

BUILDING THE TEMPLE

One of the Twelve Stories of Solomon.
BY THE "HIGHWAY AND BYWAY" PREACHER

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.

If Solomon was to build a temple of wood and stone for the dwelling place of God, Christ was to build a temple, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. His task was the transforming of the human life into the temple beautiful for the indwelling of the blessed Paraclete, the holy representative of both God the Father and God the Son.

"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 built 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 contemplated the great piles of yellow and white metal.

"Yes," 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.

"Yes, 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 too 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, fervidly, 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 fervidly 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 thereof shall be so shaped 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.

The BANANA IN HAWAII

BY J. E. HIGGINS



CHINESE BANANA GROWING IN LOW LANDS NEAR HONOLULU.

The people of the United States consumed over \$7,000,000 worth of imported bananas in the year 1902. Each year the importations are increasing and at the rate of nearly a million dollars per annum in value. The West India Bulletin states that in the height of the season, upwards of 20 steamers per week leave Jamaica alone laden chiefly with bananas for the markets of the United States. Comment is unnecessary upon what this trade has done for Jamaica, particularly since the decline in the sugar industry. Banana growing is to-day one of the most profitable industries in that island, notwithstanding the fact that tornadoes sometimes destroy whole fields. Further, the indirect influence which this trade has had upon tourist travel can not be easily estimated. The frequent passage of steamers has attracted thousands of people to the West Indies to spend the winter.

Why should not the Hawaiian islands take some more considerable part in this large and increasing industry and commerce? This is a question worthy of careful consideration. This territory possesses soils and climate admirably adapted to the growth of bananas. It is also free from tornadoes, the grower thus avoiding the great losses that come to planters in some other countries. A great market, on the Pacific slope of the main land of our own country, is at Hawaii's doors.

The banana plant is used in an almost infinite number of ways. Nearly every part of it is put to several uses. To describe these in full would require a small publication in itself. Here only brief mention can be made of some of them.

The ripe fruit is known to most northern people simply as an article of dessert—a mere incidental to a well provided table. In tropical countries, however, it is a staple article of food, the native population frequently being quite dependent upon it. It is eaten not only raw but cooked in a great variety of ways. The unripe fruit is also cooked, some varieties being better in this way than when ripened. Some varieties are especially adapted for drying and in favorable climates may be dried by the sun without resort to artificial means. In this form, they may be used as are other dried fruit now so common in the markets.

Banana flour or meal is made by reducing the dried fruit to a powder. Other secondary products that have been made from bananas are preserved ripe fruit, alcohol, vinegar and wine.

The fruit-bud of some varieties is cooked and eaten and is said to be very good. The flowers, fruits and corn or root-stock are said to have medicinal value. The corn is also used as food for stock as is also the part of the fruit stem inside the "trunk." The latter is also used as food by the natives of some tropical countries.

The leaves have been used as fodder for stock and Prof. Higgard states that they contain nearly as much albuminoids as average meadow hay.

The fibre of the leaves of the ordinary bananas has long attracted attention and continues to do so. That of the so-called fibre banana (Musa Textilis), as is well known, is the source of the Manila hemp of commerce and is one of the most valuable fibres in the market.

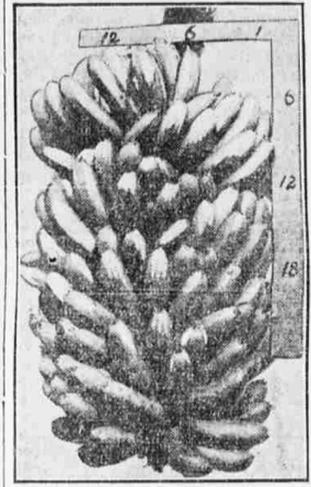
The banana fibre while of fair quality and adapted to some uses is so inferior to that of Musa textilis that the former does not find a ready market except when the latter is scarce and the price very high. It then brings only half the price of Manila hemp. It is inferior both in strength and luster.

The Hawaiian banana trade had its beginning between 40 and 50 years ago. As early as the year 1864, according to Thurston's Hawaiian Annual, there were 121 bunches of bananas exported from these islands. Probably these were the first of the Chinese variety to be shipped from here, since Hillebrand records that this species of Musa was first brought to us from Tahiti about the year 1855. In the year 1863 only 69 bunches were exported, but from this time onward the trade increased slowly until it reached its maximum in the year 1896. In this year the export amounted to 126,413 bunches. The next three years show a considerable decrease in this export. From that date to the present time there are no figures to show the size of the shipments, for since

annexation to the United States the Hawaiian custom house authorities have made no specific classification of bananas sent to the mainland. It is probable, however, that the shipments were light until last year when they increased again. This drop in the Hawaiian trade was no doubt due to the diligence of those interested in the Central American and West Indian fruit trade in extending their trade westward.

