Sunday School

The Preaching of John the Baptist.

CCOMMUNITARY.—I. A call to respectance (vs. 1-4). I. Im those days

The time is defined in Luke ill., 1.

If was a time of moral dearth All trace had become a barren wilderness. The Roman emperor was despected and cruel. Herod and Pilate were little better. The preschool was filled with corrupt mea, and evien Caipphas, the high priest, was coarse and brutal. Under such leaders the four hundred years since they had heard prophetic warnings, when suddenly John at peared en the scene. John the Baptist—so named by Mark and Luke and by Joseghus, who mentions his great influence, and speaks of the crowds that flock to hear him of the crowds that flock to hear him solid kindle around the feet of the finally impenitent.

His martier and representing an inward spirital change. Speaker Com. He that cometh—The preaching of John was preparing the minds of John was preparing It was a time of moral dearth. All trace had become a barren widerness. The Roman emperor was despetic and cruel. Herod and Pliate were little better. The priesthood was filled with corrupt mea, and even Caippinas, the high priest, was coarse and brutal. Under such leaders the people had sunk into a very low and degraded condition. It had been four hundred years since they had heard prophetic warnings, when suddenly John appeared on the scene. John the Baptist—So named by Mark and Luke and by Josephus, who mentions his great influence, and speake of the crowds that flock to hear him preach. Preaching—Heralding, a word suggesting the roolanation of a king. John was a great reformer. Note the following leading characteristics of his preaching; 1. It was absolutely dauntless. 3. It shows remarkable insight into the needs of the people of every class. shows remarkable insight into the meeds of the reople of every class.

4. It was intensely practical. 5. It prophesies of the dawn of the kingdom of Christ. His message was: 1. repent; 2, the kingdom of heaven is at hand; 3, behold the Lamb of God. In the wilderness—"John preached in the wild thinly inhabited region lying west of the Jordan and the Dead Sea, as far north of Enon, two-thirls of the way to the Sea of Galilee, and on both sides of the lower Jordan."

2. Repent ye—Repentence includes (1) conviction, (2) contrition, (3) confession. (4) reformation, and leads to fession. (4) reformation, and leads to conversion, John, Jesus, Peter and Paul all greached repertance. Kingdom of heaven—As Jesus is the Messiah that is, the Anointel, the Kingson His gospel is a law, and His dispensation a kingdom—Whedon. The kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God in the New Testament mean one and the same thing and generally have reference to the spiritual kingdom which Christ sets up in the ally have reference to the spiritual kingdom which Christ sets up in the bearts c. His followers. At hand—The Jews expected a great national deliverer. The meaning here is that the coming of the Mossiah to begin His dominion on earth, under the Christian economy, is at hand.

3. Esains—The Greek form for Isaiah. The reference here is to Isaiah xl. 3-5; also see Luke iii. 4-6. The voice—"The prophecy draws at-

Isaiah xl. 3-5; also see Luke iii. 4-0. The voice—"The prophecy draws attention to the work rather than the worker." The voice of the prophet was loud and distinct. Prepare ye—The idea is taken from the practice of Eastern monarchs, who, when ever they took a journey, sent har-bingers before them to prepare the way. The Jewish church was the

way. The Jewish church was the desert country. Paths straight—This is figurative language. The words illustrate the straightening force of the gospel. There must be a thorough preparation before God, our King, will come to us.

4. Had his raiment, etc.—"The appearance of John was like that of the great prophet Eiljah in the popular mind. He was clothed in the coarse, rough cloth called sackcloth in the Scriptures. It was cheap, but coarse, rough cloth called sackcloth in the Scriptures. It was cheap, but admirable for keeping out the heat, cold and rain. This mantle was girded around him with a leather girdle of undressed hide. His food consisted of locusts, closely resembling our grasshoppers, and of wild honey. All this was a natural as well as simple mode of living in those days in the wilderness." Meat well as simple mode of hiving those days in the wilderness." Meat—Food. Locusts—The law of Moses gave permission to eat locusts (Lev. "John here represents the symbols of the repentance he preaches, according to ancient cus-toms. The hair or sackcloth, the ordinary outward signs of deepest humiliation."

humiliation."

