

No. 200, New Canadian Hymnal.

I know there's a rest that remaineth for me.

# DOMINION HYMNAL.

Hymns, Nos. 253, 257, 256.

TIME.—A. D. 20.

PLACE.—Uncertain.

RELEAS.—Same as before.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The true aims of life.

## OPTIONAL HYMNS.

Hasten, sinner, to be wise.  
God calling yet,  
All for Thee.  
The solid Rock.  
Is my name written there.  
Child of a King.  
Give me some work.  
The Lord into his garden.  
I would not live away.  
Jerusalem the golden.  
Thanksgiving hymn.  
We plow the fields.

## QUESTIONS FOR SENIOR STUDENTS.

### 1. Christ's Question, v. 13-15.

What is meant by division of the inheritance?  
Were rabbis accustomed to decide such cases?  
Is it the business of the Church now to settle personal secular disputes?

In what does a man's life really consist?  
What general mistake is made, indicated by the phrase, "What is he worth?"

### 2. The Rich Man's Question, v. 16-19.

What wide-spread trouble concerning wealth is shown by the rich man's question?

What was the trouble of this rich man?  
What is meant by the phrase "fruits?"  
Where might he have bestowed his goods?  
Can men be innocent who permit want to exist while they have enough and to spare?

What injunction did Solomon give concerning secular plans? Prov. 27, 1.

To what four sins did this man's wealth tend?

### 3. God's Question, v. 20, 21.

What is God's question?  
What man probably heard this parable, who afterward became the most monumental case of covetousness in history?

What similar warnings are given elsewhere in the Bible? Jas. 4, 13-17; 5, 1-3; Eccl. 11, 9.

What shall we take with us through the gates of the grave?

## Practical Teachings.

Here was a man who had no other use for Jesus than to make money by his influence. All of his sort are not yet dead.

The Church of God is an institution for the development of spiritual graces, and should do no secular work that can possibly be avoided.

In the light of the truth of the 15th verse, how meager and thin are the lives of most men! Test your own life by this rule. Take away "the abundance of the things that you possess"—everything that you have acquired, and which has not been developed from your brain and heart—and how much of life have you left?

This rich man is troubled with the question, "What shall I do with my wealth?" Most of us have at times worried ourselves by another question, "What shall I do to get wealth?" Both questions are contrary to the spirit of Christ. If God is the tender-hearted, all-powerful Provider for the wants of his children, anxiety can never be right; and if he recognizes himself in the persons of the poor and sick and outcast, hoarding can never be right.

Read St. Ambrose's words quoted in our Explanatory and Practical Notes, and put them in practice.

When a man's conversation is stuck full of capital I's he is either self-conceited or arrogant. When "my" takes the place of "I," he is sinfully selfish. Notice this man's inventory: "My barns," "my fruits," "my goods," "my soul."

Selfishness is always sensual. The four pleasures that this man thought of enjoying for many years, "rest, food, drink, merriment," all had their basis in his physical life. There is no such thing as intellectual or moral

selfishness. Men live in their mental activities and their spiritual vitality for the sake of those who are about them; but the moment bodily demands clamor we are in danger of sinking to the plane of selfishness.

Men are "fools" or wise according to the measurement of eternity. Remember that. Not by public opinion, nor by the scales of the schools, is wisdom weighed. He is practically wise, and he only, who has laid up treasure in heaven.

"So is every one that layeth up treasure for himself!" Is this possible? Every body a fool who is rich in this world and not rich toward God? What are you?

## Hints for Home Study.

1. Learn what you can of the attitude of the more illustrious Jewish rabbis toward secular disputes.

2. Find three awful examples of covetousness in the Old Testament, and two in the New.

3. Find a comparison of the two kinds of wealth indicated in ver. 15 in one of Paul's letters to Timothy.

4. Define the great sin of this rich man.

5. Did Christ ever direct a parable against any of the sins forbidden in the Ten Commandments? If not, why not?

6. Write down a reason for his directing so many against selfish enjoyment of the comforts of wealth.

## QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

### 1. Christ's Question, v. 13-15.

What request did a hearer make of Jesus?

What was Christ's question in reply?

What warning did he utter? (GOLDEN TEXT.)

What does Paul say that covetousness is? Col. 3, 5.

What reason did Christ give for his warning?

With how much ought we to be content? 1 Tim. 6, 8.

### 2. The Rich Man's Question, v. 16-19.

About whom did Jesus speak a parable?

What is said of the fruitfulness of this man's grounds?

What question did he ask himself?

What did he resolve to do?

How then would he comfort his soul?

What does Solomon say of such selfishness? Eccl. 11, 9.

### 3. God's Question, v. 20, 21.

What did God say about the man's soul?

What was God's question to him?

Who is like this rich fool?

What says Jesus about the value of the soul? Mark 8, 36, 37.

How may one be rich toward God? See 1 Tim. 6, 17-19.

## Teachings of the Lesson.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That riches cannot satisfy the soul?

2. That riches cannot insure long life?

3. That true riches can be taken to heaven?

## Home Work for Young Bereans.

Find four other instances of Christ's severity against selfishness.

Find what Jesus said to Pilate concerning his magistracy of kinship.

## QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

What did a man ask Jesus to do? To speak to his brother.

What did he want from his brother? His share of the property.

What did Jesus refuse to do? To judge between them.

What was the great work Jesus came to do? To teach the way of life.

Against what did Jesus warn the people? Covetousness.

What is covetousness? Love of riches.

What is worth more than riches? True life.

What parable did Jesus teach? The parable of the rich man.

What did his fields bring forth? A great harvest.

Why was he troubled about his harvest? He had not room for all.

What did he think he would do? Build larger barns.

What made him glad? His great riches.

What did God call him? A fool.

What sudden call did he send him? The call to die.

What did he have to leave behind? His riches.

What are the only true riches? Riches of love and faith.