The Hawaiian product suffered in the market not because of inferiority, for the Chinese variety is considered superior in flavor to the Jamaican. The latter, however, can be handled more cheaply because of its hardness.

The future development of the banana trade of course cannot be foreseen, but there is no reason to suppose that the limit of capacity has yet been reached. The figures above show a steady increase in consumption in America. In the future more of the bananas from the British West Indies will probably find an outlet in



The Chinese Banana.

the markets of the Mother Country. It is possible that the public taste may become more discriminating, thus giving a stimulus to the trade in the finer varieties.

There seems no good reason why the Hawaiian islands should not now assume a very much larger share in the trade. The soil, the climate and proximity to market are all in their favor.

CITY MEN AS FARMERS.

Find Health and Zest if Nothing More in the Operation.

Great is the debt of gratitude due the man who makes money in trade or professionally and spends it on farming as a fad, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. He is laughed at by the real yeomanry as one to whom the proper purpose and value of ready cash are unknown, and who scatters it on fantastic experiments; but the amateur takes his own course and enjoys it more than his critics imagine. A city's most energetic population is recruited from the farms, and the old merchant or practitioner, as a rule, craves the country when he retires. This passion is strong even among those born in cities, and if they want to amuse themselves with little extravagances on the soil they ought to have sympathetic encouragement. It is seldom that farming is attempted on Monte Cristo principles, but surely it is better to scatter a million on the soil than to see it lapped up by brokers in a single night. Occasionally a wizard in selecting and crossing plants comes along and causes the world to marvel by the new varieties he produces and the old ones he improves. Inventors who have never lived out of a city street constantly add to the machinery that places American agriculture far in the lead. Give the city farmer the glad hand. The money he "fools away" is not barren. He finds health and zest, if nothing more, in the operation.

Modern Hotels Needed in China. Modern hotels are much needed in China. Ordinary establishments at Tsingtau and elsewhere get five to six dollars gold a guest day. The accommodations are inadequate and the fare poor.

HOUSE WORK



Thousands of American women in our homes are daily sacrificing their lives to duty.

In order to keep the home neat and pretty, the children well dressed and tidy, women overdo. A female weakness or displacement is often brought on and they suffer in silence, drifting along from bad to worse, knowing well that they ought to have help to overcome the pains and aches which daily make life a burden. It is to these faithful women that

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comes as a boon and a blessing, as it did to Mrs. F. Ellsworth, of Mayville, N. Y., and to Mrs. W. P. Boyd, of Beaver Falls, Pa., who say: "I was not able to do my own work, owing to the female trouble from which I suffered. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound helped me wonderfully, and I am so well that I can do as big a day's work as I ever did. I wish every sick woman would try it."

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Mrs. Pinkham invites all sick women to write her for advice. She has guided thousands to health. Address, Lynn, Mass.

A LITTLE DOMESTIC JAR.



She—You (shriek) brute, before we married (shriek), (shriek) you said mamma could come and see us as often (shriek) as she pleased. He (meekly)—Yes, dear; but she has ceased to please.

Starch, like everything else, is being constantly improved, the patent Starches put on the market 25 years ago are very different and inferior to those of the present day. In the latest discovery—Defiance Starch—all injurious chemicals are omitted, while the addition of another ingredient, invented by us, gives to the Starch a strength and smoothness never approached by other brands.

Not for Murphy. Mr. Murphy—O! want to buy a pair of gloves. Clerk—Here's something I believe will just suit you. It's a suede glove. Mr. Murphy—Niver, begorra! O! want Irish gloves. Swade gloves, indeed!—Kansas City Times.

OVER NINE MILLION (9,200,000) SOLD THIS YEAR. Sales Lewis' Single Binder cigars for year 1907 more than 9,200,000 Sales for 1906 8,500,000

Gain 700,000 Quality brings the business.

Try it on the Piano. There was a young chap in Des Moines Who ordered a T. home airline. Said the waiter: "Not so, Sir, unless you can show A sufficient amount of des coines."

What you cannot avoid, learn to bear. True happiness is cheap, did we but apply to the right merchant for it—Hythe.

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Irony of Life. "It is sad to realize," said a woman, "that those who love us most usually please us least, while those who please us most don't love us at all."

Uses of Adversity. The gem cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without adversity.—Bishop Hall.

If. Many a man who loves his neighbor as himself would be in serious trouble if his wife knew it.

Uncle Allen. "Speaking of the price of success," mused Uncle Allen Sparks, "I've noticed that 'getting ahead' means, as a general thing, getting a bald head."

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The different Indian tribes in Mexico do not mingle much and seldom intermarry.

Mingle a little gaily with your grave pursuits.—Horace.

When a man doesn't care a rap, he generally gets the sack.

Omaha Directory

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