

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON VIII.—FEB. 23, 1915.

Abram and Lot.—Gen. 13: 1-18.

COMMENTARY.—I. Abram's return from Egypt (vs. 1-4). 1. Abram went out of Egypt—From Gen. 12: 20 it appears that Pharaoh sent him out of his land. The word "up" is consistent with the facts of geography. Egypt is a low-lying country, and Canaan is elevated. Lot—Abram's nephew whom he brought with him from Haran, and over whom he exercised special care. Into the south—Abram and his retinue made their journey from Egypt in a north-westerly direction and arrived in the south part of Canaan. 2. Rich—His wealth had greatly increased while he was in Egypt. (Gen. 12: 16). His wealth consisted in flocks and herds and in the precious metals. Cattle—A term denoting sheep, oxen and other domestic animals. It is likely that he acquired gold and silver in exchange for his surplus cattle. 3. Journeys—A journey was the distance passed over between two successive stopping places. The word means a pulling up—referring to the pulling of tent-pins in breaking camp, which is a common event in the nomadic, or wandering life of Beth-el. Abram had been at Beth-el before this (Gen. 12: 8), and had there built an altar to the Lord, as he had also built one at Shechem, his first stopping place in Canaan. The place is twelve miles north of the site of Jerusalem. 4. The altar—Abram was a missionary in the true sense of the word. He erected an altar where he journeyed and worshipped the Lord. Luther says Abram preached and taught his family and Canaanite neighbors the true religion. Called on the name of the Lord—His worship was not merely in form, but was spiritual and acceptable. He had reason for self-humiliation and for thanksgiving in view of his attitude toward God and God's mercies to him. 5. Separation of Abram and Lot (vs. 5-7). 5. Lot also had flocks, and herds, and asses. The Lord had granted to Lot a large measure of prosperity. He was indeed for much of this to the forethought and influence of Abram who had generously associated him with himself. Abram must also have been a blessing to him spiritually. 6. Their substance was great—From the fact that soon after this Abram was able to gather from his own attendants more than three hundred fighting men, it is supposed that his whole retinue consisted of Lot and his servants, must have numbered a thousand or more. Their flocks and herds would require a wide range for pasturage, and a wide range, no doubt, because of the effects of the drought from which the land had just suffered. Since the land was already occupied, Abram and Lot could not occupy at will every part of the country that they might desire. 7. There was a strife—While Abram and Lot might themselves be on friendly terms, Lot, as to their respective servants would be entrusted the care of the flocks and herds, and each would naturally seek the most favorable pastures for his master's animals. Not only must pasture be secured, but the flocks and herds must be supplied with water, and disputes would be likely to arise on this account between the two groups of servants. The Canaanite and the Perizzite dwelled then in the land. For this reason the territory of Abram and Lot was limited. The Canaanites, "lowlanders," were descended from Canaan, the fourth son of Ham, and the Perizzites, "highlanders," whose origin is obscure, occupied the elevated regions. 8. Let there be no strife—Abram was the peacemaker in this affair. It cost him something to act successfully in this capacity, yet he was prepared to make the necessary sacrifice. Family strife or religious strife is a most distressing thing, and there are always Canaanites and Perizzites about to observe it and cast a reproach upon those engaged in it. We be brethren—they were not brothers in the sense in which we use the term, but were closely related, and were brethren in religion and worship. There was abundant reason why they should love and act as brethren. 9. Is not the whole land before thee—in this expression Abram gives Lot to understand that he grants him the privilege of choosing the part of the land that he desires. Separate thyself from me—Abram made this suggestion solely in the interests of peace, not because he had any ill feeling toward his nephew. 10. Plain of Jordan—One of the remarkable depressions of the world is that of the Dead Sea and the plains at each end. Before the Lord destroyed—Conditions in this valley were greatly changed by the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. The garden of the Lord—The garden of Eden. Like the land of Egypt—the valley of the Nile, from its being annually overflowed, was the richest land then known. As thou comest unto Zoar—This clause follows grammatically with the plain of the Jordan. 11. Then Lot chose—the plain of Jordan—The reasonable and civil thing for Lot would have been to say to Abram, as soon as the privilege of choosing was granted, that he, Abram, should take his choice inasmuch as he was older and had been Lot's benefactor during the years that were past; but Lot stoned to look the ground over, and selfish desire sprang up to that degree that courtesy and reason were ignored and he chose the best there was in Canaan. 12. Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan—Large-hearted and true to his word, he took unhesitatingly what was left. Lot pitched his tent toward Sodom. In this choice he not only acted selfishly, but he exposed himself to the influences of worldliness, vice and idolatry. For the sake of gain, he would risk his religion and even his morality. Sodom was a city notorious for its wickedness, but it was not long until Lot dwelt in the city itself. It is thought that he married a woman of Sodom, thus closely identifying himself with its inhabitants. 11. Blessings promised to Abram.—(vs. 14-18). The covenant which God had already made to Abram that he would make him a great nation (Gen. 12: 2), and that his posterity should possess the land (Gen. 12: 7), was here received. Lot had gone his way the Lord

