

Sunday School Lesson Young Peoples' Topic

THE ROMANCE OF A SLAVE.

The International Sunday School Lesson for April 28, is, "Joseph Faithful in Prison." 39:20-40:15. The Golden Text is, "Be Thou Faithful Unto Death, and I Will Give Thee a Crown of Life." Rev. 2:10.

By William T. Ellis.

Like a page out of a modern society novel—though a more perfect story than any novel—is the old Genesis incident of the Hebrew slave who, risen to power in his master's house, became the victim of the plot of that master's wife, whose shameful advances he had spurned.

From the eastern into which he had been cast by his inhuman brothers, to the post of chief steward in Potiphar's house was a great rise for Joseph now he was to experience a greater fall, though no demerit of his own. But a diamond is a diamond, whether reposing in a king's diadem or hidden in the mire; and a noble character is a noble character, and itself a priceless possession, no matter in what lot it be cast. Joseph in prison was really as great as Joseph in power.

The dreamer who forgets not his golden dreams of youth may master circumstances; pity those in a hard lot who have not this spring of sustenance within themselves. Joseph was always true to his gleam. Even when his flesh quivered beneath the Midianite lash, or when he stood bound in the public slave market of Egypt, the high blood of sensitive princeliness mantled his cheek, he was still Joseph the dreamer. Through all the subsequent years of drudgery, dishonor and degradation, as well as through his years of responsibility and elevation, he clung to those boyhood visions of Canaan. "He had," says Marcus Dodds, "this characteristic of a steadfast soul, that he revered as a man the dreams of his youth."

The Temptress and Her Hate.

Many young men have to learn, in the shock of undreamed-of temptation, that all women are not like their own mothers. Joseph, the ingenious, unsophisticated youth, found himself confronted by the subtle and powerful wiles of a woman older than himself, and far shrewder. Wherewith could he meet her guile and passion? He was face to face with what Geikie calls "the sorest temptation that can befall any one—to sin and prosper, rather than to resist and suffer." His master's wife could make or break him, worldly wisdom would declare. Yet he fearlessly confronted her, for therein lies the difference between love; love, denied, still loves on, and seeks only the welfare of its object; but lust, thwarted, turns to bitter and unscrupulous vengeance.

Against the power of Potiphar's wife Joseph reposed a simple faith in his father's God. He had a clear moral integrity and a vision of essential principles which neither passion nor sophistry could cloud. Behind all other considerations lay this one dominant factor: "How can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" As a later Hebrew than Joseph who knew the ways of the world and of "high society" keenly wrote, "Wherewithal shall a young man please his way?" By taking heed thereto according to Thy word.

This wonderful Book is not blind to the actualities of life; it sets no precedent for shutting one's eyes, in the modern fashion, to whatever is unlovely in human nature, and tacitly encouraging its secret development. A scandalous criminal trial, like the one which recently fouled the records of the New York courts, seems unnecessary to bring home to the world, in all its outward respectability, the depths of wickedness and the strength of temptation to which young men and women of our own time are subjected. These hidden revelations should awaken the teachers of morality and religion to a sense of their responsibility for inculcating the Joseph virtues in the youth of the twentieth century.

Bettering a Bad Lot.

or ia...tm eh etain hrdu hrmhsc A woman's hate threw Joseph, who had risen to be the responsible head of Potiphar's house, back into prison. Falseness, slander and detraction may overthrow a man, but they cannot keep him down. A good man may live down any ill report, not by moping and whining, however; Joseph did not conceive a grievance against the world because he had twice been badly used. He kept his optimism, burnished up his dreams, and set about getting the most possible out of his prison life by putting his utmost into it.

Thomas Jefferson said that the best way to get out of an uncongenial situation in life is to be conspicuously effective in it. A similar idea was expressed by the late Dr. Maltbie D. Babcock in the acrostic

Go Right On Working

Wise industry is a sure recipe for development. Joseph in prison was not only making his own lot more comfortable, but he was also making Joseph a greater man. He found that there is much to learn in any station. Efficiency is a virtue which can be cultivated alone at sea in a fishing dory, as well as in a modern office or workshop.

This old world is quick to make way for the man who can do the job. From every industry and profession the cry is ever going up for men who can bring things to pass—capable men, growing men.

"The men who do the work for which they draw the wage."

ed many of them by a persecution as bitter as the world has ever seen.

