

BUILDING THE TEMPLE

One of the Twelve Stories of Solomon.

BY THE "HIGHWAY AND BYWAY" PREACHER

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Scripture Authority. — 1 Kings chapters 6, 7 and 8.

SERMONETTE.

"Behold, I purpose to build an house unto the name of the Lord my God, as the Lord spake unto David my father, saying, Thy son, whom I will set upon thy throne in thy room, shall build an house unto my name." The high and noble ambition of David, the father, to find realization in the willing service of Solomon the son.

It is a splendid thing for a father to have visions of noble, exalted service which find their realization in the son. What greater legacy could a father leave than the commission to the discharge of a great mission?

It is a grand thing to find a son whose filial love and obedience holds him steadfast to the working out of the father's will. How better could the son display the true qualities of sonship than in purposing to consummate the great work for which the father had planned?

In this respect Solomon was a striking type of the Christ, who came delighting to do the will of the Father who had sent him. The one plan of his life was the consummation of the supreme plan of salvation, purposed in the heart of God from the beginning.

"There was neither hammer nor ax nor any tool of iron heard in the house, while it was building."—Thus reverently did the building of God's house proceed. All the material was brought to the temple site completely fitted and finished, so that all that was necessary was the placing of stone upon stone, and beam upon beam, each fitting perfectly into its place.

May we not gather from this the inspiring, helpful thought that we who are being builded as living stones into God's temple are being shaped and fashioned and prepared to fit perfectly into the completed structure when all the parts are at last assembled. Here in this life we know not what niche we are to fill, that remains to be revealed. But like the stone in the quarry far below the temple site was hewn and smoothed and grooved ready to find its place at last in the splendid temple which was to be reared, so we, here in the earthly pilgrimage, are receiving that discipline which shall knock off the sharp corners, and smooth the rough surfaces and groove the life with the pattern of God's will so as to at last make it fit into its place in the completed temple.

THE STORY.

HEAPS upon heaps of glittering gold and shining silver. Scarcely a Croesus could have looked upon richer treasure than that which greeted the eyes of King Solomon that morning as he had been led to the secret store house by the prophet Nathan.

"And all this my father David gathered?" questioned Solomon, as with a sort of awed wonder he contem-

Temperance Societies Illegal.

The clergyman recorded complacently the twenty-seventh New Year pledge taking.

"Excellent work. A glorious day," he said. "And yet do you know that there was once a time when all this sort of thing was criminal?"

"No!"

"Yes. It was in India, at the beginning of the English occupation. Medical men believed in those days that a white man could not live in India without drinking. They thought he needed a half-pint of whisky, or its equivalent, eye. And they insisted on his

Temperance societies, total abstinence and the signing of the pledge were things forbidden in India. Such things were thought injurious to the white man's health out there. Hence, to go in for them was to be arrested, fined, imprisoned, banished.

"But to-day in India total abstinence is encouraged, for it has been found that the abstainer stands the heat far better than does the man who drinks."

plated the great piles of yellow and white metal.

"Yea," replied the aged man of God, thoughtfully watching the face of the young king. "It was the one passion of his life that he might gather the treasure which should be reared into a dwelling place for his God."

"He hath surely made my task an easy one," responded Solomon, meditatively.

"Then thou dost accept the commission?" questioned the prophet, almost eagerly.

"Yea, thou knowest that from the first day that God gave me to sit upon the throne of David my father, this thought has been ever before me."

"But it is already the fourth year of thy reign."

"True, but what place had the building of a temple to the God of Israel until the certainty of the kingdom was established in my hands? These have not been idle years."

"Nay," hastily rejoined Nathan, "I meant not to chide thee with neglect, for I know how faithful thou hast been in the discharge of all that God would have thee do, but my old heart longs with an intense longing to see the house of God reared even as David, thy father, planned it should be."

"Then am I glad that I came this morning to speak with thee concerning the beginning of the work," Solomon responded, heartily.

"And I see by thy face that thou hast some good news in connection therewith."

"That I have, thou good Nathan, and thou shalt speedily know that the thing which my father David so earnestly desired is to come to pass. See!" he exclaimed, thrusting into his hands the message which he had received that morning from Hiram, king of Tyre. "See, the timbers of cedar and the timbers of fir are even now being hewn and prepared for their place in the temple."

"Tis well. I knew that Hiram's heart was toward thee in this thing."

"And even now the workers in stone are cutting out the blocks which shall be used in the building."

"Thou art swift indeed, when thou hast once begun the work."

"Yea, the project absorbs my every ambition. What a great privilege that to me should have come the task of building a dwelling place for the great God of Israel. My heart does magnify him this morning. No treasure is so great to be used in his house, and so I rejoice as I see these heaps upon heaps of gold and silver. Verily it shall be an house of gold which shall be reared to my Lord."

