The Acton Free Press

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1919

KEEP A LAUGH BEHIND IT

When disappointment strikes a blow,
Be calm and bravely bear it.
There's something better farther on,
Make up your mind to share it.
The world is full of light and shade;
If darkness falls, don't mind it.
A cloud may let the sunshine through,
Just keep a laugh behind it.

Though Fortune is a fickle friend,
And sometimes brings disaster,
A cheerful heart and merry laugh
Will often prove her master.
She makes a tangle of your life;
The game is to unwind it.
Then set your brain to steady work,
And keep a laugh behind it.

The ills of life are bad enough,
Repining makes them double.
Let laughter luminate your tears,
And shine through all your trouble.
Seek health, and wealth, and happiness
Seek what is best—and find it.
Work out the problem of your life,
And keep a laugh behind it.

—Lanta Wilson Smith.

Partnership Faithfully Earned

By Frederick E. Burnham

"SO ye boys have a notion that it would be 'bout the proper caper to work the farm on a sort o' partnership basis, eh?" queried Jonas Coleman, addressing his two grandsons. "Rather try your hand at farmin' thet way, than have me pay ye ten dollars a month an' your keep? Ten per cent o' the profits, eh? Maybe thar wouldn't be much comin' to ye at the end o' the year after your keep is diggered out. How 'bout thet, boys?"

"We are willing to try it out for a year that way," replied the boys.

"Well, boys, I'll think it over," declared Mr. Coleman. "I'll give ye an answer come the first o' the month. I want to size ye up a bit afore I make any sech agreement with ye. This is a big farm as farms go 'bout here. I wouldn't make no sech dicker with strangers o' course, but ye bein' my gran'sons an' needin' a helpin' hand jest now, I'll consider it."

A month previous Henry and Walter Coleman had lost their father, and they had gone to live with their grandfather, their mother being dead, and with the passing of their father, the home broke up. They were city boys, Henry seventeen years of age and Walter a year his junior. Strong and ambitious, it was not strange that they favored their grandfather's tentative suggestion of working the farm on a partnership basis.

"O' course, boys, if I decide to let ye try thet plan out, it won't do to start it afore the fust o' November," remarked Mr. Coleman that evening, picking up the Old Farmers' Almanac. "The most o' the work on this season's crops has been done by the hired man an' me, ye not comin' until 'bout the middle o' August. However, thar's consider'ble comin' through the winter from the cows an' chickens an' pigs. I persume ye'd get 'nough out on it to settle your keep an' buy your clothes. I'll think it over, as I said before, an' give ye an' answer the fust o' September. Then, if I do decide to take ye in as partners, ye can work two months at ten dollars a month an' your keep."

For half an hour or more the old man sat and studied tahe almanac. The boys had retired, and Mr. Coleman presently looking up from his reading, chuckled.

"I wish the weather 'ould be thick to-morrow afternoon 'long 'bout three 'clock," he muttered, talking to himself. "I'd like to see how them boys 'ould act down on the ma'sh. Thar's a ma'sh tide comin' an thet salt hay has got to be poled up out of reach on it."

Mr. Coleman's wish was undoubtedly to be gratified, for the ensuing morning the wind was east and a heavy mist rolled in from the sea. Shortly after breakfast he told Henry and Walter that he wanted them to go down on the marsh and pole hay to the upland.

"Ye have got a long job ahead on ye, boys," he said as they started off, "but if ye work smart I guess ye can get it all poled afore the tide drives ye off. Thar'll be a ma'sh tide late this afternoon, 'cordin' to the almanac. I'll bring ye down your dinner so ye won't lose no time."

The boys reached the marsh in due time and went to work with a will, for the numerous cocks of hay promised a long, hard day's work. At noon their grandfather came down with their dinner, and while he praised them for their apparent industry, he warned them again of the coming marsh tide.

"The tide's turned, boys," he said as he was about to return to the house. "Ye have got 'bout four hours ahead on ye afore ye'll be driv off. Stick right to it. We don't want to have none o' them cocks o' hay carried off."

The boys ate their dinner hurriedly and went to work again.

"My, but what a thick mist this is!" exclaimed Walter about two o'clock, glancing about.

