

## FAITH IN OUR FELLOWS

Somewhere In Every Man There Is Some Good

Jesus looked upon him and said: "Thou art Simon, the son of John; thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, Rock."—John 8: 42.

Poor Peter has never been much of a favorite with the preachers; he was so thoroughly unstable, unideal. But the people have always had a tender feeling for him, partly because he was a fisherman, partly because he was so much like the rest of us. Nothing is more striking in the life of Jesus than his affection for ordinary men. The cultured Pharisees, the philosophical Sadducees, seem to have much less attraction to him than the rude fishermen and the tollers. These men were often weak, sometimes cowardly, obstinate, dull, mediocre; yet he committed his kingdom to them; he believed in them before they had faith in him; he had faith in them; and that ultimately made them men.

It sounded much like cruel sarcasm when he told that weak, vacillating Simon that he was a rock. Those who knew Peter best must have smiled; he was more like a jelly fish. But Jesus could see the best that was in a man. He detected the hidden good even in Peter. He proves his own goodness by his faith in the good in every man. Later, when Peter fails him, he still believes in the Letter Peter.

Somewhere in every man there is some good. Overlaid it may be by passion, by habits, by prejudice grown out of wrong and suffering per chance;

BUT STILL IT IS THERE.

Faith in this and sympathy, these are the golden keys that unlock the doors to where the good lies buried. The saviors of society have always been those who looked for the best in it. If you go through life seeking the best in man, you will find it, and the chances are it will devour you, if you look for the beauty that is from above you will find it, and it will bless you. There are reformers who call all men the children of the devil; they never induce them to become the sons of God. It is just as necessary to have faith in man as it is to have faith in God. If man cannot become good, then there is no God in the sense of a power that makes for goodness. The optimist not only believes in the best, he creates the better.

Some there are who reluctantly admit that God is a little better than they are, though that may be due

to his circumstances, but they have never imagined for an instant that any one else is at all good. Believe it or not, men are wholly bad and they will not disappoint you. Every man somehow responds to the expectations of others. You had better damn a man than despair of him. Neither a church nor an individual often help this world when they have more confidence in the power of evil to become all pervasive than in the power of the Most High to make his purposes felt in every heart as truly as he makes his sun to shine on the just and the unjust. The church often consigns men to perdition and then wonders why they are reluctant to walk with it the other way. So long as you have faith in total depravity you will find some facts to substantiate it.

BUT THERE IS A BETTER WAY.

Sympathy with men will do more for them than sermons on their sins. Look for the best in them and you will find things better than you expected. There are flower beds as well as garbage heaps in every heart; at least, there are spots where seeds of the fairest flowers of heaven may be sown.

You do not have to be a fool to have faith in your fellows. You do not need to take the padlocks off of their hearts; but you do need to take them off your heart. There may be those whom it would be wrong to trust with your cash box; but it is a greater wrong to withhold from them your kindness. You can show them that you believe the best instead of the worst of them.

The Great Teacher told men that He came not to condemn, but to give life. His followers have too often been busy condemning themselves wholly with condemnation and then wonder that their sentences saved none. Every soul knows its own sentence; what it needs to feel is that God and all good men are with it, helping it to shake off its sentence, to arise and return to the Father, that instead of all things conspiring to keep a man down, there is a cloud of witnesses cheering him on, a mighty choir of invisible inspiring his heart. And there is nothing any man can do of greater worth to the world than to cheer on another by his faith in him, his high expectation of him, his wise blindness to some little faults, and his propagating approval of the best he begins to see in him. Men are the saviors of men by their faith in men.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, JULY 2.

Lesson I. Sennacherib's Invasion. Golden Text, 2 Chron. 32:8.

LESSON WORD STUDIES.

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

Introductory Note.—The Old Testament lessons which begin with this month, and which will be continued throughout the remainder of this year, take up again the thread of Jewish history at the point at which the last Old Testament lesson for 1904 dropped the study. Samaria, the capital of the northern kingdom, had fallen in the year 722 B.C., just after Sargon, general of the Assyrian army, had ascended the throne of Assyria. Sargon had led into captivity many thousands of the people of Israel. At the same time Hezekiah, a God-fearing king and strenuous reformer, was on the throne of Judah. His chief counselor was none other than the great prophet and statesman Isaiah. When in the year 705 Sargon died and was succeeded by Sennacherib, the king of Assyria, the Assyrian monarch, Tyre, Philistia, and others—considered this an opportune moment to declare and re-establish their independence. Judah also was nominally a dependency of the Assyrian monarch, though retaining a degree of independence not enjoyed by the neighboring provinces. In the year 701 Sennacherib, after subduing similar revolts in other parts of his kingdom, undertook a campaign against Palestine in order to bring into subjection again the revolting provinces. After quickly reducing to submission the kingdoms to the north and west he invaded Judah, took most of its fenced cities, led away many captives, and all but succeeded in capturing Jerusalem itself. At this point our lesson for to-day takes up the story.

