SOME TERRIBLE WAR BILLS

That of the United States Government Heads the List in Point of Size.

The wars of Napoleon in 13 years cost France $1,000,000,000, writes Wendell Phillips Dodge in Leslie's. Our Civil war expenditure of the federal government was $3,400,000,000, nearly thirteen times as much a year as Napoleon's. The Franco-German war cost France $1,580,000,000, besides an added war indemnity of $1,000,000,000. This same great war, which lasted only 190 days, cost Germany $450,000,000 for an average fighting force of 1,250,000 men. The other big European war of the past half century, the Russo-Turkish war, cost Russia $786,100,000, but she had two years' fighting for her money. The war in the far East cost Japan $650,000,000 and Russia $723,000,000, not counting lost ships. Only toward the end had either side anything like a million men in the field. Italy's little war with Turkey cost $400,000 a day, allowing for a mere 60,000 fighting men; and the Boer war, in which England's army averaged 200,000, cost $1,055,000,000 in two and a half years.

Mighty Handy.

Some negroes are insatiable "jiners," and their favorite organizations are those which assure an ostentatious funeral.

A mistress was remonstrating with her servant about belonging to one of them.

"Bonnibel, don't you think it is mighty foolish to pay the 'Friends and True Mourners' society' twenty-five cents every month?"

"Naw'm, Miss Ma'y, I don't. You see, dee ain't like some of de s'cieties; dee acts liberal, and don't skimp on nothin'. Dee gives you de finest kind of coffin, en makes a way for ev'rybody to git to your burial. En den, 'sides dat, dee gives you thirty dollars at the grave, en you know thirty dollars comes in mighty handy."

Preparing for Eventualities.

Shortly after the declaration of war in Germany, the cashier of the largest bank in Berlin received from a stranger the following letter, postmarked Dresden:

"Dear Sir: A few weeks ago, while in Berlin on my vacation, I found myself temporarily in need of money and pawned my diamond ring. I enclose the pawn ticket to you, asking that you redeem the ring, sell it for what you can and turn the proceeds over to the Red Cross fund. It may be that I shall have no further use for jewels."

Guilty.

The justice of the peace in a town in Ohio, in pursuance of his duties, had to hear and judge cases that were brought before him and also to perform occasional marriage ceremonies. He found it difficult to dissociate the various functions of his office.

Everything had gone smoothly until he asked one bride: "Do you take this man to be your husband?"

The bride nodded emphatically.

"And you, accused," said the justice, turning to the bridegroom, "what have you to say in your defense?"

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director Sunday School Course, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 15

JESUS AND PETER.

LESSON TEXT—Mark 14:27-31, 53, 54, 66-72.

GOLDEN TEXT—Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.—I Cor. 10:12.

The record of Peter's failure is a sad story. Mark, who received his Gospel from Peter, gives it in clear outline. This suggests that Peter did not spare himself.

I. After Passover Feast, vv. 27-31. On the way to Olivet Jesus warns the disciples that all would be "offended" (caused to stumble) because of what was about to occur. Not one escaped, Matt. 26:56, Zech. 13.7. Peter, assured in his own mind, denies that this should be true of him, so confident was he of himself and of his devotion. Over against this warning Jesus sounds the note of his resurrection, and it was chiefly in their inability to catch, or comprehend this note, that they stumbled. Particularly is this true of Peter. That Jesus could found a church on the vulgar tragedy of a criminal's death was beyond the range of his understanding. This self-confidence was the beginning of his fall, Prov. 16:18. It is pride like this which men have in their own strength, that is the chief reason why they are not saved. If they are able to care for themselves, why do they need the help of another?

Peter's Denials.

Peter trusted his own heart. A man is a fool who will trust such a deceitful member, Jer. 17:9, Prov. 28:26. Peter's loud profession is answered by a definite prophecy of his utter failure, v. 30. "Before the cock shall crow twice, thou shall deny me thrice." Again Peter contradicts the Lord, "I will not deny thee." Peter's later denial of the person of Jesus in the judgment hall is prefaced by a denial of his master's assertions on the way thither. He had to learn wisdom and humility in the bitter school of experience. Peter is quite like us all, but he did learn and profited thereby (I Peter 5:5), which cannot be said of all of us.

