THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, APRIL 5, 1914.

Lesson I. Christ's Table Talk. Luke 14. 7-24. Golden Text, Luke 14. 11.

In Luke's narrative the events of to-day's lesson follow closely upon those of the lesson for March 22. The review lesson which has intervened should not be permitted to obscure the close relation of thought. The account of the healing of the dropsical man on the Sabbath (verses 1-6) belongs to the longer division of the Gospel (14. 1 to 17. 10) devoted to the second period of the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem. The whole section is peculiar to Luke.

Verse 7. A parable—This word has several meanings. Usually it was a story told to illustrate a truth. Here it means a piece of advice.

Those that were bidden—A Pharisee had invited Jesus and other guests to dine at his house.

The chief seats—According to the Talmud, the middle place on a couch intended for three was the worthiest, that on the left the second in honor, and that on the right third. Jesus seems, however, to refer to the position of the couches.

8. A marriage feast—This was a formal dinner where the rank of the guests would be considered.

9. Thou shalt begin with shame to take the lowest place—The displaced guest would have to take the lowest seat because the intermediate places would have been filled in the meantime. The thought expressed by Jesus is found in Prov. 25. 7.

10. Sit down in the lowest place—Not in order to be promoted before the company, but to allow the host to choose those whom he wishes to honor.

11. For everyone that exalteth himself shall be humbled; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted—An utterance several times repeated by Jesus. See Luke 18. 14; Matt. 23. 12. Self-seeking invites its own rebuke, while humility and modesty are no hindrance to just recognition and preferment.

A Lesson On True Hospitality.

12. He said to him also that had bidden him—The previous discourse was addressed to the guests; Jesus now addresses the host, and seems to indicate that there was a selfish motive for his hospitality.

Call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, nor thy kinsmen, nor rich neighbors—The four classes likely to be asked on ordinary social grounds. The tense of the verb "call" is present and means rather "do not habitually call." Social invitations are not condemned, but our hospitality should not end there.

14. Thou shalt be recompensed—Good deeds never fail of their reward.

The resurrection of the just—Possibly a reference to the doctrine of a double resurrection, first of the just, and later a general resurrection. Compare 1 Cor. 15. 23; 1 Thess. 4. 16; Rev. 20. 5, 6.

15. Jesus's words about the resurrection of the just suggest the kingdom of God, and one guest assumes that he will enjoy its benefits. The parable that follows may be intended as a gentle rebuke to his self-complacency.

16. A certain man made a great supper—This parable suggests that many care less for the kingdom of God and its blessings than they profess to care. Compare this with the parable in Matt. 22, which is in some respects similar, but much more severe than this.

17. Sent forth his servant at supper time—This second summons to a feast still prevails in the East. To omit it would be equal to canceling the first invitation. To refuse this second summons would be considered by the Arabs equivalent to a declaration of war. The summoner here represents God's messengers to his people, especially John the Baptist and Jesus. Read Matt. 11. 28-30.

Come; for all things are now ready—Compare with John's message. Matt. 3. 2.

18. With one consent—The people acted as if they had previously conspired together. They all pleaded that they were too much occupied to come. Had this been the case they should have excused themselves when the first invitation came.

19. Prove—Used in the old sense of try or test, as in our expression, "the exception proves the rule."

20. A years immunity from military or civil service was granted t a newly married man. Deut. 24. 5.

21. Being angry—The behavior of the guests had been such as to justify the host's indignation.

23. Into the highways and hedges—This class refers to the heathen or the Gentiles. Those from the streets and lanes of the city were poor Jews.

Constrain—This does not imply that force was to be used. The passage has been so misunderstood as to be quoted as proof that Jesus favored religious persecution. The word really means "earnestly persuade," indicating that among the Gentiles a more earnest, persistent kind of preaching would be necessary to make them feel welcome. Matt. 8. 8. and 15. 27 illustrate the timidity of the Gentiles who came to Jesus.

