

# TAKE A BACKWARD LOOK

## Nothing Is More Helpful at Any Point in Life

"He saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them."—Mark vi, 48.

"The men who had to do this hard rowing were men in whom Christ had a special interest. They were to take His place after crucifixion and do His work. It was very important therefore, that they meet across the lake safely, and yet He allowed them to meet a contrary wind.

The experiences through which men have to pass are no index to the Divine feeling toward them. Heaven had as great interest in Joseph when in prison as when at the head of affairs in Egypt. The Father's purpose for Moses was the same the day he went into the desert to care for sheep as the day he came out to become Israel's deliverer. David was as much under God's care when hunted by the mad Saul as when writing the twenty-third Psalm. Men who do things must meet opposition. The Divine care may not save from the lion's den, but it will save from the lion's mouth.

There is a valuable thought here for to-day. Men often become discouraged because of the contrary winds they have to meet. A young man goes into business with high ideals, but the rowing is so hard that

HE MAKES LITTLE HEADWAY. Another plans large things, but just as he gets a good foundation laid health fails and much of his plan has to be given up. Another meets reverse in middle life which sends him to the bottom of the hill, with small hope of regaining the ground lost. Such persons often feel that Heaven has no interest in them. It would be hard to do Christ a greater injustice.

No one has the interest in any life that He has in every life. And when men find it hard to get a start, or find the going slow, or lose what has been honorably won, it is no more due to lack of interest in them than it is with the disciples on Genesareth. No sight of earth makes such a strong appeal to the Eternal

Heart as that of a person headed for the other side of the lake but kept back because the wind is contrary. We wrong Our Father, and we wrong ourselves, every time we make material conditions a test of His attitude toward us.

A good thing to do when the wind is contrary is to take a backward look. The disciples did not expect Jesus to come to them, and were frightened when He came. They considered not the miracle of the loaves, that is, they did not recall what He had done only a little time before. Nothing is more helpful at any point in life than to turn on the light of history. Every has-been of other lives tells of a may-be for ours. Whatever has good in it has God behind it. No matter where waters part and ways open into lands flowing with milk and honey

IT IS HE WHO DOES IT. In every experience, therefore, we should think of those who have crossed the lake before us.

Am I a stranger in a large city, compelled to depend on self alone? Many high in position had to do the same, and some of the sweetest memories they have to carry through the years relate to the time when the wind was contrary and the rowing hard. Am I a student seeking an education, with heavy odds against me? Many filling first places are self-made men, who would not exchange the good that came of struggle for any other thing life can give. Am I a young man trying to live a true life, with discouragements on every side? Many of the choicest characters of earth have known began under like conditions and owe much of what they are to opposition met and conquered.

It is always well to think of what has been with others when inclined to take a dark view of what is with ourselves. The most important consideration of life is not as to how much hard rowing we have to do, but as to how much moral muscle we get out of it.

# A PROFESSOR'S PLIGHT

## DOUBLES WHICH BRING MANY TROUBLES.

Close Resemblances Lead to Complications That Are Funny and Serious.

It is an uneasy thing to have a "double," to know that there is some one in the world who is still "other self." The experience is still a more weird when that "double" is a narrow lunatic, and he escapes from confinement.

One case with a serious trend is that of an eastern college professor, who had, unknown to himself, a "double" who was a dangerous madman. It happened that the professor went to spend his holidays in the county that contained the asylum where the other was; and while he was there the lunatic broke loose. One day, while out collecting geological specimens, the unfortunate educator was seized by warders who had been scouring the country and hauled to the madhouse. There, though the doctor expressed some doubts as to the captive's identity, he was detained until, happily, the real lunatic was brought in. At once released, the same man, upset by the incident, was for a time quite ill.

Recovering, he paid the warders who guarded the lunatic a weekly sum to take special care of their charge. "But should he again elude you, inform me at once, and I will remain shut up at home." When the lunatic, under the name of "reflection," sent a handsome sum to the warders and to the asylum in gratitude for

THE RELIEF HE THEN FELT. There is a woman, now living abroad, who left her native country for a peculiar reason. In a large store she was once accused of being a shoplifter. Able to prove her innocence, she was informed of the disturbing fact evidently she had a "double" who was a criminal, take care that she in her own mind, a "learn of your existence," advised the police.