"I guess it is going to rain," replied his brother. "It has been growing darker the last fifteen minutes."

A few minutes later Walter remarked the unusual darkness again, the while looking uneasily toward the upland.

"I never saw anything like this before," he cried. "Half-past two, and it looks as though night was coming on!"

"It's a lucky thing that these hay cocks are close together," said Henry. "We would have a good job finding them if they were scattered very much." The darkness increased. The boys heard the distant cry of a screech owl.

"You—you don't suppose it's the end of the world?" stampered Walter. "It—it might be coming."

"No, I guess not," replied his brother. "I know one thing, though—the tide is coming and we've got to hustle to get this hay aloff in time."

"But—but suppose it is the end of—of the world," faltered Walter, picking up his end of the long hay-poles which they had slipped under a big cock of hay.

"Well if it is it will find us working," answered Henry very soberly.

"I'm scared,' declared Walter. "I wish we were up to the house."

"I am scared, too, a little bit," said his brother. "But grandfather told us to get this hay off, and we'll stick to it as long as we can see anything at all."

For half an hour or more it constantly grew darker until the boys could see nothing over fifty feet distant. Silent and awe-stricken they plodded across the marsh with the cocks of hay. Presently they heard voices and a moment later a cheery laugh. It was their grandfather and the hired man.

"Well, whar be ye, boys?" shouted the old man.

"Here we are, grandfather!" cried Walter, his voice breaking.

"Stickin' right to it, I see," exclaimed Mr. Coleman, coming up to them just as they slipped the poles under a cock of hay.

"What does it mean, grandfather?" questioned Henry.

"Mean? Means thet thar's a total eclipse o' the sun, boys,' laughed the old man. "Was ye scared,?"

"Well, yes, we were,' replied Henry.

"Maybe ye thought thet the world was comin' to an end, eh?"

"That is just what we thought," confessed Walter.

"But kep' on polin' hay, eh?"

"Well, you see, grandfather, the tide was coming," said Henry.

"Ye was sure o' thet," chuckled Mr. Coleman.

Presently it grew gradually lighter and within half an hour it was possible to see the edge of the upland from the marsh where the remainder of the hay was located. Mr. Coleman and the hired man had brought poles with them and it was not long before all the hay was out of reach of the advancing tide. By the time the boys had reached home the eclipse was passed.

"Well, boys, I sure liked the way ye acted this afternoon," remarked their grandfather that evening. "Although ye sort o' diggered thet the world was comin' to an end, ye wasn't sure on it so ye kep' at work. Thet's a sensible way to look at things—keep peckin' awcy at your work, no matter what happens. Lots o' folks are jest failures 'cause they spend a good share o' life worryin' 'bout what might happen, neglectin' important work that ought to be done. Now I was tellin' ye last night thet I'd give ye an answer 'bout thet partnership idee come the fust o' the month. Said thet I wanted to size ye up a bit fust. Well, I ain't goin' to wait till the fust o' the month. I'm tellin' ye right now thet ye an' me is goin' to be partners from now on."

"But, grandfather, how about the crops?" exclaimed Henry.

"We haven't helped much of any about them," chimed in Walter.

"Don't make no difference, boys," declared the old man. "I've talked it over with your gran'mother an' she thinks jest as I do 'bout it. We are partners from now on. I ain't forgot thet your father was a good son to me, an' I guess if Martha an' me wants to make ye a little present to start with, thar's nobody thet'll have anythin' to say again it."

BEER, WINE AND DRUNKENNESS

A desperate attempt is being made to convince the people of this continent that beer and wine are not intoxicating drinks, or if they are that it is only to a very small extent; and we are told that if our people do not know much about beer and wine, and cannot imagine that men would dare to make the strong statements that are made by the beer and wine champions if there were no facts to back them up, it is just possible that some well-meaning people may actually be persuaded to vote for beer and wine in order to promote the cause of temperance. This possibility we cannot afford to ignore.

