

Sunday Reading.

SATAN AFTER THE SEATS.

The Dream Which Had a Good Effect on One Who Had Been Careless.

'Are you going to church this morning, Susie?' asked Dr. Clark, lying back in his easy chair with the morning paper. 'A doctor who is out day and night can't be expected.'

'No. I made jelly yesterday, and I'm tired. I'm faithful enough to stay at home this cloudy morning,' and Mrs. Clark curled up on the couch with the bible she had not opened for a week, but it soon dropped from her hand. She was aroused by a strange voice saying:

'Now, my good imps, what have you done today to weaken the kingdom of God?'

The voice came from a suspicious-looking personage seated on a throne of human skulls. Around him was gathered a crowd of terrible beings, each with a crown of fire, in which gleamed some name, such as malice, envy, pride, hatred, and kindred passions.

'We have been busy to-day making empty seats in churches,' began one.

'Nothing could please me better,' answered their king.

'I persuaded one man that he had a headache, and kept him from a sermon that might have changed his whole life,' said one.

'I induced one good man to slip down to his store and fix up his books,' said another with a horrid grin.

'Good!' said the king. 'He'll soon give up Sunday altogether.'

'I was able to get one devoted young man to visit old friends,' said one imp.

'I worried a good sister about her old bonnet until she decided to stay at home until she got a new one,' spoke up the imp labelled 'Pride.'

'And I made several poor women, who were hungry for God's Word, stay at home to repine over their trials. I just said to them, "If those rich people don't care for you; you can't wear fine clothes, so I wouldn't go where I was looked down upon." He continued, "That way I kept many poor people at home where the rich would have been glad to see."

'That is one of the best ways to cheat poor people out of heaven I know of,' answered the king, with approval.

'I induced a good many men and women to think they were not strong enough to go out,' said one called 'Indifference.' 'Of course, all these men will be at their business to-morrow, even if they feel worse. But they could not go to church, where they would have no special mental or physical strain. And the ladies would have been able to clean house or go out calling; but I made them think they couldn't walk to church unless they were perfectly well.'

'Very good,' said the king, with a sulphurous grin. 'Sunday headaches might often be cured by getting out in the air, and backaches forgotten by thoughts drawn to higher things. But you lying imps must use every weakness of the flesh to help make empty seats.'

'They all smiled, for in their kingdom 'lying' was a great compliment.

'I have a way of keeping people home from church, and they feel perfectly innocent about it,' said one. 'I induce people to have company or go visiting on Sunday. Of course this takes their minds off sacred things to begin with, and puts them on dressing and eating. Hired girls, mothers and older sisters have to stay at home to get big dinners. Many of the guests lose church to be in time for dinner.'

'Anything to make empty seats,' approved the king. 'These people cannot be tempted by Sunday excursions, but they miss God's house just as easily in this way.'

'To make ladies feel that their servants need no Sunday privileges is good,' suggested one.

'Very true,' said his superior. 'As long as we can get Christian people to cause or allow men and women to work during their church hours we can keep many empty seats in churches, and men and women away from God.'

'I am the weather imp,' said one gloomy fellow. 'I go around persuading people it is going to rain, or it is too cold, too damp, or too hot to venture out to church. It is enough to make even your gloomy majesty laugh to see these same people start out the next day in wind and weather. One would think it a sin to carry umbrellas and wear gum coats to church.'

'Confidentially,' answered the king, 'when I find a Christian who has no more concern about the weather Sunday than Monday—determined to make as much effort for spiritual gain as he would for worldly profit—I just give him up. It's no use to try to drag back the man or woman who goes to God's house in all kinds of weather.'

'I'm able to do a good deal with some of the ladies of the congregation,' spoke up the imp labelled 'Fashion of this World.' 'I can make some stay at home because the new hat didn't come, or because their clothes are out of style, or they have not gotten a new cloak.'

'I have a better scheme than that,' said another. 'These people who keep away are indifferent—generally good-for-nothing folks who are hardly worth getting into the kingdom of his Satanic majesty, but I have a plan that empties seats of the workers in the church.'

'That's just what I want,' said the king. 'I make these people overwork on Saturdays. For instance, I get some good man the preacher depends upon, or some devout Sunday school teacher, to make Saturday the busiest day in the week. I

just keep him rushed with neglected things till late at night and then he oversleeps or is sick the next day and can't get out, or if he goes he is too tired and sleepy to take part or even listen.'

