

The Quiet Hour.

The Ten Lepers Cleansed.

BY WAYLAND HOYT, D.D.

They were on the way to Jerusalem (v. 12). There has been much discussion as to just where in the life of our Lord this incident should be placed. It is quite impossible to come to a satisfactory conclusion. Our Lord did good "on the way"; aiming at Jerusalem, He scattered blessing going there; let us seek to imitate our Lord.

Ten men that were lepers (v. 10). Leprosy was and is a common disease in the East. At first it appears as a surface and skin disorder, manifesting itself in whitish spots or patches, at last covering the whole body. Meantime, the disease strikes inward, sending corruption through the whole system. It can be transmitted by heredity. It was esteemed beyond the cure of medicines, though very rarely the sufferer would find himself cured. Its effects were most distressing, making the sufferer hideous to himself and to others, gradually rotting him away. It was the type of sin. Here there were "ten" lepers herded together; since they were denied association with others, they were wont to go in companies. Nine of these were Hebrews, one was a Samaritan. In health Hebrews would have nothing to do with Samaritans, but their equal misery made them fellows.

Stood afar off (v. 10). See Lev. 13:46. Rabbinical rules fixed the distance, usually about three hundred feet.

Saying, Jesus, Master (v. 13). No depth of distress or friendlessness can be so great that we may not cry to Jesus. Prayer is privilege for the worst case.

Go and show yourselves unto the priests (v. 14). See Lev. 14. The cleansed leper must go to the priest, make an offering, and be officially pronounced clean. So in Christ's direction there was promise of cure plainly implied.

As they went, they were cleansed (v. 14). It is to be specially noted that they had no consciousness of cleansing when they started. But, in faith obeying, they were cleansed. Using Mr. Spurgeon's points—men are not to wait for a consciousness of great sin, or for a blaze of joy, or to have a text impressed upon their minds, or to expect an actual conversion to be manifest in them before they will trust the Saviour, or to experience any singular sensation, but are, just as they are, believingly to obey Christ at once, as did these lepers. Thus the consciousness of spiritual cleansing will come, in Christ's way and in Christ's time. The first thing in spiritual cleansing is not evidence of any sort; the first thing is believing obedience. Learn, also, that our Lord has different ways of treating people; He treated the leper in Matt. 8:14 in different fashion from these lepers—why, we cannot say. That leper knew he was cured before he was sent to the priest.

Where are the nine? (v. 17.) Mr. Spurgeon has a sermon entitled "Where are the Nine? or, Praise Neglected." For suggestions toward help in teaching the spiritual truths here, I cannot do better than transcribe his points. Notice the Singularity of Thankfulness; all were cleansed, but one returned to praise. (a) There are more

persons who receive benefits than ever give praise for them. (b) The number of those who pray is greater than the number of those who praise; all the lepers prayed, but one praised (c) Most of us, like the nine lepers, pray more than we praise. (d) More obey ritual than ever praise Christ; the nine went on to the priests, and did not return to praise before doing that. (e) There are more that believe than there are that praise; all these lepers believingly obeyed, only one praised. Notice next The Characteristics of True Thankfulness. (a) It is individual; the truly thankful man may say forth his thankfulness whether others do so or not. (b) It is prompt; this thankful man would not wait. (c) It is spiritual; this thankful man cared more for praising Jesus than he did for the ceremonial of the priests, though I am sure that after his praises were done he obeyed Jesus about being officially declared cleansed. (d) It is intense; this thankful man "with a loud voice" glorified God. (e) It is humble; this thankful man fell down at Jesus' feet. (f) It is worshipful; this thankful man fell worshipfully at the feet of Jesus. (g) It is silent about the faults of others; this thankful man uttered no censure about the other nine who did not return to praise. Notice The Blessedness of Thankfulness. (a) It is a manifestation of personal love. (b) It receives the largest blessing; the Saviour said to this man what He did not to the others, "Thy faith had made thee whole." Learn from all this to put praise in a high place.

Klondyke Nurses.