The first fact which should strike even the most careless observer in regard to this matter is the character of the men who are advancing the plea for beer and wine. With very few exceptions they are the very men who have fought the temperance hosts at every step during the great campaign against drunkenness. The brewers, the wine-merchants, the bar-owners, and the men who have been producing or conniving at drunkenness for a generation or more, are all lined up with this new "temperance" party. This in itself should indicate to most men where the temperance man should take his stand. He certainly does not belong to that crowd.

Another fact, well brought out by Cora F. Stoddard in the recently revised pamphlet on beer and wine, is this, that the drunkenness of long ago was largely beer and wine drunkenness, as the art of distilling spirits is not yet one thousand years old. The drunkenness against which the prophets of Israel launched their thunderbolts was wine drunkenness. The drunkenness of Belshazzar's house was wine drunkenness. The drunkenness which helped to bring decadent Rome to its end was wine drunkenness. And in view of all ancient history it is hard to contend that beer and wine do not produce drunkenness.

Another fact which Miss Stoddard emphasizes is that beer and wine do, after all, contain a not inappreciable amount of alcohol. If we take a half-pint of light wine, containing only 5 per cent. of alcohol, and put alongside of it a pint of 4 per cent. beer, and alongside of that place a glass containing about 3 tablespoonfuls of whiskey, containing about 43 per cent. of alcohol, the three drinks will contain the same amount of alcohol, just about two-thirds of an ounce. This means that the man who takes the half-pint of wine, the man who takes the pint of beer, and the man who takes the glass of whiskey have each taken about the same quantity of alcohol. And if alcohol taken regularly tends to produce the alcohol habit, then every one of the drinkers is in danger.

And the tests with beer and wine show clearly that even comparatively small quantities of those drinks lessen efficiency, reduce muscular ability, and perceptibly impair mental power. Dr. E. L. Fisk, of the Life Extension Institute, says very wisely, "Alcohol in alcohol, either in whiskey or beer. It is nonsence to claim that beer is a hygienic drink. It is drunk chiefly for its alcoholic effect, and if the alcoholic effect is produced the danger of alcohol exists. Furthermore, heavy beer drinking, as in the case of brewery employees, adds the danger of excessive fluid intake, entirely apart from alcohol. The heavy mortality of brewery employees is sufficient evidence that beer, so far as its effect on masses of men is concerned, is not a hygienic "drink." One of the greatest curses which ever visited Germany was the beer habit of which they boasted, and of whose brutalizing effect they seem not yet to have become aware.

Germany and France are sufficiently startling examples that national beer-drinking or national wine-drinking are not the way to national sobriety or permanent national greatness. And those who tell us so glibly and so positively that beer and wine are really temperance drinks have either some motive for deluding us or else they are woefully ignorant of the matters of which they speak. Whatever the pleas for beer and wine may be there is no tenable plea on the ground that they are temperance drinks.—The Guardian.

CHEERFUL OPTIMIST

The prize for optimism is awarded to a resident of one of the rural districts of Wales. As the story goes, an old man was sitting on the roof of his house during a flood watching the waters flow past, when a neighbor who possessed a boat rowed across to him.

"Hallos, Ted," he said.

"Hallos, Dave," replied the other.

"All your fowls washed away this morning Ted?"

"Yes, but the ducks can swim."

"Apple trees and all that gone, too, eh?"

"Well, they said the crops would be a failure, anyhow."

"I see the water has reached above your windows now."

"That's all right, Dave. The windows needed washin' badly."—Detroit Free Press.

Soft corns are difficult to eradicate, but Holloway's Corn Cure will draw them out painlessly.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

FOR SUNDAY, MAY 25, 1919

BY JESSE L. HURLBUT

REPENTANCE.—Jonah 3, 1-8; Luke 13, 1-5; Acts 2, 36-38; Rom. 2, 4.

Additional Material for Teachers—Luke 3, 1-14; 5, 31,32; 11, 32; 15, 7-10; Acts 17, 30, 31; James 4, 8-10; 1 John 1, 9.

Common Scripture Passage

1. And the word of Jehovah came unto Jonah the second time saying,

2. Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee.

3. So Jonah arose, and went unto Nineveh, according to the word of Jehovah. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city, of three days' journey.

4. And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown.

5. And the people of Nineveh believed God; and they proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them.

6. And the tidings reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and laid his robe from him, and covered him with sackcloth, and sat in ashes.

