

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

APRIL 1, 1883.

SIMON THE SORCERER.

ACTS 8, 14-25.

The apostles which were at Jerusalem—The apostolic body acted organically, so that they must have been still in secret organized and authoritative position.

Samaria had received. This was an important step in advance. Christians before this were merely a Jewish sect, but now, in the reception of the gospel by the Samaritans, it overpassed the limits of Judaism.

They sent unto them. The hatred between Jews and Samaritans was excessive and unrelenting. It would therefore be in the highest degree important that it should be shown to the Church at Jerusalem that these Samaritans, by the agency of the same apostles, were partakers of the same. Peter and John. Peter was sent by the body of apostles. Hence he could not have been chief or primate, as the Romanists assert.

Receive the Holy Ghost—The prayer clearly pointed to such a gift of the power of the Spirit as had been bestowed on the day of Pentecost. Luke speaks not in this place of the common grace of the Spirit, whereby God regenerates us that we may be his children, but of those singular gifts wherewith God would have certain endowed at the beginning of the gospel to beautify the kingdom of Christ.

The restriction of the conveyance of such gifts to the apostles is a very strong presumption in favor of the view that miraculous powers ceased with the generation among whom they survived some on whom the apostles had laid their hands.

Laid... their hands on them—This was part of that miraculous supremacy of the apostles—Christ's own chosen, original, witnessing twelve—which they could not communicate to any fellow, or transmit to any successor.—Receive the Holy Ghost. We have here, as at Caesarea, (chap. 10, 44-48), and at Ephesus, (chap. 19, 5-7), a miniature Pentecost, in which a new inauguration seems to take place by the repetition of the same charismatic effusions, each time under apostolic supervision.

Simon was one of those magicians or sorcerers who were then frequent in the East. It was a period of a great religious crisis; there was a general expectation throughout the East of the advent of some great deliverer, the Messianic notions of the Jews were spread abroad, and hence many impostors, taking advantage of this fact, deceived the people. The Simon of tradition was a native of Cyprus; professed to believe the Oriental philosophy of his day; claimed himself to be an *eon* or emanation from the deity; traveled about with a beautiful prostitute, whom he represented as another divine emanation; aided Felix in seducing Drusilla, the queen of Aeneas; and subsequently came to Rome, where he continued to practice his magic arts, probably until his death. When Simon saw—Its effects were, therefore, visible, and consequently the effect of laying on of the apostles' hands was not the inward but the outward miraculous gifts of the Spirit.—Simon the Magus, intently gazing on Simon the Apostle, sees a work performed on the young Samaritan converts that raises them above themselves. He notes how beautiful and miraculous the results. Through laying on of the apostles' hands—He regarded the capability of imparting the Holy Spirit, rightly as a *derived power*, (see Matt. 10, 1,) but *wrongly*, as one to be obtained by an external method, without an inward disposition, and since in internal commerce every thing may be had for gold, he wanted to buy it. He offered them—Whether he openly proposed to buy, or whether his act was a secret one, in the nature of an attempted bribery, the account does not indicate; the latter supposition is the more inherently probable.

From his name a mercenary traffic in holy things has, through the Christian ages, been called *simony*. Clearly, from the narrative, Simon himself did not receive the Spirit by the laying on of hands. His nefarious attempt to treat with the apostles was before he himself had been presented to them for this purpose. It is probable enough that he was impressed by the sign that Philip wrought; that he felt himself in the presence of a Power above his own; that he accepted Philip's statements as to the death and the resurrection of the Christ. It was such a faith as that of which James speaks, James 2, 14, 19.

Judas sold the Son, Simon would have bought the Holy Ghost.—This is not an anatema with the sense of a consignation of Simon to destruction, for in the next sentence Peter admonishes him to pray for forgiveness.

Repent therefore—A wicked man may pray, and ought to pray.—As bad as Simon Magus was, St. Peter doth not drive him to despair, but directs him to his duty. *It perhaps*—Here evidently a *double* as to Simon's obtaining forgiveness is expressed. Some suppose that Peter here expressed his doubts whether Simon, in desiring to purchase the Holy Ghost, may not have committed the unpardonable sin. Others refer the doubt to Simon's repen-

tance. The sin against the Holy Ghost excludes the idea of forgiveness. Peter here, then, expresses no doubt of God's forgiveness, no limitation of his mercy; but the doubt refers to Simon's repentance, which was hardly to be expected.

