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### IT IS SYMBOL OF SIN

LEPROSY IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD SYNOMOUS WITH EVIL.

MAKES AS NOTHING GREAT MEN

What Sin Is!-A Vivid Description of Moral Lepresy-How Christ, the Savier of Men, Saved Men, Not Merely From Their Effects, But From Beti Sin and Leprosy Themselves.

Entered According to Act of Parliament of Con-age, in the year 1902, by Wilman Employed To-ronto, at the Dep't of Agriculture Comman

Chicago, Sept. 7 .- By a vivid, startling parallel Rev. Frank De Witt Taimage portrays the evil of sin and its remedy. His text is il. Kings, v, 1, "But he was a leper." The Syrian nation was a minitar nation, with all that the word inplies, and Captain Naaman was Ancommander-in-chief of all its armice the headquarters of which were to b found in the Damascus capital. ... Naaman wielded a higher imment than that which belongs even to greatest soldier of a military wing dom. The phrase used by the insp ed historian, "a great man with n master, and honorable," implies the he held a position more powerf d in the kingdom than the head of in privy council, the prime minister or the secretary of state or secretary of the treasury, and he may have held through the prestige of his military successes, some or all of these office in his own person, as great pashes often do in Oriental lands. He occu pied practically the same position in the Damascus capital that the Duke of Wellington occupied after the battle of Waterloo. The Duke of Wellington, by the overthrow of the Napoleonic dynasty, not only became the prime minister of England, but for awhile the most influential statesman in all Europer Leprosy, humanly speaking, is an

incurable disease.

Scientists ever

since history began have been studying the onward march of this fatal destroyer. Although most prevalent n the east, it is confined to no climate and is peculiar to no age, race or condition. Nearly 2,000 years before Christ was born in Bethlehem we read that Miriam, who led the Jebrew maidens in the triumphant ence when Pharach's host was suberged in the Red Sea, was afflicted the leprosy because she became sinily jealous. Miriam was jealous beuse her brother Moses, eighty years age, fell in love and wanted to ake a wife. Clear back in 1516 Holbein, the artist, painted a picture of Elizabeth distributing bread to the unclean lepers of Augsburg. Lepers among the icebergs of the north, lepers basking in the torrid heats about the equator, lepers in Europe, lepers America, lepers in the islands of the seas! But, though leprosy has been found by the scientists everywhere, yet one fact is universally recognized about the disease-it is incurable. A man who has the leprous poison in is system has no hope from medi-He must grow worse and worse until he comes to the grave. It is as incurable as that disease which we call cancer and which is nly a little less fatal in its hideous and repulsive results than leprosy. \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* How terrible are these diseases that physicians confess themselves un-able to cure! How startling, then, s the divine statement that the soul ay be afflicted with such a disease milerly beyond human medicament. Sin is a leprosy. Sin is a cancer of the soul gnawing at its vitals. Sin is the forerunner of eternal death. There are men to-day within the sound of my voice who in their own strength have been fighting sin for the last twenty or thirty years. Butas you grow weaker the power of our sin is growing stronger. God have lily upon you, for you are a doomed leper. You are doomed by

But though from our standpoint eprosy is incurable, yet the leprous scales were cleaned by a divine power. Therefore, it is to Christ and to Christ alone that we must look for the cure of sin. The moral leper may go with confidence to Christ, who cured the physical lepers by a word. When the ten lepers came to the Saviour pleading for help, Christ turned and said: "Go show yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass as they went they were cleansed." Naaman, the great captain, was helpless in the hands of his human physicians. On account of his wealth and fame Naaman must have had the best doctors the royal court of Damascus could summon; but when Naaman, obedient to the divine mmand through Elisha, went and dipped seven times in the river Jordan his flesh became like the flesh of a little child. O my brother and sister, you who are cursed with leprous sin, will you not come to the divine fountain? Will you not bathe in Christ's blood? Will you not to-day

