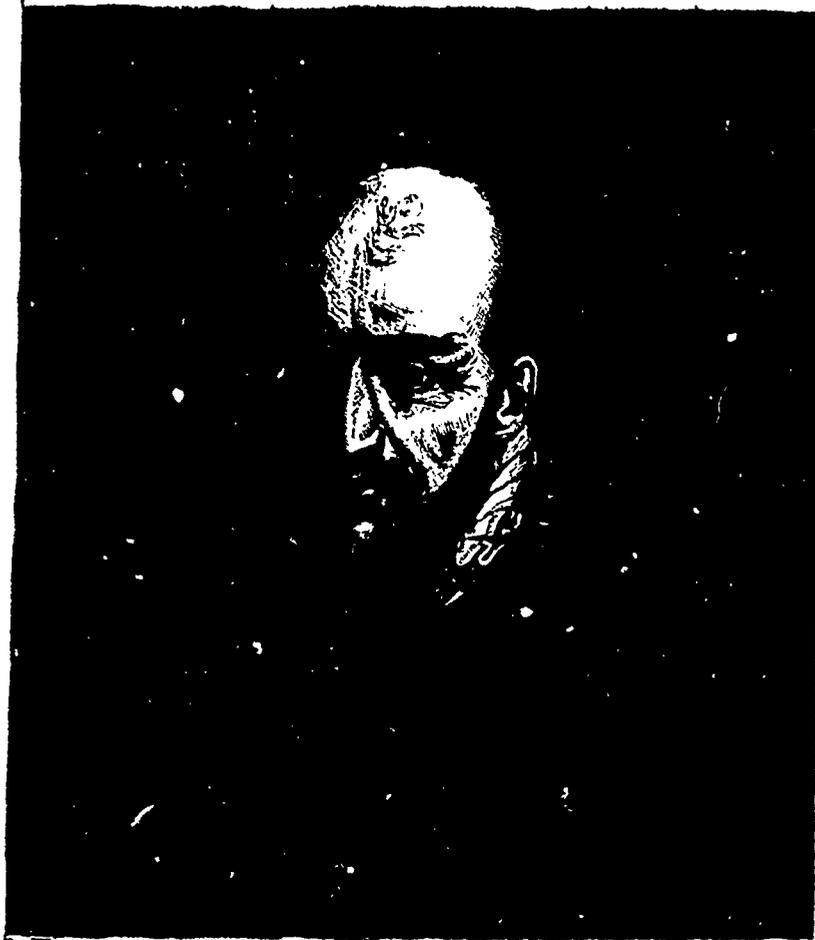


BERNARD PALISSY.

Doubtless many of the readers of the MESSENGER are familiar with the name of Palissy, the great Huguenot potter, but the story of his life may be interesting to all. In studying the character and career of a great man, the reader too frequently surveys him as the man of exploit, of fame, of fortune, and forgets that through long weary nights when the sun of patronage withheld its light, the hero trod the mazes of anxiety and poverty and was a hero then. Though born of the French peasantry, Palissy nevertheless was born into the world with the essentials of true nobility, and having been educated to the trade of glass-coloring, he devoted to it that close attention which afterward begat in him the absorbing desire to discover the hidden process which eventually gave him title to the admiration of his countrymen. He was early characterized by a marked talent for drawing and moulding, and above all, for that pure sentiment which found satisfaction in the study of Nature, and loved to revel in the beautiful diversity of plant, fossil and rock. While living with Lisette, his young wife, in the quiet town of Saintes, he became so anxious to discover the process of enamels, known only to one house which flourished in Italy, that he entered upon a struggle with poverty, disappointment and anxiety, renouncing his trade and experimenting in a rude furnace, which he had erected in his garden, upon a number of earthen pots, hoping that the application of heat might reveal at least some clue to the secret he desired. His first experiments were utter failures; but through weeks, and months, and years, the stern, heroic perseverance of his character sustained him in his fruitless toil, and at the end of eight long years, perseverance met with its merited success. Aided financially, he obtained the skill of practical workmen, and when another eight years had gone his sanguine hopes had developed into fruition, and his art became so perfect that he could imitate every color in nature. The great reformer Calvin had resided near his home, and the seed of reformation teaching, conveyed to him by several of Calvin's pupils, with whom he associated, took deep root in Palissy's heart and led him to renounce the errors of Rome, and cast in his lot with the persecuted Huguenots. The



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great success which attended his efforts in the decoration of pottery, &c., and had given him a position among the great, did not shield him altogether from the wiles of the persecutors, and he was cast into prison and sentenced to die. M. de Montmorency, a nobleman of great influence, had become attached to him and had granted him liberal patronage, and wishing to deliver him repaired to the palace of the Queen-regent, Catherine de Medicis. Finding her rapt in the project of building a new palace to excel all others in grandeur, and to be called the Palace of Tuileries, he at once

embraced his opportunity, and reminded the Queen that there was no workman cunning enough to ornament the royal grounds, excepting Palissy the Huguenot, under sentence of death. Immediately an edict issued granting a reprieve and appointing him worker in earth to His Majesty. Thus he was snatched from death, and introduced to a new sphere in the brilliance of court life. Most of his preserved specimens belong to this period, and are now found among the ornaments in the seats of wealthy old families or in national museums. We give illustrations of a celebrated dish called



THE CHARITY DISH.

"Charity," and a goblet ornamented with shells and fossils, specimens of his workmanship, now in the Louvre Museum. The strength of character which never wavered through years of disappointment had yet to abide a far more trying test. The religion which he had espoused and made his guardian principle drew upon him the curse of heresy and the awful malice of intolerance, and Palissy the aged was cast into a cell in the Bastille, where he lay for four years, cut off from human kind, with the sentence of death hanging over his head. The blazing persecutions of the intolerant forbade the King himself from releasing heretics, and noblemen and King together sought the cell of the aged Huguenot to persuade him to turn from his heresies. But with that majestic fortitude which characterized him through life he replied to all their entreaties: "I am not afraid; I know how to die." Although many different days had been appointed for his execution, the dread sentence never took effect, and the old man died at the age of eighty. The record of his life should be an inspiration to every workman now. Perseverance may not be rewarded by the patronage of the nobility, but in a good cause it will give sublimity to the character which exercises it, while the principles which Palissy maintained are the same and will enhance success, afford comfort in trial, and hope of a resurrection equally glorious.

CHARLIE'S PUZZLE.

BY MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

There it was, as plain as print could make it, the text from which the stranger minister preached that Sunday morning in October. Charlie Thorne had gone to church, a thing he did not always do, for, unfortunately, his father and mother went only occasionally, and they let their little son follow his own inclinations. His Sunday-school teacher, however, had recently asked his class to sit with him in his pew, and quite a number of the boys had accepted the invitation, and were to be found at their place in the middle aisle, behaving like young gentlemen, every Sunday. The pastor liked to see their bright faces and eager eyes, and he always tried, somewhere in his sermon, to say a special word for those listeners to hear.

The stranger minister had not directed any part of his ser-