

## Pastor and People.

### GOLDEN GRAIN BIBLE READING.

BY REV. J. R. DICKSON, B.D.

#### THE DEVIL AND MEN.

- (1) *His personality.* Rev. 20.2, Rev. 12.9., Gen. 3., Jude 6.
  - (2) *His place.* Rev. 12.9., Zech. 3.1, Luke, 10.8., Gen. 3.1., Job. 1.9., 1 Pet. 5.8.
  - (3) *His character.* Accuser, Rev. 12.10. Liar, Jno. 8.44. Hinderer, 1 Thess. 2.18. Blinds the mind, 2 Cor. 4.4. Perverts the Scrip's, Matt. 4.6. and Ps. 91.11-12. Deceives 2 Cor. 11.14., Rev. 20.7-8. Ensnarers, 2 Tim. 2.26., 1 Tim. 3.7. Tempts, Eph. 6.11. Prince of this world, Jno. 12.31., Acts 26.18.
  - (4) *His power.* It is limited, Job. 1.12. 2c 6., Luke, 22.31-32. It is laid in Sin, 1 Jno. 3.8. and Rom. 6.16.
  - (5) *How his power was broken.* By seed of the woman, Gen. 3.15. In the temptation, Matt. 4.11. Casting out devils Luke, 11.20. 13c.32., Matt. 10.1., Mark 16.17. In destroying works of the devil, 1 Jno. 3.8. (Large Subject here) Acts 10.38. Completed by his death, Heb. 2.14, Col. 2.15., Jno. 12.31.
- How men triumph over the devil.* In Christ, Luke 10.19-22. Resist, Jas. 4.7., 1 Pet. 5.9. Armed Against, Eph. 6.11-18. Watch Against, Mark 14.38., 2 Cor. 2.11. Overcome, 1 Jno. 2.13., Rev. 12.11. Victory Shortly, Rom. 16.20.

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#### THE CHILDREN'S PULPIT.

EDITED BY M. H. C.

It was three days before the wounded man was sufficiently recovered to be able to go on his way to Teguisa. All that time Leon brought supplies of food from the house on the island. When about to depart he wanted his cousin to put on the suit of clothes he had brought for him. Polydor refused. He asked Leon if he had never heard how Deianira had killed the great Hercules by sending him a poisoned tunic. "But" replied Leon "I am wearing the same kind of clothes myself, and they do me no harm." "That may be" answered Polydor, "But how do I know that the other suit is the same as yours?" Leon offered to give his cousin his own suit, to wear the other for a time and try its effect upon himself before giving it to him. But no, nothing would please Polydor. He would go to Teguisa as he was and if the Mencey did not like him he would be no different from other prejudiced people. So they journeyed on together and came after a time to a place where there were many cross roads all entering the highway to Teguisa. Here they found travellers of all sorts high and low, rich and poor, faycaigs and althags or soldiers wending their way to the Talmogar of the Mencey. They all recognized the dress that Leon had on for it was the King's livery. Accordingly they saluted him, kindly and some of the travellers walked along with him and engaged in pleasant conversation. Nobody spoke to the ragged and dirty Polydor who marched along like a very tramp with a big stick that he had picked up over his shoulder. Some even asked Leon why he kept company with such a ridiculous scarecrow but Leon told them that Polydor was his cousin and that as they had shared in one another's trials so now they must share whatever happiness was in store for them. Those who spoke to Leon were much pleased with his frank, open manners, so that they gladly introduced him to their friends until Leon had a large number of acquaintances among the Achimenceys. And all the time Polydor stalked along in what he thought was dignified silence, scowling over the handle of his big stick like a genuine savage.

It was afternoon when they reached Teguisa, a city without walls but surrounded by great masses of rock set up on end like Stonehenge. It contained many houses, some of wood, others of stone, but there many vacant spaces and his fellow travellers told Leon that these were occupied as well as the rest of the city by underground houses which the people had built in ancient times when they were in fear of their enemies. "But now" they said "since Achoran is our mencey we have no enemies and are able to do without these rabbit burrows." When Leon told Polydor about these strange dwellings he said "That's the kind of house I should like where one could be out of the way of these conceited and suspicious islanders." In the centre of the city was the great Talmogar, a large stone building something between a palace and a temple and thither the company directed its steps. When it was reached it appeared that the mencey had not yet come, so Leon sat down in the grounds and conversed with his new made friends. Polydor prowled about looking for some quiet place. The Talmogar was open all along one side and as there were no guards there he entered it and saw at the back a large alcove of white polished stone. Ascending the steps that led to it Polydor found the alcove lined with a cushioned seat. On this he lay down feeling somewhat tired after his journey and being convinced that he was well out of the way of the crowd. He was about falling asleep when a great commotion was made outside the building so he propped himself up on his elbow and waited to see what was going to happen.

