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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1905.

Religion has as much to do with the mending of shoes as with the budget and the army estimates.
—Macaulay.

DEMOCRATIC TICKET

To be Voted at the Election on Tuesday, November 7, 1905.

For Governor:
CLUADE A SWANSON.

For Lieutenant-Governor:
J. TAYLOR ELLYSON.

For Attorney-General:
WILLIAM A. ANDERSON.

For State Superintendent Public Instruction:
J. D. EGGLESTON, JR.

For Secretary of the Commonwealth:
D. Q. EGGLESTON.

For State Treasurer:
A. W. HARMAN, JR.

For Commissioner of Agriculture:
G. W. KOINER.

A Republican Insult.

In a circular sent out by the Republican Committee this astounding charge is made: "The Democrats have promised an honest administration and an honest expenditure of the people's money, and yet we find extravagance or graft in nearly every department."

A baser slander was never uttered against an honest party since the republic was founded, and it shows the malice, recklessness and abandon of the Republican party in Virginia. No reputable, responsible and self-respecting organization, political or otherwise, would make such a sweeping charge against a rival organization, except it had the specific and irrefutable proof to sustain it.

"Extravagances or graft in nearly every department" of the State government. During the past twenty years of Democratic administration in Virginia, the officers of government have collected and disbursed from Richmond about $60,000,000 of the people's money, yet in all that time there was but one case of delinquency in the office of the auditor of public accounts, the defalcation amounting to $37,914.13, and as soon as it was discovered the defaulter was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to a term in the penitentiary. As for graft, the only thing approaching it was the case of a clerk in the Department of Education, who, had been receiving commissions on a school register, but as soon as the discovery was made the clerk was promptly dismissed from the public service.

Does the Republican committee dare charge that any Governor of Virginia had been dishonest, or that he received graft?

Does the Republican Committee dare charge that Colonel Morton Marye, who has for so long a time held the position of Public Auditor, and who is one of the noblest and best of the maimed Confederate veterans and citizens of this State—does the Republican Committee dare charge that this faithful and efficient public servant has committed any act of dishonesty or winked at it, or that he has received graft or kept in his employment any man whom he knew to be a thief or a grafter?

Does the Republican Committe charge that Second Auditor Dew or Treasurer Harman or Attorney General Anderson or Dr. Southall, Superintendent of Public Instruction, or any member of the Corporation Commission, or any head of any department of State government has been guilty of dishonesty or graft or of keeping in his employment any man suspected of such delinquency?

It will not do to plead that this is a mere "campaign statement," and that all things are fair in politics. It is a serious indictment of the honored and trusted officials of Virginia, a direct charge that they are dishonest and unfaithful, and the man or men responsible for the charge must come forward with the proof or confess to base misrepresentation and slander. No wonder this charge is made in a circular unsigned. There is no responsible man in the Republican party who will dare come forward and hold himself personally accountable for the charge. But the Republican party is responsible for the insult and all true Democrats will show their resentment on election day.

Republican Misrepresentation.

If the Republican party of Virginia deserved defeat on no other score, it would still deserve it because of the misleading statements which it has been circulating during the campaign. One of these campaign documents is headed "Free School Books," "A Few Facts the People Should Know." The "facts," which the people should know are that "The following States use free books: Maine, Vermont, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, Kansas, Colorado, Idaho, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Delaware, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Wyoming, Utah and Montana." The inference is that in these States books are furnished the pupil at the cost of the State government. The fact is that only one State in the list, to wit: the State of Maryland, pursues that course. In other States free books are furnished by the school districts, each district paying the cost of the books to its own pupils.

The Democratic party of Virginia does not object to such an arrangement in this State and under the present law any school district may by local taxation raise the money and purchase its own books and give them to the pupils free of charge. But the Democratic party is opposed to providing for free books out of the general school fund. It is the policy of the Democratic party, and it is a wise policy, that the money appropriated by the State for school purposes shall go exclusively to teachers, except so much of it as may be necessary to defray the expenses of administration. The State does not undertake to build school houses and equip them, to supply desks or fuel, or anything necessary to the operation of the schools. Each city and county is required to pay these expenses of operation, and if any city or county or district desires to add free books, it has full authority of law to do so. In this way there is co-operation between the general government and the local government, and it may be remarked just here that no one thing has done quite so much to stimulate interest in the public schools as local taxation. The State supplies the teacher and each and every community provides the school houses, the desks, the stoves, the water pails, and everything else necessary to carry on the school. There is no more reason for the State to supply free books for the various schools than to supply desks and other equipment.

