THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

LESSON FOR APRIL 15TH.

CHRISTIAN WATCHFULNESS.—MATT. xxiv, 42-51.

NOTES.—"*Watch therefore.*"—A moral inference from verses 36-41. It is spiritual watchfulness that is insisted upon of which physical wakefulness and readiness is the type. One of the first meanings of the Greek term for watch is *to live*. It is this live spirit ready for the second advent which is here contrasted to that comatose spiritual security that so many foolish ones have.—"*On that day.*"—This expression undoubtedly carried the idea with it of an advent within the lifetime of the disciples. So it was understood by them. But did not the Saviour take a broader view? It is of no real moment whether we meet the Lord in body or out of it. When we die is uncertain, and it is equally uncertain when that mysterious veil shall be withdrawn that separates the soul from its Saviour. At any rate spiritual watchfulness is absolutely necessarily.—"*The master of the house.*"—This parabolicis case which pictured before the listeners' mind is represented as having had his houserifled, digged through, because he did not know when to be on his guard.—"*Therefore.*"—So that you cass may not be like to this householder, who lost his goods through carelessness, spiritual readiness is a necessity, for the second advent will be a surprise anyway. Better to be suprised watching than sleeping!——"*Who then?*"—The answer to this question, which is put in the form of an allegory, is found in verse 46. Instead of a direct answer especial stress is laid on the *blessedness* of the servant, while the characteristic feature of a faithful servant, *the doing*, is emphasized by being put last.—"*But if.*"—The contrary alternative is now pointed out with great force in the following parabolic scense. The idea is simply this: *suppose that servant who is left in charge shall be wicked instead of faithful, if she shall say in her heart, etc.*——"*To beat.*"—Abuse wantonly his fellow-slaves.——"*Eat and drink.*"—A further unfaithfulness to himself apart from his regular duties as a house-servant.——"*Cut him asunder.*"—Many suppose a reference is made here to that awfully cruel method of punishment among the Hebrews and other nations when the offender was sawn in two. But the context which implies that the one cut asunder still survives, makes the word more fitly translated *cut up by scourging*. See margin Rev. Ver.——"*His portion with hypocrites.*"—Where he belonged. The parable now becomes terrible reality. He had hoped to deceive his Lord when he came; now suddenly unmasked, his is the most doleful doom, the heritage of Hell.

Instruction.—Here is a lesson on rewards and punishments. It is adapted to many who can only be touched by such means. The Pharisees needed either to be argued or frightened out of their stubborn wickedness. Now there is a higher plane that Christian activity is founded on, we believe. Where one is neither actuated by the hope of reward nor the fear of punishment to good works and holy living; but where the sense of *right* dominates, where the love of God and the thought of pleasing him overwhelms the panting heart. We need not be troubled with hopes or fears or be distressed by conflicting theories of Heaven if we only try to do his will faithfully and wisely.

It was natural that the disciples have connected the literal kingdom of Christ with his speedy advent. Christ with prophetic symbolism announced his second coming; but it took generations until the rational interpretation of an *ideal* kingdom and an invisible return was ushered in. His triumph is now. He has come. Though we cannot see him or handle him, yet almost all the tribes of the earth have seen with spiritual insight the second coming of the Son of Man. With us his coming has been accomplished. What can we do that it may be so soon with every soul in this world?

The first meaning of the Greek word which is translated *watch* is to *be alive*. That is the essence of watching, to be ever alive, on the alert and ready at any moment to exercise all the functions of soul or body.

A natural trouble with us is we are too remiss and indolent. A destructive calamity overtakes us. We blame—who? ourselves? not often; but we soon remember that the most punctilious care has not been taken by us after all.

Spiritual watchfulness is what the great Teacher impressed on the ages. There is a state of spiritual as well as of physical coma. What Christian has a right to be drowsy when the Captain of his Salvation puts him at his post?

Removes the Cause.

Many persons suffer from a sympton of Catarrh that causes nausea, more especially after eating in the morning. Nasal Balm will cure by removing the cause.

