NOTES AND COMMENTS

... of scientific re-... education, has at ... burglar whose ... his business is ... in safe making. ... danger, thus ... the choice of ... above the ... a part of the ... hole through a ... thrusts his ... it so as to ... and thus ... the hole, ... rope ladder, ... the money-... prepares for ... without de-... blankets ... brings down ... oxygen and ... [illegible]

HAPPINESS.

Nothing Praises God Better Than a Happy Disposition.

"He that is of a cheerful heart has a continual feast."—Prov. xv., 15.

How did your Puritan forefathers dispose of that text? In their day it read, "A merry heart is a continual feast." Did they explain it away by saying that the man was made anyway for fasting and not for feasting? Perhaps underneath their austere exterior they, after all, knew something of deep joys and unfailing sources of refreshing happiness.

In their teaching they made the mistake of insisting that it was necessary to seem sad in order to please the most High. We make the mistake of being sad in order to please ourselves. Their misery at least had the grace of a high motive; ours is born of a shortsighted selfishness that grasps at the shadow of a fleeting satisfaction and loses the substance of lasting joy.

Happiness is the highest aim of life, higher than holiness or usefulness, because it must include both. To us it is so unfamiliar that we do not know it from frivolity; we seek the excitement of some passing sensation, and, [illegible], we fall afterwards into the reaction of misery. Happiness is the poise, calm, strength, and spring of the life fully in harmony with all things good and true.

Many have thought to give God glory by learned treatises on

HIS MAJESTY AND MYSTERY.

But a little child, so happy that he only [illegible] and crows, praises the Almighty more effectively and even devoutly than does the theologian who only [illegible] His goodness speculations. The great Father gives his children a world brimming over with joy, with laughing meadows, with smiling [illegible], with rippling bird songs, and to man he gives faculties of immeasurable happiness. Life is learning the law of happiness and practising its use and service.

But what is the secret of happiness? How can we learn to be happy when life has so much to make us sad? The praise of happiness does not take away the fact of sorrow or solve its dark problem. There remain the million aching hearts and all the griefs of a world. True. God forbid that we should deny such sorrows; that were to make this a sad world indeed. Our cares are but part of joy's curriculum. Learning their lesson, bearing their load is essential to deep, lasting happiness.

It is not the life of the butterfly experience that is firm, calm, serene in times of storm and stress. It is the life that by loads of care has been forced to strike its roots down to the rocks. There are some lives that seem to run over with a happiness that is full of refreshing to all who know them, and these have come out of great tribulation.

At first the multiplication table is a burden; later, when mastered, it becomes a wonderful bearer of burdens. To wear a careworn, fretful look, to go through life shedding misery, is to confess that we have not learned our lesson, that we are dunces in life's school.

THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS

is in grasping the significance of living, to learn that we live for things other and higher than those [illegible] and [illegible] prizes for which men sell their bodies and souls and fret out their nerves and hearts. No man can be happy whose soul is set on the changing fashion of things or who looks for satisfaction in things.

The lover is happy because he has discovered a prize and is enthralled by a person that makes all other things seem mean and paltry. Men are happy in proportion as they yield themselves to the best, as they tune their hearts to strike the key of their lives. Paul is happier in the dungeon, where he can be true to his ideal, than Nero on the throne without one.

There is feast in days of famine for those who have the inner eyes for the riches of life. You always can find in this world what your heart is looking for. But you cannot satisfy your heart on everything you may change to find, and until the heart is satisfied and the deeper needs of the life are met there is no happiness.

The search for happiness is not altogether selfish. Few things can we do that will help the [illegible] more than the cultivation of serene strength and cheer in ourselves. Not [illegible], but the strength and sympathy that flow from a life fixed in confidence in eternal right and good and unfailing love.

HENRY F. COPE.

THE S. S. LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, SEPT. 8.

Lesson X. The Brazen Serpent. Golden Text: John 3, 14, 15.

THE LESSON WORD STUDIES.