No State, save Maryland, has undertaken to pay for books out of the general school fund, and we learn that in Maryland the system has not proven successful. It is a shame that the Republicans should deliberately mislead the voters on this point. The Virginia Democracy is not opposed to free books, but it believes that each community should pay for its own books.

Southern Insurance Companies.

The Houston (Tex.) Post reproduces an article from The Times-Dispatch on Southern life insurance companies with the remark that "the Post has been a pioneer in urging Southern people to patronize and build up Southern insurance companies, and so long as Southern people refrain from doing so, so long will the economic independence of the South be deferred." In extending its remarks our contemporary says that if insurance merely had to provide for one's dependents, it would make little difference where the company was located, but that insurance has become the agency which actually controls both the finance and development of the country. It points out that the New York companies concentrate in that city annually a sum equivalent to more than one-third the circulating medium of the country, as a result of which the trustees of these hundreds of millions finance almost every great enterprise in America and many of those of foreign countries.

"There is no question," says the Post in conclusion, "about the pre-eminence of the South as a field for investment. Then why should not Southern money be invested in the South? If Southern premiums were concentrated in the South, cheaper money would follow, and greater development and prosperity would follow cheaper money.

"We have in the South some promising life insurance companies. If these were patronized as they should be they would be great agencies for Southern development within ten years, and within a generation we would be entirely independent of the frenzied financiers of New York."

We cannot expect to build up great insurance companies here in a day or in a year, but we can begin now, and if Southerners will bestow their patronage upon the home companies they will grow and wax strong in a comparatively short time. We can as easily develop and build up home insurance companies as we can develop and build up home banks and home factories. We have the genius, we have the push, we have the integrity. All that seems to be lacking is confidence in our own abilities.

But there is one serious obstacle in the way, and that is the lack of agents. The best agents are now in the employment of Northern companies, and it is hard to break them away from that affiliation. A Southern man who is interested in a Southern life insurance company remarked in our prescence the other day that he had been greatly hampered in his work on this account; that the Northern companies paid such enormous prices for the services of agents that he felt that it was an injustice to the policyholders of his company to pay more, or even as much, but that it looked to him as if he would have to meet this competition and pay the price if he expected his company to extend its business.

Of this we know not, but it developed in the New York investigation that one agency in that city received $170,000 a year in commissions. In the light of such developments as this, it is high time time that the Southern people were doing something to protect themselves from such waste and extravagance.

A Temperance Man's View.

We are pleased to receive a personal note from the editor of a religious paper containing the following expression: "I wish to congratulate you upon your leader to-day, regarding the duty of temperance voters. It meets with my hearty sanction."

The author of this note is one of the most pronounced Prohibitionists and temperance advocates in Virginia. He was a warm supporter of Judge Mann for the gubernatorial nomination, and did all that he could to promote Judge Mann's candidacy, but he went into the primary in good faith, he pledged himself to support the Democratic ticket in the regular election, and being a man of his word he will do so, notwithstanding that his candidate was defeated. He knows also that if the temperance cause is to receive consideration from the State government, it must be through Democratic administration and not through a Republican administration of public affairs. He says to his temperance associates in the State that every man of them who took part in the Democratic primary are in duty bound to stand by their pledge and vote the straight Democratic ticket.

The Odessa Horror.

The slaughter of Jews in Odessa is horrible beyond expression.

In heaven's name, what is to become of Russia? What do the people want? The Czar has offered them popular government and they answer with acts of riot, robbery and savage butchery.

In view of the conduct of the radicals since the Czar's proclamation, the question naturally arises whether or not Republican government in Russia is possible.

"Some shoe dealers tell us that the feet of the Southern women are becoming larger; that where several years ago grown ladies bought from ones to threes they now require from threes to fives, and that many young girls barely in their teens require larger shoes than did their mothers or grandmothers after becoming matrons."—Blackstone Courier.

