

the Democrats and more than two-thirds of the Republicans of both Houses laid aside their differences on other subjects and stood together for every dry measure—and the Supreme Court has sustained all that was done.

How could a triumph be more complete?

Prohibition has its problems, but they will be solved.

The smuggling of liquor from adjoining territory will be prevented; no friendly nation can afford to use its flag to protect conspiracies against our laws.

Some Americans have gone abroad and, under the protection of a foreign flag, violated their own country's laws.

They should not be allowed to come back and enjoy citizenship of the country which they have disgraced and dishonored.

OUR EXAMPLE WILL BE FOLLOWED

Just now the three-mile limit is under consideration and there is before Congress a proposition to extend the limit to eighteen miles. That is better than three miles and a hundred miles would be better than twelve.

But why any limit? Why should a line be fixed in the ocean and outlaws be invited to anchor just beyond it and ply their trade?

When ships load with contraband and enter upon a career of lawlessness, carrying guns to defend themselves against officers of the law, it is virtually a declaration of war and the rules of war should govern.

Other nations will follow our example; both moral and economic influences will compel this. The spiritual forces in other lands will be awakened by the results of prohibition in this nation; other nations will find that drinking workmen cannot compete with the sober workmen of this country. Alcohol kills efficiency—prohibition promotes industry, economy and independence.

Our nation, which has been the leader in the cause of universal peace, will lead also in the cause of universal sobriety. It will win a glorious victory when it leads the world into the abolition of war; its next victory will be the abolition of war's twin brother, intoxicants.

JESUS THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

By WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN

BIBLE TEXT—LESSON FOR NOVEMBER 5 (Luke v:17-26)

And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him.

And when they could not find by which way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.

And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.

And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts?

Whether it is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?

But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins (he said unto the sick of the palsy), I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thy house.

And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things today.

Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, began His ministry by giving relief to the body, and the character of the diseases, as well as the number of those whom He healed, won for Him the title "the Great Physician." Both physically and spiritually, it can be said of Him alone:

"Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses."

Jesus used the word "physician" in the very beginning of His ministry: "And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself." He was speaking to the people of Nazareth, "where he had been brought up."

In this connection He used the oft quoted phrase, "No prophet is accepted in his own country." The people among whom He was reared, knowing of Him as a child and a young man, could scarcely believe that He was what He proclaimed Himself to be when He described the

mission of the Messiah and said that the Scripture was fulfilled in their ears.

They thrust him out of the city and would have cast Him headlong from the brow of the hill whereon it was built. "But he passing through the midst of them went his way, and came down to Capernaum;" and there, as He taught on the Sabbath days, He healed a demoniac.

CHRIST'S HEALING POWER

Bible scholars seem to differ in their opinion as to the exact nature of the disease described as demoniacal. Some think it to be the same as that insanity which, at the present time, unbalances the mind and turns the individual over to impulses that are uncontrollable. Others regard it as a distinct and separate evil spirit which dwelt within and at times took possession of the person. Whatever the nature of the disease, it was well recognized, and the casting out of the evil spirit called attention to the extraordinary power that Christ possessed.

A man with this "spirit of an unclean devil" was in the synagogue. He interrupted Christ as He was teaching on the Sabbath day, saying, "Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God."

During the same day Christ healed the mother of Simon Peter's wife, whose disease is described as a "great fever." Luke the physician represents Christ as standing over her and rebuking the fever.

OMNIPOTENCE KNOWS NO LIMITATIONS

As the sun was setting all that had any sick with divers diseases brought them to Him and He laid hands on every one of them and healed them. It is worth while to notice that He dealt with "divers diseases" and healed them all, "every one."

Omnipotence knows no limitations. Man has specialties; one physician treats one form of disease, another is skilled in the treatment of another kind of disease, but Christ knew no difference between those who suffered. Before the fullness of His power afflictions of every kind vanished.

He frequently used this power to ease the body, to turn attention to the graver afflictions that were spiritual in their nature; but it was harder for the people to understand the forgiveness of sins than it was to comprehend the purging of the body of disease.

For this reason the medical missionary is invaluable to those who carry the Gospel unto heathen lands. His power to heal, even though due to his superior skill rather than to supernatural power, has brought many a sinner to Christ.

The relief that is felt awakens gratitude and also suggests questions that lead directly to the source of sympathy. Why do these trained men leave their homes and bury themselves among distant people? How can they draw satisfaction from kind acts and helpful service?

