest distributing centre for the trade—continue till the middle of winter. Outgoing steamers and even the big passenger liners, bid for the apple carrying trade, which in recent years has grown enormously. American and Canadian apples are the best in the world, and they are gradually finding their way into every European market.

Liverpool is the greatest distributing centre for our apples abroad, and it stands next to New York in the number of apples received and sold. London, Glasgow and Hull are also large consumers of American apples; but at Liverpool most of the auction rooms receive and dispose of the export crop. As many as one hundred thousand barrels have been sold in one week at remunerative prices in Liverpool, and every week from now on the sales of American apples will form a conspicuous feature of the auction rooms of that city. The auction system has materially improved the apple trade in England, and it has helped to reduce the cost of placing the fruit on the British market. The ocean freight on a barrel of apples varies from forty to sixty-five cents, but the charges in Liverpool for dockage, town dues, insurance, advertising, sampling, and the labor of handling amount only to about 7d. Add to this five per cent commission on sales, and you have the cost of delivering and selling apples in England.

The auction rooms are well-arranged places, and on the days of advertised sales buyers appear in large numbers. There are regular sales on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The apples are brought direct from the steamer to the auction place, and are catalogued according to the shipping marks and variety. Some of the shippers are so well known that their goods are sold upon their reputation without being examined; there is always a demand for such goods. All the other brands are sampled in this way: In the centre of the auction room, where all the buyers can see what is going on, two barrels out of every twenty are opened, and the contents of one barrel are emptied into baskets. Each buyer has to take at least twenty barrels; but if any in the lot he has purchased are "slack," they are replaced by others. A "slack" barrel is one which rattles when roughly shaken. These "slack" barrels are sold separately, and where a regular barrel will bring 16s., the "slack" barrels from the same lot will be knocked down at 2s to 4s. This system has operated very powerfully to make American shippers pack their apples with great care. So much importance is attached to the packing that many American shippers buy their apples either in the market or direct from the farmers, and then re-pack every barrel. This increases the cost a little, but it pays houses with good reputations to do it. They employ expert packers who do the work rapidly and scientifically, and when a barrel is finished by them the fruit cannot be shaken by the roughest storm that ever tumbled a steamer.

Each auctioneer who has apples to dispose of has forty minutes in which to sell his fruit, and if not all sold he must then stand aside until all of the others have had their turn and it comes around to him again. The auctions frequently go on until midnight on days when heavy consignments arrive by steamer. A single auctioneer has sold as many as 15,000 barrels of apples in one day.

The British buyer has very decided preferences for certain varieties of apples, and the shippers have to cater to these notions. Baldwins have in the past been great favorites on account of their high color and attractive appearance; but the Ben Davis apple has replaced the Baldwin to a large degree lately. More of the Ben Davis variety are shipped abroad than any other, and more orchards are being planted with these than with Baldwins and greenings combined. In the West and Southwest orchards consisting of hundreds of acres are planted with nothing but Ben Davis apples. Nevertheless, the fruit is not by any means superior to other fine varieties; in fact, there is a decided preference in this country for such apples as the Baldwin, King, Snow, Gravenstein, pound sweets and Greenings. Many tasters, however, make it possible to sell all sound, well-kept apples; but highly colored varieties always meet the best demand for table use irrespective of other qualities. It is one of the little peculiarities of our modern life in which we permit one sense to overrule and deceive the other. Our sense of seeing probably decides our choice of eating, after all, as much as the sense of taste or smell.

Our export apples are now invading the markets of Germany. Germany has for many years imported her apples largely from the Austrian Tyrol; but the superiority of the American apples has gained an ascendancy over these in the large cities. The Alpine-raised apples are handsome fruit—prettier, in fact, than the average American apples—but they lack flavor, juiciness, and tenderness. The agrarian press of Germany has been ready to find fault with all imported American products, and it has directed some sharp criticisms against certain defects in the American apples, but at the same time it has strongly advised all German farmers to obtain grafts of American apple-trees and plant them extensively. Heretofore the worst of our apples have been shipped to Germany, the choicest going direct to Liverpool; but better packing and selection now prevail, and the trade opens more auspiciously this year than ever before.