Vile slander, and our contemporary should have a care. The feet of our Southern women are just as dainty as ever they were. But Southern women are more practical than they were in other generations and are not cramping their feet in shoes too small for comfort. They walk more than their grandmothers walked, and they go in for comfort rather than for beauty, when they take their walks abroad. But put this to the pinch, and every darling one of them can make a Cinderella slipper look like a Chicago overshoe.

The University of Virginia has set a noble example in declining to allow young Thorpe, late of Columbia University, to play on the Virginia foot-ball team. Thorpe was dropped from Columbia for academic deficiency, and there was no reason to believe that he would make a better record as a student at the University of Virginia. To have put him on the Virginia team under such circumstances would have been to lower the standard and to put athletics ahead of study. The University of Virginia has thus served notice upon the student body and upon young men generally who would enter its doors that the great purpose of University life is study and mental training and that athletics is merely incidental.

The campaign in New York has been fierce and solemn, yet not without at least one gleam of humor. At a Hearst meeting the other night the candidate was speaking and he asked impressively, "What is the one thing that we of this great community are suffering much from at the present time?" He paused and there was a deep silence.

"Bedbugs," said a man in the gallery, and the speaker hurried to another topic.

Representative Landis, of the Congressional Printing Investigating Committee, says this country is in the grip of a printing contagion. We applaud the sentiment, but fear that unfortunate expression may soon lead to the discovery of a new sort of germ-bearing mosquito.

The Legislative Committee on Investigation of Life Insurance has adjourned till after election day. This will give certain officials a chance to think things over and to decide what to do after their resignations from their present jobs have been cheerfully accepted.

Mr. Richard McCurdy complains that this insurance investigation made him feel "like a criminal on the rack." The only novelty in this feeling is no doubt in regard to the part played in it by the rack.

Do you approve the charge made by the Republicans that there is graft in almost every department of State government? If not, go to the polls next Tuesday and vote the straight Democratic ticket.

Do you want our Senator in Congress, our judges of the Court of Appeals, our Circuit Court and City Court judges elected by a Republican Legislature? If not, go to the polls on Tuesday and vote the straight Democratic ticket.

Don't you know that the Republican party in Virginia is the same old party it always was, save that it has been more or less bleached by the new Constitution? Then go to the polls next Tuesday and vote against its nominees.

Mr. G. W. Raspberry, of Dyersburg, Tenn., has been found guilty of murder in the first degree. It is understood, however, that his counsel will make a strong fight to have Raspberry preserved.

One of those three new pianos which have recently been established in the White House may shortly be expected to rumble to a strenuous thumping of "Carry Me Back to Old Virginia."

That express agent who faded away with $100,000 of the stockholders' money was worthy of far larger fields than Bridgeport, Conn. His fatal mistake was in not locating in New York.

Believing that the navy figures conspicuously in the sinews of war, Germany is exercising herself to strengthen her sinews.

Election Day is drawing near, and politics is (or are) warmly stewing.

For Republican Over Enthusiasm: Take Swanson's Hot Shot before voting. Money back if not cured.

Will you voluntarily disfranchise yourself, or will you go to the polls and vote?

RHYMES FOR TODAY

The End.

Their voice has spoken plain, if late—
So fierce, so firm their tone!
So comes the day I abdicate
The all-the-Russian throne.
Through Peterhof, the Romanoff,
Shall kingly tread no more;
Their dignity shall cease in me—
Ah, well! I'm glad it's o'er!

No more my troubled head shall know
The pressing of a crown;
My kingship, ever fraught with woe,
Now gladly lay I down.
Free, free from all the weight of rule,
I shut the palace door,
The grief and pains of him who reigns,
Now cast—I'm glad it's o'er.

Now, somewhere in a quiet spot,
God give me peace and rest;
For never dream a king knows not
That peace, past all, is best.
So may I pass my long, long years,
Unharassed evermore;
In rest afar—yes, I, the Czar,
I'm glad that all is o'er!

H. S. H.

All On the Insurance Officials.

"So you want the hand of my daughter, do you, young man?"

"Yes, sir," replied the modest youth, bashfully.

"Have you any financial prospects in view that will enable you to support her in a manner becoming her station in life?"

"I think so, sir. I am the thirty-second cousin to the uncle of the president of the Mutuality Life Insurance Company, sir."

"Take her, my boy, take her."—Milwaukee Sentinel.

* * *

"And what recommendations has this man whom you are pushing so vigorously for the presidency of our insurance company?"