[illegible]

... as the temptation may have been, it was [illegible] the greater burden of the [illegible] which he had [illegible]. Nevertheless, the cowardice of the people had [illegible] an invasion of the [illegible], and [illegible] Moses announced [illegible] will not lead them [illegible] Canaan until every adult among [illegible] known slavery shall have died in the wilderness. Grieved by this [illegible] the impulsive people [illegible] cowardice, make a [illegible] attack upon the Canaanites, only, however, to be repulsed with great loss. [illegible] years they remain in the [illegible] of Paran, with their headquarters at Kadesh-Barnea. Here there was [illegible] of water, and from this common [illegible] the people wandered with their flocks for pasturage, and to it they returned for worship, for social life and for the adjustment of judicial matters. The chapters intervening between our last lesson and this one record, in addition to the events connected with successive petty rebellions against the authority of Moses, additional regulations with regard to the duties of the Levites, the priests' portions of the sacrifices, tithing, and the ceremony of purification. The deaths of Miriam and Aaron also are recorded, while the chapter immediately preceding this one is devoted largely to an account of the events connected with the departure of the people from Kadesh and their march to Mount Hor. It was at this place that Aaron died.

Verse 1. When finally the long sojourn at Kadesh was nearing its end, and the time had come once more to attempt to enter the Promised Land, the Israelites sent messengers to the king of Edom, whose territory lay just east of Kadesh, and asked to be granted a peaceful passage through his country, their purpose being to approach Canaan this time from the east side of Jordan. Their petition not being granted, they marched south to the head of the Gulf of Akabah, and passing around the southern end of Edom, proceeded northward, east of Edom and Moab, until opposite the mouth of the Jordan River.

Arad—An unimportant city or place about twenty miles due south of Hebron. The name still survives in the modern designation of an ancient hill or mound known as Tell Arad.

In the South—Lit., as elsewhere, "in the Negeb" (comp. Word Studies for September 1).

The way of Atharim—Or, "of the spies." The meaning of the original is not clear, and no place bearing this name has ever been found. Hence the suggestion of the marginal rendering printed in quotations above.

2. Israel vowed a vow—The representatives of the people gave a formal [illegible]

[illegible]

4. Mount Hor—[illegible]

5. [illegible]

[illegible] of Jehovah.

This light bread—Or, "vile, worthless bread." The reference is to the manna, [illegible] many years been the principal article of food of the Israelites.

6. Fiery serpents—Fiery in the sense, probably, that the inflammation produced by the bite of the serpents caused an intense burning sensation. Both in the desert south of Palestine and in the Sinaitic peninsula serpents of various kinds abound. Very few of these, however, are poisonous.

8. Make thee a fiery serpent—Or, simply, "make thee a serpent."

A standard—The word is used of any object round which the people, especially troops, gathered or were mustered. Here it seems to mean simply a pole sufficiently high to be conspicuous.

9. Of brass—Not brass as we know it, but a natural metal, probably copper, alloyed with some stronger or harder metal other than zinc. Bronze, which is an alloy of copper and tin, was well known among the ancients, while brass, as we know it, an alloy of copper and zinc, seems not to have been commonly known, if at all, at this time.

Looked unto the serpent of brass—In the time of King Hezekiah, during the eighth century B. C., the "bronze serpent," popularly believed to be the same which Moses had made in the wilderness, had become an object of idolatrous worship in Judah. Under the influence of Isaiah's earnest preaching the king was moved to destroy the local sanctuaries scattered throughout the kingdom. In the words of 2 Kings 18 4, "he removed the high places, and brake the pillars, and cut down the Asherah: and he brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made; for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it."

WHAT IS THE BALLOON PLANT?

Most of us know how seed is sown in the furrows of a ploughed field and many of us are familiar with a famous picture showing a husbandman engaged in this important branch of his work, but few among us presumably have heard of or seen the balloon plant, a native of California. It is one of the most curious devices of Nature for scattering seeds. The fruit is yellow and a little larger than an egg. It has the appearance of an empty bag, but it contains a watery substance which evaporates or dries up when the fruit matures, a sort of gas taking its place. This gas is lighter than air, and the fruit sways back and forth in the wind until it finally breaks loose from its slender stem, rises into the air to a height of from seventy-five to a hundred feet, and sails away to fall in some distant spot and thus extend the growth of its kind.

STOLEN STATE JEWELS

CROWNS THAT HAVE BEEN SPIRITED AWAY BY BURGLARS.

They are Not Always Safe From the Evil Designs of Enterprising Thieves.