7. And he made proclamation and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything; let them not feed, nor drink water;

8. But let them be covered with sackcloth, both man and beast and let them cry mightily unto God; yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in his hands.

1. Now there were some present at that very season who told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

2. And he answered and said unto them, Think ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they have suffered these things?

3. I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall all in like manner perish.

4. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and killed them, think ye that they were offenders above all the men that dwell in Jerusalem?

5. I tell you, Nay; but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

36. Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified.

37. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do?

38. And Peter said unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ upto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

4. Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long-suffering, ont knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

Golden Text—The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent.—Acts 17, 30.

Departmental Topics and References

Primary Topic—The Heavenly Father is Always Ready to Forgive. Luke 15, 11-24.

Memory verse—For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive. Psa. 86, 5a.

Junior Topic—The people of a Wicked City Repent. Jonah 3, 1-8.

Memory Verse—Psa. 32, 1.

Intermediate and Senior Topic—Turning from Sin to God.

Young People and Adult Topic—The Nature and Fruits of Repentance.

Blackboard

A TRUE REPENTANCE TURNS FROM SIN.

A TRUE REPENTANCE CONFESSES SIN.

A TRUE REPENTANCE SEEKS GOD.

A TRUE REPENTANCE OBEYS GOD.

Lesson Thoughts

The Bible has much to say about repentance as to the conditions of salvation from sin. All the Old Testament prophets preached repentance; John the Baptist said "Repent"; Jesus Christ throughout his ministry proclaimed the duty of repentance. Let us consider what is embraced in a true repentance.

1. Its first and greatest element is a sincere turning from sin. Some persons think that they have not repented until they have been torn with agony over their own guilt. Others imagine that they have repented when they have wept and mourned and groaned with emotional feelings. Both may be mistaken; for repentance is not mere feeling badly about sin; it is stopping the doing of wrong and beginning to do right.

2. With a true repentance there is a confession of sin. He who has lived a godless life must acknowledge himself a sinner before God. The soul that would find God must go to God humbly confessing his sins, if he would be forgiven.

3. He who has truly repented will seek God. It is not a complete repentance until a sinner has turned to God, sought forgiveness, and obtained a new heart.

4. The test of a true repentance is an after life of obedience to God and right living. He who has sincerely repented of his sins will show it by earnest endeavor to please God in every act of his life. If he has been prayerless, he will now be prayerful. If he has neglected God's house, he will now frequent it. If he has found his companions among the evil, he will now seek them among the good. The new nature will reveal itself in new fruits of conduct.

Readings for Next Week

Monday—What Faith is and What it Does, Heb. 11, 1-10.

Tuesday—Examples of Faith, Heb. 11, 11-22.

Wednesday—Examples of Faith, Heb. 11, 23-40.

Thursday—The Centurion's Faith, Matt. 8, 5-13.

Friday—Christ Developing Faith, Mark 9, 14-26.

Saturday—Salvation by Faith, Rom. 3, 20-31.

Sunday—Purified by Faith, Acts 15, 1-11.

ARE YOU WIDE AWAKE?

Let it be made known that business done in a business way is the main factor in our lives, and no other medium can compare with advertising. The wide awake business man will have his name before the public; while the other fellow will keep his behind the board fence, which is a very poor sample of efficiency in gray matter. If a man says, "Well I have nothing to sell,"—what is the man in business for? If he has nothing to sell, he is better to put the screens on it and keep it under a bushel and sleep with it. Let it be known further that the people in this community have opened their eyes to the better way of buying, i.e., by perusing the ads. in the paper, where they can see what they require and when they want it and just how much it is going to cost them.

ON THE FENCE

It is often said of the man who takes no decided position for or against a matter, that he is "on the fence."

Deliberation is necessary, but no also is decision, and the faculty of rapid decision is becoming more and more necessary. The man "on the fence" does no good unless he gets off and goes to work. The world will give him some time to deliberate, but it will not give him all the time.

On the great questions of life, one cannot remain on the fence. He must reach his decision, risk mistakes, and go ahead. Society has no use for the man "on the fence"—East and West.

WHO AM I?