24. This verse suggests that some of the first guests, who indifferently put off the invitation, may appear later when it will be too late to partake of the supper.

SUIT OVER DEER HERD.

Countess of Warwick Claims These Animals.

Some old laws were brought up from the past recently in the Kings Bench Division, London, before Mr. Justice Pickford to decide the ownership of a herd of deer claimed by the Countess of Warwick. The deer have for centuries herded in the park at Easton Lodge, Dunmow, Essex, of which the countess is a life tenant, but it is asserted by the trustees of the late owner of the property, the late Viscount Maynard, grandfather of the countess, that the deer do not belong to the estate, but must be considered as separate property. The countess had the deer seized and hence the appeal to the King's Bench.

Mr. Macnaghten, K.C., for the trustees, said that by the will of Viscount Maynard, Lady Warwick became the tenant for life of Easton Lodge, the park and pleasure grounds. The furniture in the mansion and the deer were bequeathed by the will to the trustees, to be held in trust for the person who for the time being was entitled to the possession of the mansion. There were about 600 deer in the park when Viscount Maynard died.

Arguing his case that he could rest his title on "confusion," Mr. Macnaghten quoted an old case in which furniture was in dispute, and in which the judicial decision was:

"If a man puts corn into any pocket into which there is before some corn, the corn is mine because it is impossible to distinguish what was mine from what was his. . ."

"Here," said counsel, "no man can distinguish the deer of Lady Warwick from my deer, and therefore, on the ground of 'confusion of the property,' I am entitled to keep it."

Mr. Giveen, for the judgment creditor, argued that the deer were the property of Lady Warwick and that the trustees had failed to prove that the deer were included in the settlement.

Mr. Giveen had referred to a decision of a Chancery judge in 1776 in a case regarding this same settlement. Counsel admitted that the decision was against him, but said that, as the case related to this settlement, he thought he ought to refer to it.

Mr. Justice Pickford decided in favor of the trustees, on the strength of this decision of 1776, and in his judgment particularly thanked Mr. Giveen for drawing his attention to the case, pointing out that Mr. Macnaghten, whose argument it favored, had not referred to it.

He gave judgment in favor of the trustees, holding that the deed did come under the settlement and that the execution creditor had no right to seize them. He directed that the sheriff of Essex should recover his costs and charges from the execution creditor.

USE FOUND FOR CHOLERA.

Locusts May Be Exterminated By Solution Sprinkled on Grass.

Dr. F. d'Herelle, the young French scientist who discovered that a variety of the cholera germ will exterminate locusts and other insect pests, has received numerous invitations from other countries to aid them in relief from these scourges of agriculture.

Dr. d'Herelle was studying conditions in Yucatan four years ago on behalf of the Pasteur Institute of Paris, when he observed that the locusts there were suffering from a disease of the intestine resembling cholera in human beings. He succeeded in isolating the coccobacillus. After cultivating it and heightening its virulence, he made a solution which killed in 24 hours.

The method is to sprinkle the solution on the grass where the insects feed. The first experiment tried in the Argentine exterminated the locusts within a radius of 50 miles.

Wolves in Suburbs of Belgrade.

Packs of hungry wolves, driven out of the forests by the intense cold and loss of their usual food supply have appeared in the environs of Belgrade. The animals have become a real menace even in the most thickly populated regions. A Belgrade manufacturer, while driving recently from his factory to his home, was pursued by a pack. The beasts were evidently famished, and when they sighted the sleigh they set out in pursuit with howls, which so frightened the horse that his driver did not need to urge him forward.

ONE OF THE SEASON'S NOVELTIES IN VIENNA.

A Long Cape Enveloping the Body.
Model of navy blue broadcloth trimmed with white wool braid.

FLAMMARION WRITES OF LIFE

Astronomer Gives Fragments of His Projected Biography.

