

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

MAY 15, 1881.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS.— Luke xvi. 19-31.

We are first conveyed to a princely mansion. The owner had surrounded himself with all the luxuries of the East. Slaves waited for the expression of every wish and flew to do his bidding. Every day the festive board was loaded with dainties, and round that board, in the purple robes of dignity and state, on couches of luxurious ease, the rich man and his friends gave themselves up to enjoyment.

Turning from all this splendor and luxury, we see outside the gate of that mansion, a poor man, waiting to receive some fragments of the plenty within—he is worn and emaciated with disease and want—offensive ulcers cover his body, and the dogs in passing gently lick them, as though in pity of his sufferings. How pitiable an object under any circumstances, but how much more pitiable there—before the rich man's gate—within sight of the windows of the festive hall—within reach of the sound of revelry—lying in their selfish gratification, paying no heed to his necessities. Are there no such contrasts to be seen still? Alas! even in our own beloved land you may turn from a scene of gaiety and enjoyment only to be brought into contact with one of misery and want.

But the scene changes. The beggar died. Death released him from his sufferings. And then the grim messenger passed into the grand house. What heeded the great Keeper that in the one case his stroke had been a woe, while in the next he would take the man from all the enjoyments in which he delighted. So he passed on, undisturbed by the splendour and the gaiety; struck his dart; gaiety was exchanged for alarm—there was harrying to and fro—the master was done—all that human skill could do was done—all that kindness could effect was tried—but in vain: the stroke was an unerring one, and not all his wealth could purchase restoration. He died, and instead of the sounds of mirth there proceeded from that mansion the wail of the mourners. In a few hours a funeral procession issued forth, and he was buried with all the honors his wealth could purchase.

The veil is now drawn aside, and we are permitted to gaze into the mysteries of eternity. The positions of these two men are altogether reversed. The rich man is in misery—the beggar in happiness; the one in Abraham's bosom, the other in hell. The beggar had been carried to heaven by angels. We have no account of his burial—his body may have been cast out to the wolves and the vultures—but angels attended to take care of his soul, and when it left the tenement of clay, they carried it away into the regions of bliss and peace, to know neither pain nor want again. But while we have the account of the burial of the rich man, we have no account of how his soul was conveyed to the region of disembodied spirits. But we are told that he was found in hell—he left up his eyes, &c. He had become the suppliant now—he had exchanged places with the beggar. What changes the revelations of the future will make known to us! Observe how awful his torments must have been, when so little relief was so eagerly asked for; and how hopeless he must have known his case to be when he asked for only so little. The torments of hell are beyond our utmost conceptions. But even this little relief was not to be obtained. He is reminded that he had sought his happiness, and had it in this world, while Lazarus had known no enjoyment here; and now he must endure his misery in hell, while Lazarus enjoys the bliss of heaven. And besides, what he asked was impossible. There is an impassable gulf between the two places. Those who are on the one side or the other must for ever remain there. The portals of eternity once passed, the fate is irrevocably fixed.

One point must be carefully observed. The reason of the rich man being in hell was not that he had been rich—nor of the beggar being in heaven that he had been poor—in this world. It is implied throughout that the beggar was a good man while the other was not. There is no foundation here or anywhere else in the Bible for the notion that God will make up to any in the next world for their suffering and poverty here, irrespective of their character. It is possible for a poor man to go to hell, and possible for a rich man to go to heaven. One may have all the hardships of poverty here, and the miseries of hell hereafter. Unless you repent and be converted, whether you are rich or poor, you can never get to heaven.

But when the rich man failed in his request for himself, he made a request for his surviving relatives. This was probably to prevent their coming there to aggravate his own misery. The answer was that they had means sufficient, and to the use of those means they must be left. He still pleaded that they would be likely to live in the neglect of those means, but that if such an extraordinary step were taken as to send to them one from the dead, they would be aroused to repentance. But he was assured that such an expectation was fallacious; and therefore the request was denied.

This is the great practical lesson to be learned. "Moses and the prophets" represented the whole revelation of truth for them; and if it was not sufficient, no startling apparition of some one returned from the region of the dead would serve to convince them. If

that was so with them, how much more is it so with us! We not only have Moses and the prophets, but Christ and the apostles; and surely nothing more can be needed.—Abridged from W. M. Sunday-school Mag.

PRUNING.

The *Germania* Telegraph, in an article on pruning apple-trees, makes the following statement which is published for the benefit of those who have orchards to take care of. Most of our orchards have been badly managed, as their appearance and condition show. Generally they have been pruned in spring, a time now generally considered injurious to the trees: "Here at the North, we have no class of people more successful with orchards than the United Society, or Shakers. They consider their trees as organized productions, capable of being improved by proper care, and injured by neglect and mismanagement. Of course they are careful to see them fed with proper diet, and in all respects dealt with as things of vegetable life, having constitutions to be protected and preserved as they should be. We were passing through their village at Mount Lebanon, N. Y., and found them engaged in pruning some beautiful apple trees by the wayside. The novelty, to us, of seeing pruning performed at that busy season induced us to inquire why it was done. The reason given was, that at that season the sap was thick, and of course would not run to waste, and that if pruned then a healing process would commence, which would eventually cover the wounds and protect the tree from all damage through cutting off branches.

"In a subsequent visit to the city, we were invited into some of the orchards, which had for years been subject to this system of pruning, and it was a luxury to see their healthy trees, free from the wounds of injudicious pruning, and in some instances with scarcely a scar to show the operation had been performed."

