

**The Thimble.**

BY LALRA E. RICHARDS.

Little finger, slim and nimble,  
Here am I, your friendly Thimble,  
(Germans call me "Finger hat,"  
Jolly little name is that).  
Put me on, and you will see  
What a helper I can be.  
Brother Needle's very fine—  
Sharp and clever in his line,  
But he oft would puzzled be  
If he had no help from me.  
When the cloth is stiff and hard,  
Oft his headlong dash is barred.  
And he balks, and frets and pricks:  
Says, "I'm in a dreadful fix!  
This will never, never do—  
I shall really break in two."  
Then's my time.  
No fuss or rush,  
Just a steady, patient push—  
And the stiffened fibre slacks,  
And the stubborn threads relax,  
And Friend Needle darts along,  
Singing his triumphant song.  
Yes, I may not be so keen,  
Not so brilliant to be seen,  
But 'tis true that without me  
Ofttimes he would puzzled be.

**THE CATHEDRAL OF MEXICO.**

This grand cathedral was built at the time when religious intolerance in Mexico was at its height. The Roman Catholic is even now the dominant church, having three archbishops and ten bishops in the city of Mexico. However, all other sects are tolerated, and liberty of worship seems to be one of the signs of the times. This spacious and massive cathedral was erected over the ruins of the great Teocalli, or temple of the Aztec god Mixtli, and adorned with the kellenda, a circular stone covered

they can to extend the knowledge of the Gospel among the people of those lands, millions and millions of whom are living and dying without ever having a copy of the Bible in their hands, many of them without even so much as having heard that there is a Bible.

The Methodist Church has congregations where services are regularly held. There are about three thousand persons regularly attending the services of the church. There are orphanages and day-schools. In the city of Mexico there are four distinct departments in connection with this mission work: first, the work connected with the cathedral of San Francisco, and the parish church of San Jose de Gracia; second, the work of the divinity school; third, orphanages and schools; and, fourth, country congregations, largely composed of Indians.

The population of Mexico is over nine millions. Some of these are descendants of Montezuma and the Aztecs, whose marvellous civilization and progress in the arts, before our own country was discovered, are attested both by history and the relics now collected and exhibited in the city of Mexico and elsewhere.

As the congregations that maintain the faith in its purity have been gathered almost entirely from among the poor, to do church work in their midst, and also to extend our Christian educational work among the neglected multitudes of poverty-stricken children that crowd the Mexican cities, and to aid to build up effective centres of Christian influence among the millions who speak the beautiful language of old Spain, contributions are greatly needed.

The cathedral of Mexico is the grandest church-building in America. The Spaniards were a hundred years at work on this church, and spent two millions of dollars on the outside walls and

- Th. The command.—Matt. 28. 16-20.
- F. Preaching Jesus.—1 Cor. 1. 18-25.
- S. Christ in the Scriptures.—Luke 24. 13-27.
- Su. The new life.—Rom. 6. 1-11.

**QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.**

1. A Student, v. 26-30.  
Where was Phillip bidden to go?  
Who gave him this command?  
What did Phillip do?  
With what official did he meet?  
How was the eunuch engaged?  
What command was given to Phillip?  
What shows Phillip's prompt obedience?  
What question did he ask?
2. A Teacher, v. 31-35.  
What was the eunuch's reply to Phillip?  
What invitation did he give?  
What Scripture was he reading?  
What questions did he ask about it?  
How did Phillip explain the passage?  
What is the true spirit of all prophecy?  
Rev. 19. 10.
3. A Believer, v. 36-40.  
As they journeyed what did the eunuch ask?  
What was Phillip's reply?  
What command was given?  
What did Phillip then do?  
After being baptized where did the eunuch go?  
What happened to Phillip?  
Where did he find himself?  
Where did he go? What did he do?

**PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.**

- What are we taught in this lesson about—
1. The duty of a Bible scholar?
  2. The privilege of a Bible teacher?
  3. The joy of a Christian believer?

"My son, observe the postage stamp. Its usefulness depends upon its ability to stick to one thing till it gets there."

which is surmounted by a large ball of coloured wool or hair. The shoe is fleeced lined, and is gorgeously decorated with beads and ornamental stitching.

The Russian boot is composed of many pieces of morocco in several colours, put together in a shape to please the taste of the wearer or maker. The foot of the boot is beautifully embossed with thread in bright colours.

The Hungarian shoe, or moccasin, is made of rawhide, prepared by a sun-curing process. It is bound together by many thongs of rawhide. Loops, or thongs, extend upward round the ankle, and through these loops is passed a strap which is buckled at the side.