by the Calvary cross seek supernatural medicament? Leprosy may take a very long time in which to fatally develop, although such is not always the way the disease progresses. Sometimes the scourge in a few months may change a beautiful body into a hideous corpse, but the quick result is the exception and not the rule. At this first touch of leprosy usually there may only be a hardness, or rather a numbness, of the skin in a spot about the size of a ten cent piece. The skin at that one place merely turns as white as snow. If you know nothing about the disease, you may not worry about it. You may, for a long time, be indifferent to the numbness. Then, some day when you are in a physician's office seeking advice for some other cause, you may turn to the doctor and say: "By the way, doctor, I have a very peculiar some thing the matter with my hand. It does not hurt me, but it is numb in one place." Then the physician with a grave face will look at your hand. Then he will take a pin out of the

lanel of his coat and prick that spot. Then he will turn and say:

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SUDE STOK HEADACHE.

"You are a leper! You are already doomed, although death may be many

vears away." When going through one of the leper hospitals of Calcutta, I saw standing in one of the wards a beautiful flaxen haired baby boy. He was only about six or seven years of age. He was one of the healthiest looking and prettiest children I ever saw. He was the son of an English soldier. He was such a lovely boy, and while his great big eyes were looking at me he was standing the e with his thumb in his mouth sucking it as some of us have sucked our thumbs when we were children. I turned and said to the lovely boy, "Why are you here?" "Got the disease," he answered. "Where?" said I as the great tears began to rain down my cheeks. The lad raised one of his pretty bare legs. Then, pointing to the ball of his foot, he said, "There it is." As I looked I could hardly keep back my sobs. I saw in the ball of his foot the fatal white mark. It was like a beautiful snowflake. The child was doomed. He was a

But, though leprosy may come in a seemingly harmless way, the disease for four, five, ten, even fifteen years until the skin bloats and cracks and the hair falls out. So leprous sin, coming in a seemingly harmless way, will keep on spreading until it makes the face hideous, the body deformed, It may keep on spreading for years until at last the fatal leprous sin will destroy the body as well as the

Leprosy is an infectious disease. It is infectious as the scarlet fever germ is infectious. It is spread throughout a community only by the leprous germ on one physical body being brought into contact with another physical body when the latter is in a condition favorable for the development of that leprous germ. Thus in the lazar house established in New Brunswick, Canada, in 1865, it was found by investigation that every one of the ninety patients within that leprous hospital had contracted the disease of leprosy within a radius of seventy miles from the point where the first case of Canadian leprosy was discovered. Convinced of its infectious, character, Dr. Emerson, who was for many years in the employ of the Hawaiian Government, gave as his testimony that it is utterly useless to fight the leprous disease in any other way than by isolation. "To experiment," said he, "with this scourge

You drink your Own Heatlh when you drink Abbey's Salt. Extracted from the juice of pure fruits, it is both a giver and pre-Salt is recommended by physicians because it purifies the blood, cleanses the stomach, invigorates

the liver and gently regulates the bowels. It keeps the head clear, the eyes bright and the complex-

ion good. Insist on "Abbey's."

on any other theory than the inter tious theory is dangerous, reckless To isolate the lepers of the Hawai-

ian Islands, Molokai, the leper re-servation for the islands of the Pacific, was established. In the Holy Lard the Jews and gentiles alike drive their own leprous kith and kin from their sides into isolation. They exclude them from the cities and the towns. As you travel through the east, those lepers, some with their arms and teeth gone, some on crutch es, some sightless, some with crack-ed and bleeding lips, come down the nountain side, and in hoarse, piping voices beg for food and money. eems to be a very heartless method thus to isolate the lepers, but the orientals say, "Better that a few men and women starve and die, bet-ter that a few infectious lepers be exiled from civilization, than that a whole community sicken and be de-As the disease of leprosy is fatally stroved."

infectious, so are the leprous germs of sin. The evil which is within shall dwell within others. The wrongs we do against our own selves are truly apt to become the sins which others shall do unto themelves also, and as this infection imolies that to scatter the germs of sin we must come in contact with others is it not a startling reflection that the people whom we are most liable to estroy by our sins are those who may be nearest and dearest to us? it will be the mother, herself stricken with leprosy of sin, who will destroy her own daughter; the father, his own son, the brother his own brother, he wife her sister. Kindred ties and companionship will only serve to facilitate the transmission of the deadly infection.