II. Many confessions made (vs. 5, 6). 5. Went out—Left their homes and went to the desert where John was preaching. He was very successful, and the heart of the whole nation was stirred. Even Herod the King heard him gladly and "did many things" (Mark vi. 20). All the region—The crowds must must have been enormous. John was very popular, but popularity had no effect upon such as he. 6. Confessions—Confession of sin is one of the very popular, but popularity had no effect upon such as he. 6. Confess-ing—Confession of sin is one of the marks of true repentance. See 1st

marks of true repentance. See 1st John, 1.9.

III. A thorough reformation demanded (vs. 7-10). T. When he saw,—
"Men knoner a lofty and-fearless soul, seeking no selfish object, but braving all opposition for the noblest ends. John had nothing to lose but his life, and cared for nothing but the faithful discharge of his duty."
Pharisees—The name signifies separatists. They held tenaclosuly to a literal obedience of the written law, and an unwritten tradition. Sadducess—They adhered to the written law of Mosss, but refused to give much weight to tradition. They did not be leve in a future life, angels or spirits. Said unto them—The three leading religious sects at that time were the Pharisees, Sadduces and Essenes, and he handled them with terrible severity. Generation of vipers—"Brood" of vipers.
"The denotes persons deceiful and malle oue." "A terribly expressive speech: "He called them snakes. Who hath arned you—How came you to arned tone snakes. Who harned by complying with an outign, you can escape the wrath without an inward change?
to come—The iniquity of the mation was so great that all men expect la speedy and awful judgment. E Fruit worthy of repentance Join di not stop with a mere profession, but they must show the hongerty of their purpose by their conduct.

duct.

9. Think not to say, etc.—The natural impulse of the unregenerate heart is to seek out excurs and subterfuges when the co-science is touched. Out of these hard, unregenerate hearts of flesh and children of Abraham, 10.—The axe is laid—"There is an aliushmere to a woodman who having marked a tree for excision, layed his over garment in order that he may wild more garment in order that he may wild more powerful blow."

EV. John 10.018 to Theis (vs. 11.12).

property This was a r

the finally impenitent.
PRACTICAL SURVEY. The appearance of John the Baptist marks a distinct and important epoch in the great processes of a world's redemption—the point of meeting and digression of two magnificent dispensations. Himself belonging to neither, he stands out the one, and the advance herald of another, greater and final. The greattruth of the lesson is "The Coming Kingdom."

The kingdom is spiritual. Jesus Christ when questioned by Pilate de-clared both the fact and nature of clared both the fact and nature of his dominion when he said, "My kingdom is not of this world." That it contemplates the control of outward affairs, social and civic, is unquestionable, but it secures this outward triumph by assuming the supremacy of the purpose, and will through the power of purified affackingdom of heaven is within you." No mere outward loyalty or service can answer here. Devotion to Christ and truth must spring spontaneous and truth must spring spontaneous from the deepest impulses or fail of meeting the standard of divine re-

ulrement.
The kingdom is permanent. This is that which appeared in vision to Nebuchadnezzar, and was interpretned and prophesied by Daniel. "And in these days shall the God of Heaven set up another kingdom, which ishall never be destroyed." Established without human consent, this kingdom is destined to break into places and consume all other kingpieces and consume all other king-toms, and it shall stand forever." doms, and it shall stand forever."

The kingdom is comprehensive.

"Ask of Me. and I shall give thee
the heathen for thine inheritance,
and the uttermost parts of the earth
for thy possession." "The isles shall
wait for his law." See also Eph. i.
10; Col. ili. 11. The plerced hand
of the Son of God opens the door,
and each man enters, or closes it
against his own soul. The final consummation of the kingdom-John beheld when "a great multitude, which
no man could number, of all nations
and kindreds, and peoples and and kindreds, and peoples and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palms in their

