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JUDICIOUS

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COM-MENTS FOR OCTOBER 14.

Subject: The Ten Virgins, Matt. Two. 1-13-Golden Text, Mat. xxv., 13-Topic: .Guarding Against False Profession.

The waiting virgins (vs. 1-5). "Then." At the coming of the Lord (Matt. 24:42-44). "The kingdom of heaven." The gospel kingdom, or the state of things in the visible church, particularly the character, conduct and condition of the subjects of that kingdom. "Be likened." The parable of the ten virgins is based upon the marriage customs of the East, to which many lusions occur in Scripture.

virgins." Ten as a symbol represents completeness, and the virgins represent the purity of the Christian church. The ten virgins signify not merely a part of the church, but the whole of it. "Took their lamps." Each had a lamp, "which signifies individuality, preparation, independence of others." The lamp signifies the outward profession of religion. "The bridegroom." The bridegroom means the Lord Jesus Christ; and all who are making preparation for His coming may be said to be going forth to meet Him.

.. "Were wise." These left nothing to be attended to at the last moment; they were prudent and fully prepared. "Foolish." Careless, negligent. The visible church of Christ on earth consists of both true and false, members spiritually dead and others spiritually alive. 3. "Took their lamps." We must carefully note the contrast: In the case of the foolish the taking of their lamps is everything, but in the case of the wise it is the taking of oil in their vessels. The foolish are thus represented as being vain and thoughtless, looking only at appearances and only in haste going forth through excited feelings. "Took no oil with them." The oil represents the grace or love of God in the heart. These

virgins represent a class of so-called Christians who make a profession of religion, but who lack the faith which worketh by love. "Took oil." They carried a vessel with oil to pour into the lamp when necessary. The decisive test was not the lamp, but the oil—the Spirit, the spiritual life; and yet they must have a lamp to hold the oil. Let us be careful not to despise the forms of religion. 5. "Tarried."

The Bridegroom far away is Christ, degree, of Washington, D. C., Im- from "the far country"—the home above. "Slumbered and slept." The time passed by the virgins in sleep degree, of 311 S. Camac street, Phila- during which time the true Christian delphia, Pa., Imperial Assistant Rab- 1 is fully prepared for the coming of the heavenly Bridegroom at any hour II. The coming of the bridegroom

. "At midnight." The Jewish weddings were generally celebrated in the night; yet they usually began at the degree, of Baltimore, Md., Imperial case there was a more than ordinary delay. This was the most unfit time for the virgins to obtain the oil they needed. "The bridegroom cometh" Though Christ tarry long He will come at last. "Go ye out to meet Him." Here is a summons. What does this mean? It means, go forth to receive the recompense of your doings. 7. "All—arose." There is something terrible in the security of

the foolish; they are not yet aware that their fate is already sealed "Trimmed." The lamps were still burning, but they needed trimming and replenishing. "Give us." They now begin to

realize their serious lack. "Lamps are going out" (R. V.) This shows that their lamps had been lighted. Many who once have had hearts filled with faith and love have allowed a worldly spirit to take possession of them, and now they are entirely backslidden from God; their "lamps" have gone out. 9. "Be not der any assistance. "Go ye." could tell them what to do, but it! was now too late. "To them They must have oil of their own. Nothing short of personal holiness is

The shutting of the door (vs. . "While they went to buy." What a dismal thing it is not to discover the emptiness of one's heart of all that is good, until it is too late to be saved. God only knows how many are thus deceived. "They that were ready." Those who were prepared; godliness, but who possessed true holiness. The death bed is a poor! riage feast" (R. V.) To be eternally glorified; to be in His immediate presence. "Door was shut." There comes a period after which change is impossible. 11. "Open to us." Earnest prayer, when used in time, may do much good, but it appears from time when prayer even to Jesus may

be too late! an estrangement of heart that separates them from the Saviour. Keep awake; be , watch with the utmost dilitime is uncertain; we must always be ready and waiting for His coming then we shall not be taken by "Wherein," etc. Omitted in the Revised Version.

good for common people is born of

What a Bushel of Corn Yields. A Kentucky newspaper gives the collowing analysis of the product of a bushel of corn: The distiller gets! four gallons of whisky, which retails , at \$16.80, the farmer gets twentyfive cents, the United States Government gets \$4.40, the railroad company gets \$1, the manufacturer gets ! \$4, the drayman gets fifteen cents, i the retailer gets \$7, the consumer gets drunk, the wife gets hungry, the t children get rags, the politician gets !



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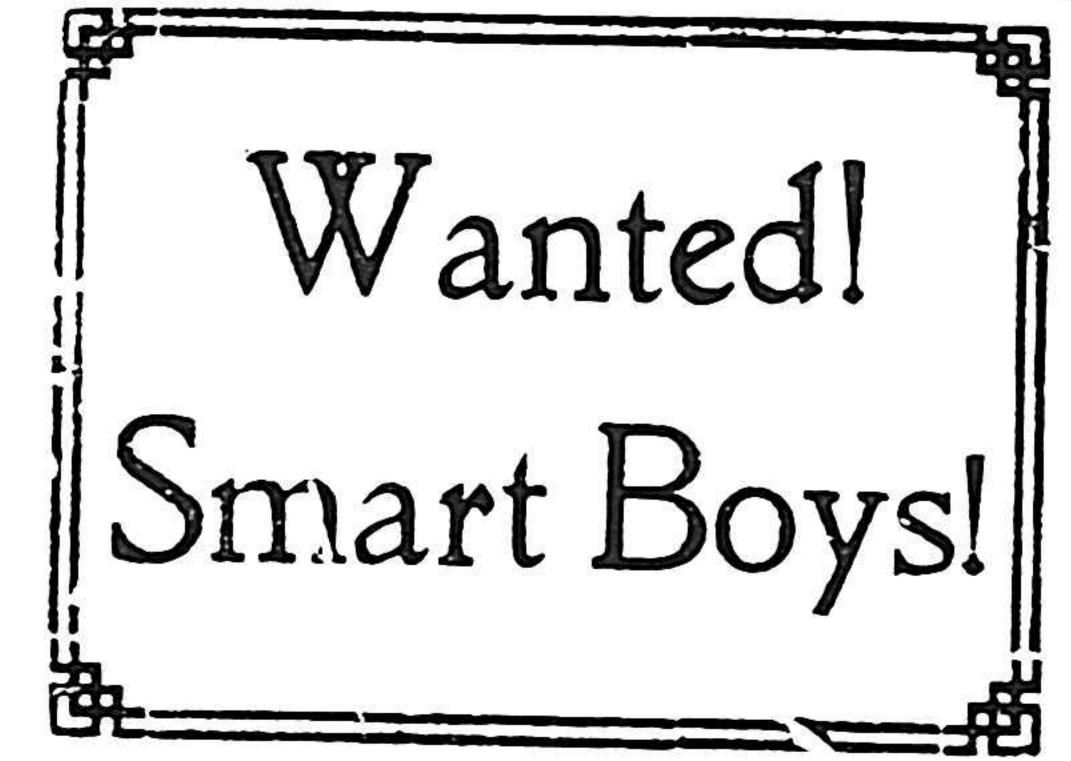
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Loss And Gain.

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## Verdict for Dr. Pierce

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AGAINST THE Ladies' Home Journal.

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