

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON VII.—FEB. 18, 1912.

The Ministry of John the Baptist.— Luke 3: 1-17.

Commentary.—I. John's coming (vs. 16). 1. In the fifteenth year... the two years during which he reigned...

2. Country about Jordan—John began his ministry in the region where he had spent much of his life. His preaching, however, attracted people to him from distant villages and cities. See Mark 1: 5.

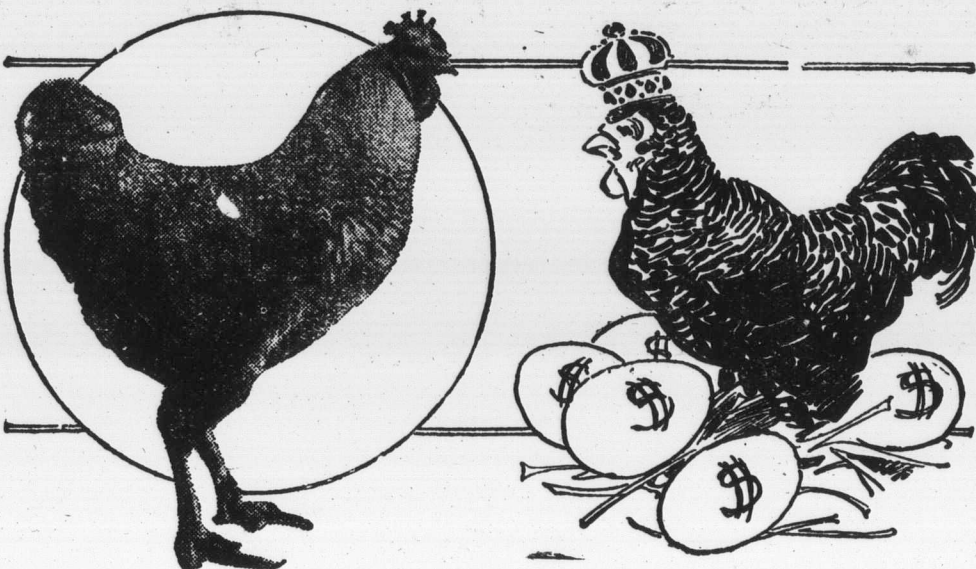
3. As it is written—See Isa. 40:3. The voice—Attention is called to the message rather than to the messenger. Prepare ye the way of the Lord—John's ministry was to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah.

4. What shall we do?—The fact that John's hearers asked him this question shows that they were strongly moved by his preaching, and desired to "bring forth fruits worthy of repentance."

5. Expectation—The Messiah was a prevalent expectation that the remarkable character of John's preaching led his hearers to wonder whether he was not really the Christ.

6. Question—Anticipating their question, One might say that Christ's coming was so far exalted above John that he was not worthy to perform for him the duties devolving upon the most menial servant.

The Billion-Dollar Hen



She'll be with us soon, says poultry expert; clucking pullet is already queen of the farm.

What is this chicken raising business; its extent and possibilities? What kind of a poultry plant is a paying one? How does Queen America Hen compare with King Cotton and King Corn?

Twenty-one years ago the total value of American poultry products was only \$290,000,000, and that was considered a splendid showing. For 10 years the business grew slowly; it was then regarded as a "pin-money" occupation for women and children.

In 1900 the industry started upward with leaps and bounds, keeping up such a fast pace that today only corn, hay and cotton surpass it in value of all farm products.

The year of the greatest growth in value of the poultry products was 1907, when a jump was made from \$500,000,000 to \$600,000,000. Again in 1908 the gain was nearly \$100,000,000, and the three following years have showed gains of over half the amount.

annually. The day is not far distant when the poultry industry will be the billion-dollar industry, the leader among all the live stock and grain growing industries of the country.

One mighty factor has been the awakening of farmers to the possibilities of intelligent poultry culture. Until within recent years the average farmer paid very little attention to his poultry and his flock was made up of a heterogeneous conglomeration of non-descript fowls, inbred, emaciated, non-productive birds that, instead of paying a profit, were an absolute expense.

Instead of having warm quarters in which to roost, they were compelled to roost in the trees, on the fence, in the pig pen or the cow stable, or wherever they could find it, and to eat snow when they were thirsty in the winter time. They were exposed to all kinds of weather and stood around on one foot half the time, hungry and cold and not caring whether they lived or died.

ed to the possibilities of poultry culture and is giving this branch of his business the same care and attention that he gives to other branches. He has discovered that instead of being a nuisance, as he formerly considered the chickens, they are a source of profit—in fact, the most profitable live stock on the farm when properly taken care of.

He has also learned that there is something in blood and breeding as well as in care and feeding; that there is all the difference in the world between the non-descript, emaciated hen and the pure-bred, vigorous hen that has by careful breeding been perfected as an egg producer and the producer of strong, vigorous progeny.

The incubator, or modern artificial hatcher, has played a most important part in the development of the poultry industry. There are poultry farms in this country where from 50,000 to 100,000 chicks are hatched annually. The town lot poultryman and farmer who also using the artificial hatcher and brooders with the best of success.