The conditions of the kingdom. One brief but emphatic and comprehensive word constitutes the true message of the wilderness prophet. Fundamental truths can never change, and the original and now almost forgotten condition remains as the threshold of the Christian life. "Repentance toward God" must precede "faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." The depth of the former will be the measure of the clearness and strength of the latter. It is preceded always by a "goodly sorrow," which, unlike the "sorrow of the world," has regard to the character rather than the consequences of sin as an inventive The conditions of the kingdom to the character rather than the consequences of sin as an inventive to its renunciation. It always "worketh repentance unto salvation, not to be repented of." Its essential elements are given by the prophet thus: "Let the wicked forsake his ay and the unrighteens sake his ay, and the unrighteous man his thoughts." Such a repent-ance infallibly brings forth fruits meet for the same. Ancestry, tradi-tion, ritualism, alike fait of secur-ing admission to the kingdom. Hearty renunciation of sin and self, and an equally hearty acceptance of Christ as Saviour and Lord, can of Christ as Saviour and Lord, can alone secure citizenship, bring the baptism of the Holy Ghost, and transform the worthless and fire-destined to a thing of life and value which shall escape the fierce winnowing of divine indignation.—Wm. H. Clark.

TAZY MAN'S PARADISE

The Women Are the Workers in the West Indies

On market day in the West Indies thousands of peasant women and girls can be seen walking along the roads to the town from their palm-thatched huts in the mountains and woods. They carry on their heads immense loads of bananas, oranges, yams, plantains, brown sugar or tobacco, stepping along at the rate of four miles an hour with

the gait of a princess.

Constant carrying of heavy loads gives them a splendid carriage. They will walk forty miles to market to sell 30 walk forty miles to market to sell 30 cents' worth of produce. Often they could sell the same stuff for a better price at their homes, but they enjoy the merry company on the road and the fun and gossip of the market place too much to give ap their weekly jaunt. Most people think such a tramp hard work, but they regard it as a picnic. Tramping along over rough mountain tracks fording swift rivers. tugging Tramping along over rough mountain tracks, fording swift rivers, tugging fractious mules in the way that they should go, these women never let their loads fall. They could dance a jig with-

out dropping them.

Meanwhile the men folk—who have not even taken the trouble to sow or harvest the crops—are sleeping in the palm-thatched hut, or lying down in the yam patch outside, and smoking the attrang rative to bacco.

yam paten outside, and showing the strong native tobacco.

"On my estate," said a coffee planter to an American friend, "I employ about 600 people in the busy seasons, besides 200 to 300 children. The women outnumber the men by more than two to one, and do far better work, though they are only paid 18 cents a day, as com-pared with the men's 24 cents. The difference in wages is most unfair, but it is regulated by an iron-bound custom,"—

THE CONQUEST OF THE SAHARA

France has found a way to assure ther supremacy over the Shara By treaties with other nations she is recognized as supreme in authority over three-fourths of the great ity over three-fourths of the great has been almost helpless against her ensmies, the Tharregs. These robbers and warriors of the desert have, time and again, swooped north from their mountain homes in the centre of the Sahara, pouned upon some little French outpost with a corporal's guard or upon some come oasis friendly to France, killed, plundered and made off with the fleets camels of their fastnesses among the Ahaggar Mountains; and the French have seen the dust of their enemies as they allsappeared in the distance and been as helpless as a hungry man or a desert island with no boat to take him across the flood to a land of plenty.

Up to twenty months ago every French caravan entering the desert was heavily laden with food and water supplies for a long journey and weighed down with ammunition and guns for defence against the Tuaregs. The camels were the ordinary slow freighters of the desert. The expeditions, therefore were coverided.

The expeditions are the flood to a land of plenty.

Up to twenty months ago every French caravan entering the desert was heavily laden with food and water supplies for a long journey and weighed down with ammunition and guns for defence against the rounds of the coveriden, slow and unwieldy. The veighters of the desert. The expeditions, therefore were overwhileheight and warder supplies for a long journey and weighed down with ammunition and guns for defence against the rounds of the desert was heavily laden with food and water supplies for a long journey and weighed down with ammunition and guns for defence against the rounds of the control of France has found a way to assure her supremacy over the Sahara. By treaties with other nations she is recognized as supreme in authority over three-fourths of the great desert; but until recently France has been almost helpless against her enemies, the Duaregs. These robbers and warriors of the desert time and again, swooped her enemies, the Tuaregs. These robbers and warriors of the desert layse, time and again, swooped north from their mountain homes in the centre of the Sahara, pounced upon some little French outpost with a corporal's guard or upon some oasis friendly to France, killed, plundered and made off with the fleetest camels of their fastnesses among the Ahaggar Mountains; and the French have seen the dust of their enemies as they alsappeared in the distance and been as helpess as a hungry man or a desert island with no boat to take him across the flood to a land of plenty.