"In this, then, it will be no different from the gorgeous temples which are reared to the gods whose images of gold and silver and precious stones are the works of men's hands."

"Thou hast but spoken of the thing which is upon my heart, and about which I have come to talk with thee. The mere wealth of cedar timbers and gold and silver and precious stones cannot provide a suitable dwelling place for the great God of Israel. There is none like unto him among all the gods of the nations round about, and the house which should be built unto his name and for his dwelling place should be different from those reared to the names of these other gods."

"True," responded the old prophet, fervently, entering wholeheartedly into the spirit which evidently possessed the young king.

"But in what respect can we mark the dwelling place of our God with the reverence and devotion which is due his great and exalted name? For the power and majesty of the name of our God has gone out into all the earth, so that whithersoever any of our people go they are known as the chosen people of the one and mighty God."

"True," again fervently responded Nathan, and then added in appreciative tone, as he laid his hand upon the young man's shoulder: "And thou, my son, by thy loyalty to the God of David thy father, and thy care to walk in all his statutes, hast exalted

the name of the Lord whithersoever the fame of thy kingdom hast gone."

A glad light sprang into the face of the young king. These words of the prophet sounded sweet in his ears, and without any thought of personal pride he responded:

"Yea, the Lord hath been much to me, and his blessing hath surely rested upon me and my people. And for this reason would I rear his temple so that it shall be known through all the earth as the temple of the only and true God, the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Israel."

"And shall not this be brought to pass by the spirit of devotion which thou dost bring to the work? For thou must know that the work which we do becomes marked and glorified by the spirit with which it is performed."

"Thou hast uttered just the thought that is in my heart and what could show more clearly the reverence due our holy God than that his temple should be reared in silent dignity and grandeur?"

"I do not catch your meaning, I think."

"It is just this. Each stone and each timber and all the fittings thereto shall be so shapen and fitted that there shall not be sound of hammer or saw or other tool heard upon the temple site. To that lofty rock overlooking the beautiful valley shall be brought all the materials fitted and prepared to grow into a building where our God shall be pleased to dwell in the midst of his people. No building before has been reared in this way, and the people shall know that the temple of the God of Israel is indeed holy."

"It will be marvelous," ejaculated Nathan, earnestly.

"Yea, but possible, for the Spirit of God shall move in the work to the enlightenment of his servant in planning the work and in his workmen who shall prepare all the parts to fit one within the other."

"And thou hast my blessing in all this," ejaculated Nathan. "And there will be none in all Israel who will so earnestly give himself in thought and prayer to this thing than your old friend and father in Israel, Nathan."

"Thank you," responded the king, simply. "And now I shall give myself to the work."

Enterprising Missionary Exposition.

The great missionary exposition held at Swansea, Wales, recently, was attended by more than 20,000 persons and it was held in the vast hall built for the annual musical festival called the "Eisteddfod Pavilion." There are six "courts" formed, representing India, China, Africa, the South Seas, Madagascar and New Guinea. The actual scenes of these countries were admirably reproduced under the direction of missionaries now visiting in or retired to Great Britain, and thousands who before the exhibition had little knowledge of the great results obtained, are now awake to the meaning of the missionary enterprise.

Buddhism Is Dead.

Not many months ago a Buddhist journal wrote the following significant judgment on Buddhism: "Buddhism is dead. There is no advantage in concealing the fact." A prominent Jap said recently: "I don't say that Buddhism is not a religion, but when I ask myself how many modern Buddhists there are that have religious life in their soul I answer 'none.'"

Anti-Alcohol Sentiment Grows.

The Finnish Diet has passed unanimously a bill providing that no alcohol shall hereafter be manufactured in Finland or imported into the country. In Russia, of which Finland is a part, the manufacture of alcohol is a state monopoly. The Finns evidently object to many things from Russia besides the government of the czar.

Against Women Officeholders.

An attempt is being made to oust Mrs. George French and Mrs. Clark Barker as overseers of Portland, Me. A reaction against women officeholders has set in.

Being Educated in America.

Three Chinese girls, wards of the emperor, two of them of royal blood and the first Chinese women sent by the government of that country to America to be educated, have arrived at Wellesley college. They are Miss Faung Yulin Tsao, a woman of 30, who speaks English fluently; Miss Chiche Wang, who is 26 and Miss Ning H-Sia Hu, who is 16.

One Man's Gift to Missions.

A western man has offered to the American board of foreign missions for its work in China, to assume the entire support of a missionary and his wife, including their outfit and traveling expenses. And, if necessary, he will build them a house. This he guarantees at a cost of not less than \$2,200 per year for 30 years.

Lucky Horseshoe.