The woman went to live in the country, but when the shoplifter, fleeing from the large cities, continued operations in the smaller towns the woman from her home and had to appear as a witness. Then what the police had foreseen actually happened. The shoplifter, aware of the fact that she exactly resembled the other, started a fresh career of crime passing herself off as the latter. And in the course of time so much annoyance to the respectable double thus resulted that she disappeared from her native land forever.

A young boy, sent home from Europe alone, was looked after on the long voyage by a fellow-passenger, a stranger, who in a harbor where the lad fell overboard also saved his life. On landing the rescuer slipped away before the boy's relations could thank him.

But the lad had a photograph of him, and

HIS GRATEFUL SISTER. By the aid of this, received news that the gentleman was living in another state. Thither she proceeded, saw the original of the picture, as it appeared, and was pouring out her thanks when she learned he was not, after all, her brother's preserver. He was, however, promptly in love with her married. There is something strange to add.

Hearing the story, the real life saver, who was passing through the state, called to see the boy and also his "double." The sister then at last was able to see him, but, oddly enough, she unlike all others, failed to see that he much resembled her husband. And she was thinking to herself, "Had we met I should never have fallen in love with my brother's real preserver when the individual said to her, 'It is an extraordinary thing, but you are surprisingly like my wife.'"

One of the best known actresses has a "double." She became quite unnerved one evening on seeing her "other self" staring at her from out in front. The visit being repeated, the actress, ascertaining the woman's identity, wrote her saying, that, like many other stage folks, she believed in omens, "and it being generally considered so unlucky for 'doubles' to meet, I am quite affected when I suddenly see you. Would you, therefore, kindly send me the dress word when she intended to be present? The reply that came back was that the woman herself was terribly superstitious, she had not known that meetings of "doubles" were unlucky, but now aware of the fact, she would never see the actress play again. Since then, however, the two have been consistent correspondents.

TAKES HIS DOUBLE'S PLACE. Some years ago a certain English royal personage had a "double," who was an oyster opener in a restaurant. For the fun of the thing the member of royalty donned the man's linen sleeves and apron and waited on the guests. One customer, detecting some difference in the attendant's manner, asked why he had been so dissatisfied. The joking reply was, "Been promoted at court." Whereupon the customer, of course, in ignorance, actually said to royalty: "Would not 'been up in court' be more likely?"

Believing in the "unlucky to meet your 'double' theory above mentioned, a millionaire, who had lost that a certain individual exactly resembled him, gave that "shadow" a substantial sum to leave the country. The man went to the West Indies, and, by causing it to be suspected that he was the rich person's twin brother, he got, in a few days, and acquired, a fortune. The moral was not lost to others. Another millionaire was informed where his "other self" could be seen. A meeting being however, exactly what was not desired, the other man was hand-somely remunerated to get out of the way. Years afterwards the millionaire learned that his supposed "double" was not in the least like him. It had been just a

# PILOT TO BRING IN DOLLARS.

## YOUNG FOLKS

A certain detective agency, seeking a "wanted" forger, discovered a man who was his double, save that he had a mustache. Paying this individual to "disappear" temporarily, they, through lawyers, advertised him, with portrait, as missing, mentioning that he could claim considerable property. The bait was taken.

The forger cultivated a mustache like spoken to in mistake for someone to claim the possessions, and was arrested.

In Austria an American jockey had a double. The jockey inherited money from his late employer, whereupon the double declared that he himself was the rightful legatee. Unable to decide which was which, the pair were weighed, the jockey—his riding weight known—thus established his identity, and the heavier pretender went to prison. In New York there is a man who for years has sometimes twice in one day, been spoken to in mistake for someone else. Never in all that time has he himself seen his "double." Concerning which, it may be said that "doubles" often do not themselves recognize their likeness to each other.