Up to twenty months ago every French caravan entering the desert was heavily laden with food and water supplies for a long journey and weighed down with ammunition and guns for defence against the Tuaregs. The camels were the ordinary slow freighters of the desert. The expeditions, therefore were overladen, slow and unwieldy. The veiled robbers of the Sahara could circle all around them, pick off two or three stragglers, with their loads of food or guns, scurry away, and the French could not touch them any more than an Ene Canalboat could catch the Mary Powell. It was the mosquito in light marching order worrying the glant.

Of all the expeditions which the French have organized on this system to penetrate far into the desert

Of all the expeditions which the French have organized on this system to penetrate far into the desert or to cross it, only one succeeded in carrying out its mission; and that was the Foureau-Lamy party with 1,000 camels and many tons of supplies. Thanks to the indemitable energy of its leaders, this party crossed to the Soudan after long delays and terrible suffering.

ing.

About two years ago a number of French army officers in the extreme southern part of the Algert to discuss of French army of the Algerlan Sahara came together to discuss the unsatisfactory situation. Foremost among them were Commandants Cauvet and Laperine, who had been studying the problem and had evolved a plan which they believed would solve the difficulty. Laperline unfolded the scheme. "Cauvet and I are convinced," he said, "that we shall fail every time as long as we attempt to travel with our present methods. We are like a waterlogged ship at sea, unmanageable and almost statiouary. If we are going to stop the attacks of the Tuaregs upon caravans and

manageable and almost stationary. If we are going to stop the attacks of the Tuaregs upon caravans and make Saharan travel safe we must adopt the tactics of our enemies.

"We must do just what Nansen did in the Arctic regions. He learned how to subsist and to dress like the Esquimaux. He followed their methods of dog sleighing. He took along with him Esquimaux boats to carry him from one ice floe to another. In short, he was wise enough to learn from the natives how things may be done best under Arctic conditions.

"Now the Tuaregs go lightly laden. They pick and train their camels, and the animals they ride can cover three times as much ground in a day as the ordinary pack camel. There is as much difference between them as there is between a racehorse and

there is between a racehorse and a Percheron. Traveling as fast as they do they are not compelled to weigh themselves down with supplies. They can replenish their food piles. They can replenish their food and water bags at every oasis and travel like the devil between supply stations. If we follow their tactios we can travel as fast as they can and, with our superior arms, we can beat them every time."

The idea was perfectly novel, but it seemed to be good common sense and was heartily approved by all the officers. The plan was adopted and measures were taken to test its ef-

seemed to be good common sense and was heartily approved by all the officers. The plan was adopted and measures were taken to test its efficiency as goon as possible.

In the cases of Wargia and El Goliea they enlisted a large band of young men, the best camel drivers of the region, experts in all the arts of desert travel. At the same time they ransacked all the camel herds of the Algerian Sahara and among the many thousands of animais they picked out those that were built for fast travel, the kind that are used in the courier service between the French oases. These courier animals are so trained that they never plod along with slow steps like an ox, but get over the ground with a tort of a lop that he as an ordinary carnyan train in their wake a good deal as an occan greyhound would hass a tramp steamer.

It this way several bands of native troops were organized under the command of white officers and for

In this way several bands of native, troops were organized under the command of white officers and for months they were drilled in the use of the best modern rifles, were raced at top, speed from one casis to another, and were rapidly put in a condition of high efficiency.

another, and were rainty put in condition of high efficiency.
This experiment has been a great success. There is now no baggage train in the French army of the Sahara. The new corsairs of the desert are travelling anywhere they are sent. Each camel carries from the three weeks, surply of food are sett. Each camel carries from two to three weeks' supply of food and water. A soldier with his mill-tary cutit is on the back of every camel. Every French troop in the Saharan service now equals the Tu-aregs in celerity of movement and is far their superior as a fighting force. The enemy is no longer unapproach-able.

