TESTAMENT TIMES BROOKLYN TABERNACLE BIBLE STUDIES

THE VALUE OF PRAYER.

Nehemiah's Petition For Israel.
Nehemiah i—Nov. 26

"The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."—James v, 16.

THIRTEEN years after Ezra's company returned to Jerusalem, Nehemiah went thither with an escort and full authority from the king of Persia to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem and to restore its gates. It would appear that Ezra's reformation, while very helpful to the people, brought against them the violent opposition of their neighbors, as was to have been expected. The Jews, now considerable in numbers, were despised by their neighbors, who wished to drive them out of the land. The wall of the city was poor and did not withstand the attack.

Josephus says that Nehemiah, wealthy and favored of the king of Persia, resided in the king's palace at Shushan. He was a pious man and deeply interested in the land of his fathers. While walking one day he overheard two men talking in the Hebrew tongue, and accosted them. They had been to Jerusalem and had returned. He gladly inquired respecting the holy land, the holy city, God's temple, and concerning the Jews who had returned from Babylon. The sad story of their trials and the desolation of the city and its exposure to enemies touched his heart and led him to prayer. That prayer is the subject of this lesson.



"Prayer in secret."

Undoubtedly the recorded prayer of Nehemiah is merely an epitomized statement, for we read that he made the matter a subject of earnest prayer for four months before he reached the point of action where God used him in the fulfilment of his own petition.

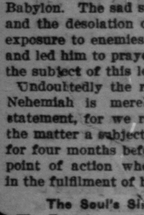
The Soul's Sincere Desire.

The Poet has well defined prayer as being "the soul's sincere desire, uttered or unexpressed." Another has well declared that it "is the Christian's vital breath"; that is to say, Christian character cannot be maintained without prayer any more than a human life could be maintained without breathing. Who has not noticed that all the great Bible characters used of the Almighty were accustomed to go to Him regularly in prayer and to seek for guidance from Him in respect to every matter? Even the great Redeemer, holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners, needed to pray to the Father—needed His fellowship and communion—needed to be in touch with the Infinite One. Several of His prayers are recorded, and we are told that He spent the entire night in prayer on some occasions.

Some may ask, Would the Almighty change His plans in answer to our petitions? Assuredly He would not. Indeed, on the contrary, we are cautioned in the Scriptures to ask only according to His will. We are warned that if we ask amiss our petitions will not be answered. Hence the necessity for studying God's Word and being enlightened thereby.

The Redeemer gave us the keynote to this, saying, "If ye abide in Me and My words abide in you, ye may ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you." (John xv, 7.) Alas! how few seem to note the two limitations of this promise:

(1) The one asking must be *in Christ*—abiding in Him. This means that the petitioner has turned from sin, has accepted Christ and the terms of discipleship. It implies that he has made a full consecration of his life to the Lord and become a new creature in Christ Jesus. Such, abiding in Christ, may pray to the Father.



"Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me."

(2) After having come into membership and fellowship with the Head, the Messiah, these must ask in harmony with God's Word and promises; in order to know what things to ask for they must search the Scriptures, which are sufficient, "that the man of God may be thoroughly furnished."

God is pleased to make use of the little talents possessed by His consecrated people. Those who pray for opportunities to serve the Lord and His cause and who watch for the fulfilment of their prayers in the open doors of opportunity will surely have them. "He that seeketh findeth."

What to Pray For.

Those in Christ may pray for earthly necessities, as in the Lord's prayer, "Give us this day our daily bread;" but we are not to pray for more than the bread and water which the Lord has authorized His people to pray for. The true Christian, instead of thinking about what he shall eat, what he shall drink, and wherewithal he shall be clothed—instead of making earthly things the subject of his prayers, will be thinking of and praying about his higher, his heavenly interests.

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BALKS AT DRESS FOR WOMEN

Nellie Pickerell, Arrested on Serious Charges, Says Its Trousers for Her—Passes for Man.