# \$800 FOR A SINGLE MEAL

## FREAKS OF SOME EXTRA-GAUNT DINERS.

Fifteen to Twenty Dollars Would Provide the Most Expensive Dinner.

Three hundred dollars—half a year's income for hundreds of thousands of clerks—for a single meal! Such was the regal hospitality with which Mr. and Mrs. John Hanan entertained forty of their friends at a house-warming dinner in New York two or three weeks ago.

Such costly hospitality as this raises the interesting question, "How much of the \$300 per guest was spent on the food alone?" and the answer is rather surprising. M. Escoffier, a chef of world-wide reputation, says: "As far as the food is concerned, and apart from wines and decorations, you could not make a menu cost more than \$15 a head for four people without being eccentric." Such a menu, which would satisfy the most exacting of epicures, would include the

MOST COSTLY DELICACIES. The world can supply, such as swallows' nests from China; oysters, a kind of crayfish caught in the Mediterranean; caviare from Russia, sturgeon from the Volga, and terrapin from America.

Another famous chef fixes \$20 as the cost of the most expensive dinner he could provide—in food alone. "In any dinner in which common sense is taken into account," he says, "the food alone would not cost you more than \$20 a cover; that is without wines, decorations, or attendance."

It is thus clear that anyone who is prepared to entertain his friends at the cost of \$15 or \$20 a head could provide for them as good a dinner as the man who counts his fortune in tens of millions of dollars, and that any expenditure beyond this relatively modest figure is, apart from wines, lavished on externals, and principally on decorations.

Thus, at a dinner which cost \$50 a head, given not long ago by a millionaire to celebrate a remarkable run of luck at Monte Carlo, the walls of the dining-room were surrounded by peach trees and vines, from which the guests gathered the growing fruit for dessert; and in the centre of the table a fountain of rose-water plashed in a veritable orchard of

DWARF FRUIT TREES. At another dinner of eighteen covers, which cost in all \$13,000, or over \$720 a cover, the dining-room was converted into a natural grove or arbor, from which the fruit hung in hundreds of tempting bunches; there were dwarf trees from Japan, each bearing its burden of seductive fruit, the rarest exotics from all parts of the world, and fountains in which fish swam.

Not long ago a Western millionaire entertained thirty of his friends at a banquet for which he paid \$8,000, at least fifteen times the actual cost of the dinner itself. One charming feature of this meal was a centrepiece of 3,000 American Beauty roses nestling among maidenhair ferns. Each rose of the 3,000 cost the host \$1.50.

A notable dinner of this extravagant type was given at "Lombico's" some years ago by Mr. Luckmeyer. In the centre of the table was a miniature lake with islets, among which swans floated. The dinner consisted of nine courses only, but they comprised the rarest and most costly delicacies the whole world could provide; and the cost of the feast was \$12,500, or a little more than \$165 for each of the seventy-five guests.—London Tit-Bits.

ABYSSINIAN CUSTOM. At Abyssinia, a singular custom is observed. When any person is injured, he gets hold, if possible, of his adversary's garment and ties it to his own. If he can do this, the offender never attempts to release himself nor to leave the garment behind him, but quietly follows to the presence of his superiors who are to judge him.

IT'S BUSY DAY. Now doth the busy ant disport At picnics overmuch, Invading cakes of every sort

# THE LITTLE WHISTLE.

## MISS GENEVIVE MAY.

They were picking wild strawberries on the western slope of the old pasture, and Benny had a small tin dipper to his belt. He was not picking many berries, and those he found soon went to his mouth; but Katy and Helen were industriously filling their pails. Benny had a shrill tin whistle, and he blew noisily every moment that he was not eating berries.

"Oh, that noise!" said Helen, at last. "I do wish I would never hear that whistle again!" She spoke impatiently, and Benny felt a little lump rise in his throat. He would have answered sharply, but for that. He wanted to say, "Oh, yes, keep on telling secrets, but when I am bigger I won't tell you anything I know." As he walked away he wished that his eyes would not get so full of tears, because Helen said only babies cried.