Verse 9. After this—That is, after preparation for the defense of the city (Jerusalem) had been completed (comp. verses 1-8).

Sennacherib—Assyrian. "Sin-akhi-er-ba." Sin (the moon god) hath increased the brethren. Son of Sargon, king of Assyria (705-681 B.C.). During almost his entire reign Babylon was in a state of revolt against the Assyrian monarch, and Judah after the invasion of 701 was left undisturbed in its independence. As a ruler Sennacherib was boastful and vain, possessing few of the sterling traits of his distinguished father. He built the great wall of Nineveh, eight miles in circumference, and also the famous palace of Konyunjik. To him also is ascribed the extensive repairing of ancient aqueducts and the construction of brick outworks along the side of the Tigris River. He was murdered in 681 B.C. by his son (or sons), who instigated a rebellion against the father and succeeded in holding Nineveh for six weeks. At the end of that time, however, another son, Assarhaddon, who at the time of the murder commanded the

Assyrian army in a campaign against Ararat, defeated the rebel brother (or brothers), took Nineveh, and succeeded his father Sennacherib on the throne of Assyria (comp. 2 Kings 19: 37).

Assyria—A country famed in antiquity on the east and the middle Tigris, between thirty-five and thirty-seven degrees north latitude. Its ancient name was Assur, and its extent varied greatly at different times. Before Lachish—An important fenced city twenty-five miles south of Jerusalem, the capture and spoliation of which by Sennacherib is described on an Assyrian relief tablet now in the British Museum. Sennacherib's ultimate objective being Egypt, the capture of Lachish was to him of the greatest importance, for the capture of Jerusalem.

Hezekiah—The twelfth king and (counting Queen Athaliah) the thirteenth sovereign of the separate kingdom of Judah. His father was the wicked King Ahaz, and his son the less wicked Manasseh. Between these two Hezekiah, who instituted many reforms, stands out in a most favorable light.

10. In the siege—Perhaps better, as in the marginal reading, in the fortress, or fortified city. The natural position as well as the fortification of Jerusalem was of great importance. 11. To die by famine and by thirst—The besieging general virtually admits that to take the city by storm was out of the question. A simple siege alone could compel its surrender.

12. His high places—Outdoor sanctuaries of Jehovah, located on hills in different parts of the kingdom. Hezekiah removed these high places, as well as the altars of Baal, to the north and west he invaded Judah, took most of its fenced cities, led away many captives, and all but succeeded in capturing Jerusalem itself. At this point our lesson for to-day takes up the story.

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Jews and of Jerusalem, and the gods of Assyria, and the superior strength of the latter they had the utmost confidence.

16. Jehovah—A word resulting from the corruption of two Hebrew words, the masculine "Jeh" and the feminine "wah," meaning God. The Hebrews in writing used only consonants, the vowel sounds being supplied by the reader. Hence the word "Jehovah," meaning God. The Hebrews in writing used only consonants, the vowel sounds being supplied by the reader. Hence the word "Jehovah," meaning God. The Hebrews in writing used only consonants, the vowel sounds being supplied by the reader. Hence the word "Jehovah," meaning God.

17. The word Adonai was printed with the consonants of the word Yahweh, to indicate that not Yahweh, but Adonai, was to be spoken. These consonants of the word Yahweh, together with the vowels of the word Adonai, if pronounced as written, as he makes his sun to shine on the just and the unjust. The church often consigns men to perdition and then wonders why they are reluctant to walk with it the other way. So long as you have faith in total depravity you will find some facts to substantiate it.

18. Sympathy with men will do more for them than sermons on their sins. Look for the best in them and you will find things better than you expected. There are flower beds as well as garbage heaps in every heart; at least, there are spots where seeds of the fairest flowers of heaven may be sown.

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PHYSICIAN QUANDARY.

To Violate the Medical Code or Risk Disaster.

Is a doctor justified in violating the code of medical ethics in order to avert a possible disaster that may cause a great loss of life? That is a question which the medical profession has submitted to the British Medical Journal for solution and has been answered by such a high authority that his first duty is to stick to the code, let the consequences be what they may. As the case on which the moral question is based is a remarkable one, and the etiquette of the profession is about the same on both sides of the Atlantic, it is a matter that will possess some interest for our readers.

It appears that a certain doctor who is engaged by a railway provident society, managed by the men and not by the company, was consulted by a signaller, who was found to be suffering from heart disease. That might cause him to drop dead at any moment, or without warning render him incapable of attending to his duties. The railway performance depended on the safety of thousands of passengers. On this account the doctor urged him to seek some other employment where his inability to sudden death or collapse would not endanger other lives. The man refused. Other jobs were not easily found, especially by a man suffering from heart disease. Self-protection was his only course of action. Therefore, he would stick to his job and the traveling public who used that particular section of the line over which he stood guard would have to suffer the consequences.