Camille Flammarion, the famous and popular astronomer, from his little flat overlooking the Paris Observatory, has given to the press a few pages from his projected biography. He was born in a little village in the Department of Haute-Murne, and by a curious freak of fortune his surname means "one who sheds light." His biography will be written in that popular style in which he composes even the deepest of his scientific books. He has even investigated the phenomena connected with what he calls Spiritualism.

"That there is a good deal of fraud committed in connection with those phenomena," he says, "must be taken as established. One must beware of so-called mediums. But there have been manifestations under such conditions that the theory of fraud is inadmissible. My own opinion is that such phenomena have nothing to do with the souls of the departed or with denizens of any other world whatsoever.

"Levitation, table-turning, etc., the facts as to which I hold to have been established, seem to prove that in a gathering of persons interested in studying such manifestations a psychic personality is developed which presents them in their collective capacity. It is, as it were, their collective sub-conscious self which acts as in a dream. Victor Hugo, whom I knew very well, took an active part in some of these manifestations in the bosom of his family while living in Jersey, and the Hugo family were absolutely above suspicion. Hugo would say a line of poetry and another member of the party would say it with something equally good, or at all events, far above his unaided powers of composition.

"There was, as it were, a reflex of Hugo's literary talent, although it was independent of his own will. More wonderful still was this: One day Charles Hugo was sitting in a circle with a party who had their hands on a table, when some one asked whether Sir Walter Scott was present. Charles Hugo, who knew no English at all then, read out some rappings which he wrote down without understanding their meaning. The words were:

'Vex not the bard, his lyre is broken,
His last song sung, his last word spoken.'"

"The problem of spiritualism is a most complex one. Of this I am sure, however, after making every deduction for fraud and misunderstanding, that we have evidence of the existence of psychic forces the nature of which is unknown to us.

"Then there is Mars, which I have been observing for twenty years or more. I have, I think, demonstrated that there is intelligent life of some sort on that planet, for it is impossible to explain on any other theory the changes which take place on it. What sort of life it may be we cannot guess, but it is there all the same. The difficulty, as in other astronomical researches, consists in the great distance at which we stand from the point to be observed. Mars is 56,000,000 kilometres (35,000,000 miles) from the earth. Well, supposing you have a telescope powerful enough to bring it to within 28,000 kilometres (17,500 miles) the difficulties in the way of the observer are still immense. For all that, however, very valuable results have been obtained. We know the poles of Mars better than the poles of our own earth. In fact, when I first began keeping a record of the snowfall at the poles of Mars no man had ever seen either our own North or South Pole."

PARIS DISCOVERS TREASURES

Precious Canvases Stored Away Many Years Ago.

While inspecting the various storehouses belonging to the city of Paris a few days ago a committee of municipal councillors visited the houses situated at Auteuil, and the thousands of heterogeneous objects stored there, forgotten and covered with the dust of ages.

One of the councillors more curious than the others brushed the thick coating of dust from a large canvas, and his surprise was great on finding hidden beneath the grime signs of a painting of fine quality. The discovery has led to a serious search and the subsequent finding of various canvases.

It is now found that the city has been the unwitting owner of several masterpieces for a period impossible to define. Among these pictures are "Sainte Isabelle de France," painted by the master, Philippe de Champaigne (1602-1674), a sketch of which is in the Louvre; a painting which at present is attributed to Tintoretto, and one believed to be the Rubens.

Further searches will be made, and it is expected they will bring to light more valuable works, for the city for many years has had the habit of systematically storing away all sorts of objects and forgetting them.

At a Children's Party.

A little boy of five was invited to a children's party. The next day he was giving an account of the fun, and said that each of the little visitors had contributed either a song, a recitation, or music for the pleasure of the rest. "Oh, poor little Jack!" said his mother. "How very unfortunate you could do nothing!" "Yes, I could, mother," replied the young hopeful, "I stood up and said my prayers."

Astonished the Operator.

