

### True Happiness.

And the Lord said unto Aaron, In their land shalt thou have no inheritance; and no portion shalt thou have among them; I am thy portion and thy inheritance among the children of Israel.—Numbers, xviii., 20.

Signs, emblems, symbols, examples, illustrations and pictures are the best, the most effective means of instruction.

The ancient Biblical prophets received and delivered divine messages by signs and symbols. The power, the influence of religious instruction by signs and symbols is unspeakably great.

The idea of imparting religious lessons by signs and symbols was first conceived by the prophet Moses. He was unquestionably the most practical pedagogue that the world has ever produced. He undertook to educate religiously six hundred thousand ignorant slaves, without the assistance of teachers and without the aid of text books, but merely by signs and symbols.

He also appointed his brother as high priest, who by his mode of living and by his apparel should serve his people as a model and living example. His white linen garments should teach them a lesson of purity, cleanliness and neatness. His mode of living, again, should enable them to attain true happiness. "In their land shalt thou have no inheritance and no portion;" "I am thy portion and thy inheritance." From these words we plainly see that the high priest was strictly prohibited from owning any property, from possessing earthly goods.

It seems to me that in our day, and more especially in this country, an office like that of the high priest of old could not so easily be filled, because it would debar its incumbent from the acquisition of riches. In

this country it is generally conceded that a life without ambition to be wealthy is not worth living. But in order to fully appreciate the wisdom contained in our text we must ascertain the meaning of the word riches as understood by the great men of all ages. In common parlance the term riches expresses an abundance of valuable properties and a large bank account. The lack of all these is called poverty.

In the estimation of the great men of the Biblical and post-Biblical history riches consisted in spiritual treasures, in the possession of a fertile imagination, a clean conscience, a pure mind, a noble character and a heart overflowing with righteousness. These heaven born qualities are productive of true happiness; with them the poorest man is rich without them the richest man is poor. Hence the Lord said to the high priest, in the words of our text, "I am thy portion and thy inheritance." These words suggested to Aaron that godliness, holiness and idealism are superior to all earthly possession.

King Midas, who was so happy and overjoyed in the realization of his wish to see everything he touched transformed into gold, and whose happiness soon was marred when discovering that also the food which he ate and water and wine which he drank turned to lumps of gold, may be looked upon as a prototype of innumerable individuals who in their greed for riches render their lives unhappy and miserable. In vain, therefore, may we ask for true happiness in the mansions of millionaires, in the palaces of kings and sovereigns.

There is, however, in the human body a little organ, the size of an orange, which every one

wears in his bosom. I mean heart—wherein true happiness sometimes dwells. If the heart is faithful, devotional, God loving; if the heart is free from selfishness, envy, jealousy and discontent, then it becomes an abode of true happiness.—Rev. J. Falk Vidaver, New York City.

### Mourned Wife As Dead.

Detroit, Mich.—Johnson Richards, of Macomb street, has found his wife, whom he believed a victim of the Iroquois theater fire in Chicago on December 30, 1903, in Grace hospital, this city.

Richards and his wife were married in Chicago, but had quarreled and separated. He came to Detroit and she remained in Chicago. Her name appeared in the list of victims of the Iroquois horror, and in spite of their previous estrangement he mourned her death.

A few weeks ago a young woman who had known Mr. and Mrs. Richards in Chicago called him up on the telephone.

"Go to Grace hospital," was all she said.

Richards, bewildered by the strange message, hurried to the hospital, and found the wife. She had been ill for many weeks, but now is recovering.

Richards and his wife have been reconciled. He declines to reveal the mystery of her whereabouts for the last year.

Formosa is traversed by several mountain chains, some of them volcanic, with active and extinct cones. The island has a population of about 2,500,000, composed of native tribes of Malayan stock, Chinese and Japanese colonists. China ceded Formosa to Japan in the treaty of peace of 1895. Since then there has been extensive development of the island's resources, aided by the railroad lines built by Japanese.