The latest interruption to Chinese missions, the Boxer massacres, were the most terrible event in the history of the world. The outbreak came at the end of the year 1899. The Emperor Dowager had ordered that all Christians be exterminated and that all foreigners be driven from the land. During those dreadful months 135 adult missionaries were killed. But the staunchness of Christianity was proven by these experiences and already in China, as elsewhere in the history of the world, the blood of the martyrs has become the seed of the Church.

China is a continent in itself. The great bars are gone, and China is open; not the rim of China, but China. China is sure to be one of the dominant world-powers in the future. In working for China, we are working for all nations and for coming ages.—Chauncey Goodrich.

India is by far the greatest Mohammedan country in the world. Two-thirds of the people are Hindus, while 60,000,000 are Mohammedans. The population is strangely complex, including Burma and Siam, the India Empire uses three hundred distinct languages and dialects.

The caste system in India presents a great hindrance to the gospel. Originating probably in the conquest of the aboriginal races by more powerful invaders from the north, it grew to have a four-fold division. Brahmins, soldiers, merchants laborers, and lowest of all, those without caste, the Pariahs.

Missionary work in India has been officially permitted since 1804. Some of the honored names on the missionary roll of India are William Carey, Henry Martyn, Reginald Heber, Bishop of Calcutta, Alexander Duff, William Butler, and Bishop Thoburn of our own time.

Thirty-five American societies are at work in India at the present time. The work of Pandita Ramabai for the child widows of India, includes a school for high-caste widows at Poona as well as a mission for child widows, deserted wives and famine orphans cared for by this devoted Christian woman who began life as the daughter of a Brahmin priest, becoming a Hindu widow early in life. Because of her own experience came the longing to aid the millions of girls whose lives were wrecked through the wrongs done to the child widows.

Ninety-two per cent of the people of Burma are Buddhists, and all the men of the country pass some time in a monastery. The pioneer of missionary work in this country was Adrian Judson, whose words, "The prospects are as bright as the promise of God," has become a missionary proverb. Dignity work is now done for the forty-seven tribes that comprise the population of the country. Churches, colleges and theological seminaries are the outgrowth of the missionary work in Burma.

Siam, which is one of the smaller countries of Asia, has Buddhism as its state religion. The principle missionary-body now at work in this country is the Northern Presbyterian. One of the early missionaries, Rev. Stephen Mattson, so won the confidence of the Siamese that when the first treaty in behalf of the United States was negotiated they insisted upon having the missionary as the first American consul.

In the northern part of Siam are found that peculiar people, the Laos, the first convert among them being won by the occurrence of an eclipse which the missionary had predicted. From a fierce and unfriendly people they have grown amenable to teaching, and the mission now enjoys great favor and success.

Tibet, the loftiest country in the world has thus far, more than all other lands, resisted the onward march of Christianity and civilization. The heroine of Tibetan missions is Miss Annie R. Taylor, in spite of opposition she studied medicine and after three years of service in medical work in China determined to go to Tibet. In 1892 accompanied by a youth whom she had healed, she set out for this country so long closed to foreigners. Although the government turned her back when within three days of Lhasa, her Tibetan Band of the China Inland Mission is now laying siege to the Forbidden Land. The Moravians have translated the New Testament into the language of the people that it may be ready for use when the opportunity comes to enter the country.

The Asiatic countries which are practically untouched by the missionaries include Siberia, Turkestan, Afghanistan, Baluchistan and French Indo-China.

When Carey went to India and Judson to Burma, practically all the world was closed against foreign missions; now, practically all the world is open to more than four hundred languages and dialects, covering the vast majority of the people of the globe.

NEWS AND NOTES

The biennial national convention of the Society of Christian Endeavor will be held in Seattle, Wash., in July.

The World's Christian Student Federation, which has never before met in a non-Christian nation has been holding a convention in Tokio recently.

In the reorganization of the Christian Catholic Church, better known as the Dowry Church, it is announced that VoVlva, the present leader is gifted with divine power and that he will be known as Elijah IV.

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The Epworth League will hereafter hold its conventions but once in four years. This society formerly held its national conventions annually, but believes that a higher level of interest will be maintained if the change is made.

A plan for the organization of a Baptist Union, or general council, will be discussed at the meeting of Baptists to be held in Washington in May. The new council, or union, is not to be legislative, but will serve merely to suggest action to the churches.