Suddenly a large number of officers richly dressed made their appearance by the way Polydor had entered but they

did not see him for they walked backwards, as etiquette towards the King demanded and their Chinese-like pigtailed into which they gathered their long hair were towards the young Spartan. These officers ranged themselves on either side of the stone alcove and then to his dismay Polydor saw a group of bearers also backing towards him carrying a throne or chair of state on which sat a handsome man in royal robes. The bearers carried the throne into the very alcove itself and set it down almost in front of the terrified occupant. He could not possibly have chosen a worse place for concealment than the one he had taken. Quickly he slid behind the throne as the bearers knelt before the mencey and slowly withdrew to one side of the alcove. Then knowing that soon he must be discovered he summoned all his courage and his best knowledge of the Berber language and said to the king "I am afraid my lord that you are much displeased with your servant for being here." The mencey turned his head and said "Displeased! I did not know there was any such person in existence." Then without giving him time to reply Achoran called an officer and bade him take the foreign beggar away from the dais and keep him till the royal pleasure should be known. Thus it came to pass that everybody saw the foolish young man who wanted to escape observation and laughed as much as their respect for the mencey would allow at the ragged savage with the club who had the presumption to take a place near the King's throne.

Not long afterwards Leon was introduced to King Achoran by some of the grandees of the court whom he had met. The King listened to his story with much pleasure and when he heard that the Spartan knew more about warfare than about anything else he offered to give him a position in the royal guards. "We do not make war upon any people" said the mencey, "nor are there any nations that make war upon us. But there are enemies among ourselves that must be subdued. There are wild beasts on the island to kill and treacherous bogs and swamps to make safe roads through and a few wicked men who do not like my rule and seek to do harm to their fellows. To subdue these enemies I want brave men. Will you be one?" Leon gladly agreed and begged that some favor might also be shown to his cousin. The mencey made enquiries and found that the cousin was the ragged man who wanted to know if he was displeased with him. So he called Polydor in, gave him a lecture upon his suspicion and folly in not putting on the good clothes provided for him and in going into places before knowing what they were. Then on his promising to wear the royal uniform as a soldier and to be faithful Achoran forgave him his offence and placed him under his cousin's command. Thus Leon became a captain of althag armed with spears, darts, and maces and bearing for defence hard leathern helmets, and hide bound bucklers. As Polydor was a good soldier he placed him as his next in command and with his assistance soon drilled the company of Achimenceys into good soldiers.

So thoroughly did Leon drill his althag and so well was he liked by them that Achoran set him at the head of all his guards, a thing which did not please some of the native officers. Polydor also was promoted to fill the captain's post when Leon left it. Then good work was done. The wild beasts that did much damage were destroyed utterly together with the dangerous snakes. Roads were made through all the jungles and low lying lands along which people's carts traveled safely. Robbers and outlaws among whom was the gigantic negro were taken and set to work in well guarded underground prisons. And a private galley from Barbary that came seeking slaves was captured and all its crew sent to join the imprisoned robbers. The mencey and all the people were very proud of Leon and very grateful to him. The Achimenceys were great singers and the young Oreek and his exploits formed one of the chief subjects of their songs. Polydor became discontented. Nobody sang about him, King Achoran rarely enquired after him. He was afraid of his own althag who missed their former frank and generous captain. And he saw no reason why his cousin Leon should be a greater captain than himself. He went about grumbling and as he found some native officers who did not approve of Leon being promoted over their heads their company was sweet to him. He told these discontented officers that killing snakes and making swamp roads was no fit work for soldiers. Let the mencey make war on the neighboring islands and bring rich spoil to Titeroygotto; that would be something worth while. King Achoran heard that Polydor had been saying these things and sent for him. He told his Greek captain very plainly that he must not talk in that way any more, for he, the King, desired to reign in peace towards all and with kindness to every man that deserved it. Polydor left the mencey's presence very angry and feeling that he had been ill-treated.

Still the foolish Greek went on talking to those who would listen, telling all his grievances and making so much of theirs that quite a number of discontented officers and men began to think that they were much abused people. "The mencey is afraid of us" said Polydor; "he never has us about him as his guard. Some day he may take it into his head to have us banished or executed. Let us put down King Achoran and set upon the throne some man we can trust." So they agreed and made a conspiracy. But one wise man among them thought within himself "If we cannot trust the mencey and his general, who is there we can trust? Certainly not that suspicious captain Polydor." Thereupon he went to

Achoran and told him the whole story. When the conspirators met in arms next day they found the palaces surrounded by loyal companies of the althag ready for war. Seeing their plot was discovered they took to flight and led by Polydor retired towards Lake Herro. Nobody stopped their progress for the mencey had given orders not to shed any blood if it could possibly be helped. So they crossed over to the island and set up strong fortifications in case they should be attacked. Then they sent out foraging parties in every direction to plunder the loyal people and bring provisions into their island fortress. Complaints soon came in to the mencey from people living near the lake and among them from the old faycaig that their property had been taken away by the rebels and some families even had to tell of members who had lost their lives while defending their goods. Then king Achoran felt he must do something and sent for his general Leon to consult about what should be done.

