

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON I. April 1, 1917.

Jesus Gives Sight to the Blind.—John 9: 1-38.

Commentary.—I. A blind man healed (vs. 1-7). 1. As Jesus passed by—It was the Sabbath and it is natural to suppose that Jesus was going to enter the temple. This was shortly after his discourse to the Jews upon the subject of soul freedom...

2. Who did sin... that he was born blind.—The theory that special afflictions are the consequences of particular acts of transgression is an ancient one. Job's friends who came to comfort him in his affliction could not see why he should be afflicted as he was, unless he had grievously sinned...

4. The works of him that sent me.—Jesus does not let us forget the fact that he was sent by the Father into the world, and that, too, for a definite purpose. He was constantly employed in the work the Father gave him to do. While it is day—Night and day here mean, as so often in literature of all kinds, life and death...

6. When he had thus spoken.—The discourse of Jesus was preliminary to the performing of the miracle. His words declared his divinity and his works would shortly declare the same truth. Made clay of the spittle—Saliva was applied to the eyes by afflicted persons as a curative agency very generally. In this instance Jesus used simple means, not as a curative agency, but to encourage the blind man's faith...

H. A clear testimony (vs. 8-12). S. Nehemiah said—The afflicted man had been blind from birth and he and his condition were well known to many. Moreover, he was a beggar, and hence a familiar object to those who were to build the city. Therefore, as they do now, took their place in the crowd to look for work...

hesitated to say it seemed impossible. I healed man had no hesitation in saying that he was the man. His eyes were thine eyes opened—The people could not understand how such an extraordinary thing could take place, and they were eager to learn. 11. He answered and said, etc.—He told at once all he knew of his cure in a clear, straightforward manner. He was positive that he had received his sight. He did not know much about Jesus, but he knew that he had been instrumental in opening his blind eyes. 12. He could not tell where Jesus was when the people asked him.

III. The questioning Pharisees (vs. 13-34). This miracle made no small stir among the people. The Pharisees had the cured man before them and questioned him. He gave a clear account of his healing, but they would not accept his statement regarding his blindness until they had questioned his parents. They declared that he was their son and that he was born blind. They referred them to their son for a statement as to his healing. They feared that they would be put out of the synagogue if they acknowledged Christ. The healed man gave a positive testimony and declared that Jesus must be a prophet. He did not open the eyes of one born blind. The Pharisees said Jesus could not be of God because he had healed Him on the Sabbath. The man maintained his testimony and was cast out by the Pharisees.

IV. Believing in Jesus (vs. 35-38). 35. Dost thou believe on the Son of God—Jesus would not leave the man without giving him soul benefit. Sight had come to his eyes and he had testified of Jesus' power. For his testimony he had been cast out by the Pharisees. Jesus would have him realize the full benefit of believing on Him. 36. Who is He here open to a striking example of a heart open to the truth. He was in earnest to believe on Jesus. 37. It is He that talketh with thee—Jesus declares definitely His Messiahship. 38. Lord, I believe—Not only his cure, but the bearing of Jesus called for him to be worshiped. He believed that Jesus was divine and worshipped Him as God.

Questions.—What feast had Jesus come to Jerusalem to attend? What discourse did He deliver? What was the condition of the man whom Jesus saw? What question did the disciples ask? What reply did Jesus make? What did Jesus do to the afflicted man? What command did Jesus give? What was the result? What was the healed man's testimony? Why did the Pharisees find fault? What faith had the man who was healed?

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—The works of God. I. Disproved human philosophy.

II. Attested Christ's divine mission.

I. Disproved human philosophy. Jesus was passing out of the temple to avoid stoning, but without fear or hurry. He saw the blind man before his disciples saw him, and his look awakened their interest. This man vividly reminded Jesus of His mission to earth. His restoration would evidently and gloriously be the work of God. He saw that the man would become under divine grace. In response to a speculative question Jesus unveiled His deepest motives in bestowing an unsought blessing. He did not find fault with His disciples for their inquiry. He asserted that they had entirely misapprehended the philosophy of the poor beggar's history. Beneath that unpromising exterior Jesus saw the elements of a noble character and set about to bring them forth. In an unusual way the man was wrought into the plan of Christ's ministry. It was his recompense after years of weary blindness to be permitted to be the instrument through whom "the works of God should be made manifest." The performance of the cure on the Sabbath day was the pivot upon which the question turned. It caused a fresh outburst of Jewish hatred against Jesus. On the ground of their allegiance to Moses they rejected the clear evidence of Christ's divine mission. The Pharisees were technical, rather than moral, in their standard of judgment. They were biased, rather than candid, in their examination of evidence. They were divided in their conclusions. They were malignant, rather than generous, in their aims. They endeavored to make the whole thing a ceremonial crime. It was probably with the purpose of showing His contempt for the traditions of men, by which the word of God was made void, that Jesus infringed on the rules of the Talmud and struck a blow at their prejudices. It Attested Christ's divine mission.

