



LESSON XIII. Sept. 23, 1917. Daniel in the Lions' Den.—Daniel 6: 1-28.

COMMENTARY.—I. A cruel plot (vs. 1-9). To hold a high and honorable position is to be exposed to the shafts of envy and calumny. David found himself beset by those who would be glad to destroy him. The place of Darius in this history is not clearly understood, but it is supposed that he was a ruler under Cyrus. Daniel's ability and integrity won for him a position of trust and honor. He was made the chief of the three presidents who were charged with the one hundred and twenty provinces, or satraps, of many provinces. Not only this, but the king had it in mind to place him over the entire realm, that he himself might be the further relieved of the duties of government. This preference shown to Daniel aroused the envy of the other officers of the king to such an extent that they determined to have him removed. They confessed his excellence in their inability to accuse him of remissness in his personal or official acts. It is very probable that he was valuable to the king because of his careful oversight of the royal revenues, thus preventing and other officers from enriching themselves at the king's expense. There was but one ground upon which they could bring an accusation against Daniel, and that was concerning his religion. This was complimentary to him.

II. Daniel cast to the lions (vs. 10-17). 10. Daniel knew that the writing was signed.—He knew what the king's decree was and that according to the custom of the nation it could not be changed. He knew that death was the penalty for violating the decree. Windows—We must bear in mind that windows, such as we have, were then unknown. Those of that time were ply openings in the walls, either with permanent bars as a protection, or with lattice-work doors that could be opened or closed. Chamber—This was an apartment built upon the flat roof of the Oriental house, usually at one corner. Being thus elevated, there would be free circulation of air through the windows. Toward Jerusalem—Solomon in his prayer at the dedication of the temple had asked the Lord to hear the prayers of his people when in captivity or in strange lands, if they should pray with their faces towards Jerusalem. The Jew was accustomed to pray with his face toward the temple. Kneeling—An attitude indicating humility and earnestness. Three times a day—At nine, twelve and three o'clock.

The first and last were the hours of the daily sacrifices. Gave thanks—There were faith, courage and submission in Daniel's heart as a basis for thankfulness under such circumstances. As he did aforetime—He made no display of his piety. He did exactly as he had done constantly. To have ceased to pray or to have hidden himself in prayer would show disloyalty to God. 11. These men assembled—They flocked together tumultuously, as the word signifies. They knew Daniel's hours of prayer, and eagerly came together to discover him in the act forbidden by the king's decree. 12. Spoke before the king—Daniel's enemies wished to secure the king's confirmation of the decree before they brought their charge against his highly respected officer. According to the law... which altereth not—The theory was that the king could make no mistake, and hence his decrees could not consistently be changed. 13. Regarding not thee... nor the decree—For thirty days, according to the decree the king who was looked upon as a god, was to be the only one of whom any petition should be made. Daniel in making "his petition three times a day" was disregarding both the king and his decree. He acknowledged a higher law than that of man. He served the true God, and hence to refrain from praying to Him, as the decree provided, would be to violate his conscience. 14. Sore displeased with himself—He discovered too late the trap that was set for him. He had foolishly allowed his vanity to assert itself in his consenting to be the only object of worship for a month. Set his heart on Daniel to deliver him—However much Darius was desired to save Daniel from being thrown to the lions, he saw no way to do it without altering his decree. He might have asserted himself and set himself right when he saw the unjust and wicked step he had taken; or he might have adopted a plan similar to that formed by Ahasuerus under conditions somewhat like these (Esther 8: 11). 15. Know, O king—There was a strong determination that the king should not fail to carry out the edict. 16. The king commanded—A strong exhibition of the authority of a king and a god. While King Darius was being worshipped as a god he was at the mercy of conscienceless subjects, and compelled to do their bidding. Cast him into the den of lions—It is probable that the lions were kept for the purpose of executing criminals.

III. A great deliverance (vs. 18-20). 18. Fasting—Darius had no desire for food, for his grief was great. Music—Under these conditions none of his customary pleasures appealed to him. He spent a sleepless night. 19. Went in haste—The king had some hope that his beloved Daniel was still alive. 20. With a lamentable voice Darius showed his distress of mind in the tone of his voice. He hoped Daniel would hear him, but feared he would not. Servant of the living God—The heathen king recognized the God of Daniel, is thy God. able—in v. 16 is the king's statement that Daniel's God would deliver him from the lions, but here he expresses a doubt as to the outcome. 21. O king, live for ever—The common salutation in addressing a king. Daniel might have spoken in reproach to the king, but did not. His sole thought was that God's glory had been set forth in his deliverance. 22. Sent his angel—Daniel had company in the den of lions. There was no music nor gladness in the palace, but celestial joy in the intercourse between Daniel and the angel in the den.—Taylor. 23. Exceeding glad—Be-

cause the purpose of the decree had been thwarted. Questions.—What king followed Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon? Of what nation was Darius king? What office did Daniel hold? Who plotted against Daniel's life? What decree did they persuade the king to make? What was Daniel's custom as to prayer? Why did he pray with his windows open toward Jerusalem? What effect did Daniel's sentence and punishment have upon the king? What faith did the king have? Describe Daniel's deliverance. What new decree did the king make?

PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic.—Daniel's loyalty to God.

I. An occasion for murderous envy. IIA model for study and imitation. I. An occasion for murderous envy. Darius found in Daniel the best and most competent man in Babylon to serve him as his prime minister. The favor shown to him, a foreigner and a Jew, soon excited an envious spirit among the other courtiers. The more convinced those men were of Daniel's unimpeachableness, the more desperate they became in their determination to destroy him. There was an underhanded, jealous and envious hostility that could not bear to see virtue rewarded. Daniel's conduct bore the scrutiny of his enemies. In his integrity, sincerity, simplicity and faith he shamed them all. They sought in vain for any fault in his character or administration. To get rid of him they quired skill. His enemies knew him well enough to be assured that on no consideration would he forsake or neglect his religion. They planned to frame a law that his conscience would not permit him to obey. They were convinced that Daniel so valued his prayers and devotions, that he would endure any loss or punishment rather than discontinue them, even for a time. They calculated on his obedience to God. They could make his frequent prayers to God a sure basis of calculation in forming their scheme for his overthrow. They entirely concealed from the king their designs against Daniel. They gave him no time to deliberate, no opportunity of consulting with Daniel. There was a scheme of cold-blooded murder to destroy the greatest, best and purest man in the kingdom, to put out of the world the king's most faithful friend.

II. A model for study and imitation. Faithful as Daniel was to the king and attentive as he was to his interests, there was a point at which obedience stopped. He would not even seem to be obedient to a wicked law which robbed the God of heaven of the worship due to him. He acted the part of a loyal subject of the Most High. He set at naught the imperious mandate and punctually performed his accustomed devotions with fearlessness. He could risk the peril of the lion's den, but he could not forego conversing with God. That was the secret of his strength, his habit of daily earnest prayer. He furnishes an example of well-principled and well-regulated devotion. The wise and diplomatic statesman, the far-sighted Daniel calmly continued his religious habits precisely as "aforetime." There was no balancing of consequences, no thought of compromise. Daniel's deepest purpose was that of loyalty to God, expressed in separation from the corrupting influences of his position. His public life was upright and beautiful because his inner life was devout and prayerful. His princely spirit shone in his captivity. He was not hardened by his captivity nor exalted by his honor. From early youth, through manifold perils, Daniel had trusted in his God. His religion was a part of his life. The secret of his faithfulness was that piety through which his foes sought to assail and take his life. Daniel did not go out of his way to show his determination to honor his God before his King. He served his God without ostentation or concealment. While he did not omit anything from fear of danger, he added nothing by way of insult to his persecutors, nor defiance toward his persecutors. He honored God at a time when the world-power was denying and deriding him. A life of devotion was not to be abandoned by any proclamation from men. He appears from first to last to have kept innocent and to have done what was right before God. Piety wrought in Daniel an integrity of life and character on which the most envious tongues could lay no hold. He was a man of purpose, perception, prayer and power. He prayed with a sense of personal limitation, with a profound conviction of divine sufficiency. He never distrusted his Lord's purposes, plans or power. His thanksgivings were not interrupted by any of the calamities he met. Though he was persecuted for righteousness' sake, he was delivered from his tribulation. His deliverance was as complete and glorious as his obedience and faith. His integrity and uprightness gave him supremacy.

When Airmen Fly High. Aviators have a told time of it when they mount high into the air. On the hottest day in summer a flying man may be in the arctic regions in ten minutes by mounting to a height of 10,000 feet, just as the climber may pass through all the zones of climate by climbing Kilimanjaro, that giant peak which rises above the snow line from the equator. He commences with the tropical jungle and ends amid eternal snow. The temperature is invariably low at 10,000 feet and over, whether at the tropics or the poles, and it is quite likely to be lowest at the equator. In fact, there is little variation of temperature in these upper reaches of the atmosphere. It is much the same in summer as winter, except for the difference which a high wind makes. Even in the depth of hot summer the airman will encounter 40 degrees of frost at 10,000 feet and at twice that altitude 100 degrees of frost—the temperature of the south pole—is usual enough.

Prehistoric Pauline—I heard your eloquent was very formal. Antediluvian Annette—Oh, yes; quite so. He insisted on dragging me off by the hair, and I chewed off one of his ears.—Cartoons Magazine.