II. Following Afar Off, vv. 53, 54. Peter "followed afar" into the court of the high priest's palace. We have suggested (Lesson of Nov. 1st) that zeal and affection prompted Peter, yet he was expressly forbidden and forewarned, John 13:36-38. Some one has said that the development of Peter's weakness began in the garden when he ceased to pray. That courtyard and its brazier of coals was a dangerous place for any disciple of the Lord. The servants and soldiers of the powers against Christ were congregated about that first. It is never safe to warm oneself at the enemies' fire though we see it constantly being done, Matt. 6:13; Ps. 1:1.

III. "I Know Not This Man," vv. 66-72. While at the fire, a serving maid looking at Peter said, "Thou also wast with the Nazarne, even Jesus." Immediately and without any seeming hesitancy Peter denied, and declared his ignorance both of the man and of understanding what she said. Peter did not sympathize with what was being done to Jesus, but at heart he was not brave enough to separate himself from the enemies of Jesus thereby to draw upon himself some sort of censure or condemnation. Thus conforming to the world about him made it easy for Peter to utter his first note of denial. Having done so he passed on into the porch and heard the first crowing of the cock. The apparent contradiction between Mark and the other writers over the question of the number of maids seems to be solved by John 18:25, where reference is made to several who spoke at the same time. Doubtless the words of the first maid are reenforced by those of another on the second occasion; they both brought an accusation against him.

Speech Betrayed Peter.

This second maid addressing the onlooking spectators said, "This is one of them," and again Peter denies the accusation. He had escaped one predicament only to be plunged into another and perhaps more dangerous one. To deny afresh seemed to be the only way of escape, James 4:4; I Cor. 15:32 R. V. A few words of a serving maid filled Peter with dismay but a second denial did not deliver him from his predicament. After a little those standing with him declared he must be one of the followers of Jesus, for his speech betrayed him to be a Galilean. Then Peter touched the bottom, for he accompanies his denial with curses.

From his high and exalted state of mind, his high hopes as to Jesus, he sees himself a traitor and Jesus about to be crushed by the hand of man. Peter was passionately devoted to Jesus and had felt that he could go with him to the limit. Once before at Caesarea-Philippi Peter had been warned. He had been mystified by what Jesus said about the cross and had protested. He had high and noble aspirations but they carried him beyond the limits of his permission into danger and defeat.

There is always the gravest danger in ambition that is not controlled.

DEFENDS POPULAR REMEDIES

Speaker Says Newspapers Should Investigate Merits of Medicines Before Barring Advertisements.

That an organized attempt has been made to blacken the reputation of the popular family remedies of this country, and to mislead the newspaper publishers into rejecting the advertising of such medicines, was the charge made by Carl J. Balliett, of Buffalo, N. Y., at the convention of the Advertising Affiliation at Detroit.

Mr. Balliett is a director of the Proprietary Association of America, which includes in its membership two hundred firms which make the popular prepared medicines of America.

Mr. Balliett pointed out that it is the duty of the newspaper publisher to refuse the advertising of any fake or fraudulent medicine, just as it is his duty to refuse any fake or fraudulent advertising, but it is not right to shut down on all medical advertising because there have been some fakers, any more than it would be right to refuse to publish all department store advertising because certain stores have made a practice of lying about bargain sales.

Disease and death are mysteries. People who are perfectly well are skeptical. They laugh at the time-worn patent medicine joke, just as they laugh again and again over the many variations of the operation joke—"The operation was a success but the patient died." This so-called humor has perhaps hurt the medicine business with well people, but when the hitherto healthy man feels a severe pain or illness, he immediately wants medicine, and will bless the cure whether it be at the hands of a regular doctor, a homeopath, an osteopath, a Christian Scientist or patent medicine. There is nothing more deadly than disease; nothing more honorable than to cure it.

Mr. Balliett refuted the idea sought to be spread about that patent medicines are unpopular by showing that from 1900 to 1912 the amount of prepared medicines consumed in America increased from $100,000,000 to $160,000,000 annually. He showed that, although the American Medical Association is trying as an organization to exterminate so-called patent medicines, the family doctor, individually, is not fighting them but prescribing them. He estimated that 40% of the prescriptions written by doctors today include proprietary medicines.

