

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book)

LESSON XII.

Dec. 21, 1884. [Eccles. 12: 1-14.] THE CREATOR REMEMBERED.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS. 13, 14.

1. Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years, draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

2. While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain;

3. In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

4. And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low;

5. Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail; because man shall bow himself, and the mourners go about the streets;

6. Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern,

7. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

8. Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher; all is vanity.

9. And moreover because the Preacher saith, he shall laugh at the mourning, and shall not be moved because he saith, he gave good seed, and sowed out, and set in order many proverb;

10. The Preacher sought to find out acceptable words, and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.

11. The words of the wise are as gold, and as malis fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.

12. And further, by these, my son, be admonished; of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh.

13. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

14. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."—Eccles. 12: 1.

HOME READINGS.

M. Eccles. 12: 1-14. .... The Creator Remembered.

T. Matt. 6: 16-23. .... The Heavenly Treasure.

W. 1 John 2: 14-29. .... Counsel for the Young.

F. 2 Sam. 3: 1-21. .... A Young Prince.

E. 1 Chron. 34: 1-22. .... A Young King.

Ex. 18: 27; 29-41. .... The Remarkable Never Forgiven.

S. 2 Pet. 3: 1-14. .... The Day of the Lord.

LESSON PLAN.

1. The Time for R. remembering. 2. The Reason for Remembering.

Time.—About 10 c. 977. Place.—Written by Solomon at Jerusalem.

INTRODUCTORY.

In this chapter the royal preacher gives the conclusion of his discourses on the chief good, and urges the young to seek it in the service of their Creator. The difficulties of age are strikingly set forth under the name of the grinders; the changing hours, and youth are urged to begin a life of piety before the coming of these days of sorrow and infirmity.

LESSON NOTES.

1. V. 1. THE DAYS OF THY YOUTH—the best days, and the days of thy youth. 2. 17; 22; 6. EYE-DAYS—of old age, as contrasted with youth. V. 2. WHILE THE SUN—while prosperly continues. NOT THE CLOUDS RETURN—as in old age, breaking the short intervals of joy. If youth is spent in sin, age will bring sorrow.

V. 3. KEEPERS OF THE HOUSE—the house is the body, the keepers are the hands and organs; the strong men, the feet and legs; the grinders, the teeth; and those that look out of the eyes. V. 4. THE DOORS—the lips. THE SOUND OF THE GRINDING IS LOW—the old cannot eat their food with satisfaction. RISE UP AT THE VOICE OF THE BIRD—the old rise early because they are sleepless. DAUGHTERS OF MUSIC—their musical powers are weakened, they care very little for song. V. 5. THAT WHICH IS HIGH—the hills, steep places. THE ALMOND TREE SHALL FLOURISH—the white almond blossoms resemble the snowy hair of age. THE GRASSHOPPER SHALL BE A BURDEN—the least weight oppresses. HIS LONG HOME—Hebrew, "the house of his eternity." Job, 31: 26. V. 6. OR EVER—before, in close connection with the first clause of verse 1. THE SILVER CORD—the thread of life. This verse refers to the spinal cord, the brain, the heart and lungs; or, in general, to the vital springs of life. V. 7. THE BODY IS MATERIAL, and returns to the dust; the soul is immaterial and immortal, and returns to God.

11.—V. 8. ALL IS VANITY—the world as a source of happiness is an empty failure. V. 11. AS GOADS—like sharpened sticks urging men to duty. MASTERS OF ASSEMBLIES—inspired teachers. FIVE—USE SHEPHERDS—God the great Shepherd of Israel. V. 12. BY THESE—inspired words. Books may be multiplied, but heavenly wisdom only is deserving of our earnest, untiring pursuit. The word of God is the Book of books evermore. V. 13. THE CONCLUSION OF THE WHOLE MATTER—the fitting close, the grand inference of the whole book. THIS IS THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN—In Hebrew, "the whole man;" the whole profit, interest, duty of man. V. 14. THE SOLEMN DAY—the day of judgment will come. We are not like the beasts

that perish, but rational, accountable beings, destined to live for ever.