"He is an unmarried orphan with no brothers or sisters."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

* * *

"I never see Throggins doing anything. What's his occupation?"

"His occupation? He has a second cousin that's the president of a big life insurance company."—Chicago Tribune.

* * *

"Did you see that 'personal' that Magruder was writing?"

"I couldn't help seeing it."

"Well, what does he mean by saying, 'Return at once and all will be forgiven and forgotten?' Has his wife left him?"

"No, his cook."—Cleveland Plain dealer.

* * *

Revised Foot-Ball.

"I humbly beg your pardon, sir;
I fear that I have mashed your toe.
Such accidents will oft occur
In gatherings like this, you know."

"And I have been," was the reply,
"More hasty than was rightly due.
I fear I have contused your eye—
And does this ear belong to you?"

"Believe me, sir, I meant no harm,
It happened by the merest chance.
I trust that you will take my arm
In getting to the ambulance."

'Tis now fulfilled, our fondest dream.
These college rudenesses are past.
Kind courtesy doth reign supreme
And foot-ball is reformed at last.

—Washington Star.

* * *

A Serious Outbreak.

Spiral Maginnis has broken out again in this community and Doc Blank says the blamed thing is epidemical.—Omulgee (I. T.) Democrat.

* * *

The President in Danger.

The greatest danger to the President on his Southern trip is that he will be made a target for one of Frank L. Stanton's "happy-times-in-Georgia" poems.—New York World.

Heard and Seen in Public Places.

Mr. R. E. Johnson, of Rockville, Hanover county, was selling a big lot of leaf tobacco at Shockoe Warehouse yesterday. Mr. Johnson is one of the most active and energetic men in Hanover, a county which he declares is the garden spot of the world. In addition to extensive farming he runs a grist-mill and a saw-mill. Between the three he and his boys manage to keep busy every work day in the year.

"Yes," said Mr. Johnson to the enquirer of the Heard and Seen Column, "I stick to it, Hanover is the garden spot of creation, and that part of it right around Rockville is the principal flower bed in the garden. At least that's what the county treasurer, a near neighbor of mine and one of the best men in the world, says, and he knows. Yes, we have had good crops in Hanover this year, especially the tobacco crop. We set out our plants early, had good seasons and splendid luck in curing. With the crops all housed and the weather fine hunting is the order of the day now, and game is plentiful. By the way, speaking of hunting, I never saw nor heard a partridge this fall until Wednesday morning, the first day of the shooting season. Bright and early that morning they were whistling all around my house, and before breakfast I saw two large coveys. Mighty accommodating birds to come just when they were wanted. Rabbits, 'possums and foxes are very numerous. My son went out for a fox hunt the other morning and in a little while the dogs treed three coons up one tree. He isn't much of a coon hunter, and so he became disguested, called off the dogs and went back to the saw-mill and went to work. Come up to the 'garden spot' and take a hunt. Good-bye."

And the kindly old gentleman from the garden spot of creation hurried off to look after the sale of his tobacco.

* * *

"Virginia must have some of the spryest hunters in the world," said a gentleman who was unknown to this faber shover, as he stood about midway the busy produce block on Cary Street yesterday and pointed to a big pile of dressed rabbits and several bunches of partridges that had just been put on sale. "And they are evidently making a business of hunting, too. Just think, the hunting season opened only yesterday, and look at the rabbits on the market this morning, and uptown I saw a wild turkey hanging out at a restaurant. Pretty soon men are our Virginia hunters."

* * *

Mr. Andrew Parrish, of Sandy Hook neighborhood, in Goochland county, brought his first load of tobacco for this season to market yesterday. He sold at Stonewall Warehouse, and while waiting for the auctioneer to begin his interesting sale Mr. Parrish had a little chat with a newspaper man. "Politics is mighty mixed up in Goochland," he said. "There are too many candidates for the Legislature. The Goochland folks think old Flu hasn't given them a square deal, and they are disgutsted. I wouldn't be a bit surprised if the county goes Republican, and all on account of Fluvanna's selfishness. She had the legislator last time and she seems to want to keep him. Yes, crops are all right in Goochland. We have made good tobacco this year, and you know that's our money crop. We will be all right if we can get living prices for it, but from the sales I have seen this morning I do not think it is starting off as well as it might. I hope it will do better when we begin to market the better grades."