He crossed the pasture and went round a big boulder, out of sight. When he was far enough away he began again to blow his whistle lustily, and the discordant notes rang through the near-by woods, as on and on he walked into the thickets. He did not care now for strawberries, and he did see a wonderful little bird that appeared to be lame, and he followed it as it hopped away in the woods. There were so many things to see that he quite forgot the berry-pickers, and when he came to a clear stream he took off his shoes and stockings and dabbed his toes in the water.

The afternoon sun had waned and the shadows were beginning to lengthen when Helen and Katy, with well-filled dishes, began to look about for Benny. He was nowhere to be seen. They listened for the little shrill whistle, but heard nothing but the birds calling at sunset. They called and shouted, looking everywhere, but they could not even hear his whistle, and their hearts sank with fear. They dared not go home and say that Benny was lost, and yet they dared not wait any longer, for they knew it was time for supper, and that mother would be watching for them.

"Perhaps he went home," said Katy. "I just about know he did." But Helen had a fear at her heart that that would not be calmed, and they ran toward the house without further words. Poor Helen was thinking how she could explain to mother, for she had promised to take good care of Benny.

Mother was watching for them, but Benny had not come home. There was no supper for any one until Benny could be found, and papa and Uncle Ned and several of the neighbors started off across the pasture. Poor Helen followed after.

It was some hours later that the searching-party found Benny wandering round in a circle in the wood. He had left his shoes beside the stream, and was walking with bleeding feet, for he could not find them again. To keep his courage up he had blown loudly on his whistle, and it was this that the men heard, and were led in the right direction. Helen was standing at the edge of the wood with some of the others, and as she saw Benny riding home on her father's shoulder she gave a cry of joy and ran toward him.

When Benny saw her he waved his hand. "I guess you did want to hear the whistle again, didn't you?" he said, and then he blew a mighty note.

Helen reached up and took his hand. "Sister wants to hear it—oh, a lot!" she said.

DON'T BORROW. A man who for a long period of years has borrowed the greater part of his farming tools of his neighbors sometimes show great reluctance to lend when he happens to come into possession of something new in that line of his own. It's a fact that some men are built that way. We know of a fellow that depended upon his neighbors for more than half his tools for eight or nine years and refused one of them, who had accommodated him scores of times, the loan of a new scythe. And then soon after this act of meanness he had the gall to send his boy over to this same neighbor and ask the loan of his post-hole digger. Instead of the digger, the boy brought back a note to his father containing these words: "Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices."

IMPROVING GULLIES. On many farms are pronounced gullies, or runs, which not only injure the appearance of fields, but increase the labor of working the farm. Many of these have a small stream of water running down through the centre. To improve such conditions, old stone walls should be filled into the bottoms of the runs for drainage, and shoulders of the banks plowed down upon the stones. Treated in this way, runs that formerly required machinery, with a result, too, that where only swale grass would grow, good hay can now be grown. If stone walls are not waiting to be cleared away, a tile drain can be laid through the centre of the run, and the banks plowed down to cover it deeply.

CLERICAL HANDY-MAN. The Rev. C. Ferguson, vicar of Peak Forest, Derbyshire, England, who has just died, carved monuments to Queen Victoria, and the late Duke of Devonshire, helped the farmers to plough, thatch, and stack at busy times, and "doctored" the countryside for miles round.

# CURED BY PE-RU-NA.

## MISS GENEVIVE MAY.

Miss Genevive May, 1817 S. Meridian St., Indianapolis, Ind., Member Second High School Alumni Ass'n, writes:

"Peruna is the finest regulator of a disordered stomach I have ever found. It certainly deserves high praise, for it is skillfully prepared."

"I was in a terrible condition from a neglected case of catarrh of the stomach. My food had long ceased to be of any good and only distressed me after eating. I was nauseated, had heartburn and headaches, and felt run down completely. But in two weeks after I took Peruna I was a changed person. A few bottles of the medicine made a great change, and in three months my stomach was cleared of catarrh, and my entire system in a better condition."

