

THE REAL AND THE IDEAL

We Need to Learn for Ourselves What Is the Work That Endures.

"Set your affections on things above, not on things on earth."—Col. iii., 2. It is probable that from the age of 16 up to Jesus of Nazareth spent His life in mechanical work; He made wooden plows, axes, hammers, and yokes. He served as a carpenter. Then for three years He gave Himself to the ministry of ideal things, exclusively to the service of the spirit.

There is a wonderful satisfaction in making things, in looking over some concrete pieces of work accomplished when the day ends. It is a satisfaction that belongs to the artisan. Is it not probable that many said, "It is useful to play when Jesus gave up so useful a trade as this?" To them He seemed to say, "But then He turned to work, and thus closed the rainbow."

But to-day who possesses a single one of the things that you have ever made? And did we possess them all better off would the world be? Yet, on the other hand, how ill could this world afford to lose what He gave it by those three years of the service of the ideal.

In our age of things we so easily forget how large is the place of the ideal and the spiritual. Ever estimating our assets in the concrete, we fail to recognize that our real wealth lies in thoughts and things abstract. The permanent possessions of humanity are spiritual.

NOT ACRES NOR ARMIES,

not banks nor business make a nation, but mighty, compelling ideals and traditions.

Jesus, Shakespeare, Browning, Lowell, Emerson left no goods and chattels, no bands and instruments, their lasting contributions they bequeathed ideals, living first for the soul, their souls surviving and remain to us all. The truly great who still stand after the test of the years are those who have lived for the spirit.

This is as true of the works and the warrior as of the philosopher and poet. All were inspired by glowing visions; they set their affections on things above the trifles for which we struggle and strive. They endured as seeing things as invisible; therefore their names endure.

The great undertakings of our own day are possible only under spiritual

HENRY F. COPE.

THE S. S. LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON,

JULY 7.

Lesson 1. God Feeds Israel in the Wilderness, Golden Text: John 6, 51.

THE LESSON WORD STUDIES:

Based on the text of the Revised Version.

From Egypt to Sinai.—The effect of the overthrow of the Egyptians upon the hearts and minds of the Israelites was to fix their minds upon the奇妙 manifestations of Jehovah's power. In the words of the Exodus narrator, "And Israel saw the great work which Jehovah did upon the Egyptians, and the people feared Jehovah and they believed in Jehovah, and in his servant Moses" (Exod. 14:31). The escape out of Egypt and the power and goodness of Jehovah are commemorated in the Song of Moses and Israel which the biblical narrator introduces at this point. Leaving the shore of the Red Sea, Israel now turned its face toward the east and set out to journey to its Land of Promise. This journey of the children of Israel had not yet been completed when the great pilgrimage from Canaan, as in this phenomenon in many respects similar in character. Indeed, this similarity is emphasized in the Hebrew word for "exodus," which is "lug," and the significance of which is perpetuated in the modern name of Mohammedan pilgrims. The route taken by the Israelites was not, however, the modern caravan route straight across the northern end of the peninsula, but the more circuitous one familiar to students of the Bible as the traditional route of the Exodus journey, and which followed a general way along the coast line and the interior southward from the Mediterranean to the vicinity of Kedesh-horion. A summary of the itinerary of this journey is given in Num. 33, 14-19, where forty-one stages or forty sleeping places between Baanah in Egypt and the final encampment of the Israelites at the Jordan River are enumerated. In this summary the dates of starting (the fifteenth day of the first month, of the first year) and of Aaron's death in the fortieth year (the first day of the fifth month) of the desert journey are also recorded. The recent researches of Naville have settled beyond reasonable dispute the first stage of the march, and a closer knowledge of the traditional route encourages the belief that before long the correctness of the traditional site of Sinai and the traditional Exodus route as a whole will also be established beyond question. The first stopping place of the Israelites after leaving the shore of the Dead Sea was at a place called Elim, where fresh water was found. This was more than three days' journey from the place of crossing the sea, though probably not far from the shore.

Verse 1. Elim.—On the assumption that the traditional site of Sinai is correct, Elim has been identified with a fertile wady basin near the coast about one-third of the way from the northern end of the Red Sea.

The wilderness of Sin.—The similarity between the names "Sin," "Zin," and "Kurn" has been frequently pointed out. It is possible that the parts of Sin and Zin have both received their name from the mountain Sinai, though in the Exodus narrative as we now have it the two are carefully distinguished. The wilderness of Sin is the name given to the open plain west of Sinai, while the wilderness of Zin (mentioned later in the narrative, Num. 13, 21, and elsewhere), lies in the opposite side of the peninsula far to the northeast.

2. Murmured against Moses and against Aaron.—The hardships of the overland desert journey were for a large majority of the individual members of the great migrating host certainly not trifling. A scarcely fit of water and then of food were among the grievous trials which they had to bear.

3. What we eat by the flesh-pots.—The expression may be taken literally, but in a wider figurative sense it stands for the abundance of food of every kind which the Israelites, whatever their other

A FAIRY'S REVENGE



INSULTING THE FAIRY.

"Come with me and I will show you the plan of castle I wish built," said the builder.

"Only once that I can remember," replied Uncle Robert, "I'll tell you how it happened."

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