

whatever his capacity was, who had done his best. The lake with its broad surface of water laughed at the narrow limits of the raindrop. But the raindrop replied, "I reflect in my bosom all of heaven that I can hold; and you with all your vastness can do no more." So the reward of the Lord's joy will not be estimated according to the recipient's greatness. It will be the same for all; for it will fill all to overflowing.

Put my money to the exchangers, v. 27.
 "What are these?" sternly demanded Oliver Cromwell, as he entered an English cathedral and noticed some silver images still lingering in its niches. Cromwell and the Images "Please your Highness," replied the trembling dean, "they are the twelve apostles." "Well, take them away," ordered the grim dictator, "melt them down, and coin them into good money, that, like their Master, they may go about doing good." Let not our religious ideas be cherished for

their mere sublimity, nor our worship for its outward grandeur, nor our theology because of a traditional loyalty. Let them not be idols in our souls, but let us put them out to use.

Unto every one that hath shall be given, v. 29.
 "I do not see the effects in nature which you depict upon the canvas," a critic once remarked to Turner. "Do you not wish you could?" was the sage reply. The great painter had spent years in the observation of these effects, and to him in reward was given the power to see. A similar criticism has been passed on the color of the sky in Holman Hunt's famous painting, "The Light of the World." But it is a color observed in the London air at a very early hour in the morning, and few have taken the trouble to rise and see it. To the artist has been given the eleventh talent, because he had the energy to convert his original five into ten.

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

For Teachers of the Older Scholars

Brush away the dust and cobwebs of confused thoughts which mistake this for another version of "The Pounds," Luke 19: 11-27. This is unlike that as to: (1) the place where spoken (ch. 24: 3; Luke 19: 1, 11); (2) the money used (v. 15; Luke 19: 13); (3) the amounts given, the "talents" varying (v. 15), the "pound" (the pound, or mina was one sixtieth part of a talent), invariable in the case of each servant (Luke 19: 13); (4) the increase, "talents" doubled (vs. 20, 22), "pounds" multiplied by ten (Luke 19: 16), and five (v. 18); (5) the rewards (vs. 21, 23; Luke 19: 17, 19); (6) the treatment of the unused money (v. 25; Luke 19: 20); and especially (7) the lessons. "The Pounds" show what happens to those who use the same opportunities (1) splendidly (Luke 19: 16); (2) fairly (Luke 19: 18); or (3) badly, Luke 19: 20. "The Talents" show rather what happens to those who have different opportunities, determined by their particular capacity to serve Christ.

"Several ability" (v. 15), are the keywords. Our ability may be (1) large, "five

talents;" (2) middling, "two talents;" or (3) ordinary, "one talent." Christ expects us to do all we can, but no more than we can. The rich woman in Mark 14: 8 had large ability. She could well afford what she did, and anything less than "she could" would have been unworthy of her. The poor woman in Mark 12: 42-44 had little ability, but, in giving all, she did more than the rich. Though ability may vary, our love and faithfulness should not vary. A small circle may not be so big as a large one, but it may be just as perfect. A small vessel may not hold so much as a large one, but it may be just as full. Whether our ability qualifies us to handle much, or only a fair amount, or but little, we can all be equally faithful, 1 Cor. 4: 2; Rev. 3: 8. Having in this general way indicated the scope of the parable, draw from your class the details of the story, vs. 14-18. Then apply along two definite lines:—

1. *Faithfulness in service widens opportunity*, vs. 19-23. Those with higher ability really did their best, till the money doubled, vs. 20, 22. Fidelity developed still higher capacity, vs. 21, 23. This incidentally means that the reward of work well done, is to get more to do. The neglected work of the un-