'Splendid plan!' cried Satan.

'Yes, it works well with delicate women. If they clean house, or have Saturday night company, they can be kept home without knowing that they have broken the Sabbath the day before. A church party late Saturday night helps with empty seats.'

'You're doing finely, my imps,' his majesty said, warmly—for his breath was a flame of fire. 'Preachers may work and pray over their sermons all the week, but there will be no results in preaching to empty seats. One of the most important things we have to consider is how to keep people away from churches on Sunday. Your plans are excellent, but I might suggest another good point. All preachers have human imperfections—some fault of manner or speech. Get Christians to criticize their pastor, especially before their children. This keeps young people from wanting to be church members. If you can stir up a spirit of fault-finding against the preacher, or among the members, it will help empty seats. People who get mad at each other do not care to go to church together. If the seats are empty the minister may be a saint and preach like an angel to no purpose. See the result of your labor on High street church today. Half of the seats were empty. Not only did the 200 people who stayed at home lose a blessing, but each empty seat did its work against the Lord's kingdom. The preacher made unusual preparation, and went with his heart on fire, but the empty seats chilled him, and he did poorly. Several strangers had dropped in with letters, but they were disappointed in the small attendance and took their letters home, and some will not take them any place. There was a special collection; but the best givers were away, so it was a failure. It isn't a smart preacher, nor a rich congregation, nor a good location, nor a paid choir that makes a successful church. It is the church members always being there that draws in the unconverted and makes an eloquent preacher. As soon as a Christian begins to stay at home, from one excuse to another, I know I have a mortgage on his soul, which, if he does not shake off, I will foreclose in the judgment day.'

'You have none of mine!' cried Mrs. Clark, who had been listening with bated breath; 'I'll go to church, if only to defeat you.'

'What's the matter, dear?' asked the doctor. 'Have you been dreaming?'

'Perhaps so; but I'm going to church if I get to my seat just in time for benediction. I'll cheat Satan from this day out of one empty seat.' And she has kept her word and influenced many others to let nothing trifling keep them from God's house, and the 'down town' church has begun to grow, and will soon be a great power for God, because of no 'empty seats.'

Myra Goodwin Plantz, in 'North-western.'

Religious Items from Many Places.

A primary school has been opened at Nazareth.

She first British translation of the Bible was in the Irish tongue.

There are now ninety-two Christian churches in Tokio, Japan.

It is estimated that there are in London fully three million people who never enter a place of worship.

The Mohammedans teach that Adam and Eve once lived in a tent on what is now the site of the temple at Mecca.

The celebrated "Apples of Sodom" which grow on the shores of the Dead Sea are a species of tungi similar to our "puff balls."

Bricks from what is believed to be the remains of the old Tower of Babel are still found in great profusion at Birs Nimrud, Babylonia.

Major Halford, formerly President Harrison's private secretary, teaches the biggest Bible class in Omaha, and helps to get out a religious paper.

The "Holy Ghost Plant," a product of Mexico, Central and South America, is so called because of the shape of the flower, which has the appearance of a dove with expanded wings.

Rev. Natari Kitashima, who recently preached his first sermon as pastor of a Unitarian church in Vineland, N. J., is the first Japanese regularly ordained to the ministry in this country. There are two Japanese students in the Harvard divinity school.

Hall Caine is engaged upon a Life of Christ, which he has about finished. He anticipates a large sale for it and so do his publishers. Mr. Caine will probably approach the subject from a new point of view and make a book that will prove popular reading.

Rev. Sam Bettis, cowboy evangelist, thus sums up the results of his recent revival at Bay City, Mich.: "I had over 3,000 conversions, 1,250 old toppers signed the pledge, \$865 was raised for expenses, \$500 clear for Sam, and 6,000 people were fed three meals."

'E. A. Goodnow, of Worcester, Mass., evidently believes in doing good now with his wealth," says the New York Herald. "He has just given \$20,000 to Drury College, at Springfield, Me., which makes about \$200,000 contributed by him to public, church and educational institutions."

A new sect in Russia is known as the Underground People, lately organized in Saratoff. When a person falls ill the elders come in and baptize him anew. Then they carry him down into an underground labyrinth where he is left to wrestle with death alone. After a week the elders come to inspect the sick man, and, if dead, he is duly buried.

