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"Last February, I had the Grippe, which left me in
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It builds strength, steadies the nerves, improves the
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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson VII.—First Quarter, For
Feb. 13, 1910.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Matt. vi, 19-34.
Memory Verses. 24—Golden Text, Matt.
vi, 33—Commentary Prepared by Rev.
D. M. Stearns.

Our Lord has been talking about re-
wards here in this present time from
men; contrasted with rewards here-
after in the kingdom, and now He con-
trasts treasure on earth, which may
perish or be stolen, with treasure in
heaven, which endures forever, dura-
ble riches. If we lay up only for our-
selves we may become rich in this
world, but not rich toward God (Luke
xii, 19-21). We are everywhere warn-
ed against the danger of this world's
riches. "Labor not to be rich;" "He
that maketh haste to be rich shall not
be innocent;" "Trust not in uncertain
riches, but in the Living God" (Prov.
xxiii, 4; xxviii, 20; 1 Tim. vi, 9, 17).
To the majority of people these are
foolish and impractical sayings, and a
little hard cash is far more to them
than the Living God. But our Lord is
here speaking to believers, to whom
it is also written in Col. iii, 2, "Set
your affection on things above, not on
things on the earth." Yet there are
many in the pulpit as well as in the
pews to whom dollars are more real
than God.

The eye affects the heart, and the
heart walks after the eyes (Lam. iii,
51; Job xxxi, 7), so that unless we are
looking in the right direction we will
not walk in the right direction. We
cannot serve God and gold, or God and
the world, or God and the devil, for all
that is in the world—the lust of the
flesh and the lust of the eyes and the
pride of life—is not of the Father, but
is of the world, and the whole world
lieth in the wicked one (1 John ii, 16-
17, 19, R. V.). God is looking for those
whose hearts are whole toward Him,
which means that we must see up one
but Jesus only (11 Chron. xvi, 9).

Then people say: "Prayer won't feed
you; religion won't provide bread and
butter. It is all very well to talk good,
but I've got to earn my living." We
do not wonder to hear the world talk
so, for the world is blind and dead to
God and the things of God, but the
words of our lesson are for believers—
the redeemed of the Lord. Do they
talk in reference to business as if the
Lord did not care, as if all depended
upon their own efforts and they must
put forth every effort with all earnest-
ness or they will never get on? Ask
Christian business men and you will
find that not a few will tell you that
business cannot be done on Bible prin-
ciples. But there are those—and I per-
sonally know some of them—in vari-
ous lines of business—who testify that
Matt. vi, 33, stands true even in busi-
ness relations, and some of them can
testify that even in the financial straits
of the past two years they have not
felt the hard times. Five times in
the closing verses of our lesson we
hear the admonition not to be anxious
(verses 25, 27, 28, 31, 34, R. V.), and
they are the words of Him who creat-
ed all things and upholds all things
by His power. He stoops from the
things we cannot comprehend to talk
to us of birds and flowers and on an
other occasion speaks of even spar-
rows, saying "Are not two sparrows
sold for a farthing? And one of them
shall not fall on the ground without
your Father" (chapter x, 29). On that
occasion, however, He was speaking
of His care of our bodies in preserving
them from death, while in this lesson
He is speaking of the food and rai-
ment essential to the health of these
mortal bodies. Apart from Him in
whom we live and move and have
our being no amount of anxious care
and toil on our part can obtain the
necessary food, raiment or pro-
long our days. Does not He who gave
us life care for us enough to prolong
it as long as it pleaseth Him to do so,
and as to raiment, what Father is he
who will not see that his children are
becomingly clothed? Do not miss the
contrast between the clothing of the
lilies of the field and the clothing of
Solomon in all his glory. His, how-
ever grand, was all put on, but the
lily's beauty is part of itself. The
work within us is the chief thing—the
ornament of a meek and quiet spirit,
a heart right with God, is the great
essential. Then He will surely care
for the minor matters, for He knoweth
what things we have need of. The
contrast between Jew and gentile in
verse 32 brings before us all His won-
drous care of Israel from the day that
He brought them out of Egypt—the
difference which He put in so many
ways between His own people and
the Egyptians, and then all through
the wilderness journey the food from
heaven, the water from the rock, the
pillar of cloud and fire and all His
manifold mercies. He is the same un-
changing Jesus, and He will not do
less for His church, His own body.

We are here to give the gospel to
all and thus seek His kingdom by seek-
ing to complete His body in order that
His kingdom may come. If we as His
redeemed make this our first business
He will see to all our need. Let us
obey Phil. iv, 6, and 1 Pet. v, 7, and
we will surely prove His faithfulness.
The remedy for all anxiety is found
in Phil. iv, 6, 7, and 1 Pet. v, 7. And
in John xiv, 1, 27, with Matt. xxiv, 6,
we are forbidden to be troubled. The
same confidence in our Father in heav-
en which we desire our children to
have in us will give that quietness and
confidence which are our privilege, but
how necessary the admonition "Have
faith in God."

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