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faction may be sufficient without any pecuniary return. But Christ was dealing with conditions as they existed then, and the same conditions exist today. The business of the world would be completely deranged if the indolent and the active received equal rewards.

A DIFFERENT TRUTH

In the parable of the laborers the reward was the same regardless of the time when the laborer began his work in the vineyard. Some have criticized the justice of this plan of payment, but that parable was intended to convey a different truth.

It taught a very important lesson, viz., that God's call can be responded to at any time and if the response is honest and sincere, the laborer will not be turned away. Neither will the full reward be denied to him, so far as the future is concerned, but those who come late lose the joy of service—a very serious loss and one which the laborer himself may regret when he sees how easy Christ's yoke is and how light his burden.

In the parable of the pounds the one who made no use of his money lost it—it was transferred to the one who had proven himself most deserving. Moral: Our talents are loaned to us and we have no right to them except as we can make them useful.

It is worth while to dwell for a moment upon the punishment visited upon the slothful servant.

OUR TALENTS DIFFER

Our talents differ. The Declaration of Independence decides that "all men are created equal;" they are equal before the law. No matter whether they come into the world rich or poor; no matter whether they are born into favorable or unfavorable environment; no matter whether they have pure blood or inherit disease—wherever they come into contact with the government or the government comes into contact with them the law can and should make no distinction between them.

But a small part of human life comes under the domain of government; the latter part is lived entirely outside the jurisdiction of human courts. No law can create equality in physical strength, mental ability or in moral worth. The ideal, a thing entirely above and beyond human control, means much more to man than the form of government under which he lives; so much more that one with worthy ideals may be happy in spite of the worst of governments, while one with wrong ideals may be miserable under the best of governments.

A DEFECT OF PURPOSE

In the parable under consideration the defect was evidently a heart defect—a defect of purpose. There is no reason to believe that the man with one talent had lived up to his possibilities. On the contrary, the rebuke was administered because he had not improved his opportunities.

The man who had added five talents was commended, though he had only made half as much as the one who had added ten. And so this man with one talent given and one returned would have been commended if he had done the best he could. The question is not, therefore, whether we can do as much as others, but are we doing all that we can?

God requires of us according to our several abilities and opportunities.

The minister for instance, may be expected to win more souls than the layman because he is better prepared and devotes his whole time to soul-winning. But he is only required to show 100 per cent of zeal; the same percentage is required of the layman.

If, for any reason, it is possible for any laymen to do more than any preachers their responsibility is not fully met unless they do accomplish more.

Then, too, talents are varied. Some

may have a talent for interpreting scriptures. Some may be blessed with means so that they can carry the gospel and the message of God's servants into the dark places of our own country and into foreign fields. But all can live a Christian life, and that is the one unanswerable argument in favor of Christianity.

I once knew an official whose wife handed him a slip of paper as he was about to take the oath of office. When he had opportunity to examine it, he found that it was a quotation from the Bible written in her own hand:

"Matthew 5:16, Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

It was a beautiful act of faith of a beautiful wife. Her husband had been letting his light shine as a Christian in private life, but now that he was entering upon a larger field his example would count for more because seen by a larger number, he must not forget to keep his light shining.

Each one of us should take account of stock often; we should make honest inquiry and weigh our talents and then resolve to use them to the full as opportunity offers in order to hear the commendation, "good and faithful servant," when the time for accounting comes.

THE CRY FOR FAITHFUL MEN

We need not worry about the reward; the world is searching for faithful men; they are needed in every branch of business.

Intelligence is becoming more and more common commodity in our land but trustworthiness is not so plentiful. Those with work to do wait for helpers who can prove worth—opportunities are open in every walk of life, along every line of work.

In God's work, also, the harvest is ripe and the reapers are few. Everywhere there is work to be done, but there is a scarcity of workers.

A pastor solicits assistants and the Sunday school superintendent searches for teachers; all the napkins seem to be in use; they are carefully folded about unused talents.

This lesson will prove one of the most important of the year if it shocks into activity the slothful Christians whom the Master would rebuke if He came suddenly and called to account.

Is He not here now in spirit? Is He not everywhere, calling forth helpers and ready to help them help others?

