

GREATEST OF GOD'S GIFTS

Largeness of Heart Is Held to Be Better Than Big Brain.

God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding exceeding that of any man before him, and largeness of heart.—I. Kings iv. 29.

No man ever had a more vantage point than Solomon, whose memory is cherished by Christians and Mohammedans.

He had such unbounded wisdom that we are told he made silver the stones of the streets in his capital city. He had a wisdom so amazed men that they came from the ends of the earth to hear him. He had such skill in ruling that he left behind him world-wide fame that will endure to the end of time. But this singular historian who tells us the story of his life reminds us that he had something beyond these things. The greatest of God's gifts to man is not a mighty brain, not a full purse, not to have one's name on everybody's lips, but to have a generous spirit.

LARGENESS OF HEART.

as it is called in this text. The Bible has a great deal to say about a man's heart. The mind of man is not ignored. We are told to love God with all our mind, but no one can read the Bible without discerning that its chief concern is with the heart. The Scriptures with unmistakable clearness declare the supremacy of the heart over the brain.

You may train the intellect and not make a man a mite better. It was said of one of the greatest Englishmen that he was not only the wisest and brightest but also

THE S. S. LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, FEB. 6.

Lesson VI. Almsgiving and Prayer. Matt. 6 1-15. Golden Text, Matt. 6. 1.

Verse 1. Your righteousness contrasted with that of the scribes and Pharisees (see Matt. 5. 20). The "exceeding" righteousness enjoined by Jesus includes right religious principles and practice. He is about to exhibit the limitations of the Jews in the matter of almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, the chief shortcoming being that they did these things before men, to be seen of them. All three of their performances the Jews recognized as acts of worship, of about equal value. What Jesus inveighs against was not the acts but the intent of winning a name for themselves.

Else ye have no reward—Imagining, what is promised in verses 4, 6, and 18, that reward may be expected for following the right course.

With your Father—It is his approval, and not man's, that is to be sought in all acts of worship.

2. Alms—The practice of deeds of compassion to the poor had grown to be acknowledged among the Jews as one of the essential observances of religion, a matter to be attended to as fastidiously as prayer or fasting.

Trumpet—One was used on various occasions in the service of the synagogue. Here, however, the word seems to be employed figuratively, for loud display.

Hypocrites—Originally, a stage term, meaning to act a part, from which it came to mean "giving oneself out to be what one knew one ought to be, but had no intention of becoming." In this sermon, hypocrisy stands for what is opposite to the kingdom of heaven, and a denial of it. Here the hypocrite is the man who makes an unreal pretense of religion, and especially of generosity, for the despicable purpose of gaining glory of men.

Synagogues . . . streets—There were several methods of collecting charitable gifts for the poor. Sometimes baskets were passed about the streets for the poor of all classes, Jew or Gentile. Then there were regular officials who went from house to house gathering money for indigent Jews. On the Sabbath, alms were received at the synagogue.

Verily I say—Special emphasis on the fact that the hypocrites have received the sort of reward they sought, in the praise of men, but have forfeited the favor of the heavenly Father.

in public. Thy Father who sees not need to be seen of men should see. In secret prayer a man is necessarily at his best.

7. Vain repetitions—For an example, read 1 Kings 18. 26. The caution is not against repetition in general, for Jesus himself used the same words thrice over in the garden of Gethsemane. Prayers are vain when they are uttered again and again as if there were efficacy in the repetition.

8. Your Father knoweth . . . before ye ask—Explaining that prayer is not intended, by a multiplication of words, to acquaint God with our necessities. That secret is enjoined shows that the noble end of prayer is to set the heart right with God.

9. After this manner . . . prayer—Following the Jewish custom of learning by heart a considerable number of prayers, this form was given as a suitable petition to be used at the end of the ordinary prayers, just as now in our public worship. The prayer has seven divisions, including the address, three petitions relating to God ("Thy name," "Thy Kingdom," "Thy will"), and three relating to human need ("bread," "debts," "temptation"). Thus it is a pattern prayer, giving a comprehensive statement of Jesus's teaching about God and individual duty, in a simple, intelligible way.

Father—Jesus's common designation for God, bringing before the mind his supreme authority as well as his paternal care. To call him our Father is to admit a universal ground of brotherhood among true children. The addition

Thy will be done—Guarding the preceding petition from misinterpretation. God's kingdom can be established only as men on earth do his will as absolutely as the angels in heaven.

11. Give us . . . bread—While we press on to the ultimate spiritual goal we have present physical needs. A comprehensive prayer for food is essential to the

DESCENDENT OF BURNS

WORKS IN A LONDON, ENGLAND, FACTORY.

The Cheery Old Coppersmith is a Descendant of the Scotch Poet.

A cheery old coppersmith, bent with half a century of honest labor in a London, Eng., factory, but still bright-eyed and vigorous, is now to be added to the curiously-diminishing list of the actual legitimate descendants of the poet Burns.