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

1. That we should begin to serve God while we are young.
2. That we must expect peculiar trials in old age.
3. That old age is an unfavorable time to seek religion.
4. That we should serve the Lord with gladness at all times.
5. That we must certainly give account to God for all our opportunities.

COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, Dec. 9, 1884.

There is very little to say regarding commercial matters, this week, except that they are very quiet indeed. Liverpool prices for Red Winter of coast is 33s. Prices are nominal and unchanged.

Chicago is very quiet and dull, with prices somewhat lower. Wheat and corn are higher. We quote:—Wheat at 71½ Dec. and 71½ Jan. 72½ Feb. Corn is quoted at 37½ year and Jan. at 34½; 34½ Feb. and 36½ March.

The local market is as dull as last week, which in saying a good deal. We quote Canada Red Winter, 82c to 84c; White, 83c to 84c; Spring 81c to 83c; Peas, 72½ to 73c; Oats, 31c Barley, 55c to 67c. Corn 67c.

FLOUR.—Receipts are still falling off, and it is high time, as the market is now stagnant and prices are nominal. The quotations are as follows:—Superior Extra, \$3.75 to \$3.80; Extra Superfine, \$3.55 to \$3.60; Fancy \$3.55; Spring Extra, \$3.55; Superfine, \$3.25 to \$3.35; Strong Bakers' (Can.), \$3.50 to \$4.00; Strong Bakers' (American), \$4.00 to \$4.25; Fine, \$3.90 to \$3.15; Middlings, \$2.85 to \$2.90; Pollards, \$2.60 to \$2.70; Ontario bags, (bags included) Medium, \$1.75 to \$1.85; Strong Extra, \$1.65 to \$1.70; Superfine, \$1.45 to \$1.55; City Bags, (delivered), \$2.35.

MEALS unchanged.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Both butter and cheese are quiet with unchanged prices. We quote:—Creamery, 23c to 26c; Eastern Townships, 18c to 23c; Western, 14c to 17½c. Cheese is unchanged at 11½c to 12c for September and October, and 8c to 11c for other months.

Eggs, fresh, are selling at 19c to 20c, as to quality.

POULTRY AND GAME are steady as follows:—Turkeys, 8c to 18c; ducks, 8c to 9c; geese and chickens, 6c to 7c per lb; partridges, 45c to 50c per brace; venison saddles, 7c to 8c; do, carcasses, 5c to 6c per lb.

HOG PRODUCTS are very quiet. We quote:—Western Mess Pork \$15.00 to \$16.50; Hams, city cured, 14c to 14½; Bacon, 13c to 14c; Lard, western, in pails, 10½c to 10½; do., Canadian, 10½; Tallow, common refined, 7c to 8c.

ASHES are very weak, Pots selling at \$3 70 to \$3.80, as to tares.

FARMERS' MARKET.

There was a large attendance of farmers at the markets here during the latter part of last week and an abundant supply of produce was offered at declining rates, especially was this the case with grain, potatoes, dressed hogs, dead poultry, beef quarters and tub butter. This week the weather has been rather boisterous and the roads in many places have become very muddy and few farmers from a distance care to come to market, consequently the supplies are greatly diminished and prices are again advancing. Oats are 80c to 90c per bag; peas, 80c to 90c per bushel; beans \$1.40 to \$1.80 do.; potatoes 45c to 50c per bag; turnips, carrots, beets and onions 30c to 50c per bushel; cabbage 15c to 30c per dozen heads; butter 16c to 40c per lb; eggs 22c to 50c per dozen; apples \$1.50 to \$3.00 per barrel; dressed hogs 6½c to 7c per lb; mutton quarters 5c to 7c do; young turkeys 9c to 12c per lb; geese 7c to 9c do; fowls 7c to 10c do; ducks 12c to 15c do; hay \$5.00 per 100 bundles.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