The crown of Holland, which is said to have cost £125,000 about seventy-five years ago, actually underwent the indignity of being stolen by burglars. For nearly a couple of years they had it in their possession and eventually some of the gems from it were found near Brooklyn, in the United States. The others subsequently came to light in Belgium and were ultimately restored to their original purpose, says London Tit-Bits.

Perhaps the crown of Hungary has undergone more vicissitudes than any other European crown. A long time ago, owing to the extinction of the royal line, there were several candidates for the Hungarian throne and eventually the Diet bestowed the crown on their own nominee.

Having been persuaded to appear in public in his coronation robes, with the crown on his head, the new sovereign was swooped down upon and [illegible] by the King of Bohemia's crown and [illegible] disappointed, the Hungarians [illegible] Otto of Bavaria their [illegible] that he made it [illegible] to steal back the missing crown.

[illegible] this purpose Otto made his way into Bohemia

DISGUISED AS A MERCHANT.

[illegible]

THE DARING RUFFIAN.

Other crowns have been stolen at different times, among them that of Scotland. When that country was invaded by the English, under Cromwell, the crown with all the other royal regalia was removed for safety to Dunnottar Castle.

Finally the invaders captured Edinburgh, and when they were laying siege to Dunnottar the defender of that place was urged to give up the crown and other property so that it could be concealed from the English in some remote castle in the Highlands.

This the officer refused to do, and consequently a plan for stealing the precious jewels was devised by a daughter of the Earl of Mar, which was successfully carried out by the wife of the minister of Kineff, a parish four or five miles distant from Dunnottar.

From the English general she obtained permission to visit Dunnottar, and with the crown concealed in her dress she mounted her horse for the return journey, being helped into the saddle by the English general himself. Her maid followed on foot with the sword and sceptre secreted in bundles of lint, which it was pretended were to be spun into thread.

They passed safely through the English lines, and on arriving at Kineff the crown, with the other articles, was buried by the minister secretly in the churchyard. He afterward made a careful record of their burial so that in case of his death his relatives or friends should know where to find them. It only remains to be said that they were in due course recovered from their grave and returned to the Scottish capital.

ALWAYS FATAL.

Mrs. Brown awoke her husband in the dead of night with the startling information that she had just heard a burglar in the room below.

"Now," she exclaimed, excitedly, "he's lighting one of those cigars I gave you for your birthday. I heard him pick up the box and put it down again."

Then John sat up and listened. "By Jove, Mary, you're right!" he answered. "He is! He's actually smoking one of these—er—er—those cigars."

Then he nestled once more comfortably beneath the blankets.

"Go to sleep again, Mary," he said, complacently. "We'll find the poor wretch in the morning."

"FATHER OF THE INDIAN ARMY."

A Monument to Gen. Lawrence Stands in Westminster.

In regard to a recently proposed memorial to Lord Clive, the popular hero of India, it has been suggested that justice should be done by recalling the services of Clive's great predecessor, Gen. Stringer Lawrence, who by his heroic campaign against the French in the East, became the real founder of English supremacy in India. Lawrence had no brilliant essayist to publish his deeds as Clive had in Macaulay. A monument to the great soldier stands in Westminster, but his service to his country is almost forgotten.

When General Lawrence, then a major, was sent to India in 1748, he found the army at his command to consist of a few companies of British soldiers and a small force of natives, hastily recruited and armed with old matchlocks. With this inadequate material as a nucleus, he built an army which performed the splendid victories by which England became undisputed mistress of India.

The most brilliant and decisive of Lawrence's triumphs was that of Golden Rock. The French, advancing on Trichinopoli, determined to drive the English who held the Rock into the city. The Rock was defended by a weak force [illegible] Lawrence's army was on the plain.

[illegible]

SHAH NOT OF ROYAL BLOOD.

Question of Legitimacy of the Persian Ruler.

[illegible]

YOUNG SCOTS' COURTESY.

Children Vied with Each Other in Regard to Parents.

Says a writer in the Scottish American: "When in Scotland last year I failed to see any signs of degradation among my many relatives or their numerous friends, and I never saw a grander sight than I did in [illegible] where I visited some old Scottish friends. They have ten children, most of them at home. All of them seemed as if they couldn't honor their father and mother enough—the girls taking charge of the house and most of the cooking, and the boys in their taking charge of the [illegible]. Their father and mother were taking it easy in their old age. Everything was harmony—the result of careful training. I have never seen anything like it in the United States, and I go about a great deal."

