

THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE.

Why We Should Be Content With Such Things As We Have.

A despatch from Washington says:—Rev. Dr. Talnage preached from the following text: "Be content with such things as ye have."—Hebrews xiii. 5.

The first reason that I mention as leading to this spirit advised in the text, is the consideration that the poorest of us have all that is indispensable in life. We make a great ado about our hardships, but how little we talk of our blessings. Health of body, which is given in largest quantity to those who have never been petted and fondled and spoiled of fortune, we take as a matter of course. Rather than this luxury and have it alone, than without it, look out of a palace window upon parks of deer stalking between fountains and statuary. These people sleep soundly on a straw mattress than fashionable invalids on a couch of ivory and eagle's down. The dinner of herbs tastes better to the appetite sharpened on a woodman's axe or a reaper's scythe than the wealthy indigestion experiences seated at a table covered with partridge and venison and pineapple. The grandest luxury God ever gave a man is health. He who trades that off for all the palaces of the earth is infinitely cheated. Bless God today, O man, O woman, that though you may be shut out from the works of a church, and a Bierstadt and a Rubens and a Raphael, you still have free access to a gallery grander than the Louvre or the Luxembourg or the Vatican—the royal gallery of the noonday heavens, the King's gallery of the midnight sky.

Another consideration leading us to a spirit of contentment, is the fact that our happiness is not dependent upon outward circumstances. You see people happy and miserable amid all circumstances. In a family where the last loaf is on the table and the last stick of wood on the fire, you sometimes find a cheerful confidence in God, while in a very fine place you will see and hear discord sounding her war-whoop and hospitality freezing to death in a cheerless parlor. I believe real happiness often looks out of the window of

A HUMBLE HOME

than through the opera glass of the gilded box of a theatre. I find New Englanders in a dungeon. I find king Ahaz going to bed at noon, through melancholy, while near by is Naboth rentenched in the possession of a vineyard. Haman, prime minister of Persia, frets himself almost to death because a poor Jew will not tip his hat, and Athithophel, one of the great lawyers of the Bible times, through fear of dying, hangs himself.

Another reason why we should come to this spirit, indicated in the text is the fact that all the differences of earthly condition are transitory. The houses you build, the lands you culture, the places in which you barter, are soon to go into other hands. However hard you may have it now, if you are a Christian, your scene will soon end. Pain, trial, persecution, never knock at the door of the grave. A coffin made out of pine boards is just as good a resting place as one made out of silver mounted mahogany or rosewood. Go down among the nesting places of the dead, and you will find that though people there had a great difference of worldly circumstances, now they are all alike unconscious. The warm hands that greeted the senator and the president and the senator still as the hand that hardened on the mechanics' hammer or the manufacturer's wheel. It does not make any difference now, whether there is a plain stone or whether there is a plain stone and a velvet pulpit beside from which the stonemason pulls aside the weeds to see the name, or a tall shaft springing into the heavens as though to tell their virtues to the skies. In that great men, there are no titles or rumblings of chariot wheels, and there is never heard there the foot of the dance. The Egyptian guano which is thrown on the field in the East for the enrichment of the soil, is the same as that which is scattered on the fields of the kings and lords and mighty men. Of the chagrin of those mighty men if they had ever known that in the after ages of the world they would have been called Egyptian guano.

Another reason why we should culture this spirit of cheerfulness is the fact that God knows what is best for his creatures. You know what is best for your child. He thinks you are not as liberal with him as you ought to be. He criticizes your discipline, but you look over the whole field, and you, loving that child, do what in your deliberate judgment is best for him. Now,

GOD IS THE BEST OF FATHERS.