WHAT'S GLAUR.—A Scotch servant lass went to the North of England, and was engaged by an English family in the town of B——. One day she happened to step into a heap of mire, and came in with her clothes covered with dirt. "What have you been doing?" asked her mistress. "Oh, I stapped into a humplock o' glaur," said the Scotch girl. "And what's glaur?" asked the mistress. "Just clabber," said the girl. "But what's clabbar?" asked the mistress. "It's drookit stour," retorted the girl. "But, dear me, what's drookit stour?" asked the amazed mistress. To which the girl replied, "Ye ken as weel as me, it's just wat dirt." The mistress, of course, was as wise as ever, and went away saying, "That's a terrible girl we've got."

Tamarac.

A cold will often cause an irritation, dryness and soreness inside the throat. The first dose of Tamarac Elixir will afford relief.

The Danish Government has issued an order forbidding until further notice the importation into Denmark of pork or other raw products of hogs, including bladders and steam lard.

New York can scarcely be called an American city. Its foreign-born people of foreign parentage number 669,664, and its native of native parentage only 239,873. There are 306,174 New Yorkers of English, Scotch and Irish birth, and 204,352 of German birth. An interesting comparison can be made with Toronto, where, out of a total population in 1881 of 86,415, there were 51,479 native Canadians, of whom 48,819 were born in Ontario. Of the foreign-born, 14,674 had their native places in England and Wales, 10,781 in Ireland and 4,451 in Scotland. The percentage of British-born is 35 per cent. in Toronto, and a little less than 20 per cent. in New York.

His Lordship Justice Macmahon was yesterday given an illustration of the manner in which the Scott Act prohibits in St. Thomas. While a jury was being empannelled in the first case at the assizes, one of the sturdy yeomanry who responded to the call of the clerk made unsteady efforts to reach his seat, and soon demonstrated to the satisfaction of the court that he had been looking on the wine while it was red, though it was then early in the morning His Lordship severely reprimanded the juror, and excused him from attendance.—London Free Press.

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Influence of Forests on Agriculture.

To the Editors of the Champion:

SIR,—Perhaps, as the season for planting trees is again at hand, you could spare space for a few reflections, from the leading forestry authorities in America, on the value of labor in this direction.

A deep rich soil is one of the first essentials to successful agriculture. But there are other conditions quite as important—a sufficient and timely rainfall, general distribution and retention of moisture in the soil, and better protection from devastating winds and from injury by early and late frost. These conditions cannot be well and thoroughly secured without a considerable proportion of forest growth throughout cultivated districts. Large forests in mountainous districts and along streams may favorably affect the plains below, even hundreds of miles distant, by gradually letting off their moisture during summer from the accumulated snows of winter. Yet small groves, at a few miles distant from each other would add to the productiveness and to the wealth of even such a favored district. It is not simply the extent of the forest area of the nation that would render it rich in wood products, or secure its last agricultural resources, but a thorough and general distribution of forest growth in all parts of the country.

An eminent English writer, in speaking of this subject, says: "When plantations and strips of wood of considerable extend are so arranged as to obstruct the wind in its course, shelter is afforded both to cultivated and pasture land, and in appearance as well as in productiveness the character of the estate undergoes a thorough change. It cannot be doubted by any one acquainted with the losses which are frequently sustained on high-laying farms from nipping frosts and withering winds, that in cold late districts shelter is of the greatest value to the farmer. Various kinds of crops are liable at the time of flowering to be seriously injured if exposed to strong winds, and frequently cereal crops, which are just beginning to ripen, suddenly assume a premature whiteness after being loosened about the roots by severe wind storms; the crops is imperfectly developed and the farmer is the loser. Shelter will, to a very large extent, prevent this evil. Then at harvest it has been found that a line of plantations running transversely to the winds, though at a distance of half a mile, has materially diminished the loss from shedding.

Yours etc.,
R. W. HIPPS.

Toronto, April 3rd, '88.

Prohibition in Maine.

From the San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 19, 1888.

Between the ethical and the practical aspects of prohibitory legislation there is a wide distinction, and one which no one except the Prohibitionist, in the usual sense of the word, can fail to discern. No one will think of denying that the excessive use of spirituous liquors as a beverage is an unmixed evil; a vice without a single redeeming feature; an offense without excuse and without palliation.