Every life looks bright at the outset. But the sun of prosperity shines brightest where careful forethought has banished the shadows of possible misfortune.

Children who save grow up to be thoughtful and prosperous. The careful saver and shrewd investor never comes to want.

Our bank opens and carries accounts from $1 up. Hundreds whom we never see bank safely and easily by mail.

Ask us about it. We pay 3 per cent. compound interest.

Planters' National Bank,
Savings Department,
Twelfth and Main Sts.,
Richmond, Va.

Capital, $300,000. Surplus and Profits, $900,000

The Death's-Head Moth.

By H. G. WELLS.

(Author of "The Martians," "The Food of the Gods," Etc.)

(Copyright, 1905, by Joseph B. Bowles.)

Probably you have heard of the great feud between Hapley, the entomologist, and Prof. Pawkins.

It began years and years ago, with a revision of the microlepidopetera (whatever these may be) by Pawkins, in which he extinguished a new species created by Hapley. Hapley, who was always quarrelsome, replied by a stinging impeachment of the entire classification of Pawkins.

It was a long struggle, vicious from the beginning, and growing at last to pitiless antagonism.

In 1891 Pawkins, whose health had been bad for some time, published some work upon the "mesoblast" of the Death's Head Moth. But the work was far below his usual standard, and gave Hapley an opening he had coveted for years.

In an elaborate critique he rent Pawkins to tatters, and Pawkins made a reply, halting, ineffectual, with painful gaps of silence, and yet malignant. There was no mistaking his will to wound Hapley, nor his incapacity to do it. But few of those who heard him realized how ill the man was.

Hapley had got his opponent down, and meant to finish him. He followed with a simply brutal attack upon Pawkins, in the form of a paper upon the development of moths in general. The rejoinder of Pawkins was to catch the influenza, to proceed to pneumonia, and to die.

In his private thoughts Hapley could not forgive Pawkins for dying. It left Hapley's mind with a queer gap in it. For 20 years he had worked hard, sometimes far into the night, and seven days a week, with microscope, scalpel, collecting-net and pen, and almost entirely with reference to Pawkins. It had killed Pawkins; but it had also thrown Hapley out of gear, so to speak, and his doctor advised him to give up work for a time and rest. So Hapley went down into a quiet village in Kent, and thought day and night of Pawkins, and of good things it was now impossible to say about him.

At last Hapley began to realize in what direction the preoccupation tended. He determined to make a fight for it, and started by trying to read novels. But he could not get his mind off Pawkins, white in the face, and making his last speech.

It was on the third day afterwards that Hapley became aware of a novel addition to the local fauna. He was working late at the microscope, and the only light in the room was the brilliant little lamp with the special form of green shade.

One eye was over the instrument; with the other eye Hapley saw, as it were, without seeing.

Suddenly his attention drifted from one eye to the other. The tablecloth was of the material called tapestry by shopmen and rather brightly colored. The pattern was in gold, with a small amount of crimson and pale blue upon a grayish ground. At one point the pattern seemed displaced, and there was a vibrating movement of the colors at this point.

Hapley suddenly moved his head back and looked with both eyes. His mouth fell open with astonishment.

It was a large moth, or butterfly, its wings spread in butterfly fashion!

It was strange it should be in the room at all, for the windows were closed. Strange that it should not have attracted his attention when fluttering to its present position. Strange that it should match the tablecloth. Stranger far that to him, Hapley, the great entomologist, it was altogether unknown. There was no delusion. It was crawling slowly toward the foot of the lamp.

Looking around him for some means of capturing the moth, he rose slowly out of his chair. Suddenly the insect rose, struck the edge of the lampshade—Hapley heard the "ping"—and vanished into the shadow.

In a moment Hapley had whipped off the shade, so that the whole room was illuminated. The thing had disappeared, but soon his practiced eye detected it upon the wallpaper near the door. He went toward it, poising the lampshade for capture. Before he was within striking distance, however, it had risen and was fluttering round the room.

The third time he overturned the lamp, which, very luckily, went out. Hapley was left in the dark. With a start he felt the strange moth blunder into his face.

It was maddening. He had no lights. If he opened the door of the room the thing would get away. In the darkness he saw Pawkins quite distinctly, laughing at him. Pawkins had ever an oily laugh. He swore furiously and stamped his foot on the floor.