Sometimes his children think that he is hard on them and that he is not as liberal with them as they might be as a father. I can tell you as much as a father. I can tell you why you are not largely affluent, and why you have not been grandly successful. It is because you cannot stand the temptation. If your path had been smooth, you would have depended upon your own sure-footedness; but God roughened that path so you have to take hold of his hand. If the weather had been mild, the very birds would have loitered along the water courses, but at the first howl of the storm you quickened your pace heavenward, and wrapped around you the warm robe of a Saviour's righteousness. Would God that we could understand that our trials are not our best thing for us. If we had an appreciation of that truth, then we would know why it was that John Noyes, the martyr, in the very midst of the flames reached down and picked up one of the frogs that

was consuming him and kissed it, and said: "Blessed be God for the time when I was born to this preferment." "They who suffer with him in heaven." "Be content then with such things as you have."

Another consideration leading us to the spirit of the text is the assurance that the Lord will provide somehow. Will he who holds the waters in the hollow of his hand allow his children to die of thirst? Will he who owns the cattle on a thousand hills and all the earth, allow his children to starve? Go out tomorrow morning at five o'clock, into the woods and hear the birds chant. They have had no breakfast, they know not where they will dine, they have no idea where they will sleep; but hear the birds chant at five o'clock in the morning. "Behold, the fowls of the air, they sow not neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them: are ye not much better than they?" Seven thousand people in Christ's time went into the desert. They were the most improvident people I ever heard of.

THEY DESERVED TO STARVE.

They might have taken food enough with them to last them until they got back. Nothing did they take. A lad who had more wit than all of them put together, asked his mother that morning for some loaves of bread and some fishes. They were put into his satchel. He went out to the desert. From this provision the seven thousand were fed, and the more they eat the larger the loaves grew, until the provision that the boy brought in one satchel was multiplied so he could not have carried the fragments home in six satchels. "Oh," you say, "times have changed, and the day of miracles has gone." I reply that what God did then by miracle, he does now in some other way. I know of a lad who, in a very old age, said David, "but now an old, old man I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread." It is high time that you who are fretting about worldly circumstances and fearing you are coming to want, understood that the oath of the eternal God is involved in the fact that you are to have enough to eat and to wear.

AGAIN, I REMARK THAT THE RELIGION OF JESUS CHRIST IS THE GREATEST INFLUENCE TO MAKE A MAN CONTENTED.

Indemnity against all financial and spiritual harm. It calms the spirit, drowns the passions, and fills the soul with the thought of heaven. Oh! ye who have been going from place to place expecting to find in change of circumstances something to give you peace, I commend you this morning to the warm-hearted, earnest, practical, common-sense religion of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no peace, saith my Lord, for the wicked, and so long as you continue in your sin you will be miserable. Come to God. Make him your portion and start for heaven and you will be a happy man—you will be a happy woman.

Let us all remember, if we are Christians, that we are going, after awhile, whatever be our circumstances now, to come to a glorious vacation. As in summer we put off our garments and go down into the cool sea, and we will put off our garments of flesh, and we will step into the cool Jordan. We will look around for some place to lay down our weariness, and the trees of the grove will say, "Come and rest under our shadow," and the earth will say: "Hush! while I sing thee a cradle hymn," and while six strong men carry us out to our last resting place, and ashes come to be scattered, and our feet stand amid the broken sod, and a lacerated brow bending over the open earth, while a voice tender with all affection, and mighty with omnipotence, will declare: "I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." Comfort one another with these words.

CARE OF MACHINERY.

Many farmers let their machinery stand out in the weather to ruin. Why do they not make a shed and put them under it? Some will say, "They get a new machine, run it about, and then loan it to Tom, Dick or Harry, who know no more about it than he does and who don't even care."

After the cutting season is over instead of taking it to a dry shed he sets it out by the roadside, or fence corner, where the rain and snow rust it, and the sun warps and cracks it. The next year the machine is rusted and cracked, does not work well, and the owner goes to the store and gets another, a little more costly, when the first isn't half paid for and never will be.

Such a man will never prosper; he will get in debt over his heels and the farm which his father gave him is gone—taken for mortgage; and more is gone—more will not trust him any more.

