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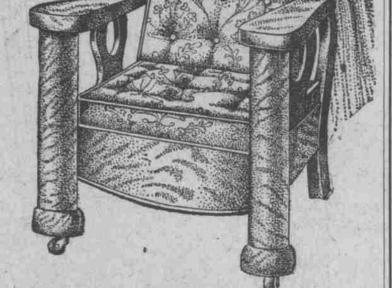
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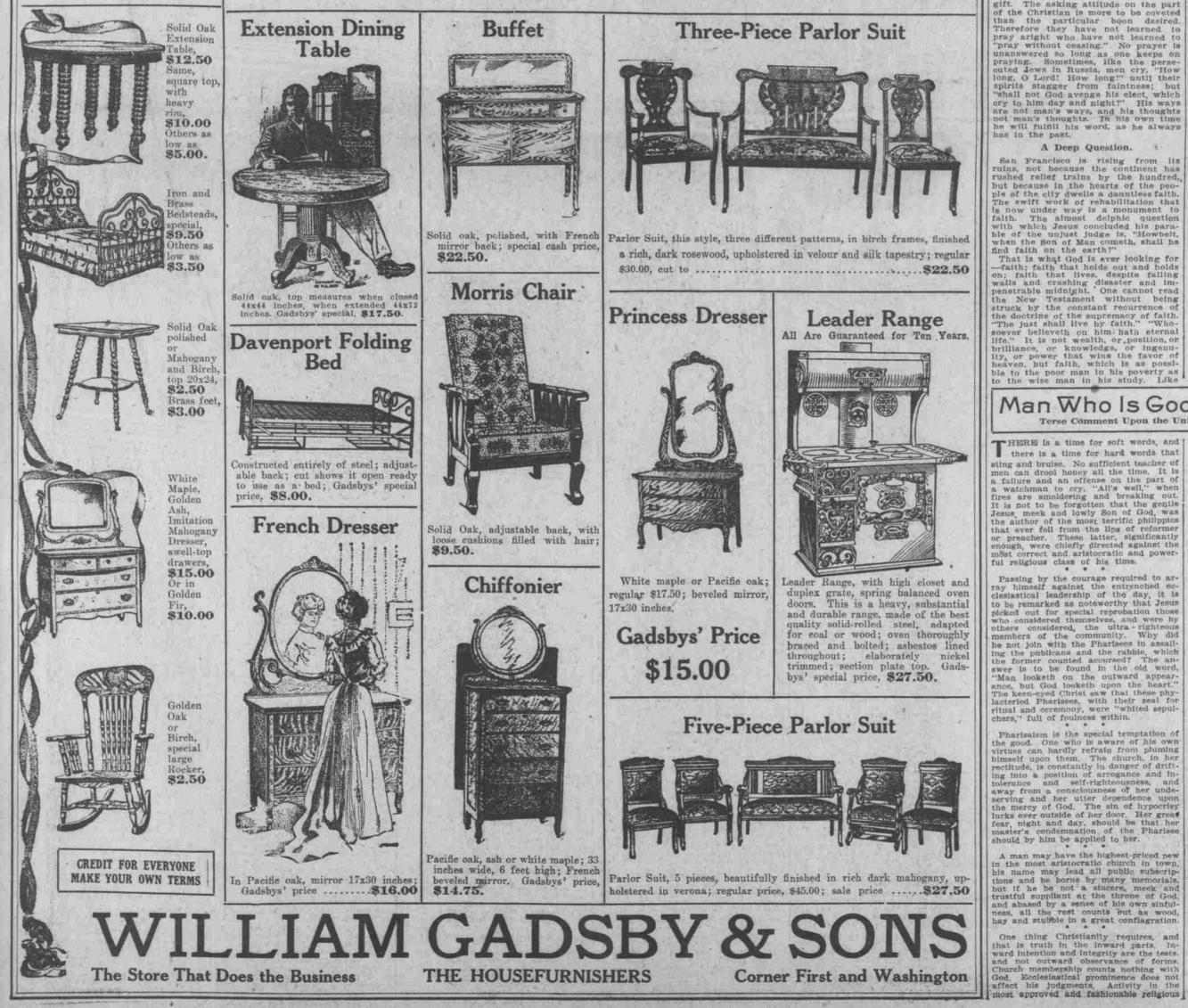
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In the Religious World

The International Sunday School Lesson for Aug. 19, "The Judge, the Pharisee and the Publican."