Hapley very suddenly decided to give up the moth and go to bed. But he was excited.

Then he found the moth crawling over his counterpane. He sat on the edge of the bed in his shirt-sleeves and reasoned with himself. Was it pure hallucination? He knew he was slipping, and he battled for his sanity with the same energy he had formerly displayed against Pawkins. So persistent is mental habit, that he felt as if it were still a struggle with Pawkins. He was well versed in psychology. He knew that such visual illusions do come as a result of mental strain. But the point was, he did not only see the moth, he had heard it when it touched the edge of lamp shade, and afterward when it hit against the wall, and he had felt it strike his face in the dark.

It was a dim, gray light; an almost unbroken sheet of watery cloud was sweeping across the moon, and the hedge and trees in front of the house were black against the pale roadway.

Hapley's landlady, hearing strange noises, looked out of her window and saw Tapley, like a ghost in his shirt and white trousers, running to and fro in the road and beating the air. Now he would stop, now he would dart very rapidly at something invisible, now he would move upon it with stealthy strides.

"Mrs. Colville," said Hapley, calling down the staircase next morning, "I hope I did not alarm you last night."

"You may well ask that!" said Mrs. Colville.

"The fact is, I am a sleep-walker. There is nothing to be alarmed about, really. I am sorry I made such an ass of myself. I will go over to Shoreham, and get some stuff to make me sleep soundly."

Half-way over the down, by the chalk-pits, the moth came upon Hapley again. He went on, trying to keep his mind upon chess problems, but it was no good. The thing fluttered into his face, and he struck at it with his hat in self-defense. Then rage, the old rage—the rage he had so often felt against Pawkins—came upon him again. He went on, leaping and striking at the eddying insect. Suddenly he trod on nothing and fell headlong.

There was a gap in his sensations, and Hapley found himself sitting on the heap of stones in front of the opening of the chalk-pits, with a leg twisted back under him.

Late that night, after his broken leg was set, he was feverish. He was lying flat on his bed, and he began to run his eyes around the room to see if the moth was still about. He tried not to do this, but it was no good. He soon caught sight of the thing resting close to his hand, by the night-light, on the green tablecloth. The wings quivered. With a sudden wave of anger he smote at it with his fist, and the nurse woke up with a shriek. He had missed it.

"That moth!" he said; "and then, "it was fancy. Nothing!"

All the time he could see quite clearly the insect going around the cornice and darting across the room, and he could also see that the nurse saw nothing of it, and looked at him strangely. He must keep himself in hand. He knew he was a lost man if he did not keep himself in hand. But as the night waned the fever grew upon him, and the very dread he had of seeing the moth made him see it. About five, just as the dawn was gray, he tried to get out of bed and catch it, though his leg was afire with pain. The nurse had to struggle with him.

Because of this they tied him down to the bed. At this the moth grew bolder, and once he felt it settle in his hair. Then, because he struck out violently with his arms, they tied these also. At this the moth came and crawled over his face, and Hapley wept, swore, screamed, prayed unavailingly for them to take it off him.

Now Hapley is spending the remainder of his days in a padded room, worried by a moth that no one else can see. The asylum doctor calls it hallucination; but Hapley, when he is in his easier mood, and can talk, says it is the ghost of Pawkins, and consequently a unique specimen and well worth the trouble of catching.

THIS DAY IN HISTORY
November 3rd.

1680—The great comet of this year approached so near the earth as in many places to occasion no small alarm.

1760—Battle of Torgau; the Austrians, under Daun, defeated by Frederick II., of Prussia, with the loss of 20,000 men, 8,000 of whom were taken. Prussian loss, 13,000.

1787—Robert Lowth, an eminent English bishop, died; known by his translation of Isaiah, "the sublimest poetry in the world."

1793—Mary Olympe de Gouges, a French authoress, guillotined. Becoming disgusted with the brutalities of the revolutionists, she turned her pen against them and fell a victim to their vengeance.

1829—The treaty of St. Louis, by which the Indians ceded to the United States lands north and east of the Mississippi River, was concluded.

1832—John Leslie died; an eminent Scottish chemist, mathematician and natural philosopher, inventor of the differential thermometer and author of various scientific works. He rose from humble life and received the honor of knighthood for his acquirements.

