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W. W. SIBERT.

BROOKLYN TABERNACLE
BIBLE STUDIES

THE POWER OF A WOMAN.

Matthew 14:1-12.—May 22.

"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."—Proverbs 16:32.

JOHAN THE BAPTIST, because of his boldness and courage as a servant and mouth-piece of God, was a thorn in the side of King Herod and his courtiers and the great of that day. Herod and the High Priests and the more prominent people considered John the Baptist and Jesus fanatics. Doubtless they would have made away with them quickly had it not been for their fears of the people. The common people heard the Master gladly and declared that "never man spake like this man;" the same common people believed John to be a prophet.

We will not undertake to say whether John exceeded his commission or not when he reproved the King and Queen. As a rule, however, we believe it to be the wiser plan for Christian ministers to speak forth the Word of God fearlessly and plainly, without attempting personal application—allowing each hearer to apply the message to his own heart. Herodias fortunately represents an uncommon class of women. She was governed by boundless ambition. She married the man who, for a time, seemed in line for promotion to a kingly position. But when the title was given by the Roman Emperor to his brother, Herod Antipas, she inveigled the latter by her charms and, deserting her husband, became Herodias the "Queen." John the Baptist, while fearlessly denouncing sin, felt led to make a personal application of his teachings to King Herod.

Some have assumed that Herod had requested John the Baptist to visit the palace and give a talk on the reforms he advocated, and that, in this connection, the prophet pointed out the wrong of the King's conduct, saying that it was not in harmony with the Divine Law that he was living with his brother Philip's wife. Herodias heard of this and realized that if the King accepted such counsel it would mean that herself and her beautiful daughter, Salome, would become outcasts from the palace and be without a home, as it would be impossible for her to return to her husband, Philip. The power of Herodias over the King led to John's imprisonment. Her next move was to effect his death, for she realized her position insecure so long as he lived. John's fearless speech might yet influence the King.

This ambitious, wicked, artful woman plotted murder, and the King's birthday celebration was her opportunity. She forwarded the arrangements for a great banquet, at which were present the nobles and princes of the land. Wine was in plentiful supply. She well knew that the wine would inflame the passions and relax the moral tone of the company. So she had her beautiful daughter, Salome, specially prepared and attired, and instructed her to perform one of the obscene dances common to the east on such occasions, but not commonly indulged in except by the lower classes, and never by princesses. The occasion was to be a rare one. It was intended to influence the King exactly as it did—to admiration and a boastful offer to the girl of any gift she would ask. The plan succeeded to the letter. The King's words were, "Ask of me a gift, even to the half of my Kingdom"—possibly a suggestion of his willingness to make her his true Queen.

Following her mother's instructions, Salome reported the matter at once, inquiring of the mother what gifts she should request. We can better imagine than describe the surprise of the girl when told by the mother to request "the head of John the Baptist on a platter." We may conceive what a disappointment this would mean; what visions of the beautiful and precious things it would destroy—with what surprise Salome must have asked as to why this gruesome gift should be given. We can imagine the mother hissing to her that the death of John the Baptist was the most necessary thing in the world for them both—that without it any day might see them hurled from conditions of affluence into the abyss of degradation and poverty. We can imagine her saying, "This, Salome, is the priceless gift which you must ask from the King." And the power of the woman over both the King and the daughter was wonderfully exemplified in the result. Salome went gaily again amongst the company of nobles whom she had charmed, and in a loud voice accepted the King's offer of whatever she would choose, even to the half of his Kingdom and stated that accordingly, the gift should be the head of the Prophet on a platter.

The King's conscience was not quite dead. He was grieved; but his pride as well as his subservience to Herodias controlled him. He reasoned that for a King to give his word of honor in the hearing of nobles and princes and then to repudiate it, would be to him a lasting shame. Ah, what an illustration of how "the fear of man bringeth a snare!" What a lesson we read in this!—that a man's first responsibility is to his God and to his conscience, whatever the cost. Tradition has it that Herod was haunted with fear the remainder of his days. It is in line with this that when he heard of Jesus and his mighty works, he expressed the conviction that somehow, the spirit or power of John had passed to Jesus.

Our lesson brings before us two strong and two weak characters. John and Herodias were strong characters, the one for the right and for God, the other for selfish ambition and sinful indulgence of it. The one swayed his nation for their good and prepared the worthy remnant to receive Messiah's message. The other swayed the King and her daughter to infamy, murder and disgrace, and terribly blackened her own character. John's reward lies in the future, when he, as a member of the Ancient-Worthy class, will come forth to a "better resurrection"—to be associated with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the earthly phase of the Millennial Kingdom.

Herodias, surely continuously unhappy, finally persuaded the King to a course which led to his banishment, in which she shared. Her future, according to the Bible, will be a resurrection to shame and lasting contempt. (Daniel 12:2.) Inasmuch as she degraded herself and missed grand opportunities, we may assuredly know that she will come forth in the Millennium greatly handicapped by her improper course in the present life. It may take centuries, even under the favorable conditions of Christ's Kingdom, for such a deeply-dyed character to purge itself of the shame and the lasting contempt and to rise gradually to true nobility and human perfection, or, falling so to do, to die the Second Death.