Let us not spend our time in complaining that our talents are comparatively small. They will (if employed) grow with use and we shall not only be made happy by the approval we shall win, but we shall be happy in the doing of the things that win approval.

COL. BRYAN'S BOOK

A new edition of "In His Image" by Colonel William Jennings Bryan, published by Fleming H. Revell company, is at hand. The first edition had a phenomenal sale and in its new and more attractive form, its circulation and influence will be increased. The pictures are selected with fine taste and appropriateness.

Contrary to popular impression, this book is not confined to a discussion of evolution though it has a chapter on this subject. It contains a great wealth of suggestions for sermons, texts and apt illustrations of scriptural truth. Ministers will find it both interesting and helpful. Parents who are anxious to have their children established in the Christian faith will find this a suitable book to place in their hands, especially those of high school and college age.

There are no doubt people of means, both men and women, who if their attention was called to this

book, would be glad to purchase it in considerable numbers and present it with their good wishes to pastors and others. The rapidly increasing number of thoughtful and influential women would be benefited by reading the book. It may be ordered either from the publisher or through this Board.—Moral Welfare, Pittsburgh.

BOOKS RECEIVED

The gospel of John the Apostle. With Titles and Division of Chapters Emphasized and Underscored and Specially Prepared Helps for Christian Workers. By T. C. Horton. The Biola Book Room, Bible Institute of Los Angeles, 536 South Hope St., Los Angeles, Calif. Single copy 5c; \$4.00 per 100; \$30.00 per 1,000.

A Bird's Eye View of the Old Testament. Showing the Principal Persons, Places, Events, Doctrines enabling the student to place every prominent character and event in their proper period. T. C. Horton. Biola Book Room, 536 South Hope St., Los Angeles, Calif. Price 10 cents.

Personal and Practical Christian Work. T. C. Horton, Superintendent of the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. Biola Book Room, Bible Institute of Los Angeles, 536 South Hope St., Los Angeles, Calif.

That Boy and Girl of Yours. Sociology From Viewpoint of the Family. By Wilbur F. Crafts, Ph. D. Welfare Statistics of 1922. 52 illustrations, \$1.75, postpaid. The Baker & Taylor Co., Selling Agents, 354 Fourth Ave., New York City.

More "Broadsheets" on National Finance. By Sir Oswald Stoll. Published by Wm. J. Roberts at Ten Charing Cross Road, London, England. Two shillings net.

Revelation and Science. A Reply to Higher Critics and Darwinists. By John Leslie, Author of "Nature and Super-Nature," etc. Published by W. Jolly & Sons, Ltd., 38 Bridge Street, Aberdeen, Scotland.

The Church and Darwinism. By John Leslie, Author of "Revelation and Science," etc. Published by W. Jolly & Sons, Ltd., 38 Bridge Street, Aberdeen, Scotland. Price Six pence.

Moonlight Schools. For the Emancipation of Adult Illiterates. By Cora Wilson Stewart. E. P. Dutton & Company, 681 Fifth Ave., New York.

LIQUOR QUESTION IN SWEDEN

The Constitution of Sweden was amended by the Riksdag in 1921, requiring "consultative referendum on any proposed legislation of great national importance." The first question to be submitted to the voters of Sweden under this new law was a referendum on August 27, 1922, to determine whether it was the will of the people that legislation be enacted to prohibit the sale of all beverages containing more than 2 1/4 per cent alcohol. It was agreed by both sides of the campaign that the present Riksdag would not be urged to pass the necessary legislation to make prohibition a fact unless at least 60 per cent of the votes cast in the referendum were for the affirmative, that is, in favor of prohibition. The result of the election was a majority against prohibition, the votes being 920,000 for the negative and 886,000 for the affirmative. This means that any possibility of complete prohibition legislation in Sweden is deferred until 1924, when a new second chamber of the Riksdag will be elected.

It was ordered by the Riksdag, in formulating the rules for the referendum, that the votes of men and women should be balloted separately in order to obtain their respective sentiments. This arrangement was urged by the opponents of the referendum who claimed that the male voters constituted a great majority of the consumers of alcoholic beverage.