She wanted to call up the shoe store and ask if a certain style of shoe had been received. She took down the receiver.

"What number?" said exchange. "Narrow twos," she promptly replied.

ROYALTY TO BUILD HOUSES.

King George and His Son Interested in Housing Movement.

Probably the most practical illustration of interest in the housing movement is being taken by King George of England and his son. They are now working out an elaborate scheme of model landlordism in South London. The district affected is that belonging to the duchy of Cornwall, in the vicinity of Waterloo Bridge and Kensington oval. The King is the prime mover in clearing and rebuilding the estate, but he is acting on behalf of the Prince until the latter attains his majority.

Until within the last two or three years it has been impossible to make any improvement because of life leases and a special act of Parliament that expired in 1909. Edward VII. chafed under the disabilities and urged the repeal of the act.

"Just as soon as I am free to do what I please with my property," said he at the opening of the dwellings erected by the London County Council at Bethnal Green, "I shall endeavor to show that the landlord may play a most important part in furthering the health and happiness of his tenants."

Edward died before he could do much, but he left the idea with his son and grandson, who are now demolishing the poorly built, speculative houses of the duchy of Cornwall, the majority of which are devoid of means of sanitation and comfort inside.

They are putting in their places substantially built and artistically designed flats and cottages, abutting on thoroughfares laid out according to sound town planning, so that the maximum of light, air and convenience will be enjoyed by tenants.

Whole blocks of winding streets and dilapidated shacks have disappeared. One of the features of the improvements is a quadrangular series of homes for old persons. These structures are of dignified architecture and possess every advantage, inside and out, for the good cheer and comfort of the occupants.

Careful thought has been given to the provision for open spaces, playgrounds, trees and flowers. The King and the Prince are trying to get persons in different circumstances to intermingle on the property, and thus promote a general levelling of the social tone.

Their theory is that intimate contact of the poor and the prosperous is good for both, stimulating the former to efforts to rise and the latter to social sympathies advantageous to community progress and peace.

WEEDS AS A FOOD ECONOMY.

Are Superior to Many Salads Now in Common Use.

A scientific writer suggests weeds as one of the remedies for the high cost of living. The dandelion, he says, has long been used for human food, and, properly prepared, is grateful even to the fastidious taste.

The same statements apply with more or less force to milkweed, yellow dock, red clover, sour grass and golden thistle. These are all good as vegetables or salads or both. They contain quite as much of the mineral elements as the vegetables usually cultivated, and, as sources of nitrogen, are even superior to many salads now in common use

He thinks man is consuming only an infinitesimal portion of the really edible and nutritious weeds, and suggests that those now eaten be improved by cultivation, while a search be made for others that may serve equally well for food.

It will be recalled that it took many years to transform the "love apple," which was regarded only as an ornament, in to the tomato which everybody uses as food. The mushroom has a similar history.

It seems quite reasonable to suppose, therefore, that a general and scientific investigation of the food value of weeds, especially of those which are more common, would yield very valuable results. The facts seem to show that it would not only enlarge and diversify the human dietary, but materially decrease the cost of living.

LATEST TYPE OF THIEF.

Servants Masquerade as Aristocrats at Paris Dances.

A new type of petty criminal has recently been classified by the police. They give him the name of "tango pickpocket."

The present vogue of complicated dances, such as the tango, furlana and maxixe, has given the entree to Paris ballrooms to many persons of unknown antecedents whose sole recommendation is that they are exceptionally good dancers. Thus an attractive young woman, who for some weeks frequented the exclusive society of a dancing club where she was believed to be a Russian princess, turned out to be a lady's maid, while a number of ex-waiters, ballet-dancers and circus performers playing the roles of Argentine millionaires, have enjoyed unlimited hospitality in some of the best social circles on the strength of their skill in the tango.

WIT AND WISDOM.

Pay as you go, but don't forget to save enough to get back on.