The following appeal, signed by Elizabeth MacLennan, Convener, and Janet J. Inglis, Secretary, has been issued:

Dear Madam,—As you are no doubt aware, the Presbyterian Church, in answer to an appeal from our missionary, Rev. J. Pringle, sent two trained Missionary nurses, Misses Mitchell and Bone, to nurse the sick and suffering at Atlin. They arrived there in July, 1899, and have laboured earnestly and faithfully, and God's blessing has attended their ministrations. A much needed hospital has been built, all the work on which was given free; a home for the nurses has also been built. The hospital is a plain, wooden building, containing one large ward, a bathroom and a small room which is used either as operating-room or private ward. The Committee appeals to the Ladies' Aid Societies of our churches to help in this work. It is worthy of all support; it is Christlike, for He never turned from the sick and suffering. Would you kindly bring it before the women of your congregation? If you have a Woman's Home Missionary Society or Ladies' Aid Society or Mission Band in your church, please lay this appeal before them. Contributions of money will be thankfully received, and may be sent to Rev. Robert H. Warden, D. D., Toronto. If you have no Society of the kind mentioned, we will feel gratified if you will interest some lady in the Congregation to collect for this work.

The mother in her office holds the key of the soul; and she it is who stamps the coin of character, and makes the being who would be a savage, but for her gentle Christian man.

Our Young People.

The Terrible Price*

BY C. N. HOWARD.

The following article from the Christian Endeavor World, on what intemperance cost our nation, has special reference to the United States, but in its relative features will also apply to Canada, so we reproduce it in slightly condensed form:

The total consumption of wines and liquors for 1899 was one billion two hundred and forty-nine million gallons. Applying the accepted estimate per gallon for the various kinds consumed, the drink bill for that year may be safely placed at one billion sixty-nine million dollars.

This is a larger sum than is required to run the entire railroad system of the country, with two hundred and forty-five thousand miles of track, employing eight hundred and seventy-five thousand men, carrying nine hundred million tons of freight, seven times the population of the nation for passengers, with thirty-seven thousand locomotives and one million two hundred and eighty-four thousand cars to haul the load.

But this, vast as it is, does not represent what intemperance costs our nation. Space will not permit a detailed estimate of the percentage of crime, insanity, poverty, and idleness due to drink. At a very conservative estimate, this would swell this vast sum at least four hundred million dollars more.

Take crime, for example. On the highest authority, three fourths of the expense for policing our great cities is occasioned by the saloon. Nearly that proportion of the entire arrests is for "plain drunks," and for disorderly conduct as the result of drink. Justice Mead of New York has recently said, "Seven police courts are kept busy now in old New York; take rum away, and two would be sufficient to do the work."

Added to this must be the economic loss that the nation suffers. The money spent for drink employs in its manufacture 50,179 men. The same amount spent for the twenty leading necessities of life would in their production give employment to 322,000 more men than now, and pay them \$125,000,000 more in wages than they now receive. This represents simply the manufactured product. The liquor traffic used only \$99,000,000 worth of raw material. The amount it draws from legitimate trade, spent in the dry goods, grocery, hardware and furniture stores, would require \$400,000,000 more of raw material to manufacture and give employment to a million and a quarter more men.

This statement seems incredible; but when we find that the saloon receipts for a year would build two hundred thousand homes at two thousand dollars each, put one thousand dollars' worth of furniture in every home, one thousand dollars worth of groceries and flour in every pantry, one hundred tons of coal in every cellar, five hundred dollars' worth of wearing apparel in the closets, and leave sixty-nine million dollars unspent, it seems entirely reasonable to add another five hundred million dollars to the account as the industrial loss that the nation suffers through drink.

Nor is this all. There is the further loss through sickness and death resulting from drink. This is the fourth great item in the count. Dr. Josiah Strong tells us that, as the result of the improved conditions during Mayor Strong's administration in New York,

*Topic for November 11: "What intemperance costs our nation."—Prov. 23: 1-7, 15-21.

*S. S. Lesson, November 18, Luke 17: 11-19 Golden Text.—Be ye thankful.—Col. 3: 15.