

POWER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Need of the World Is to Get Closer to the Church

"Then drew near unto Him all the publicans and sinners for to hear Him."—Luke xv. 1.

That the church and the world are drawing further apart is a common remark.

We do not believe that the schism is as wide as many think, nor do we believe that it is growing. The church, beyond all denial, is exerting a profound influence upon the age, and the world is no slower to-day than ever to respect religion that bears the marks of sincerity.

Nevertheless, it is true that there is far more of such an alienation than there should be. Our text shows that the case was not such with the founder of the Christian religion. There was nothing in His manner or words or life that repelled the multitude. But, says the inspired historian, "Then drew near unto Him all the publicans and sinners for to hear Him." And these were the very ones who most needed

HIS DIVINE COUNSELS!

Let us ask, then, why it is that the church too often seems to fail in getting into such living touch with the world as to transform it as it should.

First, because of the attempt to secularize its message. This is the device of pulpit churlitarians and sensationalists. In order to draw the world they pare off all the distinctive marks of the church. They withdraw the claim of divine authority for its teachings. They repudiate the supernatural in its origin and history. They square all its tenets with a narrow reason, so that there is left no sphere for the larger exercise of faith. If the world wants anything it wants the real gospel, the word of life.

Another reason, no doubt, is the failure of church members to illustrate the religion they profess. Very true, the world is too exasperated here. It forgets that church people may have many in-

consistencies and in many respects show the same weaknesses as others and yet be sincerely pious.

Still, religion must radically change the nature. It must make one a new creature. It must give one a new master motive. And when the church does not show itself a nursing mother of the graces of love and humility and unselfishness and brotherhood the world has a right to question its claims.

A third and chief reason for too frequent alienations is an incorrect and unjust presentation of religion, and many spheres of life which the world rightly regards as innocent the church is often made to take

A HOSTILE ATTITUDE.

A chasm is forced between piety and the ordinary ways of life. Temperance is confounded with abstinence. Liberty is labeled with the tag of license. The spiritual life is divorced from the natural. To come to the church men are asked to deny what is justified by their common sense. One-sided religionists overlook the fact that a man can legitimately love and enjoy life, art, beauty, pleasure, without loving God the less, but only the more.

Nor do these austere notions truly represent the historic church. In her true, worldwide character she has always been characterized by broad, liberal, rational and joyous conceptions of that piety which is pleasing to God, who is love, and who as a Father rejoices in the happiness of His children.

Let, then, "the children of light be wise in their generation" toward the worldly and unwise. And let the world abandon its misconceptions and prejudices as to genuine piety and, the world and the church meeting together, religion will prove to be that benign power for righteousness, joy and sonship of God which it was meant to be by its eternal Author.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

AUG. 5.

Lesson VI. False Pretences. Golden

Text: Luke 14. 18.

THE LESSON WORD STUDIES.

Note.—The text of the Revised Version is used as a basis for these Word Studies.

Two Similar Parables.—The Parable of the Great Supper, which forms the text of this lesson, is part of the conversation of Jesus at the Pharisee's table, the first portion of which we studied in last Sunday's lesson. This visit to the home of one of the chiefs of the Pharisees belongs, as we noted in our last lesson, to the period of the Pharisee ministry, probably some months prior to the final arrival of Jesus at Jerusalem, just preceding the last week of His life. Later, at the time of his final great struggle with the authorities in the capital city, on the eve of his passion, Jesus spoke another parable very similar to this one, namely, the Parable of the Royal Marriage Feast (Matt. 22. 1-10). The parable in Matthew is a comment of Jesus on an attempt to arrest him, and tells of rebellion, subjects of a great king put to death, for insulting and killing their sovereign's messengers; the parable in our present lesson is a comment of Jesus on a remark made by another guest at the Pharisee's table and tells of persons who, through indifference, forfeit the good things to which they have been invited. It is less severe in tone than the former, and even in the parts which are common to both there is little similarity of wording. To identify the two as some have attempted to do is a great mistake.

Verse 15. Sat at meat.—Reclined at supper (compare Word Studies for July 29).

16. But he said.—Commenting on the words spoken by a fellow guest, Jesus points out the condition under which the blessing to which reference has been made may be secured.

He made an announcement of the prospective event to his friends.