Write Dr. Hartman, President of The Hartman Sanitarium, Columbus, Ohio, for free medical advice. All correspondence held strictly confidential.

COOKING IN CAMP. Valuable Hints For the Amateur Hunter.

Campers who want a good breakfast—and a good lunch, too—may be reminded of what experienced hunters know—that a hole in the ground makes a good oven. Beans may be prepared and baked as follows:

"Dig a hole in dry ground about three feet long, eighteen inches wide and fourteen inches deep. Build a good fire in the hole with hard wood, preferably, or pine limbs, and let the fire turn to coals. The earth round the hole must get very hot. While the fire is getting into proper shape, prepare the beans for baking by peeling and draining off the water. Turn the parboiled beans into your camp-kettle. The beans should not fill the kettle more than three-quarters full. Place a slice of pork or bacon on top, with a pinch of salt if necessary, and fill the kettle with cold water. With a cover fitted closely over the kettle, one dish is ready for baking.

Next, clear a place in the hole for the kettle by raking the coals aside, and put down your kettle. An inch or two of ashes round and over the kettle keeps the beans from burning. Then heap the coals round and over the ashes, and throw over a foot of ashes and dry earth. In the morning, when you dig up your kettle, you will find a most delicious dish of baked beans.

A chicken or a grouse also cooks well in a hole-in-the-ground oven. Dress and wash the bird inside, ready for cooking, but do not remove the feathers. Put salt and pepper inside the bird. Then wrap the bird in green grass. Encase the whole in wet clay. Place it in the hole of coals as you do with the kettle of beans, and cover it with ashes and coals and dry earth. The beans and the bird may well go into the same hole. In the morning when the baked clay ball is dug up and broken open, the feathers peel off with the grass end clay, and the juicy white meat lies out steaming and tempting.

Many things can be cooked in the ground, and a camper will find experimenting worth while.

THE SCIENCE OF WHEELS. Attention has been called by technical writers to the fact that the wheels of vehicles intended for driving-roads have not kept pace in development with the other parts of carriage mechanism. Experiments with heavy vehicles indicate that wheels should be made both higher and broader. In England it has been recommended that with a maximum axle load of eight tons the width of tire should be about 10 1/2 inches. Increase of the diameter of the wheel is said to be more effective in preventing damage to road-beds than width of tire.

HEAVIEST BACK BURDENS. Probably the greatest weights carried on the backs of men for any distance are the loads of ore brought up from the mines of the Andes by miners of Chili. In a copper mine in a ravine leading from the main range of the Cordilleras, all the ore is carried a vertical distance of 450 feet, and the average weight per man is 250 lb. This load is carried up ladders made of notched trunks of trees, set almost upright, one touching the other.

# THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

## INTERNATIONAL LESSON, JULY 9.

### Lesson II. Hezekiah's Prayer. Golden Text, Psa. xvi. 1.

#### LESSON WORD STUDIES.

Note.—These Word Studies for this lesson are based on the text of the Revised Version.

Four Historical Chapters.—Our canonical book of Isaiah falls naturally into two great portions, the first of which includes chapters 1-39, and the second the remaining chapters of the book. Of the first part the last four chapters (36-39 inclusive) again form a smaller division quite distinct from the chapters preceding. These four chapters are historical, while those preceding are more or less strictly prophetic. The historical chapters are introduced in the body of the prophetic book for the purpose of giving the reader the purpose of a summary of important facts concerning the life of the great prophet. They are a summary of the events narrated in 2 Kings xviii. 13 to xx. 19, from which account they were doubtless taken. The two accounts differ as regards important matters only in two points; the summary in Isaiah does not record Hezekiah's submission mentioned in 2 Kings xviii. 14-16, but does insert Hezekiah's psalm of thanksgiving on his recovery (chap. xxvii. 9-20), the latter not being found in the account in Kings. The parallel accounts should be read together.