Spokane, Wash.—Nellie Pickerell, alias Harvey Allen, arrested at Tekoa, Wash., by Deputy United States Marshal Daily on the charge of selling liquor to an Indian and held in the County jail here in default of bonds of $200, has balked on wearing woman's garments, also telling William Reynolds, head jailer, to eliminate the baked apple served occasionally to prisoners.

"The apple is a belligerent fruit," Miss Pickerell said. "Humanity lost paradise and was afflicted with the hobble skirt through the apple. The apple also led to the carnage of the Trojan war and started a number of other things. No apples for me, thanks."

Reynolds tried to argue the matter with the woman after she had delivered herself of the foregoing. He had secured a skirt and waist and other articles of apparel and ordered Miss Pickerell to don them without delay.

"Me for the free and easy trousers," she persisted. "I've worn 'em the last eleven years, ever since I was 18, and that puts the jinx on the hobble goods for all time with me.

"On the level, kid, when you get me to pull any of that society stuff you can call the county physician and buy a ticket for me to Medical Lake, as I certainly will be entitled to have my face or a picture of it in the 'bug' family album."

Miss Pickerell is a daughter of a family in western Washington. She has worked around mining and lumber camps the last four or five years, also at one time tending bar in a local saloon and remained until her identity was established. Later she worked in the harvest fields, doing a man's work and passing as a man among her associates. She wears her hair loosely cropped and has the strength and rugged features of a workingman.

HE FIDDLED SAME OLD TUNE

Scraping of Hungarian Musician Is Too Much for Piano Players—Arrested and Discharged.

New York.—Slow, sad and unfamiliar melodies, played in the entrance halls of apartment houses in Morningside avenue near One Hundred and Twentieth street, warred with the usual piano practice. When the disturbed Paderewskis went out to find the note of discord, they beheld a sobbing man playing a violin. They telephones to police headquarters and went back to the pianos.

Ultimately Patrolman Higginson took the musical trail and found the sad fiddler playing to a group of attentive Columbia students at One Hundred and Sixteenth street and Amsterdam avenue. The policeman asked for an explanation and was told by the musician that the air he was playing was so haunting that he could not stop. But he took the policeman's advice and changed his playing ground.

The policeman next saw the fiddler on Amsterdam avenue, further north. That time the peripatetic Paganini was arrested. As they walked to the West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street police station Higginson good-naturedly let his prisoner continue the melody. In the station the playing and weeping kept on. So they put the violinist in a cell without his violin. He howled so that the instrument was returned to him. Instantly the same Hungarian air smote the ears of the other prisoners.

The police induced their prisoner to halt long enough between repetitions to say that he was Louis Balon a Hungarian, a musician of course and a resident of Far Rockaway. He went to night court in a patrol wagon still playing. There Magistrate Mc Quade discharged him on his promise not to play on the street any more after 5 p. m.

$5,000 CAT NO MOLLYCODDLE

Fondness of Feline for Killing Snakes, However, Worries Owner—Reptile Is Killed.

Rancocas, N. J.—If the $5,000 Angora cat which Mrs. John W. Hilyard owns does not desist in her raids on snakes, pussy may have to submit to the chaperonage of a nurse girl when she takes her daily airings. Mrs Hilyard thinks $5,000 is too aristocratic an investment to risk on snakes.

Mrs. Hilyard was sitting in her home when she heard the mewing of the cat at the door. She responded to the call, and there found awaiting admittance her $5,000 bunch of fur with a four-foot live snake very securely held in its mouth, in such a manner that the snake was powerless to offer any resistance. It was a most trying situation for the woman. She did not want to kill the snake, but knew of nothing else to do, and she finally dispatched it with a club as her weapon.

During the operation the cat showed unusual intelligence in such a matter, as it continued its death-like grip upon its prisoner until Mrs. Hilyard's action evidently satisfied it that all possible danger had been removed.

Stork Comes at Last.