17. Sent forth his servant at supper time.—In harmony with an ancient Oriental custom, a second special invitation was sent out to the invited guests as the hour for the festive occasion approached. To omit this second summons would be a grievous breach of etiquette on the part of the host; to refuse the second invitation after having accepted the first, would be an insult to the host, equivalent among Arab tribes of to-day to a declaration of war.

18. And they all with one consent began to make excuse.

The choice of words, and their arrangement in the original, leads one naturally to expect an affirmative answer of cordial acceptance. The word to make excuse, therefore, comes to an unexpected disappointment, and greatly heightens the effect of the narrative at this point.

Go out and see it.—Interest in a newly acquired possession of value is often greater than interest in friends or any other matter.

19. I go to prove them.—Not that they had not been tested before being purchased, but because of that same interest in that which has been newly acquired referred to above. Doubtless for several days the man went "to prove them" every day.

20. I cannot come.—The third guest is less courteous than the others. We are told that he was one of three men who failed to respond to the invitation but rather of these three as typical of a larger number.

MISTAKES OF JUSTICE

INNOCENT PEOPLE WHO ARE SENT TO PRISON.

Some Years Ago a Man Was Hanged in Edinburgh on Circumstantial Evidence.

Almost every year scores, and sometimes hundreds, of innocent men and women are sentenced to various terms of imprisonment, but after serving a few months, and in some cases, years, of imprisonment are quietly released when proof of their innocence comes to hand. For these errors of justice, however, those who have been wrongfully imprisoned rarely receive compensation of any kind; neither is an apology made to them, while the public seldom, if ever, hear of the matter, says London Tit-Bits.

But a search through the official Blue-books affords enlightening, though will-a somewhat depressing, proof that the number of innocent persons annually convicted is by no means inconsiderable.

The most terrible miscarriage of justice which has ever come to light is affords proof of the fact that a Scotsman, one William Shaw, was some years ago hanged purely on circumstantial evidence in Edinburgh for the murder of his daughter Catherine, with whom he lived in a house alone.

It appears that on a certain evening in December Shaw's neighbors were disturbed by the sounds of a violent quarrel between father and daughter. These signs of trouble continued until very late at night when all suddenly became quiet. On making his daily call the next morning Shaw was very much surprised to get no answer, in spite of knocking vigorously at the door. Thinking that something must be wrong for Shaw's daughter had invariably answered his door, he therefore aroused the neighbors, one of whom effected an entrance through the dining-room window.

All was quiet within, but on going upstairs he was horrified to find the girl—Shaw's daughter—dead.

LYING DEAD IN BED.

While her father, who was a very heavy sleeper, was quietly slumbering in the adjoining room.

The police were at once sent for and Shaw was arrested on a charge of murdering his daughter. The trial lasted over a week, and eventually, after the jury had been closed together for over six hours, they found Shaw guilty, and he was sentenced to death by hanging.

Just a year afterwards, however, the new tenant of the house one day discovered in a cavity behind the kitchen chimney a letter, written by Shaw's daughter, in which she stated that in view of the fact that her lover had killed her, she had decided to take her own life. The letter was dated the day before her death was discovered.

For this truly terrible mistake, the only explanation given by the authorities is that the innocent man's body was handed over to his relations for re-entombment, and flags were waved over the new grave, while many prominent officials attended the funeral in token of Shaw's innocence.

Probably the most extraordinary case of mistaken identity and wrongful imprisonment occurred some ten years ago, when a man named Stewart was arrested while he was working in a factory. He was found guilty, and sentenced to death by hanging, and was not and never had been a convict, and that his name was not Stewart, but Sticker.

But the evidence against him was too great; indeed, the governor of the jail himself swore to his identity, and the chain of evidence seemed complete when it was seen that on his right hand the prisoner had a wen, which, had strange enough, been one of the escaped convict's distinguishing marks. This extraordinary coincidence decided matters, and the man was sent back to prison.

TO FINISH HIS SENTENCE.

Two years afterwards the police arrested a man who was literally Stewart's double in every respect, even down to the wen on the right hand. Further investigation proved — and afterwards the man confessed himself — that he was the convict who, however, the prisoner from jail by climbing over the prison wall when taking his daily exercise in the courtyard.