1834—Dr. Horner died at Zurich, Switzerland. He accompanied Krusenstern in his first Russian voyage around the world, and wrote the "Natural History of Russia."

1839—Carter Berkley, an eminent Virginia physician, aged seventy-two, died, while feeling the pulse of a dying patient. He was a lineal descendant of Sir William Berkley.

1840—St. Jean d'Acre bombarded by the allied British and Turkish fleets. The firing commenced at half-past 2 P. M., and ceased at 6. The magazine, containing 500 barrels of powder, was blown up, over which about 2,000 soldiers were stationed, who were nearly all buried in the ruins. The number of killed in the town is unknown; loss of the British and allies, eighteen killed and forty-two wounded. The Egyptians evacuated the place the following morning, when it was possessed by the conquerors.

1854—Louis Napoleon withdrew his interdict to the journey through France of Mr. Soule, the American minister.

1904—Russo-Japanese War; Japanese captured important forts east of Port Arthur; took trenches of inner forts by storm, but were repulsed in attempt to take forts themselves; Chefoo reports declare stronghold's doom is sealed.

THE INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY-SCHOOL LESSON

November 5.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

Subject—Esther pleading for her people. Esther iv:10 to v:3

Golden text—The Lord preserveth all them that love Him. Ps. 145:20.

By REV. J. E. GILBERT, D. D.,
Secretary American Society of Religious Education.

THE APPROACH.—The return of the Jews from Babylon, B. C. 535, under Cyrus, was effected by only a part of the people. Some preferred to remain behind, having entered into certain social and business engagements that could not be easily dismissed. These met with various fortunes, favorable and otherwise. In the year 453, an event occurred involving the very existence of the Jewish race. Haman, a courtier, had won favor with the King, who honored him by ordering all men to pay him reverence. This, Mordecai, uncle to the Queen, refused to do, because Haman was an Amalekite of the posterity of Agag, whose destruction God had decreed in the time of Saul (I Sam. xv:8). The courtier was greatly offended at the haughty course the camp of Israel to meet Goliath. (I Sam. xvii:46.) The poet and the painter have immortalized the event and after generations have beheld the deed of David and admired him. Not less brave was she who, unarmed save by womanly purity and grace, dared to seek the presence of the King, and artists have in like manner recognized her noble deed. In full view she was, for the King sat upon his throne. A word, a look from him, and her fate would be sealed. Another word or deed and her suit would be gained.

THE FAVOR (verse 2).—Now let all eyes be turned on Ahasuerus and see what he will do. No one may say what differences operated in his mind and heart as he gazed upon the Queen in the court. Was he moved by her appearance, by the beauty of her face, for which she had been selected? (Esther ii:9.) Did a feeling of chivalry awake in him, such as seems to most men at times in the presence of women? Did he recall the recent decree secured by Haman against the Jews and regret that he had signed it?

Did he consider that a lovely woman, bravely defying the laws of the court and placing her life in jeopardy, must have some worthy cause, which he ought to hear? Did he reflect that at least the approach could have no evil design against him? Did the Holy Spirit work in him to produce generous feelings? What matters the answer to such questions. The King looked upon Esther with favor, extended the golden scepter, and she drew near and touched it.

THE PROMISE (verse 3).—The extended scepter signified that life was spared; the touch of the scepter signified that life was consecrated to the King. Nothing more could be done to put the two in right relations, sovereignty and subjection being all that was demanded. But the King knew that back of submission there was desire, and he was honored in an attempt to present the desire. What was it? His inquiry, addressed to the trembling Queen, must have assured her of his kindly purpose, as immediately he promised that it should be granted. Here was a large and unexpected favor, a sufficient ground to hope that the errand would be successful. But the King went further as a guaranty of his sincere purpose. He generously offered to grant whatever might be asked up to the half of the kingdom—to devide his possessions, retaining for himself as much only as he gave. This form of speech, common among Orientalists (Mark vi:23), was an extravagant utterance of good will never observed.

