

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

MAY 1, 1881.

Lesson V.—LOST AND FOUND: Luke 15: 1-10.

The publicans are the tax-gatherers of Palestine, a necessarily corrupt and universally-detested class. The sinners are persons notoriously criminal, and outcasts in consequence; not merely such as disregard the ceremonial regulations of the strict sect of the Pharisees. See Matt. 11, 19; Luke 7, 37; 16, 13, etc. Being near Jericho and the roads of the Jordan, with their custom-houses, many publicans and sinners would be in the neighborhood, to whom the preaching of our Lord presented powerful attractions. This sinner, too, was more plentifully stocked with talents and graces, who, mingling with the religious Jews, constituted in connection with the publicans. To hear him. This was the beginning of the power to draw all men unto him which ever since his death he has increasingly manifested as the years have rolled on.

And the Pharisees and Scribes.—The Pharisees were the orthodox Jews. The scribes were primarily writers of any kind, then copiers of the Scriptures, then writers of glosses and commentaries thereon. Receive sinners.—Receives them in a tender manner, treats them with kindness, does not drive them from his presence. Tenderness of affection toward the most abandoned sinners is the highest instance of a divine and Godlike soul. Eudeth with them.—The modern Christian who mingles socially and freely with modern sinners is always liable to the same criticism from modern Pharisees. The pride of propriety never understands the liberty of love. Viewed in relation to eastern customs, this expression involves the idea of the most friendly and intimate association. Regarded in connection with their former rebellion, it implies complete reconciliation.

Which man of you.—If men will take such pains to lose sheep, how much more should the disciples of Christ for a lost soul! If he lose one—a natural and apt type of the sinner is a lost sheep, without wisdom to return to the protection of the shepherd, and without any means of protection in himself from the dangers of the wilderness. Go after.—The good shepherd goes himself; he does not send another man, angel or archangel. It is by personal work, not by proxy, we are to seek and to save that which is lost. The duty of the Church is clearly indicated. How often, instead of obeying the lesson here inculcated, it leaves the ninety and nine to stray, while it coddles and caresses for the one that is left in the fold. Its missionary work should be not its incidental but its great work. Until he find it.—A hint of what is the patience and perseverance of Christ, and what should be the patience and perseverance of the Christian. Lady Huntington was trying to lead her despondent brother of Whitefield to Christ. To her urgent entreaties he answered, "O, it is of no use! I am lost, I am lost!" "Thank God for that," said she. "Why," exclaimed the man in astonishment, "because," said Lady Huntington, "Christ came to save the lost; and if you are lost he is just the one that can save you!"

Layeth it on his shoulders.—The shepherd of the East at the present day is often seen bearing upon his shoulder the forlorn sheep that is too weak to be driven. It furnishes a beautiful image of the tenderness of the Redeemer to the soul of the penitent which he is saving from its lost condition. Rejoicing.—See Heb. 12, 2. In this spirit the Christian should carry those that are entrusted to his keeping; the pastor his flock, the teacher his class, the parent his children.

When he cometh home.—The home of Christ on earth, to which he brings the repentant sinner as a sheep of the fold is his Church. There are the ninety and nine, and there is the place where the shepherd exerts his guardian care. Friends and neighbors.—His fellow, but under shepherds, the pastors of his flocks in the great field of the world. The great heartening will be a great rejoicing. Psal. 136, 6; Rev. 5, 9-14. So every harvesting in the early Church should be a time of thanksgiving; praise should be as plentiful as prayer. Joy shall be in heaven.—When the children of God rejoice over a new convert saved by repentance and forgiveness from death, there is no vain joy. It is the only joy on earth with which we have proof that angels sympathize. The Church triumphant and the Church militant are one heart and one soul. The repentance here spoken of it is important to note, is the repentance of a sinner taking the first step in that course by which from a child of hell he becomes an heir of heaven. Just persons.—Under the Jewish dispensation, those who were justified, like Zacchariah and Elizabeth, as walking in all the ordinances of the law, blameless.

Either what women.—The former parable implies the Saviour's pity for the wandering and perishing. The latter, God's personal ownership in the soul and his sense of personal loss in its loss, a phase of truth which interprets the woman's language, "I have found the piece which I had lost." The piece of money, or drachma, was worth about eight pence, and was equivalent to a day's wages. Lose one piece. This silver was lost in the dirt; a soul plunged in the world and overwhelmed with the love of it, and care about it, is like a piece of money in the dirt. We are to remember that Eastern houses are not constructed on the style of ours, pierced as they are with many

INFORMATION.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is mild and soothing in its immediate and apparent effects, and possesses far-reaching and powerful healing qualities which its persistent use will demonstrate in any case of coughs, colds, throat or lung troubles of any kind.

Nevada is the only State where foreigners outnumber the native population, and there they are more than two to one, there being 36,623 natives to 75,642 foreigners.

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The Tobacco Manual, published at Oxford, N.C., estimates the amount of tobacco grown in that State in 1880 to be \$2,500,000 pounds.

FOR ASTHMA AND PHTHISIS.—Mix one teaspoonful of Perry Davis' Pain Killer in three table-spoons of syrup, and take two or three teaspoonfuls of the mixture every fifteen minutes, till relief is obtained.

The White House was so named after it was burnt by the British in 1815, when the smoke so blackened the freestone walls that it was painted white.

From observation, under the microscope, of the Blood of patients (using Fellows' Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites) taken from time to time, positive proof has been obtained of the steady removal of diseased and dead blood particles, and the substitution of vitalized discs, so necessary to the construction of healthy muscle.

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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.

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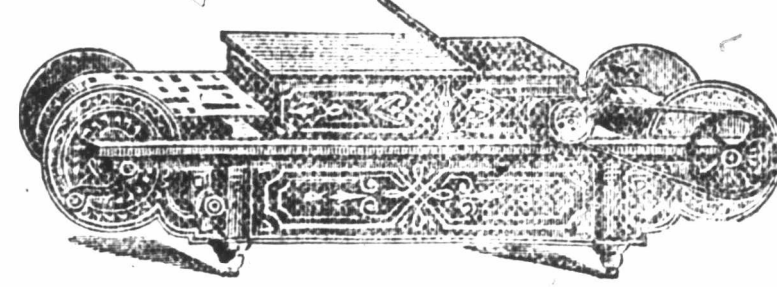
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