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Sunday School Lesson
S. S. Lesson for January 2, 1921

Matt. 18:1-14.—Golden Text.—
Whoever therefore shall humble
himself as this little child, the
same is the greatest in the King-
dom of Heaven.—Matt 18:4.

Lady Joan Mulholland

O Thou who didst love and bless
the little children, to whom they
came in confidence, Thou who
didst choose them as an example
for Thy disciples, remember in Thy
mercy our own children and the
children of our own neighborhood.
Keep us, by the help of the Holy
Spirit, from in any wise putting a
stumbling block in the way of any
of them. And grant that they may
freely be led to follow thee.—Con-
gregationalist.

The disciples had made very
sure that the only question con-
cerning them was how high up in
it they were each to be. Christ's
answer is like a dash of cold water
to that confidence. It is, in effect,
"Greatest in the Kingdom! Make
sure that you go in at all, first;
which you will never do, so long as
you keep your present ambitious
mind." Verse 3 lays down the
conditions of entrance into the
Kingdom, from which necessarily
follows the condition of supremacy
in it. What a child is naturally
and without effort or merit, by
reason of age and position, we
must become, if we are to pass the
narrow portal which admits into
the large room. That "becoming" is
impossible without a revolution in
us. "Be converted" is corrected
in the Revised Version, into "turn"
and rightly; for there is in the
word a distinct reference to the
word of the disciples, displayed
in it. What effort or merit, or
overshadowed it, they could not
get inside, to say nothing of pro-
motion to dignities. Their very
question condemned them as in-
capable of entrance. So there must
be a radical change, not unaccom-
panied of course, with repentance
but mainly consisting in the sub-
stitution of the child's temper for
theirs. What is that temper, thus
"turned"? We are not to see here
either the entirely modern and
shallow sentimentality of looking
at childhood, in which popular
writers indulge, nor the doctrine of
its innocence. It is not Christ's
teaching, either that children are
innocent or that men enter the
Kingdom by making themselves so.
But the child is, by its very pos-
ition, lowly and modest, and makes
no claims, and lives by instinctive
modesty, and does not care
about honors, and has all these
virtues, which in us are virtues
and is not puffed up by possessing
them. That is the ideal which is
realized more generally in the
child than analogous ideals are in
mature manhood. Such simplicity,
modesty, humility, must be ours.
We must be made small; ere we
can enter that door. And as is
the requirement for entrance, so
is for abiding.

The antithesis of "receiving" is
"causing to stumble," by which
is meant giving occasion for moral
failure. That would be done by con-
tents about pre-eminence by at-
mosphere of carnality and self-
ishness in which the disciples were
moving, as their question showed
would stifle the tender life of any
lowly believer who found himself
in it; and they were not only im-
pinging themselves, but becoming
stumbling blocks to others by their
ambition. How much of the present
life of average Christians is con-
demned on the same ground!
It is a good test to our Christian
character to ask—would it help or
hinder a lowly believer to live be-
side us? How many professing
Christians are really, though un-
consciously, doing their utmost to
pull down their more Christlike
brethren to their own low level.
The worldliness and selfish ambi-
tions of the Church are responsible
for the stumbling of many who
would else have been of Christ's
little ones. But perhaps, we are
rather to think of deliberate and
consciously laid stumbling blocks.
Knowing to try to make a good
man fall, or to stain a more than
usually pure Christian character.
It surely is the very height of malice
and pre-supposition, such a delib-
erated but of goodness and of Christ
that no fate can be worse than the
possession of such a temper. To be
flung into the sea, like a dog
with a stone around his neck, would
be better for a man than to live
to do such a thing.

Verses 7-9.—Hand, foot and eye
make a climber as the eye is dearer
and its plucking out a more painful
and disabling scourge. There are
stringent principles in these vivid
words. Lawful things may be oc-
casions of sin. Taste, occupations,
the culture of some bodily or
mental attitude, study, or society
all perfectly innocent in them-
selves, and perfectly permissible
for others who are not hurt by
them, may damage our religious
character. We may be unable to
keep them a hour, and they
may be drawing off our interest
and work from Christ's service. If
there is but one thing to do,
put your hand on the block and

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LETTER OF THANKS

The following letter has been for-
warded to Mr. Benjamin McLeod,
of Mount Hope, in receipt of a chart
presented to Dalmeny, L. O. L. on
the evening of Nov. 22nd.

Mount Hope, Nov 24th, 1920

Mr. Benjamin McLeod,
Dear Sir and Brother:—I am re-
quested by the officers and mem-
bers of Dalmeny, L. O. L., No. 1128
to extend to you our most fervent
thanks for the beautiful, artistic
and handsomely framed Royal Arch
Chart, which you through your
kindness of heart and generosity of
spirit have presented to the lodge.
So dear brother I beg of you to ac-
cept our most gracious thanks and
heartfelt gratitude for your hand-
some gift, which I assure you is
greatly appreciated and highly
prized by all the officers and mem-
bers of the lodge.

I also extend to you a pressing
invitation to visit our lodge any
time you are in the vicinity of our
lodge room, where I can assure
you that you will receive a cordial
and hearty welcome from all.

Again begging you to accept our
thanks for your valuable gift.

I remain, fraternally yours
JOHN W. McPHEE,
Recording Secretary.

**IRISHTOWN SCHOOL
EXAMINATION**

The yearly examination of
the Irishtown school was held on
Wednesday evening at the school
house there. About one hundred
and fifty interested persons were
present, and many had to be sat-
isfied with standing room outside.
All the pupils enrolled were present
and, at first sight, one concluded
that the teacher, Miss Mildred Har-
rington, had the situation well in
hand. The school house was tastily
and appropriately decorated to
adorn the occasion. Mr. John A.
Whelan, capably presided and kept
the occasion constantly in motion.
The examination was conducted by
the teacher, Miss Mildred Har-
rington, assisted by Mr. Wm. Proffit,
Sec'y Trustees, James L. Saunders
teacher, Spring Valley. The pup-
ils were examined in all the sub-
jects taught, and the questions sub-
mitted were cogent and searching

and displayed in an eminent de-
gree, how well instructed the pup-
ils had been and where details were
required, the pupils were always
ready to supply.

The examination concluded, a
programme was submitted that was
read by Cecl

Adams which was accompanied by
a substantial gift. The teacher
thanking the people for their kind
and encouraging remarks, which
the occasion were made by Messrs
all showed how helpful to school
work are the support and stimulus
of the ratepayers and displaying
the sincere gratitude for the thou-
sands of songs, readings and short
glutiful gift.

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all of its features.

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Sunday) humorous cartoon. No other artist can equal
him in producing smiles.

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**Special
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from a distance, I am extending the date of the
special sale, also the free Edison Gramophone,
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