gave Abram a comprehensive view of Canaan and told him that all that he could see was his inheritance, and should be the possession of his descendants. In the fullness of his promise God made up to Abram the seeming loss that he had sustained by granting Lot his choice. Again Abram moved and made his dwelling-place as Hebron, about thirty miles southeast of Bethel. Here he built an altar, the third he erected in the land of Canaan. We do not read that Lot built an altar. Questions.—When did Abram and Lot go from Canaan? Tell of Abram's doings in that country. Tell of the return to Canaan. What temporal prosperity did Abram and Lot have? Who inhabited the land of Canaan? Why was there strife between the herdsmen of Lot and those of Abram? What course was taken to prevent strife? What choice did Lot make? What led him to make the choice he did? In what respect was Lot wrong in his choice? What promises were made to Abram after Lot left him? What religious act did Abram perform?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—Crisis decisions.

I. Touching man's temporal interests.

II. Touching man's spiritual character.

I. Touching man's temporal interests.

There are decisive moments in all lives.

Choice is both the expression of character and its determination.

By retracing his erring footsteps from Egypt to Canaan to the altar at Bethel, Abram seemed to acknowledge that he should have remained there through the famine in firm dependence upon God. He seemed to recover at once the grandeur and nobility of soul which had become enfeebled in the land of Egypt. He went at once to Bethel, where he had pitched his tent and built an altar to God. This implied a renewed consecration. Though under the call of God, we see in the conduct of Abram an imperfectly enlightened conscience as to many moral duties. Yet God interposed and delivered him. Greatness is accorded to Abram in that he suffered God to show him the path of life. God's kindness to Abram and Sarai was the principal instrumentality that quickened the better nature of the patriarch. However, he could not fail to see the ill effects of Egyptian life upon his nephew Lot. He was induced by prosperity. Though Abram escaped corruption through wealth, it was indirectly the power which deceived him of his kinsman. Abram's conviction of his rights was interred to preserve unity in the bonds of peace. He gave up all his claims of priority. His proposal to Lot showed that he loved peace more than wealth. The sight of Sodom bounded vision. He offered no prayer for divine guidance. Lot owed much to Abram, yet he seized an advantage over him. The material good in that tempting scene of the Jordan valley blinded his eyes to every other good and even to the dangers of his choice.