The writings of Dr. Harvey W. Wiley, he said, have also aimed to destroy confidence in proprietary medicines; but that Dr. Wiley's ideas are not infallible is shown by cases where his analyses were entirely wrong. Mr. Balliett mentioned a case where, with all the power of the Government, he fought a preparation as being dangerous to health, and was ingloriously walloped.

There has been spread the idea that a clever faker can mix a few useless ingredients and, by smart advertising, sell tons of it and win sudden wealth; whereas, as a matter of fact, the medicine business is notoriously difficult, and, where there has been one success at it, there have been a hundred failures. Any medicine which has no merit cannot live, because persons who are duped into buying it once will not buy it again, and the profit from advertising a medicine can only come from repeat sales to the same, satisfied people. Therefore, any medicine which has been on the market for a number of years, and is still advertised, must have merit behind it to account for its success.

In conclusion Mr. Balliett declared that no newspaper is doing justice to its readers in the matter of medical or other advertising, unless it investigates, not only the wording of the advertisement offered for publication, but the merits of the article advertised. He pointed out that the few newspapers who have been deluded into the policy of barring out medical advertising have adopted this general policy, rather than to form an investigation bureau of this kind which could, in a constructive and useful effort, investigate and decide what is a good product and what is a fraud, in not only the medicine business, but in every other business which advertises its wares to the public.

The audience seemed to agree with Mr. Balliett's ideas on the subject and the chairman decided the question at issue in his favor.

Have Best War Hospital.

The Red Cross hospital of 200 beds near Torquay, established by American women, is said to be the best arranged war hospital in England, according to Sir Frederick Treves, the distinguished surgeon. The organization, which has at its head wealthy Americans like Mrs. John Astor, Lady Paget and others, has appropriated $25,000 for motor ambulances. Funds are ample to maintain the hospital for another year, it is said.

Love is a curious thing. A girl doesn't even marry a professional ball player because he is a good catch.

Some men court, then marry, then go to court again.

LIMITED CHOICE OF VIANDS

Guest Who Didn't Care for Salmon Was In Fair Way to Have Hot Breakfast.

In some parts of the Canadian back country the recurrence of boiled salmon, broiled salmon, salmon cutlets, and salmon steak at every meal becomes, after a few weeks, a trifle monotonous. To the native palate, brought up on it, this constant reappearance of the selfsame dish is a matter of course; but to the newly arrived tourist it grows at least into a feeble joke.

"Is there nothing else for breakfast?" said one such victim of colonial hospitality, as a whole fish and a pot of mustard were laid before him on the table."

"Nothing else!" replied the host, in surprise. "Why, there's salmon enough there for six, ain't there?"

"Yes," responded the guest, mildly; "but I don't care for salmon."

"Well, then, fire into the mustard," was the rejoinder.

A Reformer.

"Twobble is noted for his passionate striving after perfection."

"I must say that's a commendable trait."

"In some cases, yes, but Twobble spends all his time trying to achieve it in other people."

There are few really great men on earth, but there are a lot of others who are willing to admit their greatness.

To some persons, the enthusiasm of others is only an incentive to get a wet blanket.

The girl who steals a man's heart is liable to get a life sentence at hard labor.

Possibly one joke in ten thousand makes people laugh.

Many a man gets the reputation of being a good talker without saying much of anything.—Albany Journal.

A mouse scares a woman almost as badly as a milliner's bill scares a man.

It takes a capable wife to yank the conceit out of a man.

Unnerved Completely.

"Beef eaters usually have steady nerves, do they not?"

"I've always thought so, until fear of a Zeppelin raid doused the lights of London."

W. N. U., LITTLE ROCK, NO. 46-1914.

Another Sort.

"I gather from what he said that Jim's wife is the gray mare."

"She is more of an old nag."

Occasionally a man's sense of humor may head off the doctor.

There may be a lot of heroes in the world, but no woman will admit that she is married to one of them.

The man who makes good doesn't wait for opportunity to knock. He has the door wide open.