



LESSON PICTURE.

SEPT. 14.—THE PARABLE OF THE POUNDS.—*Luke* xix. 11-27.**The Inquisitive Fisherman.**

ONCE there was a fisherman
Who went to catch some fish;
He took with him a basket
And a little china dish.
"I use one for the fishes,
The other when I sup;
For, if they meet my wishes,
I'll cook and eat them up!"

He fished and fished the whole day long,
From morn till late at night;
He baited hooks and watched his bob,
But could not get a bite.
He then threw down his rod and line,
And vowed he'd go below
To find out what the reason was
The fish had used him so.

The fish all gathered round him,
Each wagging his own tail,
From the little polly-woggy
To the great gigantic whale.
Some fish were looking scaly,
And some exceeding thin,
But all were glad to see the man,
And offered him a fin.

They said, "We have no china dish,
No basket snug and tight;
But we are very prudent fish,
Who think before we bite.
We do not need to cook our prize
Ere we sit down and sup."
And so, before his very eyes,
They eat that fisher up!

The International Sunday-School Convention.

THIS great gathering has been in every respect a remarkable success. The attendance of delegates was very large, and the public audiences immense. The Canadian delegation numbered about sixty, most of whom went by special train, arranged for by Mr. L. C. Peake, one of the indefatigable Ontario members of the Executive Committee.

Among those present were: Rev. Dr. Burns, Halifax; Rev. A. Lucas, New Brunswick; Rev. A. M. Phillips, B.D., Rev. T. Cullen, Rev. W. Shepherd, Rev. Dr. Withrow, Rev. Dr. Griffith, Mr. D. Maclean, Mr. John M. Faircloth, Mr. Hosack, and many others from Ontario.

The hospitality of the good people of Pittsburg was unbounded. Their elegant homes were thrown open for the reception of over 1 000 delegates, and twice a day—in a large dining-hall—an excellent meal was generously provided by the several

Churches. During the four days of the Convention, over one thousand of the elect ladies of Pittsburg and Allegheny took part in ministering to the needs of the delegates.

The addresses of Governor Beaver, of Pennsylvania, of Dr. Burns, of Bishop Vincent, of Miss Willard, and of many others, will be long remembered by those who heard them.

Our own Dr. Potts was an admirable representative of Canada, and his remarks were received with enthusiasm. The following is a brief outline of his address on the international lesson system:

"The Dominion of Canada is part of this International Sunday-school Convention, and is represented on the

International Lesson Committee by two members. It may be well for the Convention to know Canada's estimate of the international lesson scheme. Canada thoroughly endorses that scheme, and strongly deprecates any attempt to depart from its broad catholicity. The most important part of the work of this Convention is the Bible-teaching that it does through its Lesson Committee. The Bible is the text-book of the Sunday-school, and never more so than to-day. There the Word is supreme. Everything else is subordinate, and should be. The Bible is more revered, loved, and recognized than ever before in the Sunday-school. When we touch Bible-teaching, we touch the heart of this institution. There is little teaching of the Word outside of the Sunday-school. Perhaps I should state that more carefully, and say there is little teaching of the Word for many outside of the Sunday-school. How much definite, intelligent, and consecutive biblical instruction is imparted by parents? How much by pulpits? There is expository preaching, and that is one of the hopeful signs of the times; but the pulpit cannot go into the detail which is proper and essential in Sunday-school work. The comprehensiveness of the international lesson system is highly valued in Canada. The intelligent teaching of a seven years' series requires a knowledge not only of the specific lessons, but of the Scriptures outside of and between those lessons. Our estimate of the lesson scheme is great in the light of its wealth of scholarly illustration. The ripest biblical scholarship of the nineteenth century is placed upon the altar of our Sunday-school work, and is brought within the reach of all grades of Sunday-school teachers. It has done much to make this the Bible-loving age of the Church. The lesson scheme is recognized by the Church and the family. How the pastor is assisted by the exposition of the lessons! In its spiritual influence by reason of concentration and association, it is of infinite value. Is it a small thing that the Sunday-school world is studying the same passage, praying over the same portion, and praying for all so engaged? Sunday comes, and what! Why, there is a bond of loving, spiritual sympathy that is simply incalculable in its influence for good. The international lesson scheme has made the Bible a familiar book to millions to whom it would be otherwise comparatively unknown. No other plan could shed such light upon the sacred text. Canada

highly esteems the international lesson system from an interdenominational point of view. It is the centre of a great evangelical alliance, and of much practical interdenominational work. It demonstrates unity without impairing denominational attachment. It is drawing the Churches nearer in the spirit of fraternity. Whatever does that, is doing Christlike work. In the work of the Lesson Committee, no denomination is known or recognized; while in the exposition, by the several denominational authorities, the lesson is expounded from the standpoint of the Churches. Canada has various opinions of Sunday-school work. But, in view of the many advantages of the lesson scheme, is loyal to the scheme as it is. The quarterly option plan should please all parties in the United States, as I think it does fairly well in the Dominion. We have a review party in Canada. We have a missionary party in Canada. We have a temperance party in Canada. The lesson scheme adjusts itself to each and all, and all should be satisfied therewith. The lesson scheme is a vital part of this Convention. The Convention could not be maintained but for it. Mutilate it, and you destroy it; destroy it, and "Ichabod" may be written upon the International Sunday-school Convention. The Word of God is the centre around which this Convention revolves. The Word of God is the bond—the vital, living, spiritual bond—uniting all Sunday-school teachers, all Christian workers, and all denominations. The Word of God is the inspiration of this Convention. Who shall tell the value of this Convention—nationally and internationally, as well as religiously? We live under two flags. They are two great flags. You are justly proud of your flag of stars and stripes. We of the Dominion of Canada are just as proud of our grand old flag. While the world lasts may they be symbols of freedom, and of the highest type of civilization and ever be in friendly relations to each other! The Sunday-school outlook never was brighter than to-day. What mighty possibilities are wrapped up in the great work! Let the Church give to it youth and manhood, maidenhood and womanhood, brain power and heart power, power of culture and character. Let us study and teach and work under the guidance and grace of the Holy Spirit, and this world shall be won for Christ."

Never Get Into Debt.

The Duchess of Kent, the mother of Queen Victoria, was most careful to train her little daughter in habits of regularity and economy as regards money matters. The following story will show how scrupulous was her training:

It became known at Tunbridge Wells, where the royal child was residing for a time, that the princess had been unable to buy a box at the bazaar because she had spent all her money.

At this bazaar she had bought presents for almost all her relations, and had laid out her last shilling, when she remembered one cousin more, and saw a box marked half a crown which would just suit him. The shop-people, hearing the little girl's eagerly expressed wish for it, placed the box with the other purchases; but the governess said: "No, you see the princess has not got the money; therefore, of course, she cannot buy the box."

This being made clear, the next offer was to put the box aside till it *could* be purchased; and the answer came, "Oh, well, if you will be so good as to do that." On quarter-day, before seven in the morning, the princess appeared on her donkey, her earnest little face all smiles, the desired money in her hand, to claim her treasure.