RACING ON SALEM AVENUE.

THE BEST STREET IN THE CITY HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR RACES.

The Firemen Will Find Conditions There Ideal—Grand Stand to be Erected—Mr. Jenkins Offers Use of His Lot.

From The Daily Item, May 18.

There will be racing on Salem Avenue with the sanction of the city authorities on June 22 and 23. That street, between Liberty and Oakland has been selected as the place for the races during the Firemen's Tournament in June. The start will be at Liberty street and run to the hydrant at northwest corner of Bartlett and Salem. This gives a right hand run after jumping from the wagon, which is greatly desired by the firemen.

The committee is in hopes of getting the vacant lot just back of the hydrant for the grand stand. The

owner of the lot is out of the city, but he will no doubt give his consent for it to be used. Mr. T. B. Jenkins, diagonally across the street has kindly offered his lot for the purpose of erecting the grand stand.

Sumter will have the largest crowd here that week she has had in a long time. Firemen from all over the State are expected to come, and partake of the hospitality of the city, which is famous for its hospitality.

Conditions on Salem Avenue for the races are ideal. That is one of the best clayed stretches of street in the city and is almost a perfect level.

Efforts are being made to have the automobilists in the city get up some additional amusement in the shape of automobile races and the like. It is likely that the autoists will take the matter up and add to the attractions of the week.

Mr. J. Knox Newman is the bondsman for O. H. McKugen in the case for perjury lodged against him by Chief Bradford this week.

PARKER PLEADS FOR FARMERS

COTTON MILL PRESIDENT SPEAKS BEFORE CONVENTION.

In Address at Annual Session of American Cotton Manufacturers Association, in Charlotte, Mr. Parker Urges Mill Men to Aid in Securing to Cotton Planters Higher Prices for Their Staple.

Charlotte, May 17.—The American Cotton Manufacturers' Association representing sixty per cent. of all American spindles, has been asked and urged to join the "Boosters' Club." The appeal was made by Lewis W. Parker, the president of the Association. It was a red hot and eventful speech. Mr. Parker went to the meeting with a printed speech, but he was so impressed with the importance of this appeal that he left the text and made his real speech impromptu. It was a ringing appeal to the manufacturers to join the boosters and help the producer secure high and good prices for raw cotton and a logical and sharp arraignment of the outrageous rules of the New York Cotton Exchange.

Mr. Parker, himself at the head of mills operating over one-third of a million spindles and a close student, insisted that the cotton manufacturers should quit backing up the speculator by decrying the value of raw cotton. The very want of confidence in high cotton on the part of the manufacturers, he urged, bolstered the speculators and helped the "bears" force down the market that was never supplied with real cotton. If the same effort had been used in convincing the world that there was a shortage of cotton as was used in decrying the price, the market would have been maintained and goods would have kept on a parity with cotton.

He, therefore, begged the manufacturers to profit by possible mistakes and join hands with those undertaking to get a fair price for cotton and appreciate changed conditions. The farmer is entitled to a fair and honest return and he begged the representatives of the cotton mills to see that they got it. The world is going to be bare of cotton next September, and next year's crop will hardly supply needs with reasonable reserve, and there is no use to expect low price cotton, and then Mr. Parker frankly showed that his personal experience was that his mills made more money with high priced cotton than with low and declining cotton.

Mr. Parker knows what he is talking about and his intelligent audience was amazed at the array of facts and figures he gave in an off-hand way. Mr. Parker said that the government was to blame for much of the misunderstanding about the crop. It

sent out a report about the ravages of the boll weevil being exaggerated and all sorts of stuff. He rapped the government officials for saying that the normal price of cotton should be from 8 to 10 cents. When the boll weevil fake was sent out, cotton tumbled 1-2 cents and the cloth market went to pieces. Then, early in January, the government sent out a crop estimate and the gamblers, by their manipulation, forced cotton down 3-4 cents on the exchange.

Mr. Parker talks freely and generally in a conversational tone, but when he landed on the methods of the New York Cotton Exchange he rose on his tip-toes and grew eloquent. Mr. Parker made it plain that he appreciated the honest men in the exchange, and that he knew there were honest men in the exchange, but he denounced the methods and went into minute details. The chief trouble, he pointed out, was that the rules are framed for the protection of speculative sellers and are not for the legitimate buyer. The rules are for gambling and not for trade, and he insisted that all he wanted was a fair, square deal for all and rules that were fair and honest, both to buyer and seller.

Mr. Parker carried conviction with his statements, because he knew the rules, and then he related a personal experience. He, with other legitimate buyers, was in New York early this month to get cotton. On May 2 Mr. Parker bought five thousand bales of cotton in New York. It was not speculative cotton, for Mr. Parker wanted the actual cotton for the summer.