BY WILLIAM T. HILLIS.

eaontan.

EFORE the race had a written liter-В ature, its history and poetry and philosophy were handed down, by word of mouth, in story form. Still the story survives as the most effective mothod of instruction. The peerless Teacher, of whom it was said "Never man spake like this man," made constant use of stories as vehicles of great truths. of stories as vehicles of great truths. Two of these stories, or parables, are the present Sunday school lesson. One tells of the unjust judge, who would not adjudients a poor widow's case fairly, until by her continual coming she wea-ried him into granting her rights. The other is the familiar story of the proud Pharisee who made a public prayer that only cloaked his own boastfulness, and of the humble publican, who, abashed, could only dry. "God he merciful to me

the humble publican, who, abashed, could only cry, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Both stories teach funda-mental principles of prevailing prayer, "Sticking Everlastingly at It."

Press any figure of speech too far and it becomes useless. This parable of the judge and the widow does not apply in all particulars; for God is not an unjust

at midnight. Perseverance prevails in prayer, as in everything else. The man who seeks the hand of a woman in mar-riage generally wins her eventually, if he wants her eagerly enough to keep on with his suit, despite all re-fusals and obstacles. All harriers at last fail before the resolute soul. Even God will not withhold desirable gifts from the heart that will not let sifts from the heart that will not let go until it secures its boon. This does not mean that the Father in heaven is a grudging giver; far from

heaven is a grudging giver; far from it. As Phillips Brooks said; "Prayer is not, the conquering of God's reluct-ance, but the taking hold of his will-ingness." He wants to bestow his bounty; but he loves the recipient so greatly that he desires for him the spirit that is better than any material gift. The asking attitude on the part of the Christian is more to be coveted than the particular boon desired. Therefore they have not learned to pray aright who have not learned to pray aright who have not learned to praying. Sometimes, like the perse-cuted Jews in Russia, men cry, "How long, O Lord! How long!" until their spirits stagger from faintness; but "shall not God avenge his cleet, which ory to him day and night?" His ways are not man's ways, and his thoughts not man's thoughts. In his own time he will fuitfill his word, as he always has in the past.

A Deep Question.

San Francisco is rising from its ruins, not because the continent has rushed relief trains by the hundred, but because in the hearts of the pro-ple of the city dwells a dauntiess faith. The swift work of rehabilitation that is now under way is a monument to faith. The almost delphic question with which Jesus concluded his para-ble of the cuty tjudge is. "Howbelt, when the some time to some the some of the solution of the sources the sources of need. As the old hymn expressed it: "It at mot complete the sources the sources of the sources o with which Jesus concluded his para-ble of the unjust judge is. "Howbelt, when the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" That is what God is ever looking for -faith; faith that holds out and holds on; faith that lives, despite failing walls and crashing disaster and im-penetrable midnight. One cannot read the New Testament without being struck by the constant recurrence of the doctrine of the supremacy of faith. "The just shall live by faith." "Who-soever believeth on him hath atternal "The just shall live by laith. Who-soever believeth on him hath eternal life." It is not wealth, or position, or brilliance, or knowledge, or ingenu-ity, or power that wins the favor of beaven, but faith, which is as possi-ble to the poor man in his poverty as to the wise man in his study. Like

the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky, the subject is one that expands and rami-fies as one goes into it; a little thought will show that it is faith in man, faith in truth, faith in laws, that makes the world a livable place.

The Man Who Brags of His Religion.