These bands of 'ight camel carabary r call Mhaites. The Turness had a great sure so when they first mat the new kind of French expedition. Late in the spring of 1903 these robbers from 'he Ahagar Mountains attacked some of the native protegres of France in one of the oness. Licut Cottonest was despatched onses. L'out Cottonest was despatched with a force of 150 Meharistes to teach them a 'esson in good manners. In aboug s'y weeks this little party trave'led 1,05' m'es' over the despt to the southeast of their post and one morning 'e'l most unexpected'y upor the robbers, who had seat

natives mustered nearly all of their fighting strength. Lieut. Cottonest in his fight met only about 500 warriors.

To all appearances the French have accomplished their purpose with little fighting. They are therefore now turning their attention to long journeys of exploration in the desert.

Commandant Laperine has since been to the Ahaggar mountains for purposes of exp oration and to give the Tuarggs more fight if they wanted it, but the natives were as peaceale as lambs. In fact , they have not lifted a hand against the French or the inhabitants of any oasis since Cottonest's victory.

A wonderful jurney was made last spring to the southwest straight into the heart of the desert. The camel cavalry under command of Laperine started on April 15 last from Insalah, and made straight for the heart of Sahara. They travelled with great rapidity across wide zones where there was not a single well As soon as they reached pasturage they would remain for several days to refresh the animals. Then they would speed on across the sands to the next onsis. Their swiftest march, made in the course of twenty-nine hours, which included a number of halts, was seventy miles, which is remarkably fast traveling for camels. The party traversed the plateaus of Moygdir and Alnet, and made some interesting discoveries. They found, for example, an enormous cliff covered with paintings representing animals, some of which can no longer be found in the Sahara. They finally reached Inzize, where they began the return march.

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They inally reached Inzize, where they began the return march.

They of the desert to the Niger, but their orders required them to return. Most of their journey was through a waste which had been visited only by a single European, the explorer Laing who perished o

sult."—Mrs. Aunte C. Chestaut, of Whitby, was for months a rhsumatic victim, but douth American Rheumatic Curechanged the song from "despair" to "jey." She says:
"I suffered untold misery from Rheumatism—doctor's medicine did me no good—two bottles of South American Rheumatic Curecured me—relief two hours after the first

Daring Man. "I'm anxious to get the names of all present," said the reporter. "Will

"Oh," said the meek little "you may put down Mrs. Henry Pecl and husband." "You mean 'Mr. and Mrs. Heary "I would prefer that," he replied with a furtive glance over his sheuder, "but for goodness sake, don't say I gave it to you that way." — Philadelphia Press.

THE MOST WONDERFUL DRUG ever discov or allying pain is Japanese Menthol in co sinction with the curative properties inclining gums as in." The D & L." Ment Plaster, it is a positive specific for all neur it and nervous pains and twitches.

DANGEROUS WEEDS.

Ganjah Smoking Causes Victim Try to Commit Murder.

New York is threatened with a new vice compared with which "hitting the pipe" is a harmless amuse-ment. It is the smoking of ganjah. ment. It is the smoking of ganjah.
In some of the Chinese vegetable
shops in Mott, Pell and Doyer
streets, this weed, in a dried state ready for smoking, can now be pur chased by customers who are known The Chinese dealers are not ear to seil either opium or ganjah

strangers.
A Chinaman who runs a "cho A Chinaman who runs a "cnop suey joint" in Pell Street, admitted, in a burst of confidence the other evening, that the latter weed is now being smoked by some of the Americans who haunt Chinatown, as well as by the Chinese themselves. It is being cultivated, probably for the first time in this country, by the Chinese farmers at Astoria, L.I.,

the Chinese farmers at Astoria, L.I., who come into the city every Sunday and Monday with vegetables for New York's colony of Celestials.