In the gall of bitterness—The poison of serpents was considered to be seated in their gall; so "the gall of asps is within him," Job 20, 14. Bond of iniquity—Hemmed around by habits and principles of iniquity, as if bound fast by a fetter or bond from which he cannot energetically even will to escape.

Pray ye the Lord—His conscience reads "between the lines" of Peter's address what was not actually found there. That "if perhaps" is to him as the knell of doom. He prays, not for deliverance from the bond of iniquity, but only from the vague terror of a future penalty. He turns not, as Peter has bidden him, to the Lord, who was ready to forgive, but to a human mediator. Peter must pray for him who has no faith to pray for himself.

A GOOD HINT.

"Rational Dress" is becoming a recognized topic of the day. It is very certain that the interests of the nation demand its careful consideration. Many curious things may be said about what men wear. The mischief, however, is chiefly on the other side of the house. We shall have a word to say about it at an early opportunity. If many of our weakly sisters and delicate mothers would only weigh the clothing which they carry about with them they would be astonished and confounded. John Gilpin's famous bottles strapped with care about his waist would have to be multiplied again and again in order to provide an average weight for a fashionable lady's dress. As for tight-lacing, they deserve it who use it. Some things are only exceedingly stupid, but tight-lacing is exceedingly wicked. Its injurious effects upon health render it a horrible sin. No Christian young lady should allow herself to practice it, any more than she would commit suicide by slow poison. Let her ask any sensible doctor if, through ignorance of the elements of physiology, she counts that there is dangerous evil in the practice.—Methodist Rec.

PRESERVE THE FORESTS.

One of the encouraging signs of the times is the fact that America is waking up to the value of its timber lands. "The lumber interests of the United States, and in fact of the whole world," says the *Southern Lumberman*, "have assumed such important proportions that it is due to the people that our State Governments should establish a series of surveys and investigations, with a view of determining the exact amount of their forest wealth, and that in time the general Government, through its proper department, should publish in statistical form the result of each State's timber resources. While this authentic report would be of great value to commerce, the presence of the botanists and their assistants in every portion of the States and Territories would arouse the people to a sense of the wealth contained in their forest possessions, and would perhaps stimulate them to a more economical use of the timber, and make them more careful about preserving it; at any rate, the timber, its extent, variety and value, should be made known at as early a date as possible."

USEFUL HINTS.

It is easier to grow rhubarb from the seed than to get old roots, as these seldom give satisfaction.

A plaster of soft lye-soap and corn meal, if applied in time will cure a felon. Renew the plaster every morning and evening until all soreness has disappeared.

Deep clay loams and alluvial soil, with subsoil and surface alike, can hardly be ploughed too deeply. On thin soil do not stir below the available plant food.

Napoleon conquered his enemies before they began to organize. The unready is the unsuccessful. Dispatch ends the business before the cautious and dilatory man draws his boots on.

SPRAINS.—Mr. Peter A. Tapp, Barabois, Gaspe, P. Q. says: "About four years ago I got my wrist badly sprained, causing it to be badly swollen, and when I would try to lift any thing in that hand it would become quite powerless and painful. I used different popular medicines without benefit, until I tried Graham's Pain Expectorator, which completely cured me in twenty-four hours." 2in

ERUPTIVE DISEASES, such as Pimples, Boils, Blotches, Ringworm, Salt Rheum, Tetter, &c., yield readily to a persistent use of Hanington's Quinine Wine and Iron, and Tonic Dinner Pills, which by purifying the blood remove these unsightly evidences of inward disorder. If the blood is pure, the skin is exempt from these blemishes, and the value of these medicines as a blood purifier cannot be over estimated. Beware of imitations, see that you get "Hanington's," the original and genuine. For sale by all druggists and general dealers in Canada. mar 9 1m

REMEMBER THIS.

IF YOU ARE SICK.

If you are sick, HOP BITTERS will surely aid Nature in making you well again when all else fails.

If you are comparatively well, but feel the need of a grand tonic and stimulant, never rest easy till you are made a new being by the use of HOP BITTERS.

If you are constive or dyspeptic, or are suffering from any other of the numerous diseases of the stomach or bowels, it is your own fault if you remain ill, for HOP BITTERS are the sovereign remedy in all such complaints.

If you are wasting away with any form of Kidney disease, stop tempting Death this moment, and turn for a cure to HOP BITTERS.

If you are sick with that terrible sickness Nervousness, you will find a "Balm in Gilead" in the use of HOP BITTERS.

If you are a frequenter, or a resident of a miasmatic district, barricade your system against the scourge of all countries—malarial, epidemic, bilious, and intermittent fevers—by the use of HOP BITTERS.