Pasadena, Cal.—The baby famine in this city is a thing of the past. Sixteen babies have been ushered into the world at the Pasadena hospital within the last 24 hours, and these figures are not inclusive of perhaps a dozen more that have arrived in private residences.

Canny Mother-in-Law.

"My future mother-in-law is really a bit too careful. So that my fiancee shall know what to buy after we are married, she takes us both with her to the market every morning." "Well, but what use are you?" "Oh, I pay."—Fliegende Blaetter.

Harmless Fad.

"I suppose in these ragtime days you sell very little classical music?"

"More than you would imagine," answered the music dealer. "Almost everybody buys a few sheets to place on the piano when company calls."

Home Town Helps

BOOST YOUR HOME TOWN

If It Is Good Enough to Live in It Is Good Enough to Say a Good Word For.

Every man ought to be a booster for his home town. If that place is good enough for him to stay in and as a place for him to make money, it ought to be good enough to say a good word about.

Too often we hear a dealer complain that the "old town is deader than a door nail." If it is, who made is so? It is the men who "knock" instead of getting under the foundation of the place and lifting. It is the fellows who inform every visitor that they wish they were birds so that they could fly to other places more congenial.

What happens when these fellows do get enough money together to strike out to some other place? Do they forget their habits of depreciation? Not so you could notice it. They soon get to saying the same bad things about the new location and wish they were back where they came from.

There are thousands of towns in this grand old country of ours that are only waiting for the undertaker to get busy to recover from their stunted conditions and start to live again. It has been the "knockers" that have kept the towns down and driven the retail trade to the mail order houses and the big cities.

When a visitor comes to town say all the good things you can about it. When a buyer wants anything do not sent him to the city or county seat for it by not being stocked.

Be the first one to breathe life into the old town and see how quickly others will be taking longer breaths, too. Boost for the place where you live and do business. If you cannot boost, get out, and give someone a chance who will.—Farm Machinery.

FLOWERS IN SCHOOL ROOM

Nature Never Fails to Awaken Interest and Enthusiasm of Young Children.

In some European countries, notably France and Belgium, bowers and plants have been made a conspicuous as well as an official feature of all schoolrooms. In the September issue of the Craftsman, a writer tells a great deal of the workings of some of the most notable of the schools. One teacher is quoted as saying: "We are counseled in our country schools to teach our children beauty in all its possible expressions, through books, pictures, sculpture; but I have found that my little pupils are neither old enough, advanced enough, nor alert enough to understand the masterpieces of great achievement. Most famous pictures and books have failed to interest them. On the other hand, I have found that nature never fails to awaken their enthusiasm. So we live and study close to her ample, kindly heart, and our lives are filled with the beauty that the greatest artists cannot quite achieve."

The Clothes Peg Woman.

Women cynics complain men are more interested in thin, shapeless girls than they are in healthy, well-developed young women. They assert when men take brides they want the "clothes-peg women" rather than the women who undoubtedly are healthy and strong. They cannot understand why the spiritual quality and the mental equipment of women should count more than health and strength. In answer to those cynics, statistics are produced by both men and women to show that not even in the days of ancient Greece, when womanhood is supposed to have reached its perfection, were women so well developed and healthy as they are today. Dr. Sargent, the Harvard instructor of physical culture and one of the recognized authorities on physical development, says women are stronger and have reached more nearly the ideal of perfection than at any other time in the history of the world. He insists while the statues of women that have come down to us from Greece may represent an almost perfect type of physical beauty, the sculptors who carved those statues were working in the ideal rather than in the real.

Novel Way to Announce Engagement

A novel scheme recently was used to announce the engagement of Faye Cleaver Bruen, of Oakland, Cal., to Richard Yates Hoffman, of Chicago, both of whom have many society friends in the states. Mrs. William Gould Bruen, mother of Miss Bruen, gave a dance in honor of her daughter and invited thirty young society persons of Oakland. Hoffman also was present. The initials of the dance numbers spoiled Miss Bruen's and Hoffman's names, but that was not observed until after the announcement of the engagement was made in another way. As an extra dance was announced the guests gathered in a circle round a large tissue-paper bag suspended from the ceiling. Each person grasped a string and at a given signal pulled. Papier-mache cats jumped from the bag, and each had a card announcing the engagement. "The cat was let out of the bag" in a truly surprising way.