A man's best friend is a woman who can keep him from making a fool of himself.

Bridegroom: "Didn't I look like a fool when I was at the altar rail?" Best Man: "No; but anyone could see that you were not yourself."

A man has no more right to say an uncivil thing than to act one—no more right to say a rude thing to another than to knock him down.

He: "Do you think absence makes the heart grow fonder?" She: "I don't know. Go away for a long time, and I'll write and let you know."

"Why are you so angry with the doctor?" asked Mr. White of his wife. "Because," she replied, "when I told him I had a terribly tired feeling he told me to show my tongue."

"You assure me that this is the very latest fashion?" "Yes, madam." "And it won't fade?" "No, madam, I am sure it won't; we have had it in the window for two years."

He: "I shall never marry until I meet a woman who is my direct opposite." She (encouragingly): "Well, my friend, there are numbers of bright, intelligent girls in this neighborhood."

Mistress: "Bridget, that jug you broke this morning belonged to my great grandmother!" Bridget: "Well, Oi'm glad of that! Sure, Oi was afraid it was something he had just bought lately.'

"Now, children," said the schoolteacher, "can any of you tell me of a greater power than a king?" "Yes, ma'am," cried a little boy eagerly. "Very well, you may tell the class," replied the teacher. "An ace," was the unexpected reply.

"Johnny, why do you spend all your time on those stairs?" asked Johnny's aunt. "Stairs weren't made to play on." "Well, where can I go? Papa sends me upstairs, and mamma sends me down. Seems to me I've got to stay halfway somewhere."

"You must stop worrying and take a holiday," said the suave practitioner. "My dear doctor," replied the irritable patient, "if I could get my affairs into a shape that would permit me to take a holiday I'd be so relieved that I wouldn't need one."

"So she doesn't return your affection, eh? Well, I shouldn't get mad about that. What's the use of bothering about a girl," said Morby. "I don't mind her not returning my affection," said Freddy, "but, confound it, she won't return my diamond ring, either!"

"Everybody in our family's some kind of an animal," said Bobby to the amazed visitor. "What nonsense!" she exclaimed. "Well," replied Bobby, "mother's a dear, my baby sister is mother's little lamb, I'm the kid, and dad's the goat."

FIRE FIGHTERS IN SIBERIA.

Have Elaborate Methods but Crude Apparatus.

The people in Siberia have a peculiar way of fighting fires. For instance, the City of Irkutsk is plotted out into districts each with its engine house and watch tower. On the watch tower a guard is continually stationed and it is his duty to scan the housetops for signs of smoke. When a fire has got sufficiently under way for the guard to see the smoke he gives the alarm and the engines dash out, writes Richard L. Wright in "Through Siberia." The engines are primitive and the use of them more so.

One Sunday morning while the writer was in Irkutsk there was a fire close to the hotel where he was stopping and all the proceedings could easily be watched.

First came a troika team that dragged a hook-and-ladder carriage. On the carriage clung the firemen, howling Cossacks with brass helmets jammed down over their ears, who carried in one hand—how the symbolism would have stirred the heart of Maeterlinck—flaming torches.

Behind the hook-and-ladder was the hose cart, and then came a hand engine of primitive type. After that, for two blocks, filed a queue of water-filled hogsheads on wheels. The cavalcade passed in a cloud of dust accompanied by the yells of the torch-bearing firemen. When the supply of water ran out the carts dashed down to the river and were replenished.

This crude high-pressure service gave rise once to a rather humorous incident that the Irkutskians tell with great glee. During a fire several years ago a string of water wagons went down to the river, were filled and came running back. When the reached the fire the water was gone. The enthusiastic captain of hogsheads had neglected to put back the plugs in the barrels and had spilled his supply for several blocks along the main street.

Mater—Well, Effie, what are you going to be when you are grown up? Effie—If I was a boy I'd be President; but, seeing I'm a girl, I guess being a rich widow is as good as anything.