People who affect not to believe in popular superstitions are recommended to study an episode in which a horseshoe figured at Burton. Horseshoes, of course, are lucky. This particular one was flung through the glass of the window of a railway com-

partment in which were seated seven passengers, but was not injured in the least.—London Globe.

Her Models.

"I saw a woman standing in front of a big display window in a downtown store the other day," says an observer, "with a little pad in her hand sketching something. I afterward learned that she is one of the high-priced dressmakers in town, and that her success is due more than anything else to her ability to sketch off any gown that one of her customers takes a fancy to and reproduces it."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Take This as You Please.

When an Irish county court was about to open its session recently the discovery was made that the court crier was absent. A substitute was provided, and the court had barely taken up a case when a breathless messenger boy dashed in with a telegram signed by the absent crier. The missive was handed to the judge, who read: "Wife's mother died last night. Will not be able to cry to-day"

BOYS AND GIRLS

BUREAU FOR DOLLY.

Boy Handy with Tools Can Make His Sister Happy.

A bureau for the doll's house. Oh, goody, sister will say as you get out your tools to go to work. The article of furniture is shown complete in Fig. 1, while the various parts of which it is composed are illustrated in the other cuts. The main body of this piece of furniture is the box-like part that holds the two drawers. The back, which contains the mirror, is made separate from the latter, and is then united to it, just as is the case in the making of "grown-up" furniture.

Taking up the main part of the bureau first, we find three plain, rectangular pieces, which are to be cut from the thin orange-box wood. One of these pieces is the top. The length of this should be 6 inches and the width 3½ inches. The height of the end pieces should be 4¼ inches and the width 3¼ inches. These pieces

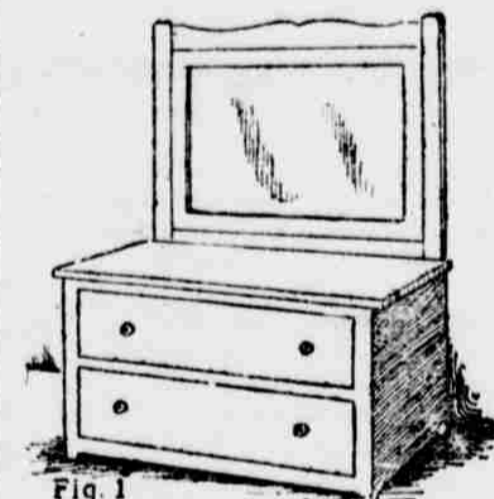


Fig. 1 The Bureau Complete.

should all be cut out with straight edges, and the surfaces should be well rubbed down with sandpaper.

The front is now to be cut out of the thin wood in the manner shown in Fig. 2. If one has a jig saw, he can easily cut this pattern out of the board. If it must be cut out with a knife, care must be taken not to break or split the wood before completing the part, since the wood that is left after cutting out the openings for the two drawers, will not be very strong until it has been firmly united with the end pieces and with the top, by gluing. The back is, of course, sim-

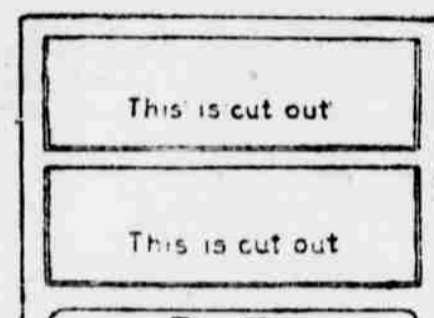


Fig. 2 The Front Detail of Bureau.

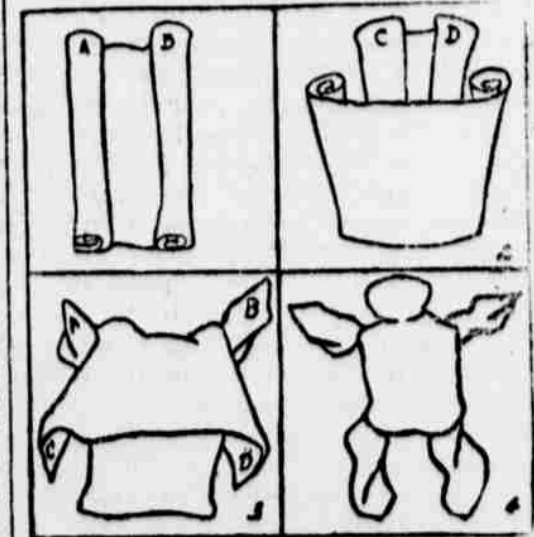
ply a plain bit of the board of the same shape and dimensions as the front, except that it is as much shorter than the front as the thickness of the two ends. This permits the back to be glued inside the ends, so that the back piece does not show at all. The spaces cut out for the two drawers in the front piece can be made smaller than is shown, if preferred, which will make the cutting of this piece without splitting much easier, but the result will not be quite so "grown-up" looking. The length of the front is 6 inches with a height just the same as the end pieces.