II. Touching man's spiritual character.

Wherever Abram had a tent, God had an altar. We do not read that Lot built an altar unto the Lord. His love of gain blinded him to the very meaning of life. His disregard of spiritual privileges for himself and his family brought on him a bitter portion of sin, and shame. His own religious character suffered from his sojourn in Sodom. He seemed not to have paused to consider the effect of his decision upon his own character, and future well-being. His family grew up in a very different atmosphere from that which had nourished his own youth in Abram's tent. On that day of choosing Abram took a long look forward while Lot chose only for the immediate future. Abram became spiritually rich in proportion as he practised self-renunciation. The more he rose in spiritual greatness, the less he was affected by earthly losses. It was a poor bargain for Lot to grow rich at the expense of his better nature. Out of regard to the honor of the Lord, Abram was ready to sacrifice his worldly interests, rather than do anything which would tend to compromise the religion he professed. He had a clear apprehension of things unseen and a firm trust in God's promises. Abram looked to the Lord; Lot looked to the land. We have here the contrast of the prayerful with the worldly spirit. After the separation of Abram and Lot, God administered consolation to Abram. Mamre became a church among the trees, a refuge for faith, a holy place, a sacred promiser. Here, Abram's altar was intended as a public profession of religion in the midst of enemies, as a constant memorial of God's presence, as a tribute of gratitude for God's mercies, as an indication of his determination to be fully dedicated to God. This lesson shows how a good man avoided impending strife.—T. R. A.

ASK INTERVENTION.

Turkey Appeals to European Powers.

London, Feb. 17.—Peace talk again dominates the Turco-Balkan situation. Tewfik Pasha, the Turkish Ambassador at London, has appealed to Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Minister, to invite the powers to end the war. Sir Edward communicated the request to the ambassadors of the powers, but the result is unknown. The ambassadors will meet the Foreign Secretary on Friday, when the matter will probably be discussed, but the general opinion is that they will not modify their attitude as expressed in the collective note of the powers to Turkey, advising the latter to surrender Adrianople and leave the question of the Aegean Isles to the powers for decision.

After the terrible defeat that has been met by Enver Bey's new army in Gallipoli it is believed the Turks will accept any terms that may be submitted.

BRITISH EDITOR IN TROUBLE.

London, Feb. 17.—L. J. Mayne, editor of the National Review, is to be brought before the bar of the House of Commons for refusing to divulge to the committee investigating the Government wireless agreement the names of those individuals who furnished him the report on which he had based his allegations of improper conduct against members of the British Cabinet.



MRS. SCOTT, WIDOW OF THE ILL-FATED ANTARCTIC EXPLORER, AND THEIR LITTLE SON, PETER, WHO WAS A MERE BABY WHEN CAPTAIN SCOTT LEFT ENGLAND.

FARM GARDEN

SPRAYING TREES TO KILL PESTS.

It is well now to consider the subject of spraying and have everything in readiness. The spraying should be done about four weeks before the buds of the trees start, which time, however, varies with the apple, pear, peach, etc., as well as with the year. The spraying should be done on warm days, as it is then that the insects are more active and consequently more easily destroyed. There are a large number of insects on the infested trees in the fall, and, as a rule, comparatively few in the spring; and from limited observations it seems that the great change in temperature from the warm days to the cold nights has much to do with the great reduction in numbers.

Once the winter is survived, the insect multiplies rapidly on the branches and goes from there to the fruit, specking it up and causing it to be unfit for the market. Of course, some injury is caused to the tree, but this is slight in comparison to that of the fruit, and the trees are rarely ever killed by it. The insect proceeds from one tree to another very slowly.

The lime-sulphur spray is considered to be the best. To prepare this spray, mix 15 pounds of sulphur with enough water to make a paste, and add this paste to 15 gallons of boiled water. Then add 20 pounds of good stone lime, and stir vigorously. It will generally be found necessary to add the lime a little at a time to keep the mixture from boiling over.

Cook the mixture until it is brick-red in color, and add to it fifty gallons of water, straining it carefully as it is mixed, and spray the trees while the mixture is still hot. It is very essential that the work be done thoroughly, that every portion of the bark of the tree is well covered with a good coating of the spray. Two applications may be necessary on badly-infested trees, but if done thoroughly one is generally all that is required. Ten pounds of salt may be added to the mixture at any time, but this has not proven to be of any value.