But the medical man was haunted by the knowledge that his patient's condition might lead to an appalling disaster in which scores of lives might be lost and hundreds be maimed and injured. All possibility of such a catastrophe had to be averted, and the signaller's railway company of the signaller's physical condition. That would lead to his prompt removal from the signal box. He might be given another job, or he might be sacked. But if the doctor should inform the company of the facts that had come to his knowledge in his professional capacity would he not be guilty of a breach of the obligations imposed upon him as a physician? In this dilemma he decided for himself.

"Our correspondent," says the editor, "has done his duty by pointing out to the patient his unfitness for work, but he would be violating the rule of professional secrecy if he communicated to the company the facts which have become known to him in his professional capacity." Which amounts to saying that considerations of medical ethics are of more importance than the security of railway passengers. With this opinion the public will hardly agree. The rule doctors should not disclose an excellent one in the vast majority of cases. But this seems to be a case in which inculcating greater harm may arise from sticking to the rule than by making an exception to it.

TO AIR THE SICK ROOM.

To air the sick room, cover the patient over while doing it, let down the window at the top, swing down rapidly, but quietly, backwards and forwards for a few minutes; it will quickly pump the bad air out, and draw in the fresh air from the window.

## CHILDREN FIRE HEROES

A VETERAN FIREMAN TELLS HIS EXPERIENCES.

Remarkable Instances of Coolness and Courage Shown by Youngsters.

During my twenty-five years in the New York Fire Department, said a veteran recently, I have witnessed examples of courage and coolness displayed by children in the face of extreme danger that would have done credit to well, the bravest of us. It is a curious fact, too, that when youngsters do show a superabundance of nerve it is generally combined with some common sense, and thereby many lives have been saved. Here, for instance, is a case in which two, and possibly three, children might have been burned to death had it not been for the sound wisdom as well as courage of a little girl of fourteen. A fire had broken out in the cellar of a house in a low part of the city, and it worked so rapidly into the adjoining rooms on each side that the three dwellings were well alight before an alarm was sent in. When we arrived flames were pouring from all the front windows of the house, and we knew that it would not be an easy matter to rescue those tenants who had not already escaped.

On the floor of the dwelling lived a family of the name of Koblum, and inquiries revealed the fact that during the early stages of the fire the father and mother had escaped, but the children were still in the house. As they were declared, that the children would follow. But, as often happens in such cases,

THEY DID NOT, and three youngsters—Anna, aged fourteen, Sarah, aged six, and David, aged four—were left in the burning building.

With great coolness, however, Anna roused the two babies who had been left by their terrified parents sleeping in the room, and began to dress them, but the flames had spread so rapidly that she was obliged to desert and flee. She soon found that there was no escape by the staircase, for that was burning, so she made her way to the fire-escape at the back of the house, climbed through the window, lifted each child in her arms, and telling them to cling tightly to her neck she proceeded to descend.

When she had reached the second floor almost exhausted, but as stout of heart as when she started, she was met by fireman Flynn, who was on his way to her rescue. He took the babies from the arms of the little heroine, and when Anna reached the ground she was greeted with a cheer by the firemen. The distracted parents, who apparently lacked the courage and coolness of their daughter, went almost wild with delight, though it would certainly have been their fault had the children perished.

I remember another case in which a boy of ten proved himself the possessor of remarkable nerve. In this instance the mother, who was in a hot room, saw the flames breaking out on the fourth floor. That not a single life was lost was due to young Frank Adams, who was residing at the hotel at the time. The occupants of the top floor were entirely

CUT OFF FROM ESCAPE by the windows, and as the fire ladders were on the side of the house where the flames were hottest it was impossible to reach them.

There was, unfortunately, some delay in bringing up the fire-escape, and many of the imprisoned people were preparing to jump when Frank Adams entered the passenger lift, ran the car to the top floor, though the smoke was almost blinding, and shouting to the frightened guests to keep cool he took in as many as his car would hold and quickly descended. He made ten or twelve trips, never failing to encourage those on the different floors by his passing with the promise of speedy rescue. By this means close on seventy people were brought to the ground, and as a consequence not a single fatality occurred.

When the hero was questioned regarding his knowledge of running an elevator he stated that he had often accompanied the lift-man on his trips and had learned from this how to run the car. The lad was afterwards presented with a gold watch as a reward for his bravery.

Children also frequently display courage and coolness in assisting at their own rescue. In one case a child's nerve stood a strain which might have broken that of the bravest adult. Here is the story. Fire had broken out in a high tenement, and the child, who supposed that all had been rescued, was left alone.

A LITTLE WHITE FACE appeared at the window of the top story, and a cry went up from the crowd when it was seen that no fire-escape could reach her.

But her rescue was at once attempted. Our longest telescopic escape was brought, but it only reached within six feet of the eighth floor (the top being the ninth), and the child's face seemed sealed. But a fireman ran up, and with the aid of a grappling hook he managed to climb up the window below the one at which the child was standing. Having arrived there he sat on the sill with his feet inside the room and lowered the escape. Then he leaned