After a long talk the kind monarch agreed that if Leon would go to Polydor and his companions he might offer them freepardon on condition of their laying down their arms and coming back to Teguisa. Leon glad at heart set out for the lake with a body of soldiers. When he came to the stone bridge he left the soldiers behind and went forward without any weapon in his hand towards the island calling for Polydor. When his cousin came to the front with his fellow rebels Leon offered him and them pardon in the mencey's name. Some of the companions of Polydor were already tired of their wild life and would willingly have gone to Teguisa. But Polydor cried "Treachery! he means to take away our arms and then kill us." "What?" said Leon "Do you not know me better than that, my cousin?" Polydor replied "No, I trust no man;" and so saying he threw himself upon Leon like a wild beast. Leon fell to the ground with many wounds. His soldiers heard the shout of battle and rushed to the bridge. They saw their beloved general lying as they thought dead in front of the rebels. Then with wild cries they charged across the bridge and over the barricades after the flying enemy. Not one escaped and Polydor's body bore full a hundred wounds so eager were the althag to avenge the death of their leader. How the old faycaig knew of the battle no one could tell but he was soon upon the scene. He pressed through the soldiers who made way for the holy man and gazed upon his old friend Leon. "He is not dead" he said calmly. Then they lifted him up and carried him into the stone house. With herbs which he gathered the faycaig stopped the bleeding of Leon's wounds; he bound them up with soft clothes; and laid the unconscious soldier upon a couch. Then he had a litter prepared for him and a number of stretchers for the bodies of the dead rebels.

Back to Teguisa came the soldiers carrying their burdens and with them went the faycaig. The mencey was grieved to hear of so many lost lives and especially to learn that his brave general was sorely wounded. All that kindness and wealth could do was done for Leon, so that after a month he began to recover and when two months were past he seemed almost his former self. Then he asked for Polydor and what had happened after he fell upon the bridge. His attendants had to tell him everything now that he was strong enough to bear it. "Alas, my cousin Polydor!" he said; "if you had only caught the true song of the birds, the song of hope, peace, love and trust, what a happy life yours might have been! But you were your own worst enemy, and your suspicions have been your death at last." King Achoran came to comfort his soldier, and in the love of this great king Leon almost forgot his unworthy cousin. Many years he lived as the king's son and when a new mencey had to be chosen it was Leon whom the althag and the people of the Achimenceys chose to fill the vacant throne of Titeroygotto. Never was there such a reign as his in the Isles of the Blessed since the old Saturnian time, the golden age of which the poets used to sing, for it was ruled from beginning to end by the song of the birds "hope and peace and love and trust."

The world and the people in the world are to us very much what we make them and think them. David once said "All men are liars;" but he said it in his haste. All men are not liars. Most men generally speak the truth. Yet there are some foolish people who have absolutely no confidence in what their fellow creatures say; who have gone so far as to hold that all Christians are either knaves or fools and the authors of the books of the Bible impostors and deceivers. The law holds every man innocent until he be proved guilty, but these wicked Pharisees hold every man except themselves guilty until he be proved innocent. Faith or trust is one of the grandest and best feelings that can dwell in the human heart. It holds the world together. All society is built upon it. It gives security and peace. It is the only way of winning love. Some men of influence wanted Mahomet to put away his wife Kadijah because she was an old woman but he said "No, she was the first to trust me." So said the false prophet, but a true prophet has said "Without faith it is impossible to please God." Do you think you can go on disbelieving your fellow men and believe God? It cannot be. He that believes not his brother whom he hath seen how can he believe God whom he hath not seen? We must begin at home with trust in parents, in the members of the family circle, in our teachers in temporal and spiritual knowledge. As we trust we shall be trusted. With what measure we meet it will be measured to us again. And we shall above all learn to put our full confidence in Him in whose favour is life and his loving kindness better than life, whose Blessed Son once said to another and ever says to us "Be not afraid; only believe." Let the song of the birds that sing among the branches of David's Psalms and the disciples' Gospels come into our ears and hearts; then happy and blessed will be our lives with "hope, peace, love and trust."

(To be continued.)