Jews and Suicide.

The Jewish World of London notes that a proportionately greater number of suicides occur among the Jews in England and in America than in the countries in which the race meets with the harshest treatment. This is said to be due to the fact that the Orthodox Jews of European countries look upon self destruction as a crime no less abhorrent than is murder, whilst many Anglicized Jews are more lax in their adherence to the teachings of their fathers.

Sore Throat or Mouth.

When the mouth or throat is irritated or diseased you have the common ailment of Sore Mouth or Sore Throat. If not quickly cured, you are in danger of contracting more serious or even fatal maladies such as Croup, Quinsy, Tonsilitis or Diphtheria. No other remedy will cure Sore Throat or Sore Mouth so quickly, so surely as TONSILINE because TONSILINE is the one remedy especially made for that purpose.

You'll need TONSILINE one of these days, or some night when the drug store is closed—better have a bottle ready at home when you need it most. 25c. and 50c. Hospital Size $1.00. All Druggists.

Longevity of Belgian Women.

It is interesting to note that longevity among Belgian women is remarkable and that their length of life is superior to that of male Belgians. While Brussels has 65 old men of eighty-five to ninety years of age and only ten male nonagenarians, she possesses no fewer than 184 women whose ages are between eighty-five and ninety, 30 between ninety and ninety-five years and six of over ninety-five years of age.

Good for American Detectives.

Detectives who discovered a copy of Oliver Wendell Holmes' poems in the suit case left behind by a burglar decided that they had a good clew to the man's identity. They figured out what a man who read Oliver Wendell Holmes' poetry would probably look like, and when they saw a man who answered their mental picture they examined him. Of course, it was the very man. American detectives lead the world.

Poetry in Skyscrapers.

It is a mistake to think we must go back a thousand years or more for genuine poetic inspiration, or that the poet of today must necessarily confine himself to the veins that the Greeks worked to create their lasting vogue. There is poetry in the big modern institutions where twentieth century life pulsates, if only there be the imagination that can treat it in a masterly way.

Improvident.

Little Emil was walking home from church with his mother and in passing the ice cream parlors wanted some. His mother's repeated "no" did not satisfy him. She finally said, "I can't buy any; I haven't any money." Emil replied, "Then why didn't you take some when they passed it around?"—National Monthly.

Wild Oats Crop.

If the statistics were available probably it would be found that 65 per cent. of young men who are sowing wild oats are permitting somebody else to pay for their oatmeal.—Galveston News.

Saved Many From Death.

W. L. Mock, Ark., believes he has saved many lives in his 25 years of experience in the drug business, "What I always like to do," he writes, "is to recommend Dr. King's New Discovery for weak, sore lungs, hard colds, hoarseness, obstinate coughs, la grippe, croup, asthma or other bronchial infection, for I feel sure that a number of my neighbors are alive and well today because they took my advice to use it. I honestly believe its the best throat and lung medicine that's made." Easy to prove he's right. Get a trial bottle free, or regular 50c or $1.00 bottle. Guaranteed by

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A Father's Vengeance.

would have fallen on anyone who attacked the son of Peter Bondy, of South Rockwood, Mich., but he was powerless before attacks of Kidney trouble. "Doctors could not help him," he wrote, "so at last we gave him Electric Bitters and he improved wonderfully from taking six bottles. Its the best kidney medicine I ever saw." Backache, Tired feeling, Nervousness, Loss of appetite, warn of Kidney trouble that may end in dropsy, diabetes or Bright's disease. Beware: Take Electric Bitters and be safe. Every bottle guaranteed. 50c at

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