It does not cost much money to build a shed and get oil, and it is much better in the long run. Farmers, please take a warning and do be very careful about all your machinery.

Some years ago a witty old Welsh preacher, making reference to the duties of wives, said:—There is amongst my congregation a woman who is guilty of disobedience to her husband. To mark her I'll hurl this hymn-book at her, at the same time lifting the book. Every woman in the meeting bowed her head.

HOUSEHOLD.

TO CLEAN RIBBONS.

For all ribbons but white or those that are badly soiled an excellent method is to put all kinds together into a fruit jar that is half full of gasoline. Cover it tightly with a few times and allow it to stand overnight. In the morning the dirt will be found at the bottom of the jar. The ribbons should be shaken, not squeezed or wrung, when they are removed from the fluid, and hung in the open air to dry. When ribbon is turned yellow by gasoline. Do not use the gasoline near a fire or light.

TO PRESERVE THE TEETH.

Nothing is better in the way of preservation for the teeth and the preventive of disagreeable consequences for the life or than bicarbonate of soda. Keep a jar of it on the toilette shelf, using a pinch in a third of a glass of water morning and evening with the tooth brush, and rinse the mouth freely with bicarbonate of soda. Keep a jar of it on the toilette shelf, using a pinch in a third of a glass of water morning and evening with the tooth brush, and rinse the mouth freely with bicarbonate of soda. Keep a jar of it on the toilette shelf, using a pinch in a third of a glass of water morning and evening with the tooth brush, and rinse the mouth freely with bicarbonate of soda.

INEXPERIENCED MOTHERS.

Women enter a position which gives into their hands direct responsibility for the life or death of the whole human race, with neither study or experience, with no shadow of preparation or guarantee of ability. So far as they give it a thought, they fondly imagine that this powerful maternal instinct will see them through. Instructions they will pick up when the time comes; children they will acquire as the natural laws. "I have been young," said David, "but now an old, old man I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread." It is high time that you who are fretting about worldly circumstances and fearing you are coming to want, understood that the oath of the eternal God is involved in the fact that you are to have enough to eat and to wear.

VALUE OF BLACKBERRY JUICE.

If people understood how valuable as a medicine blackberry juice—not wine—is, they would bestir themselves in all summer complaints, its equal cannot be found as a food and medicine. We have known many children's lives saved by it. There are two ways of keeping: One is canning the berries and straining it out, and bottling. Boil half an hour with cork stopper in bottle. When done press stopper in tightly, tie a dark piece of cloth over with cotton, and the vessel in which they were boiled from the fire and let the water get cold before taking up the bottles, as the cold air might be preserved this way.

A SHIRTSWAIST BOX.

The department stores are showing a shirtwaist box which is simple, a fruit crate, about 30 inches long, 15 inches wide and 20 inches high. It is lined with white cloth and the top is padded with a pretty chintz. A valance of the chintz is tacked around the top of the box and allowed to reach the bottom. In the center of the front is a hanging loosely. This and the bars of the crate allow the circulation of air, and keep the shirtswaist sweet. Made prettily, the box forms a valuable addition to one's wardrobe, and is a comfortable seat as well. The best thing about these boxes is that they may be made at home. A family green grocer will gladly furnish the crate, which has a hamp that may be gilded.

OVEN-STEAMED BROWN BREAD.

Some housekeepers dislike to steam brown bread, because of the attention and trouble involved in caring for the bread while cooking. A simple way and one that all will appreciate is as follows: Put the brown bread mixture in a small pail and cover tightly. Place this pail in a pail of a larger size, which is partly filled with hot water, tight covering the second pail. Place in the oven, and leave for three hours, if the fire is moderate, the bread will need no attention after it is once in the oven, as the water in the larger pail never boils out. Puddings can be steamed in the same way.

