

Religious Thought; Sunday School Lesson; The Mission Field

WEAKNESS OF STRONG MAN; SAMSON'S BIRTH

The Young Man Who Missed His Chance and Who Was Betrayed by a Woman.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By WILLIAM T. ELLIS.)

A frank look at the weakness of the strongest men, Samson, is today's Sunday school lesson.

Back in the unsettled times of Israel, more than 1,000 years before the birth of Jesus, before ever the people had a king, and the leadership was with judges, or chieftains, or heroes, Samson was born.

Like so many other notable characters, he was the child of yearning and prayer and covenant. His parents had been long childless when they received with joy the promise of a son.

Every mature person has marvelled at the young men and women of promise who have not amounted to anything.

Samson's strength was not only physical. He had qualities of leadership—enterprise, daring, resourcefulness and self-reliance.

Later history developed a brilliant figure singularly akin to Samson. This was King Richard the Lionhearted, of England.

The presence of enemies never afflicted blithesome Samson. He faced amidst the Philistines, the powerful invaders from the west, who so long oppressed Israel.

Samson is best known for his practice of being the buffoon of the Bible. On his way to court a Philistine wife he slew a lion with his bare hands.

His bride teased Samson into telling her the answer, which she told to her countrymen, that they might not have to pay the wager.

Later Samson sought a reconciliation with his heathen wife, only to find that his father-in-law had given her to another.

When called into the great hall of assembly to make sport for his enemies his hour came. The incident, the climax of Samson's career, is best told in the words of Scripture:

"And Samson called unto Jehovah, and said, O Lord Jehovah, remember me, I pray thee, and strengthen me, I pray thee, only this once. O God, that I may be avenged of all the Philistines for my two eyes." And Samson took hold of the two middle pillars upon which the house rested, and leaned upon them, the one with his right hand, and the other with his left.

BIG SMOKE OR LITTLE SMOKE IN OLD CHINA; OPIUM OR CIGARETTE

Chinese Say British Gave Them Opium, Americans Gave Them Cigarettes—Medical Missions in Germany—Growth of Korean Mission—Buddhism in Japan.

(By IDA CLYDE CLARKE.)

The international reform bureau is doing a commendable work in China. Edward Thwing, of Peking, is its representative.

Although China had cigarettes but 10 years, she now consumes more than the United States. In a single year the tobacco companies spend \$1,000,000 in gold for advertising purposes.

China has made most commendable progress in ridding herself of the opium habit. Her task is not finished. In Shanghai, as the shops become rarer in the native quarters they increase in the foreign quarters.

An Armenian's Bequests. The will of Sarkis K. Tellefian, the well-known Armenian rug merchant of New York, is certainly a remarkable document.

German Medical Missions. Fourteen medical missionary associations in Germany and Switzerland are represented in the German Medical Missionary Year Book for 1914.

At the opening of this year Germany had 22 medical missionaries in active service; and 30 women trained in the Tubingen institute were in the foreign field.

At Gaza (the city that is figuring in the day's war dispatches), he carried away the gates of the city on his shoulders, and dropped them on a mountain.

As Samson is a name for physical strength and spiritual folly, so Deliah is history's synonym for a disloyal woman.

Teased, reproached, nagged without ceasing, Samson at length divulged his secret: the Nazirite vow, which made him a dedicated man, was the secret of his strength.

Samson never really saw aright until his eyes were put out. In his blindness he perceived the folly of his youth, and his missed opportunities.

Lord of the world! whose kind and gentle care is joy and rest, Whose counsels and commands so gracious are, Visest and best, Shine on my path, dear Lord, and guard the way.

When the cartoonists begin the exploit prohibition on the front pages of the metropolitan dailies and a paper like the Chicago Tribune pictures "King Alcohol" as losing his crown, we may be sure that the public is thoroughly awake to the importance of the subject.

Building in China. Building in China is a very long and difficult task, writes a missionary.

The reports for 1914, as given at the recent annual meeting, show the following statistics: missionaries, 43; wives, 10; students, 21; ordained native preachers, 7; local preachers, 23; membership, 6,000; native contributions, \$5,511.

The Korean mission of the Southern Methodist church was opened in 1896 by Dr. C. F. Reid. In 1898 the missionary force consisted of Rev. and Mrs. C. F. Reid, Rev. and Mrs. C. T. Collier, Dr. and Mrs. R. A. Hardie and Mrs. J. P. Campbell.

The new and heart-searching calls that are coming from Europe and Asia for succor for the starving and the suffering constitute a real missionary opportunity.

Testimony From an Unexpected Source. The Japanese government report concerning religion in Korea cannot be thought biased in favor of Christianity.

There are no closed fields. Everywhere else the man with the book may go. In most lands he is invited and welcomed.

There are now about five hundred separate translations of the Bible in use on mission fields. Every language and every important dialect spoken by the human race now has the Scriptures in its own tongue.

SEVEN SENTENCE SERMONS. Despatch is the soul of business.—Lord Chesterfield.

The best way to keep good acts in memory is to refresh them with new.—Cato.

God give us men! A time like this demands, Strong minds, great hearts, true faith and ready hands, Men whom the lust of office does not kill, Men whom the spoils of office cannot buy; Men who possess opinions and a will; Men who have honor, and who will not lie; Tall men, sun-crowned, who live above the fog.

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me; and that life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith which is in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself up for me.—Gal. 2:20.

A World Issue. When the cartoonists begin the exploit prohibition on the front pages of the metropolitan dailies and a paper like the Chicago Tribune pictures "King Alcohol" as losing his crown, we may be sure that the public is thoroughly awake to the importance of the subject.

TERSE COMMENTS ON PRAYER MEETING TOPIC

"Foreign Mission Opportunities The World Around," Young People's Subject.