MURAI CIGARETTES. Everywhere Why? The blending is exceptional. Anaglyphs.

FARM GARDEN

IMPROVING THE DAIRY HEHD. The wise farmer is constantly on the alert to improve his dairy conditions. Much of this improvement can be made (and in the least time and with the least cost) by the use of a pure bred sire. But it is not only important that he should be a pure bred animal, but that he should represent a strain of good milkers. There should be a history back of that sire. It is foolish to go back five or six generations for this history. The important point is, what is the reputation of his immediate ancestors? Are they, or have they been, heavy producers? Did his dam, and his granddam on his sire's side, produce milk, or butterfat, or both in large quantities? If the immediate family history is first class in every way, the question of pedigree is largely settled. It is immediate ancestry that counts.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE BULL.

Professor Trueman, of Storrs Experiment Station, in referring to the sire, says: The bull chosen should be a good individual as well as have a good pedigree. It is not wise to use a poor animal simply because his ancestors have been good, for he will be one of the ancestors of the succeeding generations. The bull should be vigorous as shown by a bright eye a wide awake, active disposition, a full erect, broad chest, fine silky hair and soft hide. He should have a large deep body, with well sprung ribs, indicating feeding capacity. He should not be coarse and beefy. The hind quarters should not be peaked, but should be comparatively light. The thighs should not be overladen with fat, and he should be well cut up in the twist. He should have a fine, straight-away walking gait, not cross-legged. When you find one just right, buy him, and do not be too particular about the price. This bull should be used on the best cows that can be selected from those available. They need not be pure-breds. In fact many men will get better results to stick to grades. It does not require as much skill to breed good grades as it does to breed good pure-breds. The pure-bred bull will be prepotent over the grade cows, and the calves will be more than half-blood in actual characteristics. The strong blood of the pure-bred bull impresses the offspring much more than does the weaker blood of the grade, so that the bull becomes more than half the grade herd. On the other hand, in breeding pure-breds together, great judgment is required to get the two currents of strong blood to mix well; otherwise the results may be, as is often the case, that the bulls are not ready for general or extensive use until they are three or four years old. Instead of keeping them until fully mature the common custom is to use them freely as yearlings and 2-year-olds, and then get rid of them because they may get cross. We can hardly blame the bull for getting good breeding will not make well-developed heifers unless they are well fed. It is absolutely folly to expect that heifer calves will develop into first-class cows if they are stunted when they are young. It is perfectly legitimate to get a good ration at a low cost as possible, but nothing but failure can come from trying to save money by feeding a poor or insufficient ration. The blood of the good bull may be more strongly impressed upon the grades by closer inbreeding than is

Plants That Give Heat.

We do not as a rule think of plants as giving heat, yet at certain times some flowers show an astonishing rise of temperature. Most remarkable in this respect are certain kinds of Arum. Just at the opening of the flower in these cases there is a great liberation of heat. This is due to the fact that the respiration, or breathing, is at such times very vigorous. Some very interesting experiments have been carried out in connection with these Arums by means of placing a thermometer just inside the spathe. One of the most remarkable cases was that of a species growing on the Mediterranean coast and known as Arum italicum. The temperature of the air was 60 degrees at the time of the experiment. That inside the spathe was 110 degrees! At that time the blossoms, which when expanded are practically scentless, gave out a fragrance suggestive of wine. It is said that plants of this kind are particularly common in Mexico.—Exchange.

A woman is a paradox. No matter how plain she may be, she is still a riddle.

FARM NEWS AND VIEWS.

Notice the fruit trees carefully. See which tree bears heavily, ripens on time and matures a high grade of fruit. Notice the trees that are shy bearers, the tender trees susceptible to disease and insect injury. It is highly desirable that the fruit-grower become thoroughly familiar with the tendencies of the various trees, so he will know how to treat them. Trees are much like animals. A person can always get better results with animals if he understands their peculiarities. Furthermore, one always wants to know the good trees and the poor trees. The poor will need to be replaced as soon as practical. The desirable trees bearing large crops of highly desirable fruits may be reproduced. Propagation should be from the best. Those who have had any experience in handling sheep will know how difficult it is to get them into a barn or shed after dark. The interior is dark and they are afraid to enter. Of course, it is possible to catch one or two and carry them inside, but even then the rest will not follow. A lantern placed where the sheep can see it frightens them away instead of enticing them inside. But a lantern placed just inside the door and to one side, illuminates the interior of the barn and does not frighten the sheep. The sheep will readily and quietly enter a barn lit up in this way. Coal ashes are of far less value as a fertilizer than the wood ashes are, yet they have a value especially on a soil inclined to clay. They change the soil, making it lighter and more easily handled, and besides this it becomes more productive, because of the mechanical change made to the soil. There also is a slight element of fertility in these ashes. That horses have their peculiar tastes in selecting the most palatable feeds is shown by recent investigations at the Ohio Experiment Station. In which some hays were eaten with great relish, while others were only partly consumed. Mixed clover and timothy seemed to enter their appetites best, and bromo grass was also to their liking. Timothy hay stood third. None of the horses were fond of tall oat grass, while bluegrass and redtop were also near the bottom of the list of palatable grasses. The first thing to do with scoured calves is to remove the cause and then give them lime water in the milk. Two tablespoonfuls twice a day for a calf 2 months old, and for larger calves half a cupful. Make the lime water by putting a hand full lime into a pail of water. When it has slackened and settled, pour off the clear portion and bottle it for future use. It seems strange that there are so many farms where fruits are not grown. Most people like fruits, and there are very few localities and farms where some kind of fruits cannot be grown. Let every manager consider the value of a good orchard and then start one on his farm the first opportunity.