MAGNIFIC BAKING POWDER THE STANDARD AND FAVORITE BRAND. MADE IN CANADA. CONTAINS NO ALUM.

have an idea both will have to give in a little. I wonder if those who complain so about the boys and girls having the farm ever tried the experiment of making the farm home pleasant, profitable and agreeable to the young folks.

My grandfater used to make axe and hammer handles that would last for years and years. I was wishing for one of his make the other day, after breaking a 25 cent handle that had about as much strength to it as if made of so much brown paper.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS. FARMERS' MARKET. Dressed hogs, good to choice, \$3.50 to \$3.60. Eggs, new-laid, dozen, 0.45 to 0.50.

SUGAR MARKET. Sugars are quoted in Toronto, in bags, net cwt., as follows: Extra granulated, St. Lawrence, \$5.55.

LIVE STOCK. Toronto despatch: The market at the Western Cattle Market is again dragging this morning.

OTHER MARKETS. DELHI GRAIN MARKET. Delhi—Wheat—No. 1 hard, \$1.08 1/4; No. 1 northern, \$1.08 1/8.

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET. Minneapolis—Close—Wheat—May, \$1.07 to \$1.07 1/8.

WINDSOR GRAIN MARKET. Windsor—With very little demand the prices quoted on this market slightly.

WASHINGTON GRAIN MARKET. Washington—Wheat—No. 1 hard, \$1.07 to \$1.07 1/8.

ST. LOUIS GRAIN MARKET. St. Louis—Wheat—No. 1 hard, \$1.07 to \$1.07 1/8.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK. Cattle—Receipts estimated at 7,000. Market—Steady to strong.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK. Hogs—Receipts estimated at 15,000. Market—Slow.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK. Sheep—Receipts estimated at 15,000. Market—Slow.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK. Veals—Receipts 100 active and steady, \$5.50 to \$10.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK. Hogs—Receipts, 2,400 head active and steady to 5c lower, heavy and mixed, \$6.50 to \$6.55.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK. Buffalo—East Buffalo despatch—Cattle—Receipts 150, slow and easy.

Receipts are still heavy, although lighter than Wednesday, and 801 cars in sight for inspection.

Cash grain: Wheat—No. 1 northern, \$1.04 1/4; No. 2, do., \$1.04 1/8.

Montreal—At the Canadian Pacific Live Stock Market the receipts of live stock for the week ending February 3rd were 1,159 cattle, 255 sheep and lambs, 1,260 hogs and 360 calves.

Cattle—Receipts estimated at 7,000. Market—Steady to strong. Beves, choice, \$4.80 to \$4.85.

Hogs—Receipts estimated at 15,000. Market—Slow. Light, \$5.85 to \$5.90.

Sheep—Receipts estimated at 15,000. Market—Slow. Native, \$3.15 to \$3.20.

Veals—Receipts 100 active and steady, \$5.50 to \$10. Hogs—Receipts, 2,400 head active and steady to 5c lower.

Buffalo—East Buffalo despatch—Cattle—Receipts 150, slow and easy. Veals—Receipts 100 active and steady, \$5.50 to \$10.

Canada to Put Up the Bars Against This Pest. Washington, Feb. 12.—Canada is about to put up the bars against potatoes from the United States.

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For this reason the Department of Agriculture is particularly anxious to have Congress pass at its next session a bill already introduced which would regulate the importation of nursery stock and establish a strict quarantine against plant diseases and insect pests.

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indled become a barren wilderness when "the voice of one crying" was unexpectedly heard.

11. John's message (vs. 7-14). 7. Generation of vipers—"Offspring of vipers." R. V. This strong expression was afterward used by our Lord (Matt. 23:33) to set forth the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, who covered selfishness and pride with a mantle of religion.

12. Publicans—Tax-gatherers. They were, as a class, extortionate and unjust, taking every possible advantage in order to enrich them, yet they were brought under conviction by John's preaching. 13. Exact no more, etc.—Tax-gatherers were accustomed to levy and collect as heavy a tax as the people could be made to pay, and to keep for themselves all in excess of what they were obliged to pay over to their superior officers.

14. Christ's coming announced (vs. 15-17). 15. Expectation—The Messiah was a prevalent expectation that the remarkable character of John's preaching led his hearers to wonder whether he was not really the Christ. 16. Question—Anticipating their question, One might say that Christ's coming was so far exalted above John that he was not worthy to perform for him the duties devolving upon the most menial servant.

17. Preparation—The Messiah was a prevalent expectation that the remarkable character of John's preaching led his hearers to wonder whether he was not really the Christ. 18. Preparation—The Messiah was a prevalent expectation that the remarkable character of John's preaching led his hearers to wonder whether he was not really the Christ.

BROCK'S Bird Treat

is a tempting bird dainty that has a wonderful tonic effect on the caged songster. From the tips of his plumage to the heart of his song it gives brilliant, sparkling vivacity.

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work and his Master. Nothing but injury to others, damage to the cause of God, and sorrow to himself could have come from an overestimate of himself or his position.

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BLACK KNIGHT STOVE POLISH. It used to be that the dirtiest and hardest work a woman had to do about the house was polishing the stoves.

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