The blunt Man in the White House is not so plain of speech as was the simple Rabbi from Galilee, unprotect-ed by any place of power, who con-fronted the vested interests of his time, and the most powerful classes, with stinging words of scorn and rep-robation. The dominant men in Jewry were the Pharisees, yet they were the people upon whom Jesus offenest poured out the visits of his comdemna-tion. This parable of the Pharises and the publican is simply a terrifo arraignment of the pompous Phari-sees and their pride, as displayed oven in prayer. A reader marvels at Christ's con-stant condemnation of the ultra-relig-The blunt Man in the White House

stant condemnation of the ultra-relig-lous class of his day. He was severe upon them without measure, for the Press any figure of speech too far and it becomes useless. This parable of the judge and the widow does not apply in all particulars; for God is not an unjut judge. Jesus did not mean to compare this Father with the judge in the story, but to contrast him. The parable has one point, and one only: the need of im-portunity in prayer. This was the leash of the incident of the Syro-Phoenician woman. It was the teaching to the dis-ciples that followed immediately after the giving of the Model Prayer, as in need of bread who came to his friend at midnight. Perseverance prevails in prayer, as in everything else. The man who seeks the hand of a woman in mar-riage generally wins her eventually, if he wants her eagerly enough to

to brag to the Lord of his excellencies, he really, technically, spoke the truth. He had the particular merits he claimed for himself. Certainly he has a well-de-veloped formal religion. In this "verily, he had his reward," for his religiosity was to be seen of all men. But he had was to be seen of all men. But he had not the religion which Jehovah desired. It was a new heart he needed. A few It was a new near ne needed. A tow weeks ago a California man met with an automobile accident, after which the sur-geons performed the remarkable feat of taking out his pulsating heart and cleans-ing it of sand and dirt. That was the need of the Pharisee, as, indeed, it is of most of us-a cleansed heart, made new. Physicater is the perf of the Christian

Pharisaism is the peril of the Christian. He is in constant danger of becoming aware of his own goodness, and of taking aware of ms own goodness, and of taking pride therein. He unconsciously begins to compare himself with others, and to feel his superiority-in which case, may God have mercy upon him, and give him a sharp awakening. For nothing is fur-ther removed from the spirit of Jesus than a sense of self-righteousness. They who have advected for the the likewho have advanced farther in the like ness of their Lord best know themselve to be only sinners, saved by grace.

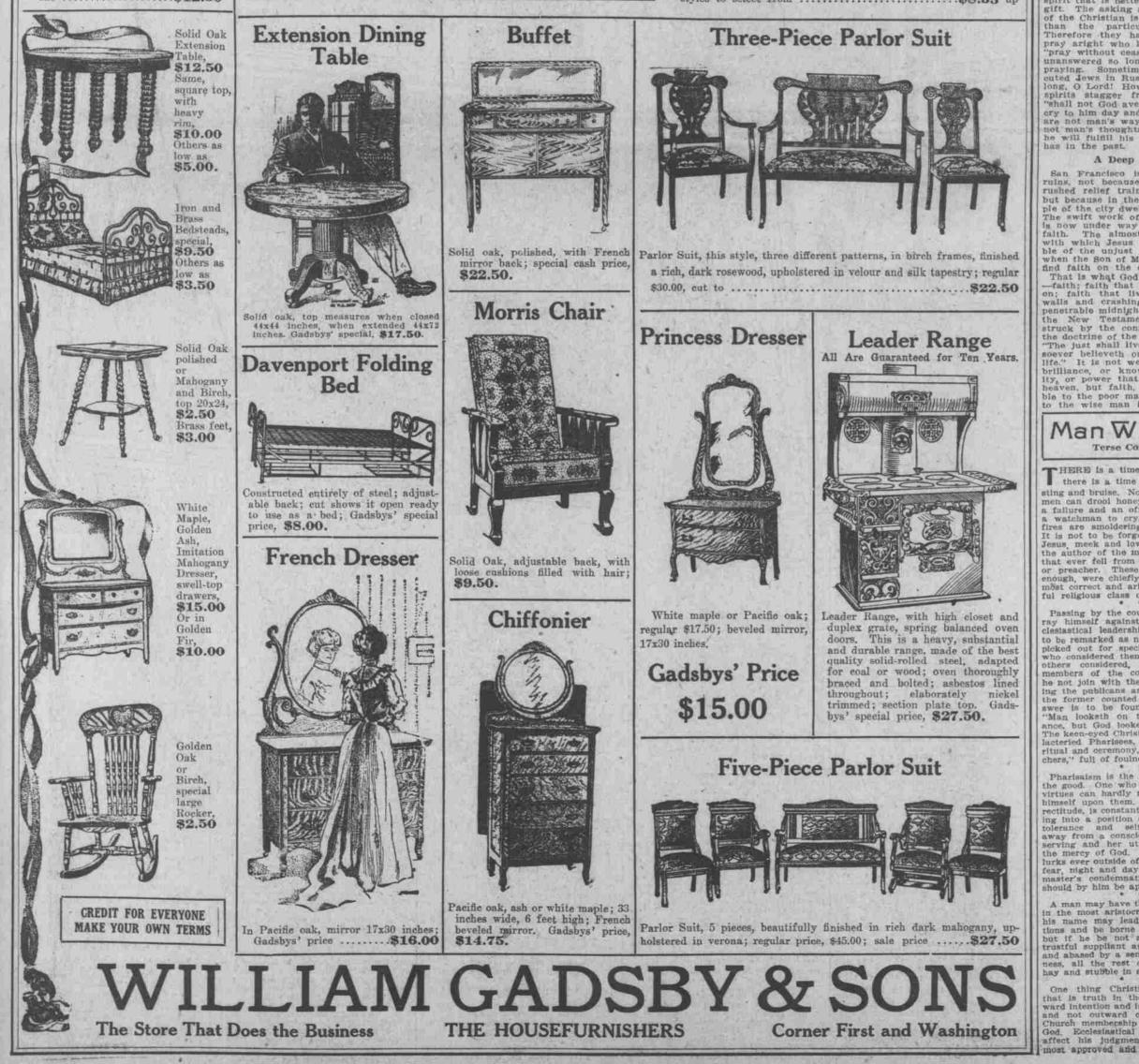
The Poor Publican.