Garjah is smoked to a slight extent in San Francisco, whither it is brought from China, but hitherto it has been unknown in this city. It is widely used in India and other parts of the Orient, and is practically the same as the famous bhang, or Indian hemp, which the Sepoys smoked to give themselves "Dutch courage" during the Indian mutiny. It has been introduced into Jamaica, Trinidad and other British West Indian colonies near our shores by the East Indian cololies brought

thither from Calcutta to work on the sugar plantations. Its use has led to so much crime that some of the colonial governments have pro-hibited its cultivation, importation or sale, under very heavy penalties. The smoking of ganjah inevitably gives a man homicidal mania. Many murders in the East and West Indies

murders in the East and West Indies have been directly caused by it. Ganjah is never smoked for mere pleasure. When an Oriental wishes to perpetrate some cruel or vengoful deed, from which he would shrink when sober or sane, he calls upon this weed to arouse within him his darkest passions. For ganjah causes temporary insanity and unnatural ferocity. When he wishes to perform some difficult task—a task requiring great strength and powers form some difficult task—a task requiring great strength and powers of endurance—he eats no food, he drinks no wine, but he smokes ganjah, for he believes it imparts superhuman strength and furnishes an inexhaustible store of energy. It really makes its victims insensible to fatigue and weariness. But it inevitably weakens the brain and ultimately impairs physical strength, while it demoralizes and brutalizes a while it demoralizes and brutalizes a

The Markets.

Toronto Farmers' Market.

The offerings of grain on the street to-day were small, and prices generally are unchanged. Wheat steady, with sales of 100 bushels of steady, with sales of 100 bushels of white at 60c, 200 bushels of red winter at 79c, and 300 bushels of goose at 73 to 73%. Barley dull, 100 bushels selling at 44c. Oats steady, with sales of 300 bushels at 31 to 32c. Rye sold at 54c a bushel for one load.

Butter is slightly easier, with sales of choice delay at 16 to 21c. Fems

Butter is siigntly easier, with sales of choice dairy at 16 to 21c. Eggs firm at 40 to 50c a dozen for new laid. Poultry generally dull, with best demand for turkeys.

Hey in fair supply, with sales of 30 loads at \$10 to \$10.50 a ton for timothy, and at \$6 to \$8 for mixed.

Straw \$10 a ton.
Dressed hogs are unchanged at \$6.75 to \$7.25, the latter for light.

Dressed hogs are unchanged at \$6.75 to \$7.25, the latter for light. Following are the quotations: Wheat, white, bush., 80c; goose, 73 to 73 1-2c; red, 79 to 79 1-2c; spring, 83 to 83 1-2c; prag., bush., 66 to 63c; oats, bush., 31 to 32c; barley, bush., 43 to 46c; hay, timothy, per ton, \$10 to \$10.50; clover, \$6 to \$9; atraw, per ton, \$10; seeds, alsike, bush., \$4.50 to \$6.75; red clover, bush., \$2.25 to \$6.10; timothy, 100 lbs., \$2.

Bradstreets on Trade. Wholesale trade at Montreal is bit quiet, as is usual at this time of the year. The wholesale trade have, through the active demand for bolitisy goods, affected a good sear-acco of stocks. Prices of domestic and foreign stayles continue firm. The season's trade is gractically over now at Toronto. The sales of

bolicay goods have been very satis-factory this year. Retail business has been very active the past two weeks. Stocks of spring goods car-ried over by retailers from last

read over by retailers itom issues ease; were not heavy.

In wholesale circles at Quebec there has been many sorting orders received from country traders. The Christmas demands show a slight fallist off from that of preceding years. Is some quarters collections are recorted slow. The shoe factories are all working, and the outlook all working, and the

Trade at the Pacific Coast, as re Trade at the Facilit Count, as properly of the heliday trade, as well as the inquiry for seasonable staple goods has been large. The cash business has shown expansion. The outlook for business the coming month is

The cold weather at Winnipeg has The cold weather at winning continued to stimulate the demand for heavy goods, and the holiday business has been better than in gro-

business has been better than in provious years. Stocks in wholesale bards have been well reduced, owing to the large demand through the Province for staple goods.

Wholesale trade at Hamilton up to the middle of this week was quite active. As a rule the demand for spring goods does not show much activity during the progress of the boliday trade, but the orders during that period this season were liberal, owing to the recent advances in staple goods. Trade the past few pently has been good, cash sales show a good increase, and the situation generally is satisfactory.