It has been suggested that all Protestant Sunday-schools use a uniform service for their devotional exercises May 19. World's Sunday School Day, when the great World's Sunday School Convention will be in session in Rome. The service is entitled "The Apostle Paul at Rome."

Semi-official information states that last year the expenses of the Vatican administration amounted to \$1,200,000, while the income is said to be not more than \$800,000. For this reason the Pope has appointed a commission of cardinals to study the matter and determine whether contributions towards the Peter's Pence fund cannot be more systematically organized so as to produce an increased income.

A movement to provide safe and adequate dormitory accommodations for the 20,000 Chinese students now being educated in Japan, where they shall be unexposed to the temptations of life in the student centers, is being backed by influence of such Americans as Prof. George T. Ladd, of Yale University, who is now in Japan lecturing to the students in governmental positions.

The largest gathering of men ever held under the auspices of any organization in the Protestant Episcopal Church is expected to assemble in Washington next September at the great mass meeting of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. The last International Convention of the Brotherhood was held ten years ago, and since that time the organization has spread almost into all countries of the globe. It is expected that President Roosevelt and the Bishop of London will attend the convention and make addresses at the meeting in the Peace Cross Cathedral in Washington.

SEVEN SENTENCE SERMONS.

I know no failures, save failure in cleaving to the purposes which I know to be the best.—George Eliot.

O, never falter! peace must come by pain. Heaven is not found, but won.—Samuel Johnson.

The space between a man's ideal and the man himself is his opportunity.—Margaret Deland.

The depth from which our words are spoken is the measure of the depth at which they will be heard.—Julian Hawthorne.

Sins of commission are the usual punishment for sins of omission; he who leaves a duty may fear that he will be left to commit a crime.—Gurnall.

Thou comest, not to thy place by accident, it is the very place God meant for thee.—Trench.

Women have decided that in case they cannot vote, they will cut out the "Stork" proposition. Perfectly proper. Take Hollister's Rocky Mountain Tea, it is good for most everything. 35 cents, Tea or Tablets. R. H. Jordan & Co.

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South Carolinians Leave For Jamestown

Special to The News.

Columbia, S. C., April 25.—The South Carolina party for the opening of the Jamestown Exposition left here this evening at seven o'clock over the Seaboard Air Line for Norfolk, arriving there early tomorrow morning. The party consists of Governor and Mrs. Ansel, Gen. William Jones, Mrs. Jones and Miss Reau Jones; Colonels D. O. Herbert, of Orangeburg; F. S. Evans, of Greenwood; J. G. Wardlaw, of Yorkville; R. P. Hamer, Jr., of Hamer; George Y. Coleman, of Charleston; W. W. Moore, of Barnwell and Mrs. Moore; Col. W. T. Brock, assistant adjutant general, besides Adjutant General Boyd, representing the governor's staff. Col. S. T. McCravy, of Spartanburg; D. W. Daniel, of Clemson College and T. B. Butler, of Gaffney, will go by the Southern and join the party at Norfolk.

Governor Ansel has reappointed Mr. Earle Sloan, of Charleston, as State geologist for the term of two years. Mr. Sloan was appointed to this position by Governor Heyward two years ago when the act creating the office was first passed and he has demonstrated his fitness for the position.

TRAIN-WRECKERS FRUSTRATED.

Town Marshall Frustrated Plans of Would-be Train Wreckers.

Evansville, Ind., April 25.—Several attempts of train wreckers to set fire to a bridge on the Southern railroad, near Temple, Ind., were frustrated last night by the town marshal of English, Ind., who was shot twice by two men believed to be the guilty parties.

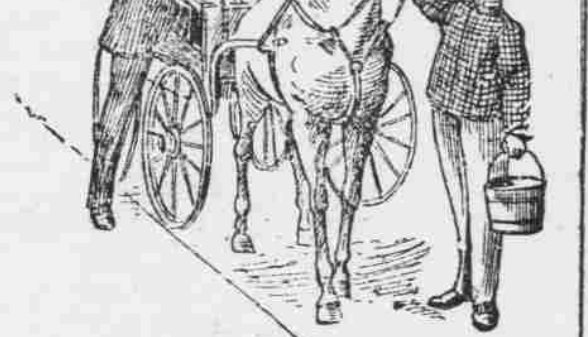
—Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Swicegood, of Savannah, Ga., and Mrs. H. C. Swicegood, of Charlotte, are here. They will remain until after the sale of the Swicegood home on the 26th.—Salisbury Post.

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