Sticker was therefore, of course, at once released, but the only consolation given him was that he had his full term. Strangely enough, it afterwards transpired that during Sticker's trial the real escaped convict, disguised as a country farmer with mutch and onion whiskers and carrying breeches, was actually in court, and with the exception of his wrongfully accused "double," was without a doubt the most interested spectator of the proceedings.

Some three years ago there occurred still another extraordinary miscarriage of justice. A well-known north-country solicitor was charged with forging the name of a linen manufacturer on a cheque for \$4,500. The evidence against him, indeed, was overwhelming, for no fewer than three bank clerks recognized the accused at once from among twelve other men as being the man who had presented the forged cheque at the bank shortly after it was opened in the morning.

The only evidence in the prisoners' favor was that he was a comparatively poor man, and neither did at any time his bank account show a balance of more than a few hundred pounds, nor did his mode of living justify the belief that he was possessed of more than very humble means. However, the evidence of the three bank clerks seemed conclusive, and the accused was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

FIVE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT.

Some eighteen months afterwards the most amazing and truly dramatic incident occurred. One of the clerks, who had been transferred to another branch of the bank at Bradford, was one morning handed over the counter a cheque for \$7,500.

Looking more closely at the signature, which represented that of an old client, who had banked with the firm for years, it occurred to him that it was in some slight detail just a little bit different to the drawer's usual signature, and, on informing the bearer that he would have

to look up the account in the ledger, it flashed across him in a moment that the man before him was the "double" of the prisoner who had been sentenced for forgery.

It is at once, therefore, occurred to him that there must be something wrong and he immediately signalled to the commissioner, who pinned the suspect down while the police were being sent for. The man was arrested on the spot and at his trial was proved to be, and not the convicted solicitor, had forged the first cheque for \$4,500, and that he was again endeavoring to still further "raise the wind" to the tune of another \$7,500. Without doubt, however, had not the clerk noticed something rather suspicious about the signature of the second cheque which caused him to more closely scrutinize the bearer, the wrongfully-convicted solicitor would have served the full term of his sentence.

But never has a more curious case been brought into a court of law than what was at the time—some years ago—known as

THE "MERRITT AFFAIR."

One of two twin sisters, so much alike that it was almost impossible to tell one from the other, living together in a small flat in North London, was charged with stealing jewellery to the value of \$3,500 from a well-known society lady living in Portland Place.

According to a policeman on duty at the time, he saw the accused leave the house by the front door just after 8.30 with a jewel-case under her arm. To the consternation of the limb of the law, however, the other sister was summoned, and so extraordinary was the coincidence that she, when in the witness-box, refused to say which lady she saw, as he rightly pointed out that "he could not tell the other from which."

Both the sisters, moreover, vehemently protested their innocence, and eventually one was convicted and sentenced to six months' hard labor. After she had been in prison for three weeks, however, her sister, Edith Merritt, confessed that she was the culprit, and once again did justice err, though, according to a well-known barrister, the likeness between the two sisters was so uncanny that the mistake—for the evidence was largely circumstantial—was not altogether surprising.

Still, in spite of the many cases in which justice has been proved to have gone astray, it is only on rare occasions that the general public hear of the many wrongs which are annually inflicted on innocent men and women. But in the past two years there has, fortunately, been a considerable falling off in the number of errors of justice.

The official figures of judicial errors, however, are very striking. In 1898 no fewer than seventy-five prisoners were acquitted after being in prison for four months, while in the same year over a hundred prisoners were freed after two months' enforced and wrongful detention in jail. In the previous year, thirty-one men and women were released, evidence proving their innocence having turned up after they had been in prison for three months.

CHAMPION BIGAMIST.

Albert Capper Sentenced to Ten Years' Penal Servitude.

England can boast of a bigamist who is the present day champion in the quick marriage line. Albert Capper is his name. He was born in the west of England, and left an orphan when a young child. He was sent to an orphanage, and from there drafted into the local workhouse, where he was taught bookmaking. But he hungered for the outside world and soon made his escape. He enlisted in the army and joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers. His time was up in 1892 and he left the army unmarried, a good looking man of 25 and with a few pounds in his pocket. He immediately married a young Irish girl, a servant in an officer's house at Aldershot. He had spent all her savings in three months and two weeks of lunger and was satisfied his wife. So she ran away with a man better off in this world's goods.