An English author, G. Robinson Lees, F. R. G. S., has just been banished from Jerusalem. Mr. Lees is well known in Palestine for his intimate acquaintance with the people and holy places of Jerusalem, and is author of "Jerusalem Illustrated." The attention of the Turkish officials was directed to certain statements in the book and all discoverable copies were seized and confiscated and the author ordered to depart.

Missionary Work in New England.

The Rev. Dr. A. J. Gordon, pastor of the Clarendon street Baptist Church, said the most destitute part of New England, and he might say of the United States, was the hill country of New England. To-day probably not more than one out of twenty-five in these rural districts regularly enter a church door. To reach these people an uneducated ministry is necessary. A small man with a great gospel can do more good than a great man with a small gospel. He declared he was assured that at least one thousand churches in New Hampshire had been opened by a good woman, who did the best she could in unfolding the gospel, and as a result she had lifted up the whole community round about. Riding in the cars recently beside a young lady who wore a Salvation Army bonnet, he thought he would examine her in theology, and after two hours of steady questioning he found she was better versed in the truths of the bible than are nine-tenths of the graduates of the theological seminaries. He spoke of one Chinaman out of the twenty-five who are members of his church. This man every Sunday takes his Chinese bible, and standing in the Chinese quarter preaches Christ. Many Americans draw near to listen, and often there is an audience of two or three hundred. One day after the preaching was over another Chinaman was seen in earnest conversation with the preacher, when presently they knelt down together by the street corner and engaged in prayer. Dr. Gordon believes that such evangelists are necessary to reach the foreign element pouring into the United States.

Messages of Help for the Week.

"One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life . . . and to enquire in his temple." Psalm, 27 : 4.

"When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up." 10th verse.

"I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin." Psalm, 32 : 5.

"What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? and he said unto me. These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." Rev., 7 : 13, 14.

"Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve them day and night in his temple; and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them." 15th verse.

"They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat." 16th verse.

"For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." 17th verse.

The Tomb of Cain.

The early traditions concerning the city of Damascus are curious and interesting, even though untrustworthy and contradictory. By some of the ancient writers it was maintained that the city stands on or near the site of the garden of Eden, and just outside there is a beautiful meadow of red earth, from which, it is said, God took the material from which he created Adam. This field is called Ager Damascus, and near its centre there formerly stood a pillar, which was said to mark the precise spot where our first parent was created. A few miles out there is an eminence called the Mountain of Abel, supposed by some to be the place where the two first brothers offered their sacrifices; also where the first murder was committed. The most interesting spot pointed out, however, is about three leagues from the city, where an old ruin is shown, which all the Orient believe to be the tomb of Cain. The traditions respecting this famous spot are known to antedate the Christian era by several hundred years. Up to the time of Vespasian the interior of the tomb is said to have been lighted and warmed by one of the "ever-burning" lamps so commonly used by the ancients.

What the Children Gave.

From a mission-hall in the north of London have come contributions to the missionary ship, 'John Williams,' which indicate great interest on the part of the children, all of them belonging to the working class. One box was so crammed that there was hardly room for another. It contained 21s. 1s 9d. only being in silver, which probably represented the gifts of the teachers, the rest being made up of farthings, half-pennies, and pennies, all given by a very rough set of lads belonging to one lady's class.

The Bible in Egypt.

Since the establishment of the Bible Society's agency for Egypt, ten years ago, 183,000 copies of scriptures have been put into the hands of the people in Egypt and the immediately neighboring lands. Of these nearly forty thousand have gone to the seafaring folk passing through the Suez Canal and in the town of Port Said. About sixty-six thousand copies were circulated in Egypt, seventeen thousand in Syria, fifty-two thousand in Palestine, and eight thousand in Southern Arabia and the Red Sea coast.

A MONTREAL MAN

Relates an Interesting Personal Experience.

While the following statement of A. D. Thomson, of Montreal, is of local interest as coming from him, it is also of universal interest because it emphasizes a great truth. Mr. Thomson says—"Being troubled with nasal catarrh I was advised to try Hawker's catarrh cure, which I did, and since using it the catarrh has disappeared entirely; in fact I can walk all day and breathe through my nose without the least trouble." What Mr. Thomson says has been his experience, has been the experience of thousands. Even the most aggravated forms of catarrh yield to the wonderful curative power of Hawker's catarrh cure. It restores the breath to its pristine sweetness and removes all disagreeable and unhealthy symptoms of the disease. It is a marvellously quick and sure cure for cold in the head, and will relieve the deafness caused by catarrh. For sale by all druggists at 25 cents per box. This remedy has no equal in its field of operation.