Lime-sulphur, unlike most other sprays, has a value both as an insecticide and a fungicide. There are several insects which can be more successfully combated by the use of this than by other means. Among the number which are combated with the spray is the San Jose scale. This insect is quite injurious to most all the fruit trees, and also to the fruit of the apple and pear.

As indicated by its name, it is covered by a scale, which is circular in shape and about one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter. The scale is gray in color and appears to be made up of a number of rings, with an elevated portion in the center; this portion is a little darker in color than the other part of the scale. The scale is almost flat, and when there are a number of them present on the tree they give it a rough appearance. By turning the scale over the little egg under it may be seen.

The females lay about fifty eggs under their own scales. After hatching, the young insects spend a few days under the scales of the parents, then go to new feeding ground, where they pierce the bark of the trees or the skin of the fruit, and begin their feeding, moving no more.

This is one of the many insects which get their food by sucking it from the tissue of the plant or fruit. Being a sucking insect it is not affected at all by the sprays used for the codling moth and other insects of that class.

Having the thick covering that it does, it can stand more concentrated sprays than the fruit upon which it feeds, so it cannot be combated well in summer. Then, too, the winter is the time when it is at its lowest in vitality and will be more easily killed, all things being considered, for it has more adverse conditions against it at this time.

ANOTHER GALT HOTEL CLOSED.

Galt despatch: Following the offering for sale of the Imperial and Albion Hotels and the putting up for sale of the furnishings of the Imperial Hotel, T. Crosson, who has been running the Market Hotel as a boarding house since the advent of local option, announces to-day that the furnishings are up for sale, and that he will give up the business of the hotel.

WAS IT SCURVY?

Nansen Sure It Caused Scott Disaster.

New York, Feb. 17.—A cable to the Tribune from London says:

Dr. Nansen suggests that Captain Scott and his party were attacked by scurvy. He says:

"I believe Scott's calculations were correct, and, had he only adverse weather to contend with he would have been back with all his men safe and sound, but the treacherous enemy which defeated them was surely scurvy, of which he had no suspicion, and therefore could not take it into his calculations. When it was stated that Petty Officer Evans was ill, this can scarcely have been anything but scurvy, and for several days they had to take him with them, until at last he died from concussion of the brain, which a weak man suffering from scurvy might easily get when descending a glacier."

"Then, Captain Oates' illness must surely have been scurvy also. Frost-bitten hands and feet are just what scurvy patients are so liable to be, because the circulation is impaired, and it is not improbable, either, that Captain Scott and the others were suffering from incipient scurvy, and their physical powers thus reduced without themselves being aware of it. Thus, this appears to have been the real enemy, but one which Scott could not know of, and one, moreover, which there could be no means of combatting after having once left winter quarters."

Sven Hedin, the famous traveller and author, sends the following fine epitaph on Captain Scott to "The Geographical Survey": "As brilliant as the Aurora Australis, the immortal glory rises around the name of the greatest Antarctic explorer of all times. He has reached his goal. He has served his race. He has sacrificed his life. He has honored his country."

"BIG TIM'S" GIFT

Relatives Continue his Bowery Benefactions.

New York, Feb. 17.—Nearly 4,000 pairs of shiny shoes trod the Bowery sidewalks to-night, and by their gloss emphasized the ragged clothes of the men that wore them. They were "Big Tim" Sullivan's annual gift to the Bowery outcasts. Although Sullivan, once a Tammany leader, State Senator and Congressman, and still a Congressman-elect, is a patient in a sanitarium at Yonkers, his relatives obeyed his wishes in continuing the custom he instituted many years ago. It was the first time "Big Tim" had not been present to superintend the distribution.

Several thousand shivering men, many with rags wrapped about their feet, were in line. Most of them were not particular about size so long as the shoes were made to give each a fair fit. The only expression of dissatisfaction came from the one man in line that wore a straw hat. Instead of shoes he wanted a derby.

HADDO ABSOLVED

Aberdeen's Son Guiltless in Crown Jewels Theft.