GEMS WORTH $50,000,000.

A careful inventory of the jewel treasure left by the Shah shows that the precious stones collected by him are valued at about ten millions sterling. The collection contains a number of unrivaled diamonds and other stones. The old crown of the Persian dynasty holds a ruby as big as a hen's egg. A belt, studded with diamonds, worn only on great State occasions, weighs 18 lbs., and is valued at several hundred thousand pounds. A wonderful silver vase is decorated with a hundred emeralds, one of which is so large that it was possible to engrave on it the Shah's numberless titles. A sword with a diamond-covered scabbard is valued at a quarter of a million sterling. A remarkable feature of the collection is a square block of amber of 400 cubic inches, said to have dropped from the skies at the time of Mohammed.

HE WILL DO THAT.

"Yes," said the voluble crank, "I used to be as bad as you, but I made up my mind to quit smoking and drinking, and I did it."

"Indeed?" remarked Manley. "I guess a man who can quit smoking and drinking could quit almost anything—"

"Oh, yes."

"Except talking about it."

TREE STANDS WITHOUT ROOTS

In Tasmania, Australia, a large gum tree was to be cut down, and the workmen sawed across the trunk two feet above the ground. When the cut was finished the tree slipped off the base, but instead of falling remained upright. It remained in this remarkable position for several days until a windstorm toppled it over.

COMPLIMENT TO BRITAIN

THE CZAR ASKS THE LOAN OF ENGLISH GENTLEMEN.

Three Young Men are Wanted to Teach Russian Naval Officers Good Manners.

The English as a nation are renowned for their politeness. [illegible] have just received a most extraordinary compliment from the Czar [illegible] Russian Government, which is [illegible] to make every Briton sit up [illegible] his manners, and remain on his [illegible] behavior. Briefly speaking, the Russian Ambassador in London, Count Benckendorff, has been [illegible] by his sovereign and by the [illegible] of the Navy at St. Petersburg [illegible] invite the Vice-chancellor of the University of Cambridge to select [illegible] young Englishmen of birth and [illegible] who are willing to serve [illegible] under the Russian [illegible]

ON BATTLESHIPS.

[illegible]

A GREAT COMPLIMENT.

[illegible]

THE TRAGEDIES OF [illegible]

[illegible]

VAIN GIRLS, LISTEN.

You are Usually of Less Consequence Than You Think.

Of all the vain [illegible] the girl [illegible] that people are always [illegible] thinking about her.

People have plenty of things to discuss and think about besides their friends. A girl who is in a state of wretchedness on account of what her friends may be thinking or saying of her is lacking in common sense. No person on earth is of such absorbing interest to her friends as to be [illegible] food for gossip or reflection.

The girl who is constantly [illegible] the thought that her every action and word is being criticized by her friends or otherwise, spends a miserable existence. And the pitiful part of it is that any young girl of this type can hardly be made to realize her own foolishness or the misery it causes her. She, it seems, recognize the simple truth that supersensitiveness never has found, and never can find happiness.

LATEST THING IN BATHROOMS.

Sixty bathrooms are being constructed in the mansion which Mrs. [illegible] Moore is building at Washington at a cost of $1,500,000. Her own bath will be in imitation of a cave, with stalactites hanging from the roof. The tub will be a rose-colored shell, and on the walls will be representations of aquatic plants. The floor will be covered with [illegible] in moss color.

LIVE CHALK VOLCANOES

FOURTEEN HUNDRED POUNDS OF GUNPOWDER USED.

Five Chalk Pits Were Explored at Chatham, England, During Siege Operations.

A few weeks [illegible] Chatham, England, was besieged [illegible] of operations [illegible] the defences [illegible] of the [illegible] pounds of ordinary [illegible] five chalk pits [illegible]

CAREFUL PREPARATIONS.

[illegible]

MAN AND JACKALS FIGHT.

An African Settler's Experience While Shooting.

[illegible]

HAVE THEIR USE.

"Fine feathers," remarked the man with the quotation habit, "do not make fine birds."

"No," rejoined the father of seven grown daughters; "but they make fine fortunes for milliners."

[illegible] the Farm

HANDLING THE MANURE.

[illegible]