Last leap year I did not wish to embarass my best girl by letting her propose to me, says the editor of the Grangeville Sun, so I asked her to be my wife, but she said she would much rather be excused, so I foolishly excused her, but I got even with her because I married her mother and then the girl became my daughter, and when my father married my daughter he became my son. When my father married her she became my mother If my father is my son and my daughter is my mother, then who am I? My mother's mother, who is my wife, must be my grandmother, and I, being my grandmother's husband must be my own grandfather.

Attacked by Asthma. The first fearful sensation is of suffocation, which hour by hour becomes more desperate and hopeless. To such a case the relief afforded by Dr. J. D. Kellogg's Asthma Remedy seems nothing less than miraculous. Its help is quickly apparent and soon the dreadful attack is mastered. The asthmatic who has found out the dependability of this sterling remedy will never be without it. It is sold everywhere.

JIM'S CHARACTER SKETCH

"Yes, Jim's promised to see to it for me."

"It'll be fixed all right then, you may just depend on it."

The motorman and the conductor were having a little confab while the car was waiting on the switch for one from up town.

"Wonderful how that boy's got along!" The motorman turned over his gloves thoughtfully. "Why, when they put him on that Lake Avenue line, didn't any of us fellows think he'd hold the place any time at all—"

"That's right!" the conductor nodded with enthusiasm, "but hasn't he done it though! And he's so good-natured—you never see him any different. Yes, Jim's all right, you can count on that!"

There was the clang and rumble of a passing car, but as we sped city-word, the character sketch of Jim, so faithfully drawn by these, his fellow-workmen, was still before us. There seemed to be an inspiration in the thought of his kindliness and reliability which, by their brightening faces his friends longed to imitate. While for ourselves the morning was made brighter, our faith in human nature strengthened, by this glimpse of so cheery, unselfish a life—and that a stranger's.

Wherever that character sketch appears, silently and unwittingly, Jim is preaching the gospel of optimism, of faithful service; and many who may never see his face, will find their hearts beat with nobler impulses because of that likeness.

It is a Liver Pill—Many of the ailments that man has to contend with have their origin in a disordered liver, which is a delicate organ, peculiarly susceptible to the disturbances that come from irregular habits or lack of care in eating and drinking. This accounts for the great many liver regulators now pressed on the attention of sufferers. Of these there is none superior to Parmelee's Vegetable Pills. Their operation though gentle is effective, and the most delicate can use them.

LANGUAGE AND LIFE

Words stand for things. Whatever can be put into language can be put into life. Sometimes you hear people say that certain ideals are all very well to talk about, the implication being that such dreams cannot be realized. But the words were made to express things. All the beautiful, inspiring thoughts which can be put into language can be put into life.

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WHAT MONEY CANNOT BUY

There is no more serious mistake than to suppose that money can buy everything. It cannot purchase a good night's sleep nor an appetite. Many a millionare is a sufferer from dyspepsia and insomnia. Money cannot buy friendship, nor peace of mind, nor a tranquil conscience. The best things in life may be had by the poorest, bought without money and without price.

THE COLONEL'S FATHER

A story that casts an interesting light on the completeness with which the British nation threw itself into the struggle with Germany appears in Mr. Isaac Marcosson's The Business of War. I was talking one day to the commanding officer of the largest base-supply depot in France, says the author when an erect, white-haired man wearing the single star of a subaltern came up, saluted, and gave a message in precise military fashion. When he was through he clicked his reels together, saluted again, and with a "Thank you, sir," made off.

"Do you know who that officer is?" the colonel asked me.

"No," I replied.

"He is my father."

The father was seventy-one years old and a retired country squire, but like many of his countrymen, he felt that he had to be doing something, and so had replaced a younger man in the Army Service Corps.

MAKING THINGS EASY

Having an easy time is synonymous with being useless. If that is your ambition, weed it out of your heart. No one ever succeeded in having an easy time and being helpful. You cannot strengthen the weak and encourage the disheartened and do your share of the work that stands waiting to be done in this busy world, and at the same time "take it easy." Do not be ambitious to escape burden-bearing. Strive, instead, to be strong enough for all you have to do.

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