Leprosy is to be found in the homes of the rich and the poor alike; in the palace and in the hovel; at the ng's banquet table as well as in the gutter. For many years the world supposed that leprosy was able to thrive only in the pestilential aleys and filthy dens of the east. That supposition was totally wrong. Leprosy may originally start among the low social outcasts, but the leprous germs can live and thrive under the dazzling lights of a brilliant ballroom as well as in the stifling air of the dark hovel of a criminal's re-treat. By handling the coin which is publicly used in India a traveler may become infected with leprosy, some leper having handled the same con touching a rock at the By simply foot of which a leprous beggar had crouched, a prince, arrayed in all the brilliant robes of royalty, may become a leper.

A few years ago the most influential man in the king's court in the Sandwich Islands was supposed to be en eccentric individual because he alvays wore a glove upon his left hand, but one day that courtier was compelled to take off his glove, and will keep on steadily spreading. It will spread until the fingers fall oil from the hands and the toes from the feet. It will keep on spreading to last ten years of his life to a Calcutta hospital for lepers. His own home was a palace, but the leprous germs crawled up the marble stairway. They crawled into his ves-tibule. They crawled into the bed of the merchant printe. I do not know how those leprous germs were able to reach that rich merchant of India. but reach him they did. I saw him after he had spent nearly eight years as an inmate of a leper hospital. Tie sat with a pair of gold spectacles upon his nose, his two legs gone, his two hands gone, with an open Bible upon his bed, the pages of which he had to turn with his protruding, bloated tongue, and I saw him fed from a spoon by a nurse, for he was

practically as helpless as a newtorn Yes, the awful leprous germs can thrive among the rich as well as among the poor. They can pass through the doors of a palace, even though the doors may be bolted with inbreakable bars of steel, even though the doors of the rich man's house may be locked with golden

Affluence and worldly honor times seem to make men indifferent to all that is vital for time and et-They are blinded to their ernity. sins and scoff at the warning that their own fate may yet be that of the multitudes who, in the palaces of the rich and the great, have perished from the same indifference.

Reckless and indifferent was the attitude of the people of London during the great plague about two centuries ago. Ainsworth, the historian, tells us that during those harrowing and gruesome months the London stores were nearly all closed. The doors of the private homes were nearly all barred and bolted save when they were open d at the approach of a bell ringer who was seated upon a pile of stenchful corpses because he was out driving the dead cart and collecting the different bodies of the dead. Yet at that time in London there were men and women who whistled and laughed and danced and sang and blasphemed under the very shadow of these horrors. he noted wine cellars of the aristoeratic homes were broken into and rifled. The churches and the cathedrals were robbed of their pews and pulpits, and turn d into dance halls. There the young men and the young women would carouse during the long hours of the night and day as though this awful London plague would never strike them. They would dence and sing and blaspheme even while the driver of the dead cart was wending his way through, the deserted street ringing the bell and crying: Bring out, bring out your dead!' They would laugh and sing and blas-Theme even when one of the dancers would drop at their feet with the fatal mark of death on his brow. They would laugh and sing and blaspheme even while they were throwing the dead bodies of their late companions out of the open church windows where they would fall into the gutter and lie there poisoning the air until the dead cart made another round. So there are men and women spiritual lepers living in the homes of the rich and poor alike who are as utterly indifferent to the approach of eternal death caused by sin as were some of the inhabitants of England during the wholesale slaughter of hu-man life in the great London plague

But, though the leprosy of the soul, like the leprosy of the flesh, be a disease beyond the reach of the human soul, I would again draw your attention to the fact that it yields to the touch of the Divine Physician, as the ffliction of Naaman yielded at the Jordan waters. And there are especially two or three incidents about the physical cure of Naaman with which I would drive this truth home and lead you to the fountain of life. The first was that he was induced to travel from Damascus to the home of the Prophet Elisha through the influence of a little captive Jewish slave lying awake upon her humble couch as night after night she hears the great Syrian general tramping up and down in his palace rooms. She hears him groan when he is awane. She hears him moan in his sleep be cause he is a hopeless leper. hears him toss relentlessly about upon his bed. She hears him the more readily because the is sleeping in a nearby room, at the foot of Naaman's wife's bed, or in an adjutent room to her mistress. Then she hears the general and his wife talking of the cause of Naa-man's trouble. So one day she timidly pulls at her mistress' skirts and says: "Mistress, why do you not have master seek the prophet of Israel? He would cure him of his leprosy!' Then the horses were hitched to the chariots. Then the journey was tak-

en to the faroff prophet's home.