As is well known, there still survives a natural grandson of the poet in Mr. James Glencairn Thomson, whose hale old age is being tenderly cared for in Glasgow by local Scotchmen. Only a couple of years ago the civil list included grants to Mrs. Sarah Hutchinson and Miss Annie Burns of Cheltenham, both "Bobbie's" grand-daughters. Hitherto, as it happens, London has been unable to claim a living bond with the poet.

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Hints for Busy Housekeepers

Recipes and Other Valuable Information of Particular Interest to Women Folks.

SALADS.

Cheese Salads.—One cream cheese, or two Neufchatel; add four tablespoonfuls of milk, one-half teaspoonful salt, one-half teaspoonful paprika, five drops onion juice, and stir well. Make into a roll; put on ice to harden. Cut in slices and place on lettuce leaves. Cover with strips of pimento and serve with French dressing. This is a very effective salad, the white, red, and green making it so, and delicious.

Cabbage Salad.—One head of cabbage chopped fine, one pint cupful of chopped celery, one cupful of peanuts. Mix with mayonnaise dressing.

Water Cress Salad.—Chop or cut fine to one bunch of cresses one-quarter of a small sized cabbage. The leaves of cresses cut away from the stem; cut fine one-eighth of a small green pepper, and a small sized onion; put all together in a basin of cold water standing for about one hour before serving to make it nice and crisp; drain off the water, add in to taste olive oil, vinegar, salt, and pepper, and serve. The cabbage and cresses together have a fine flavor.

Corn Salad.—Two cupfuls of corn, add a small head of

THE LAUNDRY.

Clothes Pin Hints.—Try the clothes pins in the oven they get real hot; on your fingers will never get while putting out a large wash. Also put all the small pieces as napkins and handkerchiefs in a bag or pillow case and pin on line; it saves so much in the as well as time and cold.

Washing Easily Done.—Washing easily and quickly done in two boilers half full of water, cut up one bar, north, west, or good laundry soap, put into a tin bag and tie end. When water is boiling put soap water into the washing machine and put in cloths equivalent five sheets, turn washer ten minutes, wring out, rinse through one cold water and blue. Cloths are steam washed and white as snow. You may use five washers full if you wash separately and keep the machine closed so water will not get cool. Nine of ten who read this will say boiling water will set the dirt, just try it. Caution: The water must be boiling, the washer full of water, and blood must be washed out.

UNUSUAL RECIPES.

New Apple Sauce.—Add orange juice and the grated peel of orange to apple sauce which is sweet and serve with wild or duck.

Pineapple and Orange Loaf.—Place blanched almonds in bottom of a chilled mold, cover with quid orange jelly made with gelatin; set on ice till firm. Slice and cool one cupful of pineapple.

one pint of cream, three cupful of sugar, whip all mold to overflowing, cover with buttered paper, tie cover, and bake in salt and ice for four hours. Unmold on a lace paper napkin.

Parsley Jelly.—A delicious substitute for honey: Take six bunches of parsley, rinse and freshen in cold water, then place in a deep kettle with just enough cold water to come to the top of the parsley when pressed down tightly. Let it come to a boil and simmer slowly for half an hour; take out the parsley and let the juice simmer ten to fifteen minutes longer; strain this to cup for cup of juice and granulated sugar and boil until jellies. Add vanilla extract according to taste.

Clove Apples.—Clove apples, cold meals, three-quarters of a pound of sugar, two cupfuls of water, and boil to a syrup. Drop in quarters of apples, pared, and when they are cooked lift out carefully with a fork. When all the fruit has been cooked drop some of the skins in the syrup with one-half dozen cloves. Cook about twenty minutes, remove the skins, but pour the syrup with the cloves over the apples in a jar, and cover up. This is inexpensive and beats all kinds of chutney.

If it is desired to have the curtains a light ecru shade rinse them in weak coffee, and if you want a dark shade use strong coffee.

NOISE AND LIGHT MISSED.

Why Some Townspeople are Unable to Live in the Country.

The necessity which some people feel for noisy surroundings was mentioned by a famous specialist in giving a medical explanation of the case of little Horace Collins, the heroic messenger boy, says the London Daily Mail. The lad, although able to gratify every wish as the guest of Lord Lansdowne at Bowood House, has a mastering longing for the bustle and light of the London streets.

"It is a very clear case of nostalgia," said the doctor. "A person suffering like that has lost two everyday friends, as it were—noise and light. It is entirely due to the nerves. Our nervous system gets into a pronounced groove in accordance with the everyday condition under which we live. A sudden change in living throws the nervous system out of gear, and the noise and light are nervous system people who live amid noise and light, and the change to a quiet life is a two-syllable word, 'noise and light.' With the change to the fact that he does not get used to the quiet life, he becomes a town person."