If you have rough, pimply, or scaly skin, bad breath, pains and aches, and feel miserable generally, HOP BITTERS will give you fair skin, rich blood, the sweetest breath, health, and comfort.

In short, they cure ALL Diseases of the Stomach, Bowels, Blood, Liver, Nerves, Kidneys, &c., and

\$500

will be paid for a case they will not cure or help, or for anything impure or injurious found in them.

That poor, bedridden, invalid wife, sister, mother, or daughter, can be made the picture of health by a few bottles of Hop Bitters, costing but a trifle.

Will you let them suffer? Cleanse, Purify and Enrich the Blood with Hop Bitters.

And you will have no sickness or suffering or doctor's bills to pay.

INFORMATION.

For Coughs and Colds, use Allen's Lung Balm. See adv. in another column. mar 9 1m

MOTHERS! MOTHERS!! MOTHERS!!!

Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with the excruciating pain of cutting teeth? If so, go at once and get a bottle of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately—depend upon it; there is no mistake about it. There is not a mother on earth who has ever used it, who will not tell you at once that it will regulate the bowels, and give rest to the child, operating like magic. It is perfectly safe to use in all cases, and pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States. Sold everywhere. 25 cents a bottle. feby 10

BEST AND COMFORT TO THE SUFFERING.—Brown's Household Panacea has no equal for relieving pain, both internal and external. It cures Pain in the Side, Back or Bowels, Sore Throat, Rheumatism, Toothache, Lumbago and any kind of a Pain or Ache. "It will most surely quicken the Blood and Heal, as its acting power is wonderful." "Brown's Household Panacea," being acknowledged as the great Pain Reliever, and of double the strength of any other Elixir or Liniment in the world, should be in every family handy for use when wanted, "as it really is the best remedy in the world for Cramps in the Stomach, and Pains and Aches of all kinds," and is for sale by all Druggists at 25 cents a bottle feby 10.

Another communication from Mr. GEO. SEWELL, dated Moncton, N.B., June 22nd., 1878:

J. H. Robinson, Esq. Dear Sir,—I wrote you in May last, informing you of the wonderful cure your "Phosphorated Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil with Lacto Phosphate of Lime" had made in my case, and, at the same time promising to write you from time to time to let you know how I was getting along. I am much better in every way; am stronger; can walk a good long distance without getting tired. Sleep well and eat a hearty meal. In fact I am a new man in every respect, and those who saw me three months ago and see me now, can hardly believe that I am the same person.

The above are facts, and believing that ingratitude is one of the unpardonable sins, I feel it a duty to tell you of what, under a kind Providence, your preparation has done for me. Wishing you every success, &c.

For sale by Druggists and General Dealers in Canada. Price \$1 per bottle; six for \$5. March 9 1m

GET HIM OUT OF BED.—I was confined to my bed with Rheumatism could not move hand or foot. A clergyman called to see me and advised me to use Minard's Liniment. I did so and in three days was out of bed and resumed my work as well as ever. JAS. LANGILLE. Springfield, Annapolis Co., 1882. mar 2 1m

BETTER THAN GOLD!

ENGLISHMAN'S COUGH MIXTURE

Is better than Gold to any one that is troubled with COUGHS, COLDS, ASTHMA, BRONCHITIS, HOARSENESS, SPITTING OF BLOOD, LOSS OF VOICE, WHOOPING COUGH, INFLUENZA, SORENESS OF THE THROAT, CHEST AND LUNGS.

And all other Diseases leading to CONSUMPTION!

It will not make new lungs, but will prevent the disease from spreading throughout the whole substance of the lungs, there, therefore facilitating recovery.

DON'T FAIL TO TRY IT! IT MAY SAVE YOUR LIFE! IT HAS SAVED OTHERS

A Large Reward Will be paid for a better remedy than Englishman's COUGH MIXTURE.

A WONDERFUL MEDICINE!

A prominent Government Official writes us as follows: "Of all the cough medicines that I have tried during a long life I must say that Englishman's COUGH MIXTURE. Is superior to any. LEAVING HOME!

Consumptives leaving home for change of climate should not fail to take with them a supply of Englishman's Cough Mixture.

It will ensure a good night's rest, free from Coughing, and easy, light expectation in the morning.

AN ESTABLISHED REPUTATION! ENGLISHMAN'S COUGH MIXTURE

Is the most certain and Speedy Remedy for all Disorders of the Chest and Lungs. In Asthma, and Consumption, Bronchitis, Coughs, Influenza, Difficulty of Breathing, Spitting Blood, Hoarseness, Loss of Voice, etc., this mixture gives instantaneous relief and properly persevered with scarcely ever fails to effect a rapid cure. It has now been tried for many years, has an established reputation, and many thousands have been benefited by its use.