Capper threatened to be revenged and began revenge on the whole sex. Before the year was out he had married another girl. He lived with her for a year and then disappeared and married another woman with a little money. For a considerable time Capper lived in idleness on his third wife's money, then in turn she was deserted and he married a fourth.

The luck he kept on the merry marriage game until he had eight wives, all living and distributed all over England. A widow was his downfall. She was very religious, had a snug little home and was good looking.

Capper boarded in her house, joined the church and also became very religious. Then the widow married him. He deserted her in five months. Soon after she engaged a new cook. This motherly woman recognized a photograph of Capper on her mistress' mantelpiece. It was the latest wedding group. She sent the photo to her daughter in London, and the daughter recognized Capper as the man she married in London in 1903. The police by circulation-photo system soon tracked the arch-bigamist to a town in North Wales and nabbed him on the eve of his ninth wedding.

When the story got out the deserted wives promptly turned up and were all in court when the Lord Chief Justice sentenced their husband to ten years' penal servitude.

PROTRACTED LAWSUIT.

A long lawsuit has just been decided in Germany. It related to the right of certain villagers of Lorraine to cut wood in a certain forest. This right was disputed by the Department of Woods and Forests in 1613, and the villagers brought their case before the courts. A juriconsult was appointed to inquire into the matter, and his report covered several hundred pages of manuscript, and took him thirty-five years to draft. The tribunal, on the strength of his report, decided against the Department; but the Department appealed. The Supreme court at Leipzig has now, after nearly three centuries, rejected the appeal and condemned the Department to pay the costs of the process. These, even on the German scale, must be heavy.

Mr. Otto A. Fleissner's KIDNEYS WERE SOAKED WITH CATARRH.

Pe-ru-na Promptly Cured Him.



Mr. Otto A. Fleissner, American Episcopalian, late Chief to Col. W. J. Condy (Buffalo Bill), now chef at the Rainier Grand Hotel, Seattle, Wash., writes: "I suffered with kidney and bladder trouble until life did not seem worth living. I had tried many medicines, but did not get any relief until I took Peruna. It was really wonderful how much better I was after I had used this medicine only a week. I did not expect that it would help me permanently, but as long as it was doing me good I continued to use it. At the end of six months I found to my relief that it had rid my system of all poisons, and that I was cured to stay cured. You certainly have a splendid medicine and I gladly endorse it."—Otto A. Fleissner.

Catarrh of the Kidneys a Common Disease—Kidney Trouble Often Fails to Be Regarded as Catarrh by Physicians.

Catarrh of the kidneys is very common indeed. It is a pity that this fact is not better known to the physicians as well as to the people.

People have kidney disease. They take some diuretic, hoping to get better. They never once think of catarrh. Kidney disease and catarrh are seldom associated in the minds of the people, and, alas, they are not very often associated in the minds of the physicians. Too few physicians recognize catarrh of the kidneys. They doctor for something else. They try this remedy and that remedy. The trouble may be catarrh all the time. A few bottles of Peruna would cure them.

PE-RU-NA CURES CATARRH OF THE KIDNEYS.

Pe-ru-na Removes the Cause of the Kidney Trouble.

Peruna strikes at the very centre of the difficulty by eradicating the catarrh from the kidneys. Catarrh is the cause of kidney difficulty. Remove the cause and you remove the effect. With unerring accuracy Peruna goes right to the spot. The kidneys are soon doing their work with perfect regularity.

Thousands of Testimonials.

Thousands of testimonials from people who have had kidney disease which had gone beyond the control of the physician are received by Dr. Hartman every year, giving Peruna the whole praise for marvelous cures.

Address Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio. All correspondence held strictly confidential.

EXPLORERS HAVE TO BEG

EXPERIENCES SOME OF THEM HAVE IN RAISING MONEY.

The Task Is Oftentimes Harder Than Facing African Fever or Arctic Cold.

A man who knows many explorers was talking the other day about the discouraging experiences that most of them have in trying to raise funds for their work.

"At last," he said, "Captain Bernier has enough money to fit out his expedition and he has started for the Arctic with the vessel the Canadian Government has placed at his service."