Here, my brother, is the Christian's duty. The humblest hild of God can perform it. The service rendered to great genera by this captive you can rend r to the moral child lepers around you. I am doing no more than this from this pulpit. I am telling you where there is a cure for this fatal disease. However great you may be, if you have in your nature the germ of sin, I say, as did the Hebrew maid: God you would go to Jesus, for he would restore you." I cry to you as did that humble preacher, who one stormy day, started Charles H. Spurgeon upon his glorious work when he "Young man, afflicted with doubts and troubles, look to Jesus! Look!" Will you bathe in Christ's blood? Will you bathe now? Look! Will you go to Christ and be spiritually cured? The second fact about the cure of the leper Naaman with which I would impress you was that which I would impress you Elisha, the prophet, told him to go and bathe in the river Jordan. did not tell Naaman to go and bathe in a pool. He did not tell Elisha told Naaman to go and dip in the Jordan. There he would have plenty of room. The river was so wide and deep that Naaman could wade into it up to his thighs, his shoulders, his chin. He could dip into it again and again and again. So to day, as with Naaman, I would bid you who are covered with the scales of leprosy to wade down into the river of life. I would bid you to dip into that river which flows from out of the throne of the Lamb, because it is a wide river. It him to wash out of a small hasin. Lamb, because it is a wide river. is a river so wide and deep that all us can enter it at once side by side and there will yet be enough water to clense us all from our sins. would have you wade to-day into the river of life because I want to take your hand in mine, and, as your pastor and friend, I want to enter this Saviour's river, so that I also can be cleansed of my own sins by your side and have my flesh and yours, like Naaman's, become as pure as a little child's. My dear friends, leprous with sin, will you let . me

cleansing? Explaining His Presence. A young lady who had been pouring tea at a function in a suburban town, having toward the end of the affair become somewhat fatigued, sat down in a quiet corner of the room, where

lead you to the river of eternal

she witnessed the following incident: A young man came in and made his way to the hostess, greeting her and apologizing for his lateness. "Awfully glad to see you, Mr. Blank," said the hostess. "So good of you to come, and all the way from

New York too. But where is your brother?" "I am commissioned to tender his regrets. You see, we are so busy just now that it was impossible for both of

us to get away, and so we tossed up to see which of us should come." "How nice! Such an original idea!

And you won." "No," said the young man absently;

His Nighteap. Young Husband (picking up bundle from table)-What have you here, love -something for me?

Young Wife-Yes, dear. I went shopping this morning expressly to buy them for you. I hope you'll like them. Young Husband - Like them! Of course I'll like them if you bought them. But what are they?

Young Wife-They're nightcaps, dear. I heard you tell Sparkles this morning that you'd go down to the club with him this evening and get a nightcap, and I made up my mind at once that I'd save you that trouble by seeing that you had some in the house. Just open the parcel and try them on, won't you, love?-Pearson's.

The Reward of Kindness. A kind hearted man in New Zealand had a sudden shock a little time ago. He was standing on a railway platform giving apples to a circus elephant caged in a cattle truck as the circus was on the move. The train started. and the elephant, not to lose the last apples in the basket, promptly seized the man in his trunk and carried him along with the train. The train had to be stopped and the kind hearted man rescued from the trunk of the traveling elephant.

Patience is fortitude fixed in faith, endurance lighted up with hope. heroism is courage in activity, then patience is courage in repose.

What is

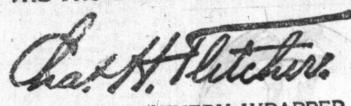
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