The clog worn by the Japanese is of wood, and, as viewed from the side, is the shape of a boy's sled. It is fastened to the foot by a string which passes between the great and second toe, and across the former. A strap, an inch in width and lined with linen, is carried across the instep.

"Get yourself full of your subject," said the professor. "Saturate yourself with it, and your essay will write itself."  
"Yes, I know, Professor," said Miss Colespring; "but my essay is on Rum, the Cause of It."

No invention, we think, ever caused quite as much talk as the telephone.

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**WILLIAM BRIGGS,**

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THE CATHEDRAL OF MEXICO.

with hieroglyphics by which the Aztecs used to represent the months of the year. It is situated on the Plaza Major, one of the finest squares of the western world. The imposing cathedral piles up pyramid-shape from this point of view, fronting a square, whose stones should be ankle-deep for all the blood of various sorts that has been spilled on them. But really it is hard to imagine desperate conflicts in this bright sunny spot, with multitudes of novel sights and sounds about. At one side is a beneficent institution, the National Loan Association, where once was the Palace of Cortez, on another the long, white, monotonous National Palace, which is on the site of that of Montezuma. The cathedral, like most of the earlier architecture, is of Renaissance style, run far into the vagaries of rococo, but it is saved by its massiveness, except in the termination of its towers, which are in the shape of immense bells, from any appearance of fancifully. Adjoining and forming now a part of it, is another church, in a rich, dark red volcanic stone, with a front that recalls the fantastic facades of Portuguese Belem. What a water-colour the mass would make, and especially if it could be taken on one of the perfect moonlight nights, which bring out every line of the sculpture softly, and display it all like a lovely vision! Besides this Zocalo, the city contains another beautiful park, the Alameda. Also there are fourteen churches, some monasteries, convents, and numerous charitable institutions, and many other objects of interest to a sojourner in this remote capital.

It is important that we should understand, not only that there is now liberty in Mexico, but also that there are native Christian workers who are coadjutant to preach the Gospel in its purity, with faithful congregations gathered from among the poor, who long to do what

towers. Costly pictures and statuary were brought from Europe and carried on mule-back over the mountains between here and Vera Cruz. They sent to China for a balustrade of precious metals, which weighed twenty-six tons, and cost millions more. Each one of the golden candlesticks was too heavy for one man to lift. The church has been plundered again and again, but it is still ablaze with splendour—a great treasure-house of gold and silver and precious stones. We grew tired of gazing and wondering, and were glad to get out on the plaza again, and stroll about among the trees and flowers and watch the people.

**LESSON NOTES.**

**FIRST QUARTER.**

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

**LESSON X.—MARCH 7.**

THE ETHIOPIAN CONVERT

Acts 8. 26-40. Memory verses, 29-31.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**

Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same Scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.—Acts 8. 35.

**OUTLINE.**

1. A Student, v. 26-30.
2. A Teacher, v. 31-35.
3. A Believer, v. 36-40.

Time.—Summer of A.D. 37.

Place.—The wilderness road between Jerusalem and Gaza.

**HOME READINGS.**

- M. The Ethiopian convert.—Acts 8. 26-33.
- Tu. The Ethiopian convert.—Acts 8. 34-40.
- W. The Ethiopian's reading.—Isa. 53.

**SHOES OF THE WORLD.**

The Portuguese shoe has a wooden sole and heel, with vamp made of patent leather, fancifully showing the flesh side of the skin.

The Persian footgear is a raised shoe, and is often a foot high. It is made of light wood, richly inlaid, with a strap extending over the instep.

The Algerian shoe in appearance is not unlike the light English wooden clogs. This shoe is made entirely of leather, in the simplest form, and usually without any ornamentation.

The Armenian shoe has a leather sole and heel, without a counter and back quarter. The vamp is made of felt, and is beautifully ornamented with needlework, done in coloured silk thread.

The Muscovite shoe is hand-woven on a wooden frame, but little attention being paid to the shape of the foot. Leather is sometimes used, but the sandal is generally made of coloured silk cordage and woollen cloth.

The Siam shoe has the form of an ancient canoe with a gondola bow and an open top. The sole is made of wood, and the upper of inlaid wood and cloth, and the exterior is elaborately ornamented in colours, and with gold and silver.

The Mussulman's shoe is of heavy leather. It is adjusted to the foot by a wide leather strap, which runs from the heel and buckles over the instep. The only ornamentation is the fastening of two feather plumes on the right side of the toe.

The sandal worn by the Egyptians is composed of a sole made by sticking together three thicknesses of leather. This is held to the foot by a band passing across the instep. The sandal is beautifully stitched with threads of different colours.

The Grecian shoe is made almost entirely of leather, and has a thickly padded sole with a sharp turned-up toe,