

Sunday Reading.

KINDNESS TO THE ERRING.

Words of Warning Against Judging Others Too Harshly.

Be kind to the erring one, do not look down on the wrong-doer. In a thousand ways our paths in life will be crossed by those who commit errors. It is easy to find fault, it is natural to blame, but we must never forget that further back, far beyond our sight, lie causes that tend to produce these results. When we see one person white in grace, and another black in sin, we must not judge, we know not what path he or she has trodden. Oh, how thankful the more fortunate should be that temptation was not placed in their path. There are those who can resist it, and others who cannot. Some seem to have no control of themselves, but always grope along in the darkest path, facing temptation all the way, with no power to flee from its snares; while others seem to have only a smooth pathway in life. Their minds are more balanced, and they have no passion for doing wrong. Roses seem to strew their pathway, and they live lives well rounded out and full of honor.

Do these more fortunate ones need our sympathy as the others do? No, they do not, we are happy to see them so, but we must never forsake the poor erring one. Try to extend your charity and sympathy, try to turn them from vice to virtue. Perhaps were we placed under the same circumstances, we might have done as they, therefore do not despise them, they will suffer by their own hands sufficiently, but rather let us try when it is in our power, to smooth their rough life. Think of the mother of the erring one; were she near she would pleadingly ask you to deal gently with her child. With what anxiety she has looked on that child from infancy, wondering what destiny lay before it. Sometimes her fondest hopes are fulfilled, but how often, Oh! how often, are they dashed to the ground by a thoughtless girl, or wild boy. Do not let us then by being harsh to this wayward girl or boy, add another sorrow to the mother's already loaded heart; because she will love that child no matter how guilty or loathsome it may be; and we must not blame her.

One cannot tell a heart-broken person by the countenance he or she may wear, because how often it is, the seemingly gayest and lightest of heart are those who are sad. No, we cannot judge inward feelings by outward smiles. Could we but lift the veil of sunshine which Heaven has given us the power of covering trouble with, we should then see for ourselves. Yes indeed, sorrow enough would be revealed to us, as we searched through the hearts torn and bleeding, which before had been hid by bright and smiling faces. We are however spared that trial, each and every one of us have the power of hiding from the world at large the sorrows of our lot in life; we therefore smile while our hearts throb with pain. Don't then think that no one but those with wretchedness depicted in their faces, have sorrows. Pray then be careful whom you speak hard of the erring one before, it may be their father, mother, sister or brother, it may be a friend that will feel it sore; you would not willingly cause others pain, it is all thoughtlessly done with no intention to sting, but try for the future to put a guard on your words, make them more gentle than harsh; and both the erring and their friends will bless you.

M. T. M.

Keeping Faith.

Sir William Napier was one day taking a long country walk, when he met a little girl about five years old sobbing over a broken bowl. She had dropped and broken it in bringing it back from the field to which she had taken her father's dinner, and said she would be beaten on her return home for having broken it. As she said this, a sudden gleam of hope seemed to cheer her. She innocently looked up into Sir William's face and said "But you can mend it, can't you?" He explained that he could not mend the bowl, but the trouble he could overcome by the gift of a sixpence to buy another. However, on opening his purse, it was empty of silver, and he promised to meet his friend on the same spot at the same hour the next day, and to bring sixpence with him.

On his return home, Sir William found an invitation awaiting him to dine in B... the following evening, to meet some one whom he especially wished to see. He hesitated for some little time, trying to calculate the possibility of giving the meeting to his friend of the broken bowl, and still being in time for the dinner-party at B...; but, finding this could not be, he wrote a letter to decline accepting the invitation, on the plea of a "previous engagement," saying, "I cannot disappoint her; she trusted me."

The Tomb of Cain.

There are few countries that possess a greater interest for the student of antiquity than Persia and the adjacent territories. There are numerous structures of great age, some of them mausoleums, others temples, and still others towers, whose remains have been wonderfully preserved through many centuries. One of the most remarkable is in the region known as Sarakhs, in ancient Merv, where the pilgrim is shown a venerable building, which the guides declare to be the tomb of Cain. It is evidently a structure of great antiquity; but beyond the mere assertion, based on local tradition, nothing can be found to support the statement that the gray and time-worn pile, with its peculiar shape and dome-like roof, is what it pretends to be. The district around Merv abounds in ruins. No less than four cities have flourished on or near the site of Old Merv. The most ancient is Giasour Kala, and is said to date from the

FIND OUT YOUR GIFT.

Each one of us has some talent which may lead to Excellence.

Every one of us has a gift, says Rev. J. Reid Howard in a recent sermon to children. There is something we can all do better than we can do most things else. One boy can make a boat better than he can do sums; another boy can do sums better than he can make a boat. One girl can't write very well, but she can draw beautifully; another can't draw at all, but she can write very neatly. One man is very stupid when he tries to make a speech, but wait till you see him in business, and you will find that he understands that; another man is a capital speaker, a regular orator in fact, but he isn't of much use among figures, and account-books, and scales and yard-sticks and hammers. Everyone has his gift, and no two have exactly the same. One has it for one thing, and another has it for another; and all because, why? Just because there wouldn't be room for us all in the world if we all had the same gift; our gift is given to us to open up our own way and to make the right room for us. Do you remember how it was with Joseph? He was a smart lad and good at figures, and sharp to look into things; and when he saw that there was going to be a famine, he worked it all out in big sums, compound addition and long division, and so he saw how the people could be kept from starving. That was his gift, and it made room for him, room at the top, for it brought him to be the chief man in Egypt. And there was Samuel. He was a very poor boy, but he was fond of learning—that was his gift; and he worked at it, and worked at it, till it made room for him, and he came to be the first man in Israel.