HOUSEKEEPERS WHO ONCE TRY THIS METHOD OF STEAMING BROWN BREAD OR PUDDINGS WILL BE SURE TO ADOPT IT.

SUGGESTIONS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

"Cellaritis" is the outcome of neglected cellars, and many outbreaks of disease and "malaria" may be traced to it. The cellar ought to be whitewashed once every year, and every bit of rubbish, decaying vegetable matter and accumulations of any sort, cleared out. Remember that the air from the cellar is diffused all over the house.

A housekeeper says that a piece of an old felt hat, put between two thin layers of wadding and then covered as usual "makes the best holder for hot irons you ever saw."

A perfect olive is a yellowish-green tinge, hard, and when bitten the mouthful is entire, not mushy

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

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DOMESTIC RECIPES.

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QUAINT CUSTOMS.

The Widow's Sixpence and the Widow's Bun on Good Friday.

A number of quaint customs peculiar to Good Friday are observed in London, and other parts say the London Mail. The first, but so far as they are observed in the metropolis are concerned, the events lead up to them are well known. They are "The Widow's Sixpence," and "The Widow's Bun."

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Following a service in the church, the people, headed by the senior churchwarden made their way to the tombstone selected for the purpose, and there each recipient picked up her sixpence, to which was added the wisher through kindness of the donor.

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The moon, which is said to be a ruin of nature and reflects upon us the light of the sun, tells us how we are to let our light shine that God may be glorified, by living in His light and abiding in His love, by being Jesus only.

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BRITAIN'S BIG BARGAINS.

TIMES WHEN JOHN BULL HAS BEEN RIGHT SMART.

The Best Deal He Ever Made—Germany Squared With the Gift of Heligoland.

Our diplomats are not credited with being particularly smart when compared with those of other nations, particularly Russia, but the sum total of bargains we have carried through is considerably greater than that of any other nation, says Pearson's Weekly.

The best bargain ever made by John Bull is that which resulted in our occupation of Egypt. In 1875, when the question of who should have the ruling voice in the control of the Suez Canal was exciting diplomatists, Europe was startled by the information that Britain had purchased the Khedive's shares in the Canal, amounting to £4,000,000.

The transaction not only resulted in giving us a controlling voice in the direction of the Canal, whereby in time of war we could prevent an enemy from using it, but was a tremendous bit of business from the financial point of view, for the shares are now worth £22,200,000.

Lord Salisbury has been at various times credited with making big bargains, and giving away valuable possessions without securing any substantial return. But our wiser man than his critics have any idea of, when Heligoland was given away, as it was said at the time, "with a pound of tea," people thought of Heligoland as a blunder. But though we do not know what is in the secret records of the Foreign Office about this bargain, we do know that on certain questions Germany has been wonderfully friendly towards this country. In the Egyptian question even when the Premier is probably a much smarter man than his critics have any idea of, when Heligoland was given away, as it was said at the time, "with a pound of tea," people thought of Heligoland as a blunder. But though we do not know what is in the secret records of the Foreign Office about this bargain, we do know that on certain questions Germany has been wonderfully friendly towards this country. In the Egyptian question even when the Premier is probably a much smarter man than his critics have any idea of, when Heligoland was given away, as it was said at the time, "with a pound of tea," people thought of Heligoland as a blunder. But though we do not know what is in the secret records of the Foreign Office about this bargain, we do know that on certain questions Germany has been wonderfully friendly towards this country.

FRANCE AND RUSSIA.

and on a certain occasion has actively supported us. How do we know that Heligoland had not something to do with this?

There are many other cases in which "gracious concessions" have been made to Germany, and the same charges have been levelled against the Premier. Yet the most conspicuous feature of the Transvaal War has been the consistently friendly attitude of Germany, which has enabled us to proceed with the campaign without any trouble from Europe. Set this against any trifling territorial concessions we have made to our Teutonic friends, and it will be agreed that the bargain has been an excellent one for us. "Who knows but that our complaisance towards Russia before the war had not a similar explanation?"