ONE LITTLE HOUR.

(London Poetry Review) Our little hour—how swift it flies! When poppies flare and lilacs smile, How soon the fading music dies. Leaving us but a little while To dream our dream, to love our love, To kiss the fruit, to plant the tree, The grass they do not give us time to see. One little hour. Our little hour—how short a time To waste our words, to frown our brows, To drop our banners, strew the gates. Blood on the sword, our eyes blood-red, To find in our young men of power, how Do we forget how soon it goes. One little hour. Our little hour—how soon it flies! How short a time to tell our beads, To cheat our foe-like Litanies, To kiss the sweet thoughts, to do good deeds, The altar lights grow pale and dim, The bells have silent in the tower— So passes with the dying hymn Our little hour. Leslie Coulson. (Sergeant Coulson, of the City of London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) met his death leading a charge against the Germans in October, 1914. He joined the army in September, 1914, and served in Egypt, Malta, Gallipoli and France.)

FLATBUSH—I see in Russia there is a heavy penalty for putting a declaration of love on a postal card. Bensonhurst—What is the penalty? "Marriage."—Yankees Stateman.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

Table with columns for Dairy Produce, Eggs, Cheese, Butter, etc. and prices.

Table with columns for Beef, Pork, Mutton, etc. and prices.

TORONTO CATTLE MARKETS.

Table with columns for Export cattle, Butcher stock, etc. and prices.

OTHER MARKETS.

WINNIPEG OPEN EXCHANGE.

Table with columns for Wheat, Corn, etc. and prices.

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET.

Table with columns for Minneapolis-Wheat, etc. and prices.

DULUTH-WHEAT.

Table with columns for Duluth-Wheat, etc. and prices.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Table with columns for Cattle, Hogs, etc. and prices.

WILLIAM TELL.

The Story Was Old in Denmark Before the Swiss Borrowed It.

Do you know who shot the apple on the head of the little boy? Why, William Tell, of course! Everybody knows how ten centuries ago a Swiss hero saved his country from the tyranny of Austria. At least everybody used to know. Unfortunately, for pure romance, the historian and the investigator have been busy active in the past quarter of a century, and the result has been a few heroes with enough coating of romance to cover their skeletons. We have read Schiller's beautiful and inspiring play, either in our college German course or in translation, and we cling to William Tell with all the ardor of youthful enthusiasm. And young comes the historian and tells us that it is all a myth, that the dates fixed by the Swiss chronicles on the subject do not coincide with the dates of the historic events that were supposed to be taking place in Austria at the same time and that earlier records of Switzerland make no mention of the archer's master shot. The selfsame story is told in the Danish legends two centuries before it crops out in the Swiss narrative, and further investigation shows that it was borrowed by the Danes, the original apple having been shot from the original child's head by a German boy named Eigil, when King Niding sought to test the man's skill and nerve. In that remote story it is related that Eigil concealed another arrow in his bosom with which to kill the king if he injured his child. John Fiske, the American historian, was largely responsible for robbing us of William Tell. When a girl is a belle, it is quite natural for her to announce her engagement with a ring.

CANADIANS WANTED FOR NAVAL SERVICE. For Duty off the Coast of Canada. Applications for immediate service as officers in the Canadian Naval Patrols are requested from ex-officers in the Royal Navy, the Naval Reserve, or men holding Officers' Certificates in the Mercantile Marine. Seamen, Stokers and Engine Room Ratings are also wanted at once. PAY Officers from \$2.50 per day and \$30.00 monthly and upwards to dependents. Men from \$1.05 per day and separation allowance. Must be sons of British subjects. Ages 18 to 45. Men from 18 to 38 are wanted also for immediate service in the Overseas Division of the R. N. C. V. R. Experience not necessary—accepted recruits proceed at once to England for training. Pay \$1.10 a day and upwards. Separation as in C.E.F. Apply to COMMODORE EMILIUS JARVIS, Naval Recruiting Officer, Ontario Area, 103 Bay Street, TORONTO, or to The Naval Recruiting Secretary, 305 Wellington St., Ottawa.