Thus far all reasoning persons must accompany the advocates of prohibition. But when those advocates take the next step, and demand that the use and manufacture and sale of such liquors shall be absolutely forbidden by law, a new element is at once introduced into the question—that of practicability—and the subject of prohibition passes out of the domain of pure ethics into that of sober, matter-of-fact, every-day business; and they who do not favor this kind of legislation are entitled to ask those who do to show the beneficial effects of prohibitory laws, and to demonstrate, if possible, the success of the kind of legislation upon which they so strongly insist. The opponents of prohibitory legislation say, with entire reason, that an a priori argument has no application to a case of this sort; that no one is competent to say in advance what the effect of such a law will be, and that the only valid argument that can be used to convert the opponents of prohibition must be derived from actual experience and observation in some community where such a law has had a fair trial.

There is, in the United States, such a place. In the State of Maine the advocates of prohibition have been given every possible assistance by the Legislature for over thirty years to suppress the liquor traffi. Civil and penal statutes have been enacted, and carried out as thoroughly as human instrumentalities would permit, and now it is fully time to inquire into the results, with a view of ascertaining, in the true scientific spirit and in all possible fairness, whether this legislation, extending over a third of a century and embracing an entire generation, has succeeded in destroying the liquor traffic in that State and in crushout the evil of intoxication. If it has not, prohibitory legislation cannot be claimed to be a success, for certainly no other law which had been tried for more than thirty years without accomplishing its purpose could be called anything but a failure.

It is not enough to say, if it is said that there is less drunkenness in Maine now than there was thirty years ago. That is true of the whole United States, whether in the cities or in the country. Habits have changed materially in that respect, and Maine cannot be declared an exception. The question is, Is the State of Maine preeminently notable for sobriety and abstinence from intoxicants? and this question must, it is feared, be answered in the negative.

Drinking at home has taken the place of drinking abroad and in public, and it is asserted as a fact, and very solemn fact, too, that the keeping of liquor in the house has led the sex which would not drink in a saloon or at a public bar into private indulgence, and has actually made only too frequent that most horrible of all created things, a drunken woman. Again, the secreting of intoxicants at home has led to the preparation of a beverage from proof-spirits, the effect of which is infinitely worse than indulgence in ordinary liquor, as the later intoxicates, while the former crazes and maddens the person who uses it.

Statistics of the use of liquor in a State where its use is a crime are not easily obtainable, but enough is known to make it certain that the prohibitory law has not produced the effects which its adherents promised and honestly expected, and that if prohibitionists expect to win their cause on the strength of the operation of the laws in Maine they cannot make a sufficient showing to carry conviction.

Close of the Century's 35th Volume.

The April number of THE CENTURY closes the thirty-fifth half-yearly volume. The first article is by Edward L. Wilson, the well-known photographer, and is descriptive of the natural and other features of Palestine "From Dan to Beersheba." Theodore Roosevelt, in this number describes, with the aid of Mr. Remington's well-informed pencil, that decidedly American institution, "The Round-up." An illustrated article on "The American Inventors of the Telegraph" tells the inside story of the invention, especially bringing out the services rendered to the enterprise by Alfred Vail. Two articles of especial literary interest are Henry James's paper on Robert Louis Stevenson, with a sketch of Stevenson's very individual face by Alexander, and a brief essay by the Rev. T. T. Munger on "The Works of Elisha Mulford." Mr. James does not speak of "Underwoods" in his essay, it having appeared since the paper was written; but there is a poetic criticism of it in "Bric-a-Brac," by Miss Thomas. Dr. Eggleston's story of "The Graysons" has some very exciting chapters; and James Lane Allen's story, illustrated by Kemble, is a pathetic account of "Two Kentucky Gentlemen of the Old School." A series of papers by Simeon Pease Cheney (the father of the poet, John Vance Cheney), is begun in the April number. The present installment of the Life of Lincoln is on "The National Uprising" for the preservation of the Union; the political and military relation of Baltimore to the situation is also fully described. A further chapter is devoted to the condition of things in Washington itself at the outbreak of the rebellion. Mr. George Kennan's article is on the Russian Penal Code, the astonishing provisions of which are here briefly explained. This paper is the last of Mr. Kennan's introductory series, and will be followed in the May number by the first illustrated article in the main series, which will give the results of THE CENTURY'S expedition into Siberia. Among the poems of the number are "Thefts of the Morning," by Edith M. Thomas; an illustrated dialect poem, "Marse Phil," by Thomas Nelson Page, and the last poem written by Emma Lazarus, which is addressed to "Carmen Sylva," and is an appeal to the Queen of Roumania in behalf of the oppressed Israelites of that county. "Memoranda of the Civil War" contains short articles on "The Opening of the Atlanta Campaign," by Colonel William C. P. Breckinridge; "Kershaw's Brigade at Fredericksburg," by General J. B. Kershaw; an extraordinary account of "The Last Victim of the War," by Judge W. M. Dickson; an unpublished letter by General Hooker on the Chancellorsville Campaign; and a note on the "Strength of the Confederate Army at Chickamauga." The "Topics of the Time" are entitled, "Shall Fortunes Be Limited by Law?" "President or King?" and "Postal Savings Banks." In "Open Letters" there are two contributions on the Diplomatic Service; one on "Moral Teaching in Our Schools"; and others on "Christian Union," and "The Ach! School of Literature."