Business at London has been active. Retailers have made large

Business at London has been active. Retailers have made large sales of holiday goods, and are prepared to order liberally for the coming season. Payments are expected to show a big improvement the next two weeks. Prices are firmly field. The volume of business in connec-

tior with the holiday trade at Ot-tawa this season has been large. The business for the closing weeks of the year has given great sat-isfaction. Prices are firm in all derartments.

Let Barbers Beware

THE JAPANESE NAVY.

In 1858 Queen Victoria pi

a small steam paont to the Emperor of Japan, detailing some British bivelements to the duty of instructing the Japanese in the management of that class of vessel, the Japanese undertook to handle the craft before they had thoroughly learned their lesson, says the North American Review, and on the first voyage, when they wanted to stop, they discovered that they had forgotten how this operation was performed. They therefore steamed round and round the Gulf of Yeddo until the fires died down, and then the yacht was tugged home. Since then Japan has risen to the position of one of the great neval powers, and her progress of recent years has been nothing short of marvelous. At the time of her war with China her whole fleet displaced about thirty thousand tons; to-day the aggregate displacement is over two hundred and fifty thousand tons. Japan has a fishing population of about two million men. a small steam pacet to the Emper is over two hundred and lifty thousand tons. Japan has a fishing population of about two million men, and from this section of the community she draws her seamen. Hitherto she has been depending upon other countries for the construction of her vessels, but the time is near at hand when she will be able to throw of the assistance of the western world. Her arsenals are already capable of building protected cruisers and torpedo craft, and a gun factory and armor plate factory are now being established which will soon be ready to begin work.

which will soon be ready to begin which will soon be ready to begin work.

Her seamen are men of intelligence, resource and sea lore, and capable of quickly acquiring sufficient mechanical skill to enable them to control the complex mechanism of their modern men-of-war with complete success. They desire no pampering, and they can live on the simplest food and sleep anywhere; but in their new ships they have more air, and, in some respects, greater comforts than are to be found on many, if not most, British men-of-war. These sallors of the far east take things very, much as they find them, with a stolcal calm. They face danger with much the same spirit with which they take their pleasure, and in spite of the rapid strides which civilization has made in their country their luxuries aire few, and they are contented and happy. They are devoted to simple sports, to fencing and to acting; no one can ever forget the dramatic entertainments on Japanese men-of-war who has been privileged to witness them. Nor does the memory soon become dim of one of these ships when decked out in gala dress with chrysanthemums, cherry blossoms and other blooms typical of Japan enlivening the grim aspect of the making of imitation paper flowers, which so closely resemble the handward of the party of the decks. The men are adepts in the making of imitation paper flowers, which so closely resemble the handward of the decks. which so closely resemble the hand-iwork of nature that at a casual glance one hardly notices the de-ception.

OPINIONS OF A CYNIC.

It is as hard for a crooked politician, to do a straight thing as it is for an empty bag to stand on end.

The constituency that is not repre-ented in Parliament by a decoy de erves to be congratulated.

When a man lies in politica his friends call it diplomacy.

When a politician is running for Partora; after he is elected he shakes hands with himself.

To hear some politicians talk, one would imagine that members of Parliament were divided into saints and sinners, and that the sinners were all on the other side of the House.

When we read the laudatory references to the abilities of candidates on the stump, we wonder how so many lame ducks get to Parliament.

The fakir has a higher notch in politics than the faddist, and usually gets more out of the busines.

The most subservient politician is not the most highly esteem men whom he serves.

Partyism is aptly designated the madness of many for the gain of a few.

Independence has a place in politics, if only to show how the old parties hate it. When a politician imagines he kaows it all, he has fallen on evil days.

Many politicians who are regarded as

in the little red school-h only pollywogs when Parliament is in

There are times when the politician lifts the poker by the wrong

In politics honeaty is the best political though it is not always acted up to. Take patronage from a politician and he rarely amounts to much.

Patriotism, like a dress suit, 's used by the politician only on state

The politician takes to patronage as naturally as the tramp takes to a hand-The man who has no loaves or ashes

to give out is never type-high with the ordinary politician. There are good men in politics, and that is why it is so easy to pick out the

What is wanted is more patriots and

The politician who is "true to one party, and that is himself," never cies. Politics is scriptural to this extent: That it is the little foxes that spoil the

The later version is: The ox knoweth his owner, and the politician his master's cris