These are the questions that the physician's ministrations awaken and the answer discloses the love that lies back of Christian effort. The medical missionary brings converts into the kingdom because he illustrates Christian love.

So Christ's power to heal was noised abroad and brought so many to Him that He was urged to remain in Capernaum. But having restored to health all who had been brought within His reach He departed, saying that He must preach the kingdom of God in other cities also.

CHRIST'S PROMISE TO SIMON PETER

At one place, as he stood by the lake of Genesaret, the people so pressed upon Him to hear the word of God that He entered into one of Simon's ships and, with the boat as His pulpit, spoke to the people on the shore. This was the beginning of a very important incident in the life of Simon Peter.

Simon and his brother Andrew, together with James and John, had been fishing all night and had caught nothing. At the conclusion of His address to the people on the shore Christ advised Simon to launch out into the deep and let down their nets.

While Simon seemed to think that there was little chance to find anything after his ill luck, he let down the net and the draught of fishes was so great that the net brake. He was so overcome with mortification that he should have doubted Christ's power that in an outburst of emotion he said to Jesus:

"Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord."

But Jesus, knowing what kind of a man Simon Peter would become, promised that henceforth he should catch men, and the four "forsook all and followed Him."

Then followed the healing of the man full of

leprosy, and shortly after the famous cure of the man taken with a palsy.

Those who were carrying him on a bed tried to gain admittance to the room in which Christ was speaking. The room is described by Bible commentators as open at one end—a sort of court such as was common in the houses of that day—with a roof of tile. When they found it impossible to carry him through the crowd they went upon the house top and, removing the tiles, let his couch down in front of Jesus.

When Christ saw their faith He said unto the man, "Thy sins are forgiven thee."

This aroused the Pharisees who, although they might violate the spirit of the law, were very punctilious about religious forms. They at once accused Christ of blasphemy. "Who can forgive sins," they asked, "but God alone?"

Christ rebuked them, and, having asserted His power to forgive sins, said unto the sick man, "Arise, and take up thy couch, and go unto thine house." All were amazed at this miracle performed before their very eyes and they glorified God.

CONFERRING THE POWER TO HEAL

Can the power of healing be conferred on others?

It was conferred in the early days; the apostles exercised the power. It is as certain that the power to heal was given to them as it is that it was exercised by Christ.

Can the power to heal be conferred today?

It has been conferred. There are many well authenticated cases of healing by prayer.

In the 12th verse of the 14th chapter of John we have Christ's promise:—"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." In the 13th verse the promise is given even more specifically: "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

The promise is broad enough to cover not only spiritual gifts, but the healing of the body also.

Another practical thought in the miracle of the palsied man must not be overlooked—viz., that the palsied man was brought to Jesus by sympathetic friends.

We do not live alone and we can do little of ourselves. This is a co-operative world and we are all dependent upon each other. It is a hard hearted person who will not aid the suffering. Let a person be knocked down, run over, or meet with any other accident, and everyone within hearing will rush to the rescue of the person injured.

Those who carried the sick man's bed may have been relatives or they may have been friends or they may have been strangers. The impulse to help is strong among almost all where the need is visible, as in the case of a bodily injury, disease, or infirmity.

But there is a larger lesson to be gathered from this incident. Man's greatest need is spiritual. Comparatively few make demands upon us for such service as was rendered by the palsied man's friends, but all about us are those who need the Great Physician for the healing of their souls.

PERTINENT QUESTIONS

Are we as quick to note the suffering that sin causes as we are to see the need of physical aid?

Have we as great faith in Christ's power to cleanse the heart as the people of Galilee had in His power to cure the body?

Are we as willing to conduct to Christ sinners who need forgiveness as those in olden times were to carry the bed-ridden into the presence of the Saviour?

Those whom Christ healed were quick to tell of the change they had experienced; thus one cure led to many applications for relief. Does the news spread as rapidly when one is born again—when the heart begins to love the things it hated and to hate the things it loved?

A physician's practice is widened by the testimony of patients whom he restores to health; so Christ's fame must be spread abroad by those who describing their experience can say: "Whereas I was blind, now I see."

CHRIST STILL HEALS

Our churches should be crowded with those who come to find the way of life; enquirers should be brought in multitudes by sympathetic friends who have faith in the power of Christ, for that power is manifested as clearly now as it was nineteen hundred years ago—manifested in transformed lives and proven by the joy that comes with sins forgiven.

The same Christ who walked along the shores of Galilee makes His presence felt in every part of the earth: He is drawing unto Himself an ever increasing multitude.