Literary Note from The Century Co.

Mr. Kennan's Siberian papers, illustrated by Mr. G. A. Frost, who accompanied Mr. Kennan on his trip through Asiatic Russia, will begin in the May Century. Their appearance has been deferred on account of the author's desire to group in preliminary papers—the last of which will be in the April Century—an account of the conditions and events in Russia directly related to the exile system. This system is now to be minutely described and elaborately pictured; and by way of preface to the first illustrated paper paper Mr. Kennan will, in a brief statement, answer the question as to how he came to enter upon his arduous and somewhat perilous investigations, and why he and his companion were accorded such extraordinary facilities by the Russian Government itself. In the April Century Mr. Kennan will write of "The Russian Penal Code."

A 15-year-old boy in the prohibition town of Litchfield got drunk, and with the nerve of a true Kentuckian refused to tell where he got his liquor though he was kept in jail two days for contempt of court. That boy has elements of character in him which, if rightly directed, will make a fine man, and if wrongfully, will produce a devil.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

St. Nicholas for April, 1888.

The April St. Nicholas has a seasonable frontispiece by Fenn, two toddlers under an umbrella, an "An April Day." This introduces the opening article "What Makes it Rain?" by George P. Merrill. There is also a charming "Rhyme for a Rainy Day" by Julia M. Colton, artificially framed by Katherine Pyle. Louisa M. Alcott, in Trudel's Siege," relates the efforts of a brave little Dutchwoman to tide her parents over a time of trial and shows how she succeeded through "patience, courage, and trust in God." There are excellent illustrations by Edwards. There is a translation from Daudet, by Maria Emery MacKaye, "The Red Partridge Tells His Story," wherein is given "the bird's-eye view" of partridge-shooting. It is illustrated by Wiles. "The Tables Turned" is a true account of a sheep who chased wolves, illustrated, by Monks. There are, also, another of the Child-Sketches from George Eliot—"Silas Marner"; a picture, "Easter Morning," by Lizabeth B. Comins; and the conclusion of "Edward Athoy." A novelty is "Hans' Estabrook's Can-Opener," by George A. Whittlesey, which contains, in an interesting story, a clear account of every step necessary to secure Letters Patent. "The Wreck of the "Lizzie J. Clark," by Louie Lyndon, is a true story of a schooner on the coast of Massachusetts. "Drill" is continued; William O. Stoddard tell; an amusing story of "Ben's Proxy" a Julian Ralph informs us "What the Boy Said." There is one of the "Aztec Fragments," by J. G. Francis, and charming poems, verses, or songs by M. M. D., Alice Wellington Rollins, Emilie Poulsson, and Alice P. Carter; "Handiwork for Girls," wise little "Jack-in-the-Pulpit," "The Letter-box," "The Riddle-box," another prank of the "Brownies"—all illustrated—also help to increase the number's attractiveness.

LITERATURE is the name of a new weekly magazine brought out by John B. Alden, the noted cheap publisher of 393 Pearl St., New York. Its purpose is to give weekly a complete survey of the literary world. Art, archæology, music, the drama and other subjects, which literary papers commonly consider part of their legitimate province, are not esteemed part of that of Literature, the field of which, being thus limited, will, it is hoped, be the more thoroughly cultivated. Subscriptions only $1 a year. Special inducements to subscriber in reduced prices on the Alden publications.