Our foreign neighbors are also very fond of sneering at our disposition to fish in troubled waters. This from malice aforethought or not, trouble between other States is one of the most useful things for us that could happen. The Franco-German War was enormously profitable to us. England was expected to step in and help France, as otherwise Germany would become so powerful that she would have a strong rival in colonial possessions. But our business instinct showed that neutrality would be by far the best course for us to adopt. By supplying both combatants with ammunition and capturing as much of their foreign trade as we could, we made millions.

Further, France, formerly our only serious foe, became so crippled that she has now

NO PAYING COLONY.

Germany, though victorious, and as powerful as was feared, is so handicapped by the standing hostility of France that she finds her best policy to be as conciliatory towards us as she can be.

Sentimental people made a tremendous fuss because we did not send our fleet to Constantinople when the Armenians massacres were in progress. Perhaps that would have been the nobler course to pursue, but nations can no more afford to be sentimental in their dealings than can commercial firms. We have enormous interests to protect, which can only be safe-guarded by pursuing set lines of policy. Our interference in Turkey would have only brought about the intervention of all other nations, particularly Russia, and the latter possibility is one that we have fought against for a century. To keep Russia out of the Mediterranean, and from annexing any portion of Turkey, we have almost incurred another, namely, in 1878. Any establishment of Russia in the Mediterranean would make her so powerful, that our command of the route to India would be gravely menaced. This would have happened had Lord Salisbury listened to those who would have driven him to go to war with Turkey over the Armenian massacres. As it has turned out, the Sultan has become massacres are concerned, and Russia is no nearer the realization of her designs on Turkey than she was at the beginning of the last century.

INFORMATION FROM HEAD-QUARTERS.

Cloven-ton—Look here, have you been making love to Miss Summit? Bushaway—Yes, sir, I have.

Well, do you know that I have been making love to that girl?

So she said.

What's all that crowd of women over there at Bargen's? Shoppers who read Bargen's. But that's the name of Duty is God used just 35 times, or 7 by 7, signifying abundant perfection, and when God becomes all in all in us, as He is in this portion, we shall be abundantly perfected.

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QUAINT CUSTOMS.

The Widow's Sixpence and the Widow's Bun on Good Friday.

A number of quaint customs peculiar to Good Friday are observed in London, and other parts say the London Mail. The first, but so far as they are observed in the metropolis are concerned, the events lead up to them are well known. They are "The Widow's Sixpence," and "The Widow's Bun."

With regard to the former, a number of poor widows assembled in the churchyard of St. Bartholomew.

Following a service in the church, the people, headed by the senior churchwarden made their way to the tombstone selected for the purpose, and there each recipient picked up her sixpence, to which was added the wisher through kindness of the donor.

On the fourth day of the sun, moon and stars are appointed for signs, seers, days and years, to be lights in the night. We think of them in connection with seasons, days and years, but are not apt to consider that they are signs, and when attention is called to Jer. xxxi, 35, xxxiii, 20, 21, and that Israel shall be greatly astonished. The sun turns its attention to the Lord God as our sun and shield and to the time when the righteous shall shine forth as the sun (Ps. lxxvii, 11; Math. xiii, 43).

The moon, which is said to be a ruin of nature and reflects upon us the light of the sun, tells us how we are to let our light shine that God may be glorified, by living in His light and abiding in His love, by being Jesus only.

AN UNKNOWN OLD STATUTE.

"No questions will be asked" is a dangerous ending to an advertisement for the recovery of a lost dog or any other article of moderate value, for by an old statute it is open to anyone to bring an action against the advertiser or the newspaper for a \$50 penalty and costs. This was the result of a case heard the other day at Manchester. The odd thing is that the court had no doubt that it was the first case since the Act was passed forty years ago.

IS MR. PETERSBY RICH?

I don't think so. He dresses too fashionably.