"Is young Mr. Sainly having much success in the pulpit?"  
"Oh, dear, yes. The ladies fairly rave over him."  
"But can he preach?"  
"Well, not much. But he looks so spirituelle! And he can weep eleven times in an average sermon."

Care of the Sick Room.

Mrs. Burton Kinsland, writing of "When Nursing the Sick" in the "Ladies Home Journal," insists that "a tranquil mind is of the utmost importance to the patient and consequently everything must seem to be moving smoothly and easily, no matter what difficulties the nurse may have to encounter. The invalid should not be allowed to feel any responsibility whatever about his own case. The sick-room should be kept scrupulously neat, and made as cheerful and attractive as possible, that the eyes of the patient may rest with pleasure upon his surroundings. The nurse herself may contribute to the agreeable environment if her own dress be simple and tasteful and above all conspicuously neat. All soiled dishes should be removed immediately after being used, and no food kept in sight. Even the medicine bottles need not be obtrusively in evidence.

"Stillness has in itself a power to soothe, and, as all know, when the nerves are quiet Nature's healing processes go on without impediment. Creaking of shoes, rustling of garments, the rattling of dishes and kindred noises are often the occasion of positive suffering to an invalid. To accidentally jar the bed, to spill the medicine when administering it, to close a door noisily, to 'sleep audibly' are cases where a small unkindness is a great offence in the hyper-sensitive condition of the nerves of the patient."

The Luggage Signals Used by Hotel Employees Abroad.

Travellers whom every day brings back from the continent say that this season, more than ever, gives plentiful example of the Freemasonry which exists among continental hotel employees. Usually on board the boats from Calais, Boulogne and Ostend notes are compared by tourists who have covered the same ground and followed the same itinerary. The results are significant of "eye opening." Some such colloquy as the following is often overheard:

"My box and two portmanteaus were fearfully smashed by that villain of a porter at the Hotel des Bains, Villavilla, and my wife and I could get no attendance."

"That is curious, for we were treated by all the servants most beautifully. May I ask you a question? Did you tip the servants properly at the previous place, Hotel de Luxe, Lucerne?"

"No; I confess it was an oversight, but what has that to do with the Villavilla hotel?"

"Everything. Look at the hotel labels on your luggage. All on lower right hand corner. That implies that you are mean and illiberal. Now look at mine. All the labels in the upper left hand corner. That signifies liberality—treat this person well—encourage him—your politeness will be rewarded. My friend's bag here has a label stuck right in the middle, and that means, 'A good fellow—will tip, but very exacting—not easily pleased.'"—London Mail.

Carlyle on Webster.

Thomas Carlyle, who once met Daniel Webster at a friend's house at breakfast, said: "This American Webster I take to be one of the stiffest logic buffers and parliamentary athletes anywhere to be met with in our world at present—a grim tall, broad-bottomed, yellow-skinned man, with brows like precipitous cliffs, and huge, black, dull, warted yet unwearable-looking eyes under them; amorphous projecting nose, and the angriest shut mouth I have anywhere seen. A droop on the sides of the upper lip is quite mastiff-like-magnificent to look upon; it is so quiet withal. I should like ill to be that man's nigger. However, he is right clever man in his way, and has a fussy sort of fun in him, too; draws in a handfast, didactic manner about our republican institutions, etc., and so plays his part."

Acids and the Teeth.

It is a dentist's words that acids are quite as injurious as sweets to the teeth, unless their traces are promptly removed. Oranges or apples eaten at night need the brush as certainly as do candy and other sweets. If persons would be careful, too, what is taken before a teeth filling appointment, those with sensitive teeth will find some mitigation to their suffering. Acids that set the teeth on edge are particularly to be avoided.

Worst and Worser.

Lately one of the Ashton constables, who is an Irishman, while in the witness box perpetrated a bull which fairly set the court in a roar. Describing the conduct of a man who had been creating a disturbance, he said:  
"I saw the defendant. He made the worst row in the world, and then he went up the street and made a worser."  
—London Tid-Bits.

Proof Positive.

"What, George Critchley doesn't love Hettie Benson? Nonsense my boy, he idolizes her, and I can easily convince you that I know what I'm talking about."  
"I'd like to know how."  
"I saw him lead his kike for nearly three-quarters of a mile yesterday just to be able to walk with her."  
—Cleveland Leader.

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