A BLESSING IN THE FAMILY! A well-known clergyman writes us that Englishman's Cough Mixture.

Has been a blessing to his family, having cured his wife of a very troublesome cough which had distressed her for over three years.

SHOULD NEVER BE NEGLECTED COUGHS & COLDS

Should always have rational treatment, and never be neglected. Such trifling ailments are too often solemn warnings of Consumption, which may be cured or prevented by timely using.

Englishman's Cough Mixture This Popular Remedy is Infallible.

It is highly praised by thousands of persons who have tried its wonderful efficacy, and strongly recommended by all as the best medicine ever known for speedily and permanently removing Coughs, Colds and all Pulmonary Diseases.

A POSITIVE CURE. ENGLISHMAN'S COUGH MIXTURE IS A POSITIVE CURE FOR

COUGHS, COLDS, SORE THROAT HOARSENESS, DIFFICULT BREATHING

Inflammation of the Lungs, BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, CROUP, AND ALL

Diseases of the Pulmonary Organs

FOR SALE BY DRUGGISTS AND GENERAL DEALERS. PRICE 25 and 50 CENTS. LARGE SIZE IS THE CHEAPEST.

MACDONALD & CO. HALIFAX, N.S.

Steam and Hot Water Engineers, Importers of Cast and Wrought Iron Pipe, with Fittings, Engineers Supplies and Machinery.

Manufacturers of all kinds of Engineers', Plumbers' & Steam Fitters

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VESSLS' FASTENINGS AND FITTINGS. Public Buildings, Residences & Factories supplied with

Warming Apparatus and Plumbing Fixtures, With all the Modern Improvements, fitted by Engineers thoroughly acquainted with our climate.

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And Roofing Materials in and for the Province of Nova Scotia. Nos. 162 to 172 also 306 Barrington St., Halifax.

WHOLESALE DRY GOODS.

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SMITH BROTHERS

ANNOUNCE THE COMPLETION OF THEIR Spring Purchases!

EVERY DEPARTMENT THOROUGHLY ASSORTED.

Their STOCK this SEASON is the LARGEST and most ATTRACTIVE THEY HAVE EVER SHOWN!

MANCHESTER, ROBERTSON AND ALLISON, IMPORTERS OF DRY GOODS

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MANUFACTURERS OF SHIRTS OF ALL KINDS, AN LADIES UNDERCLOTHING

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NOVA SCOTIA MACHINE PAPER BAG MANUFACTORY

THE CHEAPEST IN THE MARKET SEND FOR PRICE LIST ALSO BOOK BINDING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

G. & T. PHILLIPS

A. GILMOUR, Tailor & Draper, No. 72 GERMAIN ST., SAINT JOHN, N.B.

April 26



Chilblains! Chilblains! Chilblains!

If you are troubled with CHILBLAINS at once a bottle of GATES' EYE RELIEF.

It is a sure cure. One application heated in well is generally sufficient for the worst cases. It will also cure all forms of sore eyes and Piles. Price 25 cents per bottle. Sold by druggists and dealers throughout the Maritime Provinces, and at wholesale by BROWN & WEBB, FORTY-SIX, ST. LUCIE & Co., JOHN K. BENT, Halifax.

T. B. BARKER & Sons, R. W. McCARTY, St. John.

CLAYTON & SONS, CUSTOM TAILORING

Manufacturing Clothiers, IMPORTERS OF CLOTHS & TAILORS TRIMMINGS

11 Jacob St., Halifax, N.S.

Good Black Broadcloth Suit, made to order.....\$22 75 Serviceable, all Wool, Tweed Suit, made to order..... 15 00 Very Fine, do, do, made to order..... 17 75 A very large assortment of goods from which we make our Celebrated Trowers to order at \$4.75. CLAYTON & SONS. march 11-1v

KNABE PIANOFORTES.

UNEQUALLED IN Tone, Touch, Workmanship and Durability. WILLIAM KNABE & CO. No. 204 and 206 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore. No. 115 Fifth Avenue, N. Y.

boys and himself. I wrote the book so that it was better. But in it than head cried so, Miss lead of it," he foot, of than he would have led it right but he was credit that

FORM.

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TO THEM.

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AINED.

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est." "Time- rained to be a ght by the au- ch." e child he mother and his

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