Verse 1. In those days—This expression is doubtless to be taken as an indefinite reference to some portion of Hezekiah's reign, the chronology of which as a matter of fact presents many difficulties. From the arrangement of the narrative, both here and in 2 Kings, it would seem as if the sickness of Hezekiah followed the retreat of Sennacherib, but a closer examination leads us to conclude otherwise. From 2 Kings xx. 12 and Isa. xxxix. 1 it is plain that the sickness preceded the embassy of Merodach-baladan, king of Babylon, from 721 to 709 B. C., and again for a brief period during 702 B. C. Sennacherib's invasion occurred in the year B. C. 701. Hence the sickness of Hezekiah which preceded the embassy sent by the Babylonian king (probably during his second and shorter reign) must have preceded the deliverance of Jerusalem from the Assyrian king, which occurred still later. The events, therefore, of chapters 28 and 39 precede in point of time those of chapters 36 and 37.

Isaiah the Prophet.—The author of large parts of the book bearing his name, living in the time of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, kings of Judah. The greatest of Hebrew prophets, and, at the same time, doubtless, the greatest of Hebrew statesmen. He was especially noted for the strength of his personality, the wisdom of his statesmanship, the length and unbroken assurance of his ministry, the almost unaltered service which he rendered to Judah at the greatest crisis of her history, the purity and grandeur of his style, and the great influence he exerted on subsequent prophecy.

Thus saith Jehovah.—The prophet's authority was not his own. It was as the accredited messenger and rep-

resentative of God that he was respected and obeyed if at all.

Set thy house in order.—Literally, "Give command to thy house." The parting command of a man about to die was considered sacred and binding. Compare Jacob's charge to Joseph (Gen. xlix. 19-33). It was more than a last wish, and was rather of the nature of making a will, as it related oftentimes to the disposition of lands and of property, and in the case of kings of the royal sceptre as well.

2. Turned his face to the wall.—In order to be alone with God in this hour of anguish. It is probable that Hezekiah was at this time childless (his son Manasseh was born later), in which case his death at this time might have meant the extinction of his house and possibly of the house of David also.

3. Remember . . . how I have walked.—Words of bold confidence on the part of Hezekiah. Long life was considered a mark of God's approval, and compared with his immediate predecessors Hezekiah's administration certainly did seem to merit this mark of approval. Jehovah does not dispute the claim, but grants the request.

4. Then came the word of Jehovah to Isaiah.—The answer to the prayer was immediate, as shown in the account in 2 Kings xx. 4, which explains that it was "before Isaiah was gone out into the middle court" that he received word to return with this glad message.

5. David thy father.—The terms "father" and "son" were more loosely used among the Hebrews than they are at present among us. It is here used in the sense of "ancestor."

Fifteen years.—According to 2 Kings xviii. 2 Hezekiah became king at the age of twenty-five, and reigned in all twenty-nine years; hence he must at this time have been thirty-nine years old and in the fifteenth year of his reign.

6. I will deliver thee and this city.—This verse seems to point to the fact that the siege of the city had not yet taken place. Doubtless, however, Sennacherib's invasion was at this time anticipated and greatly feared.

7. The shadow on the steps . . . of the pyramid.—We are to think of a pyramid of steps on the top of which stood a short pillar or obelisk, so constructed that when the sun rose in the morning the shadow of the pillar just covered the lowest step on the western side of the pyramid. As the sun rose in the eastern sky the shadow shortened, climbing step by step to the foot of the obelisk at the top of the pyramid. After noon as the sun descended toward the west the shadow gradually descended on the opposite or eastern side of the pyramid. Thus the position of the shadow on the steps of the pyramid indicated quite accurately the time of the day. Clocks known to the ancients, and which consisted of a vertical shadow regularly lengthening the day was a prodigy, as some have thought, symbolic of the postponement of that "night in which no man can work" (death), which had so nearly overtaken the king.

GERMAN PAPER FLOORS. Paper floors are growing in favor in Germany. They have no joints or harbor dust, fungi, or vermin, and feel soft under foot. They are also cheaper than hard wood floors. The paper is spread in the form of paste, rolled, and, when dry, painted to imitate wood.

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