London, Feb. 17.—Lord Haddo, the son and heir of the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, was publicly absolved to-day from any association with the disappearance of the Crown jewels from Dublin Castle, in the summer of 1907. Augustine Birrell, Chief Secretary for Ireland, in reiterating in the House of Commons to-day the statement that nothing had been discovered to explain the mystery of the theft, or to justify the arrest and prosecution of anyone, went on to say:

"The story that anyone is being shielded is a lie, and I am sorry it has been lately revived in connection with the name of Lord Haddo. The introduction of his name is a particularly cruel outrage, for he was not in Ireland for months before or after the robbery. He had no connection with the office of arms, and was only in that office once in his life."

VICTIMS MOBBED SUFFRAGETTES

London, Feb. 21.—Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, the militant Suffragette leader, and some other women were mobbed at Croxson when they arrived there for a meeting to-night, by a crowd who had had their mail damaged by the Suffragettes when they poured acids and paint into the pillar boxes. The Suffragettes were only spared from rough treatment by the opportune arrival of the police, who had been, nastily summoned.

PETERBORO' BURGLAR CAUGHT.

Peterboro' despatch: The police have in custody two young men, Manson and Clifford Giles, who are charged with a series of thefts in various parts of the city. The home of Dr. Amsys had been visited twice, but last night he learned of a third visit through an alarm by an electric bell which was connected with the summer kitchen. The man made off, only to be caught on a barb wire fence which he failed to notice.

IMMIGRATION TO CANADA.

Ottawa, Feb. 17.—During the ten months April 1 to February 1 of the current fiscal year, 344,983 immigrants arrived in Canada, made up of 130,569 British, 18, 426 from the United States and 35,648 from all other countries combined. The figures for the corresponding months last fiscal year are: British, 211, 61; from the United States, 111, 706; and from all other countries combined, 67,338, giving a total for the ten months April 1 to February 1 of the fiscal year 1911-12 of 390,705. Percentages of increases are: British, 7 per cent.; American 6 per cent. others, 42 per cent.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS

FARMERS' MARKET.

Table listing market prices for various goods like dressed hogs, butter, eggs, etc.

SUGAR MARKET.

Table listing sugar market prices for various grades of sugar.

LIVE STOCK.

Toronto despatch: Hogs were in big demand at both the cattle markets this morning. Sheep and lambs and calves were very strong, and considering the quality of beef offering, 8.00 prices were also strong. At Union Stock Yards hogs were 7.25 choice, 1.52 sheep and lambs, 2.50 hogs and 2 calves. Cattle Market—23 cattle, 21 sheep and 25 hogs.

Table listing live stock prices for various types of cattle, sheep, and hogs.

OTHER MARKET.

WINNIPEG MARKET.

Table listing Winnipeg market prices for wheat and oats.

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET.

Table listing Minneapolis grain market prices for wheat and corn.

DULUTH GRAIN MARKET.

Table listing Duluth grain market prices for wheat and flour.

GLASGOW CATTLE MARKETS.

Glasgow—Messrs. Watson & Batchelor report that there is a sharp trade for best steers, but in secondary grades there is a slow recovery. Scotch steers, 16 to 16-4; Irish steers, 12 to 14 1/2; according to quality.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Table listing Chicago live stock prices for various types of cattle and hogs.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE.

Table listing Liverpool produce prices for various types of wool and cotton.

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK.

East Buffalo, N. Y. despatch: Cattle Receipts light, active and steady. Veals—Receipts, 25; active and steady at \$3 to \$12.

MONTREAL LIVE STOCK.

Montreal Despatch—East end market—Cattle—Receipts 50; milk cows and springers, 47; calves, 40; sheep and lambs, 100; hogs, prime beefs on sale, and the best brought \$5.65 per hundred pounds; medium, 5 to 6 1/2; common, 4 1/2 to 4 3/4; canners, about 3 cents. Milk cows, \$5 to \$7.