And, besides, there was David; you can't forget David. He had his gift; it was music. He could play well and sing well, and, better than all, he could make sweet, sweet songs that did the heart good to hear; and you know his gift made room for him, room on the throne itself. And there was Daniel. He was a poor slave boy, but he had his gift, the great gift of thinking about God in everything. And you remember how his gift made room for him, so that, poor as he had been, he came at length to stand among the greatest men of his time.

There is room for us all in the world; but if ever we are to come by that room, then we must look well to the way we make use of our gifts. And the best way to do this is to be always remembering that they are gifts. They must have been given to us, or how could they be gifts to us? Then, surely, the last thing in the world should be our getting conceited, or showing that we are proud about them.

Keep that in mind, and whatever your gift may be, keep on rubbing it; it is the rubbing that makes it bright, and the brighter it gets, the better it will bring you whatever you wish. These are good points for young people to remember.

Slavery in the Pacific Islands.

A strong protest is needed from the civilized Christian world against the Kanaka labor traffic or system of slavery now going on in the South Sea Islands, on account of its cruel oppression, bloodshed and murders. It is a disgrace to humanity, for which retributive justice has a fearful reckoning in store for all engaged in it. Whether to planters and employers in the pearl shell fisheries, or to English, French, German and American plantations, or to South and Central America, this traffic has carried away and laid in their grave many Kanakas—some ten thousand or more in Queensland, and many thousands elsewhere. A note to an official report giving these figures, says that the report is very imperfect, because many died in war and were not recorded. From the New Hebrides alone some seventy thousand of the young men and women have been taken away by this traffic, which is rapidly depopulating the islands. Other groups have suffered severely, even worse, where there are no missionaries to intimidate the traders and expose their atrocities; for the Kanaka labor traffic has torn the missionaries' exposure of its atrocities, and therefore the people are treated more kindly and justly on those islands which missionaries occupy.

Trees Growing in Churches.

A curiosity of vegetation exists in the shape of a good-sized pine-tree growing on a ledge of the facade of the ancient cathedral church of Fenouix (Charente Inferieure), France. This is paralleled by the tree which grows out of a window of the round tower at the church of St. Benedict, Norwich, and many other instances in the United Kingdom. In the old church of Ross, Herefordshire, two thriving elms are growing, one on each side of a passage between the pews. They are said to have sprung up from the pavement beside the pew once occupied by John Kyle, who, at considerable expense, planted elms about his native town.

Keep Your Promises.

There are many people who will promise anything you ask of them, but make a small matter of keeping their promises. They enter into engagements with you to do this or that, to meet you or call on you at a certain time, or to do some favor for you, and utterly fail to fulfil their engagements. It is a noble thing when we find one whose promises we are as sure of as the rising of the sun; whose simplest word is as good as his oath; who does just what he says he will do at the moment he says he will do it. That is the kind of faithfulness God wants.

Where Missionaries Brave Death.

Sierra Leone, on the West Coast of Africa, has sometimes been styled the "White Man's Grave," and no fewer than three bishops in succession died within three years of their consecration. In the

first twenty years of the mission's existence fifty-three missionaries or missionaries' wives died at their posts. In 1823, out of five missionaries who went out, four died within six months; in the next year six volunteers were accepted, and of these two died within four months of their landing. These losses seemed to draw out more zeal, for next year three more went forth, of whom two died within six months.

Messages of Help for the Weak.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit saith unto the churches." Rev. 2. 11.

"Beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Pet. 3: 8, 9.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." John. 1: 9.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Timothy, 3: 16, 17.

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James, 5: 16.

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore, and repent." Revelation, 3: 19.

"The spirit and the bride say come and let him that heareth say come and let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22: 17.

Kirk Session Fines.

In 1868 the Kirk Session of Aberdeen decreed a six penny fine for every absence from a service; elders and deacons to pay two shillings. Thirty years later a citizen and his wife could not stay at home on the Sabbath under a penalty of 13s. 4d.; in 1851 gentlemen were to be "damned in 6s. 8d., men in 3s. 4d., and servants in 20 pennies." Snuff-taking in church was fined 6s. 8d.

Only the Scars Remain.

"Among the many testimonials which I see in regard to certain medicines performing cures, cleansing the blood, etc.," writes HENRY HUDSON, of the James Smith Woolen Machinery Co., Philadelphia, Pa., "none impress me more than any even case. Twenty years ago, at the age of 18 years, I had swellings come on my legs, which broke and became running sores. Our family physician could do me no good, and it was feared that the bones would be affected. At last, my good old mother urged me to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla. I took three bottles, the sores healed, and I have not been troubled since. Only the scars remain, and the memory of the past, to remind me of the good Ayer's Sarsaparilla has done me. I now weigh two hundred and twenty pounds, and am in the best of health. I have been on the road for the past twelve years, have noticed Ayer's Sarsaparilla advertised in all parts of the United States, and always take pleasure in telling what good it did for me."

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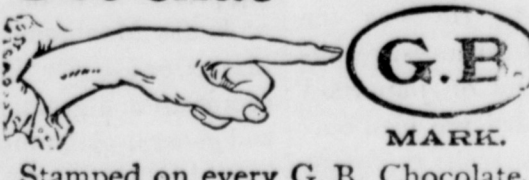
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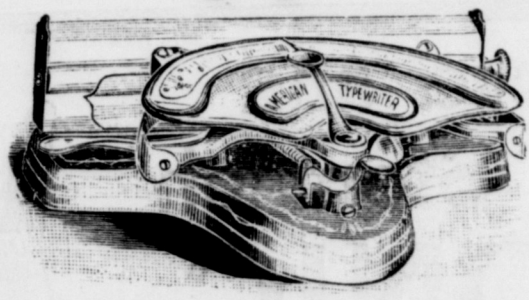
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