THE REFLECTIONS.—We have in this lesson several important themes: 1. See the dismal picture of society under absolute monarchy. The lives of millions of subjects in the keeping of a King, who might put to death one of his household seeking their deliverance. 2. See the power of one woman, whose position gives her opportunity. It is probably true that duty is presented to every person because of the place he occupies, and that duty must be met. 3. See how a life may be crowned with honor is consecrated to the service of others in a time of supreme danger. No personal ease or present flattery may compare in value with the applause of after time, given by those who contemplate heroic deeds. 4. The hearts of most men have tender spots in which originate generous impulses toward those engaged in a good cause, and one may safely rely upon such impulses. 5. The wicked designs of men are generally overthrown, and all good people should unite to bring to naught the devices of the evil. Union in goodness defeats the works of darkness.

THE PERIL (verses 10-11).—Anxious as Esther was to save her people, she knew that the proposal of Mordecai would involve her in extreme peril, and she returned that answer to him. It was well understood at court that Ahasuerus had secluded himself. No one was allowed to approach him unbidden under penalty of death. There was, however, a single exception to this rule. If, as one stood in the inner court, seeking audience, the King was pleased to hold out the golden scepter, then the life would be spared and the hearing granted. This regulation was made, doubtless, as a protection to the sovereign. Intrigue, rebellion and assassination were common in those days as means by which ambitious men sought place and power. It was particularly hazardous for Esther to seek the King, because her people were under ban and she had not been invited into his presence for a whole month. This last fact might be interpreted as indicating an evil design which would prevent the success of her mission.

THE ANSWER (verses 12-14).—Mordecai, on receiving the words of Esther, hastened to answer and to help her to reach a conclusion. There were three points upon which he laid emphasis. First, Esther need not think she could escape by refraining from an approach to the King. As the cruel order meant the death of all Jews it included her in its wide sweep and purpose, although she belonged to the royal household. Second, if she declined to render the service some other way would be found to avoid the the execution of the order, an evidence that Mordecai believed in God and did not believe that God would suffer His chosen people to be utterly destroyed. Third, it was possible that Esther had come to her exalted place for this purpose; that Previdence had ordered these strange events that led up to her choice to be the successor of the deposed Vashti. If this were so, she would fail to act her assigned part and discharge her obligation to God in this trying hour.

The PROPOSAL (verses 15-18).—This three-fold argument was effective. Moved by the desire for personal security, by love for her people, and by high sense of duty to God, Esther determined to approach the King, even without the usual forms and conditions of law. Her spirit was heroic. "I will go, and if I perish, I perish" (Gen. xliii:14). She put her life in the venture, surrendering everything to a worthy purpose. And yet she did not act thus with reckless daring. She recognized the the fact that Divine power might be interposed in her behalf; that God could protect her while she was in His service. Hence, she enjoined upon her countrymen a course that linked them with her in pious resignation and intercession. She required that all Jews residing at the capital should enter upon a fast for three days and promised that she and her maidens would do the same. In all this there was no suggestion of prayer, but that was implied. The abstinence was an act of humiliation expressive of utter helplessness and unworthiness, a confession that the impending calamity might be a deserved judgment.

THE RESPONSE (verse 17).—Mordecai, on receiving this message from the Queen, conveyed it promptly to the people. Throughout Babylon these exiles from Jerusalem gathered themselves together in their homes or in their places of public assemblage. Food and drink were dismissed. All occupation was suspended. All hearts turned in one direction. The direful circumstances were considered. The existence of the race, hanging on the successful approah of the Queen, a young and beautiful woman of whom all Jews were justly proud, sarificing herself for the welfare of her kindred; the unsolved problem of the Abrahamic covenant and the unfulfilled promises concerning the world—all these and related subjects doubtless passed in review during those day of anxious waiting.

THE VISIT (verse 1).—At last the time appointed arrived. The fasting gave place to the act of duty. Esther robed herself in apparel becoming a queen, assisted by those maids who had known the secret of her mission and had united with her in the preparation. Leaving her apartment she entered the court and passed on until she stood over against the King's house. Centuries before, armed with a sling, a youth went forth from the camp of Israel to meet Goliath. (I Sam. xvii:46.) The poet and the painter have immortalized the event and after generations have beheld the deed of David and admired him. Not less brave was she who, unarmed save by womanly purity and grace, dared to seek the presence of the King, and artists have in like manner recognized her noble deed. In full view she was, for the King sat upon his throne. A word, a look from him, and her fate would be sealed. Another word or deed and her suit would be gained.

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