The cattle market continues overstocked with common and inferior beasts which are very difficult to sale. There is an active demand for any good animals and prices of this kind are slightly higher or from 4½c to 5c per lb. Pretty good steers and fat cows sell at from 4c to 4½c, common dry cows at about 3c per lb, and lean animals at about

2c do. Sheep and lambs are in good supply and there is an active demand for the best lambs, which sell at from \$4 to \$4.50 each. Common lambs sell in lots at about \$3 each and small lean ones at from \$2 to \$2.50 each. Live hogs are plentiful and are declining in value; prices running from 4½c to 5c per lb. Good milk cows are very scarce and in demand at from \$55 to \$70 each, and common ones sell at from \$35 to \$50 each.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8, 1884.

GRAIN.—Wheat, 79c Dec.; 81½ Jan; 83½ Feb.; 86c Mar.; 86c May. Corn, 50½ to 51½ Dec.; 47½ Jan; 47c Feb.; 46½ May. Rye, quiet, 63½. Oats, dull; 31½ Nov. 31½ Dec.; 32½ Jan. 34½ May. Barley, Canada No. 2, 76½. Peas nominal.

FLOUR, quiet and unchanged. We quote: Superfine, \$2.30 to \$2.65; Low Extra, \$2.65 to \$3.65; Clears, \$3.40 to \$4.15; Straight \$3.65 to \$4.70; Patent, \$4.50 to \$5.26. Winter Wheat:—Superfine, \$2.60 to \$2.85; Low Extra, \$2.85 to \$3.10; Clears (R. and A.), \$3.75 to \$4.00; Straight (R. and A.), \$4.00 to \$4.95; Patent, \$4.50 to \$5.25; Straight (White Wheat), \$4.00 to \$5.00; Low Extra (City Mill), \$2.90 to \$3.15; West India, sacks, \$3.55 to \$3.60; barrels, West India, \$4.40; Patent, \$4.65 to \$5.40; South American, \$4.25 to \$4.30; Patent \$4.65 to \$5.40. Southern Flour—Extra \$3.60 to \$4.25; Family, \$4.50 to \$5.00; Patent, \$5.10 to \$5.60. Rye Flour—Fine to superfine, \$2.75 to \$3.85.

MEALS.—Cornmeal, \$3.40 to \$3.50 in bbls; oatmeal, \$5.00 to \$5.90 per bbl.

SEEDS.—Dull. Clover 8c to 8½c; Timothy, \$1.45 to \$1.47; Linseed \$1.80.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter unchanged. Creamery, ordinary to select 19c to 30c. Half firkins, ordinary to best 16c to 25c; Welsh tubs 18c to 27c; Western ordinary factory, to choice imitation creamery, 9c to 24c. Cheese, state factory, ordinary to fall cream, 3½c to 12½c. Ohio flats, fair to choice 6c to 11½c; Skims 1c to 3c.

IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS last week, Earl Northbrook, First Lord of the Admiralty, and in the House of Commons Sir Thomas Brassey, Secretary of the Admiralty, stated that the British navy was largely superior to the French navy both in the number of vessels and in the amount of tonnage. During the past four years the Government had largely increased the expenditures in order to maintain England's naval supremacy, and intended to build five new ironclads, five belted cruisers, two armed torpedo rans, ten scout and thirty-two torpedo boats, which will be finished within four years. They stated that the credit required for naval expenditures, together with the estimates for the army, was \$5,525,000.

THE ORANGEMEN at Conception Bay, Newfoundland, are reported to have stoned the house of a priest.

FIVE MORMONS in Arizona have been convicted of polygamy.

THE SUEZ CANAL is to be widened; a committee has decided so, in preference to building a new canal.

NEVILLE, the bigamist, has been sentenced at Toledo to seven years in the penitentiary.

THE OCEAN STEAMSHIP Companies cannot agree to put up rates, and there may be some cutting down instead.

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