THE WORLD'S OPEN DOORS

(By WILLIAM T. ELLIS.)

Illustrated papers have lately been carrying pictures of the Fiji Islanders, armed and drilled, and ready to join the British forces in France.

Every bearer of a torch of light of truth, knowledge, justice and liberty, anywhere on earth, is a coworker with the Christian missionary.

How dramatic the interplay of the world's religious forces has become is shown by the fact that practically all of our largest American cities contain heathen temples, where Asiatics worship idols.

The new and heart-searching calls that are coming from Europe and Asia for succor for the starving and the suffering constitute a real missionary opportunity.

Apart from Tibet and Afghanistan, there are no closed fields. Everywhere else the man with the book may go.

Incidentally, the staggering potentialities of this organization which has grown up during 21 years as quietly as a tree impress one who looks into the facts.

A whole Christ for my salvation, a whole Bible for my staff, a whole church for my fellowship, and a whole world for my parish.—St. Augustine.

No glance at the missionary subject at the present time would be adequate that did not recognize the tremendous truth that America is today a missionary to the nations.

No opportunity in the world today is greater than that which is offered the Christian church to substitute a Saviour for a speculation. Humanity is weary of philosophies. It has been overted with them for millenniums, and they do not satisfy.

Preventing Collapse of Religion. The difficult and delicate tasks which this body of Americans undertake it seen from the simple statement that they alone can prevent a complete collapse and severance of those international relations and moral relations which have subsisted for generations, but which have been imperiled by this war.

Reckless Livers. Prof. Charles S. Carter, lecturing before a grammar school on the nature and effects of alcohol and pointing out particularly the result of its use upon the liver, thus summed up: "We perceive that alcohol does eyes one of the most important organs. The reckless liver, in a word, winds up a liverless wreck."

Barber Chair is Pulpit For This Worker



THE BARBER SHOP OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

It is called "The Barber Shop of the Ten Commandments." It is in New York City and is undoubtedly the only one of its kind in the world.

"Jake the Barber," who has charge of this new tonorial atelier, once adorned shops in some of New York's fashionable hotels.

MR. ROCKEFELLER MAKES BIG GIFT TO INTERCHURCH HEADQUARTERS

Central Agency of All North American Denominations in New York City Gets \$50,000 a Year—A Clearing House For Religion—Allied Mission Boards.

(By RELIGIOUS RAMBLER.)

So quietly that this is the first publication of the news, there has been established in New York city a general headquarters for the world-wide work of the North American churches, the Rockefeller foundation having given \$25,000 for the arrangement and furnishing of the entire 19th floor of the Madison Avenue building for this purpose.

These boards here jointly represented, number two hundred and thirty-five. They employed last year 8,905 foreign missionaries, and 50,871 native assistants. To tell of the variety of work, evangelistic, educational, medical and industrial, done by this globe-grinding organization would take columns of space.

Because of the official character of these boards, representing literally all the Protestant evangelical churches of the land, it is possible to operate through a small select conference, thus at Garden City the other day there were only 233 delegates present.

Representatives of the conference brought personal messages from recent investigations in Europe and Asia. The character of the company is indicated by the statement that most of those present had a personal knowledge of Asia, as residents or travellers. Everywhere, it was said, the deeps of religious feeling have been stirred. The thousands of converts made by George Sherrwood Eddy in China, the evangelistic star in this country, as represented by the Billy Sunday meetings in Philadelphia, and the fact that the German Student federation has sent a delegation of more than 200 students in the trenches, were all cited as evidence of the one general spirit of a return to Christ.

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THIS TEXAS HEN HAS REMARKABLE RECORD

In 12 Years She Raises \$250 Worth of Chickens and Helps Missions' Cause.

VIVID AFRICAN PICTURE

(By IDA CLYDE CLARKE.)

Southern Baptists are justly proud of the record of a "missionary hen," which has recently died in Texas at the age of 12 years.

At this rate, if every Baptist in the Southern Baptist convention who has facilities for successfully raising chickens could keep just one missionary hen what a vast work could be done.

A well known woman missionary in Batanga, Kamerun, West Africa, writes: "Sit down in your comfortable seats, in a warm, well lighted room, with no centipedes dropping down on you from a palm-leaf roof, centipedes as big as a well-sized German brautwurf, hard-shelled as an icicle.

"I was visiting village schools and went to M'komongone, a nice town of bark huts on the top of a beautiful hill with many, many hills around a beautiful river. How much forest with never a human life in it. The gorilla and the chimpanzee, the leopard and the elephant the main possessors of it. You hear their voices in the still of the night with many other queer absurd sounds.

"Under your hat you creep into the necessary attic, put the hat upon the unkept hair and start off. By that time the village teacher comes back from the drum, clad in his red head blanket or in a fringed red and white German lunch bibelot.

"In the schoolhouse are the Christians of the town, mostly women at the beginning and the schoolboys. "The heathen sleep on."

After Prohibition—What? "This was the live topic discussed by the recent annual convention at Garden City. One of the speakers said that the result of the liquor interests to the question is 'billed pigs and whisky steamers.' She pointed out, however, that these are found wherever the liquor traffic exists. One woman who had been organizing work the past year had five saloons and over 25 billiard tables with 18 saloons had one billiard table and another with 14 saloons had no billiard tables. And the proportion billiard tables generally. It is well said that prohibition does not produce blackness, but merely reveals the color of the heart, the breadth of mind and the level of the soul.

"The more saloons, the more their homes more than make the saloon 'regime.' This was one of 10 questions sent to 50 cities and towns of Tennessee some time ago. The replies showed an increase of 48 per cent in the number owning them since business production went into effect.