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Chicago Bible Institute.

A canvass of recent students of Mr. Moody's Chicago Bible Institute, shows that not less than 129 have already gone out from it into the mission field, 64 into Africa, Burma, China, Korea, Japan, India, Ceylon, Persia, Micronesia, Syria, Siam, Turkey, the West Indies, South America and Mexico. Fifty-five have taken up home missions, in city and country, among Indians and freedmen, and Jews and Greeks. There are 28 engaged as secretaries of Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations, pastors assistants, and church visitors. Over 70 have become pastors of churches in eight different denominations; 41 have taken up evangelistic work, and eight are gospel singers. There are 28 in positions of responsibility as superintendents of mission halls of various kinds, principals of academies and colleges, secretaries of various other Christian organizations, matrons of industrial schools, colporteurs, etc. A large number have also entered various theological and medical colleges to complete their preparation for home pastorates or foreign missions.

Is The Sparrow's Friend.

It is illegal to feed and shelter English sparrows in New York and the most reckless violator of the law is the venerable and benevolent Dr. Houghton, of the Little Church Around the Corner. He maintains, in defiance of the law, thirty or forty bird boxes that are too small for any bird but the sparrow or the wren, and whoever saw a wren in the heart of New York?

The Egyptians have no lack of holidays. This year's calendar shows that there are fifty-two Sundays, fifty-two Hebrew Sabbaths and fifty-two Moslem "Gummah," besides seventeen others.

"For Years,"

Says CARRIE E. STOCKWELL, of Chesterfield, N. H., "I was afflicted with an extremely severe pain in the lower part of the chest. The feeling was as if a ton weight was laid on a spot the size of my hand. During the attacks, the perspiration would stand in drops on my face, and it was agony for me to make sufficient effort even to whisper. They came suddenly, at any hour of the day or night, lasting from thirty minutes to half a day, leaving as suddenly; but, for several days after, I was quite prostrated and sore. Sometimes the attacks were almost daily, then less frequent. After about four years of this suffering, I was taken down with bilious typhoid fever, and when I began to recover, I had the worst attack of my old trouble I ever experienced. At the first of the fever, my mother gave me Ayer's Pills, my doctor recommending them as being better than anything he could prepare. I continued taking these Pills, and so great was the benefit derived that during nearly thirty years I have had but one attack of my former trouble, which yielded readily to the same remedy."



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For Inflamed or Caked Breasts and Sore Nipples. It is invaluable. Price, 50 Cents. Trial size, 25 Cents.

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Tired and Ailing Women Take on

the BLOOM of EARLIER

YEARS.



What will touch the mother heart more deeply than the illness of her little ones? She may suffer much herself, and women are sorely afflicted with many ills, but she will endure all this, however often, without a murmur; but there can be no disguising her anxiety when the little ones of the home are stricken down with sickness. And how many puny children there are! We talk of the bloom of youth, but thousands of children know not of it. Others may romp, but they are weaklings.

Mothers, would you have your loved ones strong and healthy? Would you enjoy good health yourself? Then use South American Nervine Tonic; there is no doubting its efficacious properties. Investigate from a scientific or a common sense point of view and you will find that nearly all disease has its start in the nerve centres of the body.

The mission of South American Nervine is to at once reach the nerve centres, which are to the whole body what the mainspring of the watch is to every other part of the timepiece.

For sale by Chas. McGregor, 37 Charlotte St.; Chas. P. Clarke, 100 King St.; R. E. Coupe, 578 Main St.; E. J. Mahoney, 38 Main St.; A. C. Smith & Co., 41 Charlotte St.

Science has made perfectly clear that the troubles that affect the individual organs of the body, have their seat in these nerve centres, so, without any wasteful experimenting, South American Nervine reaches out to the seat of the difficulty, and straightening out what is wrong there heals the whole body. Listen to what Mrs. H. Russell, Wingate, writes on this point: "I have used several bottles of South American Nervine Tonic, and will say, I consider it the best medicine in the world. I believe it saved the lives of two of my children. They were down, and nothing appeared to do them any good until I procured this remedy. It was very surprising how rapidly both improved on its use. I don't allow myself to be without some of it in my house. I recommend the medicine to all my neighbors." It will certainly grant new life to all who are delicate, whether young, middle-aged, or old. Do not worry along with ill health, but dispel it, and brighten your lives by the immediate use of South American Nervine.