Like the incident of the thief on the cross, this story of the despised taxgath-erer, to whom the Pharises had pointed in contempt, who did not so much as lift his eyes unto heaven, but, smithing his breast in contrition, cried, "God he merci-ful to me a sinner!" has been the com-



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"Let not conscience make you linger, Nor of fitness fondly dream; All the fitness he requireth

All the Biness he required Is to feel your need of him." The divine paradox is that the sincerely self-abused are exaited by God. In the words of the Master, "Everyone that ex-alteth himself shall be humbled, but he that humbleth himself shall be exaited." The swiftest prayer to reach the car of God is the ever-ascending cry, "God be

God is the ever-ascending cry, God be merciful to me a sinner." "Two went to pray: or rather say One went to brag, the other to pray: One stands up close, and treads on high, Where the other dares not send his eye.

Man Who Is Good, and Knows It Terse Comment Upon the Uniform Prayermeeting Topic.

THERE is a time for soft words, and there is a time for hard words that ating and bruise. No sufficient teacher of counts.

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Pride in the heart is worse than outward sin; the latter may spring from Ig-norance or sudden temptation; the for-mer is a spiritual state, a canker at the root of the tree.

The Pharisce is religious for man's eyes; the true Christian lives for "the Father which seeth in secret."

Pharisaism cares more for what men say than for what God thinks.

The Pharisee's religion was not of the heart, but of the habit,

Not posing, but penitence, prevails with God.

Seven-Sentence Sermons.

Nature is but a name for an effect whose cause is God.-Cowper. It is to live twice, when you can enjoy

the recollection of your former life .- Martin1

No man can be brave who considers pain the chief evil of life.-The Heroine of the Strait.

The problem of life is not to make life easier, but to make men stronger.-David Starr Jordan.

Character must stand behind and back up everything-the sermon, the poem, the pleture. None of them is worth a straw without it,-J. G. Holland.

without it.-J. G. Holland. Only from the solid ground of some clear creed have men done good, strong work in the world; only out of certainty comes power.-Phillips Brown. A man can get nothing good out of his soul when it is the slave of the body, and nothing good out of the body unless it is the servant of the soul.-Charles F. Dee-vars D. D. vers, D. D.

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