Then Mr. Parker related how the New York folks squirmed and twisted to keep him and other buyers from demanding the real cotton. One of the party from Georgia wanted to borrow money on the actual cotton. He did not get it, and was told he had better not mix up with Brown and Scales and a lot of "bulls." The mill man told him that he would get the money at home, and he did so, but he was offered the money if he would leave the cotton in New York. Mr. Parker did not want nor need money. They told him the brokers had been refused insurance on the cotton he had bought, and how he had to get insurance in his own way, and then how the effort was made to dissuade him from taking the real cotton by delaying and playing with the classification and suggesting that the classification may be indefinitely postponed. Mr. Parker and the other Southern buyers have paid for the cotton in New York, and want real cotton, and will not be satisfied with paper cotton.

Mr. Parker's account of the wiles of the New York Exchange made an impression and he argued that the government should see that its rules be made fair and honest to buyer and seller and that the contracts be honest—that's all. If this is not done

then the real cotton manufacturer is at the mercy of the cotton gambler and cotton manufacturing will degenerate into cotton speculation rather than manufacturing. If cotton is to be inflated or depressed in price by gambling processes, then the mill president has no need of knowing the manufacturing end near so much as the speculative branch. Cotton must bear such relation to the actual cotton conditions that any honest man can judge prices.

Mr. Parker said that the manufacturers could do much towards remedying these conditions and he outlined very clearly that cotton should respond to supply and demand, that was honest and fair, but the cotton exchanges had no right to deal unfairly between the buyer and seller, by its rules, and no more convincing evidence of this was needed than to show that spots were selling for three cents a pound more than New York contracts. Mr. Parker's talk was received with great applause.

The cotton mill men are here from all over the country. They are discussing live and practical questions. The recent tare law in South Carolina was freely discussed today. The convention will continue through tomorrow and then the Southern Power Company will take the visitors to its great water power plant, over on the South Carolina side.

A WOMAN BLIND TIGER.

Her Husband is in Jail and She Wants to be There Too It Seems

A warrant was issued Tuesday by Magistrate Harby for Mrs. J. A. Johnson, whose husband is in jail awaiting trial for numerous cases of selling whiskey, charging her with selling spiked cider. It seems that Mrs. Johnson has continued the business since her husband's incarceration. The constable found when he went out to make the arrest that the woman is the mother of numerous small children, the youngest of which is less than two months old. He felt that he could not take her away from her children and warned her to quit the unlawful traffic. Mr. Harby is determined if she does not stop selling whiskey to find a home for her children and lodge her in jail.

Judge Purdy spent two days this week with the commission appointed to select a site for the asylum. He was seen by a reporter this morning, but had nothing to say for publication, except that the commission is agreed that something must be done and done soon to relieve the congested situation. The asylum is too crowded at this time. There are 1,500 people, where only 700 should be accommodated. The commission will be in a position soon to give some relief to the situation.

LAWLER CALLS BRANDEIS LIAR.

Exciting Day in Ballinger-Pinchot Inquiry.

Washington, May 17.—A day filled with interesting episodes reached an exciting climax in the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation late today, when Assistant Attorney General Oscar Lawler, author of the now famous Lawler memorandum, rose wrathfully from the witness seat and accused Attorney Brandeis of uttering a deliberate untruth. Then, after he had been rebuked by several members of the committee, Mr. Lawler withdrew his remark and apologized to the committee.

Mr. Lawler was called to the stand by the "defence" to explain the circumstances under which he had prepared for the President a memorandum containing his opinion on the charges that had been filed by Special Agent Glavis against Secretary Ballinger. Several hours had been consumed in the examination of Frederick M. Kerby, the stenographer in Mr. Ballinger's office, who was discharged yesterday.

Mr. Kerby was called unexpectedly by Chairman Nelson soon after the committee assembled, that he might give sworn testimony to his published statement, which Mr. Brandeis had endeavored to have printed in the Record, together with the President's letter of last Sunday.

Directly contradicting Secretary Ballinger's testimony, Kerby said his former superior knew about the preparation of the memorandum and that he participated in a conference on the subject. Furthermore, he said, Lawler had told Private Secretary Carr, in his presence, that he had left a copy of the memorandum with Mr. Ballinger.

Under cross-examination by Mr. Brandeis, Mr. Lawler was referred to various requests for the document and information bearing on it, which the attorney had sent to Secretary Ballinger through the committee. Mr. Lawler had informed the secretary, in each instance, that he had supplied all the matter bearing on the Glavis charges "in his possession."

Florence Wants Another Train.

Florence, May 17.—The business community and the traveling men of this whole section of the State join in a petition to the railroad to operate a train out of Columbia, leaving about 11 o'clock, and reaching here about 1, leaving here about 2:30 and arriving in Columbia about 5. This train to do local work. The business of this section needs it, for local accommodations are few on the railroad, and the present schedule makes it very expensive to get about. Strong pressure will be brought to bear on the road to give the accommodations asked for.

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