The Library Magazine for March comes out in a new dress which is highly creditable to the high-class literature which it embodies. It is certainly a very extraordinary dollars's worth of literature, the nearly 2,500 pages per annum which this Magazine give to its subscribers. Those who see it are not surprised at such a such very emphatic endorsements as given, for example, by Prof. Perry, of Williams College, in a recent letter to the publisher: "I do not know when my subscription to the Library Magazine expires. Please renew it. I do not intend it shall expire at all so long as I am able to read."

There will be no harvest in the richest land in Germany, spring cultivation being impossible owing to the floods.

General San Marzano estimates the Abyssinian force at 70,000 men, most of whom are armed with breech loaders.

Advices received at Paris from Avricourt say that the German police have increased their precautions on the frontier, and now refuse admittance to every one who is not provided with authority to enter Alsace-Lorraine.

Congressman Baker, of Rochester, and Congressman Flood, of Elmira, are moving to secure legislation retaliating on Canada for the failure of the Government to carry out their tariff promises.

Axel Paulsen, the ten mile champion skater of the world, has been defeated by Harold Hagan at Christiania. Hagan skated the distance in 33 minutes 27 seconds, beating Paulsen 25 seconds.

Mrs. A. M. Smith, wife of a well-known St. Catharines fruit grower, was burned to death last week in an effort to rescue a horse from the burning barn of her house on Geneva street.

Advices from Massowah state that the Abyssinians have captured the village of Malental, the inhabitants of which were friendly to the Italians, and have massacred all the men, women and children in the place.

The 1st inst was the seventy-third anniversary of Prince Bismarck's birth. Forenoon the Chancellor had received fully five hundred congratulatory telegrams and notes to congratulations, and gifts of flowers poured into the Palace the whole day. A Magdeburg regiment, which had been especially sent in honor of the occasion serenaded the Chancellor. Emperor Frederick sent Col. Broesigke personally and Count Von Seckendorff on behalf of himself and the Empress, conjointly, to congratulate Prince Bismarck.

The Rev. Mr. Stonehouse, the Methodist Minister from near London, who recently jumped his bail and skipped to the land of the free, formerly resided in this neighborhood. He was a noted horse-trader, and an eloquent preacher. A resident of Eden Grove once "stumped" him for a trade on Sunday. It was a sore temptation, but as there were several people within hearing, the Rev. gentleman was reluctantly compelled to decline.—Bruce Herald.

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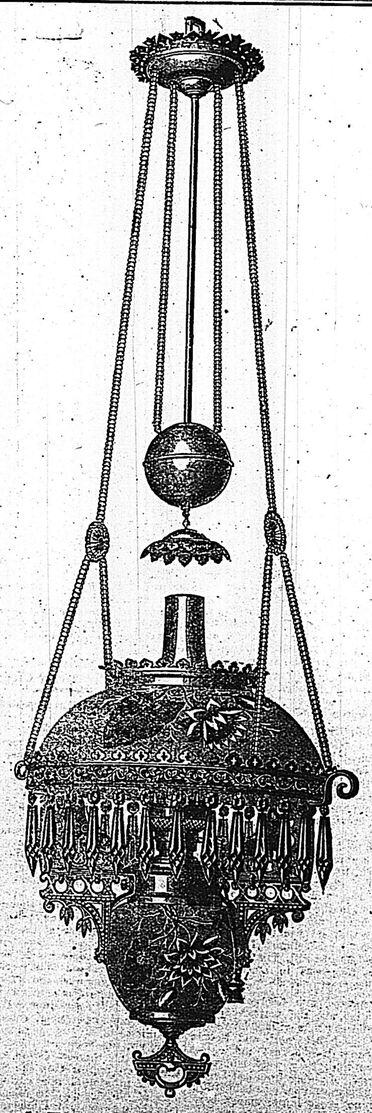

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I have a large stock of goods to choose from, consisting of Cotton S[illegible] Denims and Cottonades; also Fine Grey Flannels, Check Flannels, [illegible] Grey Unions and Woolen Dress Goods.

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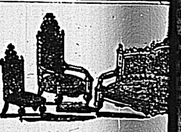

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