Next glue all these parts solidly together, allowing the front to overlap the ends, and the back to fit in between the ends. The top has been

FUN WITH A HANDKERCHIEF.

How It Can Be Folded Into a Funny Rag Baby.

When Dottie was sick mamma gave her one of papa's big linen handker-



chiefs, and this is how she amused herself. See whether you can make a baby like the one in the picture. Fol-

made long enough and on the two ends, which gives a more finished look to the piece of furniture. It is not absolutely necessary to make the drawers "real" ones. The front can be made of a solid piece, and an outline of the two drawers marked on the outer surface, or a thin piece of a darker wood can be cut to the size of the drawer fronts, and glued into place, which will give the exact effect of drawers, when the little wooden knobs are in place. But it will be a great satisfaction to have real drawers in which the doll's clothing can be placed.

To make real drawers cut two pieces of the orange-box wood to fit

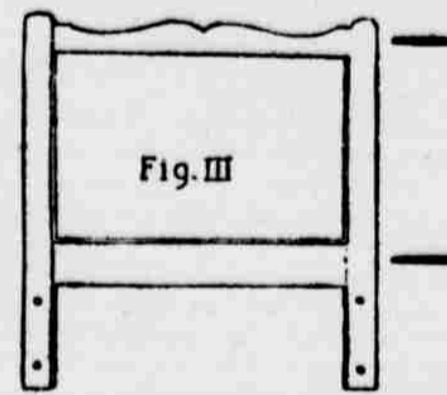


Fig. 3 Back and Mirror Part of Bureau.

the two openings in the front, then make two complete little drawers, that, on the outside, will be just as wide as the length of the two fronts. Then glue these fronts to the little boxes in the manner shown in Fig. 4. A study of this cut will show just how the drawers are made, and attached to the fronts. The backs and fronts of the drawers are made of extra thick wood, so as to make the drawers stiff. They can be put together with brads. The bottom will fit inside the ends and sides and be held in place by brads through the latter. Some little strips of the orange-box wood must be glued to the inside of the ends, and from front to back through the middle of the bureau, for the drawers to run upon. These can be whittled out with a knife and fastened in place with glue. The little knobs can be whittled out of pine wood and inserted in holes made in the fronts with an awl.

The back is a framework of strips of the thin wood, which is shown in

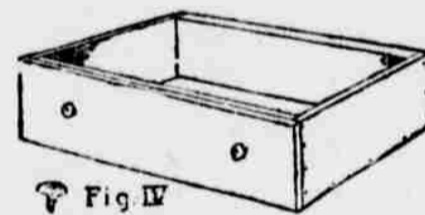


Fig. 4 A Drawer for the Bureau.

Fig. 3. The side pieces should be 5 inches long, and scant one-half inch wide. The cross-pieces are 5 inches long and are secured to the side pieces by wooden pins, inserted as suggested in Fig. 3, at the right side. The lower cross-piece is wide enough to lap a little onto the bureau itself, as can be seen in Fig. 1. Now make a little frame of one-quarter inch strips, that will fit into the opening of this frame shown in Fig. 3. This should have a piece of glass laid upon its back, and a piece of black paper laid behind this, with edges projecting enough to extend over onto the frame where these edges are glued to the wood—the back of the frame. This paper holds the glass in place and, being black, makes a mirror of the glass. This mirror-frame is held in place by pins of wood passing through the side pieces into the middle of the side pieces of the mirror, as shown in Fig. 1. This permits the mirror to be tilted forward, when desired, as in large furniture. A piece of broken window glass can be cut to the right size for a mirror. The mirror and its supporting frame are now fastened to the back of the bureau by glue and wooden pins.—Daniel Greene, in Farm and Home.

School for the Skeptic.

If a man would learn to pray, let him go to sea.—French Proverb.

low directions in illustrations, 1, 2, 3 and get the results in 4.

Squirrel Strippers.

If you wanted to strip a pine cone, you would probably begin at the top and have lots of trouble. The squirrel knows better than that. He does not prick his fingers or pinch his whiskers or gnaw into the solid cone any more than is necessary.

He knows better than to cut off the top and work his way downward or to gnaw into the spiny shields. He whirls it bottom upward in a twinkling, then cuts through the thin and tender bases of the scales, and each stroke tells, laying bare at once a couple of seeds, which he eats. He strips it so easily and rapidly that you cannot tell how he does it till you drive him off and inspect his unfinished work.

A Sweet Humbug.

Dottie—Say, Johnny, a bee hums doesn't he?

Johnny—Correct. Why?

Dottie—Cause if that's so, then a bee must be a humbug.