"That man has lived with his Arctic project constantly in his mind for the last eight years. He has talked about it incessantly with any man, group of men or society that would listen to him. He was glad if anybody would promise to give him even \$5 as soon as the necessary sum was pledged."

"Two years ago the promised fund which was to come from hundreds of sources amounted to \$62,000. He needed at least \$13,000 more for a safe financial basis."

"You can't ask a man with any hope of success to put his hand into his pocket for you if you wear a desperate and lugubrious air. You must assume jollity and confidence."

THOUGH YOU HAVE THEM NOT.

"Bernier always laughed and joked with the men who told him he was a crank and a bore. He has a vein of humor that has doubtless helped to add thousands of dollars to his fund."

"A year ago last winter he kept a band of travellers roaring with tales of his trials and tribulations, and they thought it the best joke of the evening when he told them with much solemnity how implicitly he relied upon them for the last few thousands he needed. It is Bernier's unflinching good humor as well as his enthusiasm and his complete confidence in himself and his plans that has helped him to surmount his financial difficulties."

"His expedition will undoubtedly represent an investment of at least \$125,000, counting in the fine ice ship which the Canadian Government has donated. She is now known as the Arctic, was formerly the Gauss, and was specially built to carry the German expedition to south polar waters."

"Those who saw Peary working at most night and day a year and a half ago to raise funds for his present enterprise realized more than ever before the uncommon stuff that is in the man. He had an assured reputation as one of the greatest of Arctic explorers, and yet the quest for money was about as hopeful as

HUNTING FOR HEN'S TEETH.

"It is very difficult to convince the general public of the utility of polar exploration in spite of the millions of actual wealth that the Arctic has supplied to the world and the great gains that polar research has contributed to nearly every branch of science. Peary had to go ahead with his work, investing his money as fast as he could raise it in his outfit."

"It took indomitable courage and

pluck to work all the harder when the financial prospects were blackest; and the way clear through his embarrassment really was not visible to the explorer till a few days before the time he had calmly announced for his sailing."

"Young Mikkelsen, who is now nearing the threshold of the unknown to the north of Behring Strait, is a remarkable example of pluck and unquenchable enthusiasm. He is still under 30, but has already had much Arctic experience."

"He supposed that the prominent men and the scientific society in England had had pinned their faith to him had given him all the money he needed, when he landed in the United States last spring and found that the arrangements he had made for getting north were defeated by the imprisonment of the whaling fleet in the icy north of Alaska. It was positively necessary for him to buy a ship, and though a stranger in a land he had never seen, he set about to raise the money."

"All who heard his little speech at the dinner to Nordenskjold in New York will remember how smilingly and with what significance as

HE TOLD OF HIS PLANS.

he ended nearly every sentence with the words, 'That is, I shall try to do this when I get money to buy my ship.'

"Mikkelsen had the advantage of a good reputation, a praiseworthy plan and of pluck and enthusiasm that were really impressive. Some funds were sent from abroad, but four-fifths of the money he required was given to him by Americans. Mikkelsen bought his ship and went on his way rejoicing."

"Most explorers would much rather face fever and savages in Africa or freezing in the Arctic than ask any man for a cent. But they have to do it, and the very qualities that make them successful beggars are among the factors that make them also men of high achievement in the field of exploration."

A LITTLE MIXED.

"What is the meaning of the word 'Easter'?" said John Hare at a club.

No one could answer the question, and Hare with a frown went on: "Nobody reads the Bible now. Not long ago at a dinner, I got into a Biblical argument. When the argument was over a young lady said: 'I enjoyed that discussion splendidly, but, you know, I always thought that Sodom and Gomorrah were man and wife.'

"Another young lady commented: 'Oh, well, I suppose they ought to have been, if they were not.'

VERY GOOD.

Wilson—Saw Jackson when I was in Lonsomhurst.

Bilson—Indeed. Has he a good position there?

Wilson—He had when I saw him. He was sitting in the hammock with the daughter of the richest man in the village.

A BAD SQUALL.

Sally Screecher (at the piano)—"I'm afraid! I'm afraid!"

Her Father—By Jove! You'd jolly soon be capsized by such a squall as that.

Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year 1906, by W. C. Mack, at the Department of Agriculture.