Another paper says:—The early part of summer is a good time to prune young trees. Such trees being in a growing state, it is then easy to determine what branches to retain and which to cut off, in forming the head. Also, by removing unnecessary branches at this season, there is a saving in the growth by turning the forces into the other parts of the trees. The thinning out of the heads of bearing trees may be done in autumn or winter. But of all seasons, the spring is the worst for pruning, especially when the sap is rising, as wounds made at this season do not heal readily. The sap, oozing from the wounds, ferments, turns the parts black, decay soon begins, and in large trees, the wood rots before the wound can heal over. It sometimes happens, however, that pruning must be done in the spring, or in autumn. In such instances, as little should be lopped off as will answer the purpose, and all wounds of any considerable size should receive a covering of varnish made of gum shellac dissolved in alcohol.

USEFUL HINTS.

Every gardener and farmer should have a compost heap, and upon it pile up every sod and rubbish within his reach that will make manure. It will pay.

When good earth is used for potting, plants seldom need any special manure. The best soil for plants is found in old meadows and the corner of fences, where sod has grown a long time.

Large bags made of brown wrapping paper will be found very convenient receptacles for many articles of wearing apparel which are not to be used for a season.

If you invest your money in every new wonder that flaming circulars proclaim, it is the same as buying tickets at a lottery office where there are ten blanks to one prize.

If you invest your money in a fine house and do not cultivate your mind and taste so as to adorn it with intelligence and refinement, it is as if you were to wear broadcloth and a silk hat to the mill.

White pepper is far superior to black, for the table, being more delicate in flavor. It should always be in preference to black in sauces, salads, etc., where pepper is desired, a very little being all that may be used, as though not so harsh as the black, it is strong.

The proper time for eating fruits of every description is half an hour before breakfast and dinner: and if in their ripe, raw, natural and fresh state, the acid which their juices contains, and which is their healthful quality, is at once absorbed and carried in its strength into the circulation.—*Cottage and Cookery Book.*

To make biscuit custard, break two dozen macaroons into small pieces, pour over them a hot boiled custard made in the usual way, and stir well, until the whole is thoroughly mixed. Pour into a glass dish and put on top the whites of two eggs, whisked to a froth, with a spoonful of red currant jelly. Grate a little macaron crumbs over the top. Serve very cold.

INFORMATION.

A beautiful head of hair is appreciated by everybody, and how to secure it, interests everybody. The hair and scalp must be kept free from scurf and dandruff, and not be allowed to get dry and harsh. The roots must be stimulated to healthy action. Flexibility and a handsome gloss are essential. All these requisites are easily secured by the use of Ayer's Hair Vigor.

From the easy expectoration, increased respiratory power of the Lungs, and the removal of irritation, manifest from cessation of Cough and other alarming symptoms, after using Fellows' Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites, it is clear that the formation of tuberculous matter is not only stopped, but that already deposited is being carried away.

The census office reports that it finds 6,677,360 persons of foreign birth in the United States. The number given by the census of 1870 was 5,537,229. We have gained about eleven hundred thousand foreigners during the last ten years.

For Rheumatism and Neuralgic Affections.—Bathe the parts affected freely with Perry Davis' Pain Killer, well rubbed in, till the pain is relieved.

During the year 1880 there were published in the United States 2078 books—an average of over 34 a week. Of this list 292 were works of fiction, 270 juvenile books, 239 theological and religious, 151 works of biography, memoirs, etc.

General Debility.—This is a name given, for want of a better, to the effects of a torpid liver or feeble digestion. When you are languid, or in any pain or discomfort, take a dose of Herrick's Sugar-Coated Vegetable Pills, and mark the result!

Lord Beaconsfield did not attend a public school in his boyhood, and he never studied in any college.

DELIRIUM IN FEVER PREVENTED.—Mrs. Nora an Ellingwood, Grand Harbor, Grand Manan, N. B., says:—"I have found GERRARD'S PAIN EXPELLER to relieve the most distressing headache, and prevent delirium in fever, and the subsequent madness in my husband's case, while the others of my family that had that disease, before I knew of the virtues of, or had used, that medicine, had suffered with their heads, and had delirium, and their hair came out. I find the PAIN EXPELLER invaluable in that and other diseases."

The common expressions, "I feel so dragged," "My food don't digest," "I do not feel fit for anything," which we so often hear during the spring and early summer months are conclusive evidence that the majority of people require at that season especially a reliable medicine that will strengthen the organs of digestion, stimulate the circulation of the blood, and "tone up" the debilitated constitution.

Harrington's "Quinine Wine and Iron," taken according to directions, produces buoyancy of spirits, vigor of mind and gives lasting strength to the whole system. April 1—3 mths

MOTHERS! MOTHERS! MOTHERS! Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with the excruciating pain of cutting teeth? If so, go at once and get a bottle of MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately—depend upon it; there is no mistake about it. There is not a mother on earth who has ever used it, who will not tell you at once that it will regulate the bowels, and give rest to the mother, and relief and health to the child, operating like magic. It is perfectly safe to use in all cases, and pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States. Sold everywhere at 25 cents a bottle. Jan 23—1y

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NORTHPORT WIS., May 6th, 1879. JAMES I. FELLOWS, Esq.

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I remain respectfully, LAWRENCE DORAN.

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