Gahey, D. C. M. (Patrick Macgill in Chicago Tribune)

Somewhere in France The Ole Sweats, they never die; they only fade away, And others are comin' to take their place, hot on the doin's they, And drillin' they are from dawn to dusk, at it from dusk to dawn, But they'll need it, and more, to fill the boots of blokes who now are gone.

The Ole Sweats! Devils for fun were the Ole Sweats— In love or a scrap, sure, they always went nap, And 'twas always "Thumbs up!" with the Ole Sweats. —From "Soldier Songs." Gahey, D.C.M., was an Old Sweat, one of the worthy Contemptibles who saw war in the autumn of 1914. Gahey was a soldier by profession and instinct, a kindly hearted, loose limbed man, with shoulders broad as a door, ready to bear any burden, and legs willing to the last pace of the most gruelling march. Gahey was an Irishman and a soldier second to none. Once one of his mates was asked: "What kind of fellow is this Gahey?" "Ole Gahey!" he replied. "He's one of the best pals a man could have. He would give you the very sugar from his tea!" "What kind of fighter is he?" was the next question. "Fighter! God, you should see him!" was the answer, and the man's tone and the expression on his face spoke volumes. Gahey was indeed a great fighter, a handy man with bayonet and bomb. No raid in which his battalion took part was perfect without him. To see him standing on the parapet of the enemy trench, his bayonet glistening as a flaring star shell lit up the scene of conflict, and to hear his loud laugh and louder voice echoing through the night, were a tonic to his mates and a terror to his foes. His ringing tone as he shouted, "Clear him out o' it, my buccos, clear him out o' it!" before throwing a bomb into a dugout, was something to be remembered. And little Charlie Sader (comedian on the London stage before he took realistic work on the more serious stage where war's tragedy has a long season) remembered Gahey's words when giving a performance in a concert behind the lines. Charlie impersonated Gahey flinging a bomb on a German dugout and shouted out in a

brogue that could be cut with a blunt hatchet: "Clear him out o' it, my buccos; clear him out o' it." All the audience yelled with delight, and the man who yelled loudest was Gahey, D.C.M. One night, a week later, found Gahey again on a German parapet. When with his accustomed exhortation he had flung a bomb on the German dugout he turned around to his mate. "Is Charlie Sader here?" he asked. "I'm here, Gahey," came the answer. "Well, I hope ye've made a note iv what I've said," Gahey remarked. "There's money in it after the war, and you and me'll go half and half in the profite."

The other day, near Lens, the Germans launched an attack against a trench in which Gahey's battalion was stationed. The Britishers went out to give battle in the open. Gahey had a hard fifteen minutes with his favorite weapon, the bayonet, and he gloried in the job. Suddenly he came to a dead stop, when a young German boy of 17 or 18, rushed at him and tried to run him through. Gahey waited until the steel almost touched his khaki, then he stepped quickly aside, reached out with a long arm, caught the German by the coat collar, and gave him a gentle slap over the hind-means, after the manner of an irate mother reprimanding her child. "Away back with ye behind our lines, ye little vagabond," said Gahey. "Away back, and be made prisoner! Sendin' you out to fight! Your mother should have more sense. Now be a good little boy, and do as I tell ye. Go back and be made a prisoner!"

The boy did not understand Gahey's remarks, which was hardly to be wondered at, seeing that Gahey's mates were often at a loss to understand his brogue. But one thing the German did understand, and that was the strong grip of Gahey's hand on his collar. A man with a grip like that was not to be trifled with. The young fellow dropped his bayonet and put his hands over his head. He was taken prisoner. Gahey carried a little black clay pipe, "the best he ever saw in Ireland or out of it," as he often said. When going out on his nightly prowls he left the pipe with a mate, telling him to treat it tenderly until he came back. He loved his pipe more than his life. He is still alive, for, like the proverbial cat, he is in possession of nine lives. He fears nothing and nobody. Gahey, D. C. M., a hero of Mons, is a world's soul.

FARM GARDEN FARM NEWS AND VIEWS.

The horse at hard work needs to be well-fed. The animal husbandry man at the North Dakota Agricultural College says that good oats is the best grain, but that the ration can often be cheapened by replacing one-fourth to one-third of the oats with corn, barley or bran. A 1,400-pound horse will usually do well on 17 to 21 pounds of grain a day, and an equal amount of hay. As the horse is larger or smaller, feed more or less. Timothy hay is recognized as one of the best roughages for the work-horse, but a good quality of upland prairie hay, red top, clover or alfalfa, can be substituted. The Dakota man advises dividing the "reds" as follows: Grain feed—Morning, 8 pounds; noon, 8 pounds; evening, 5 pounds. Hay—Morning, 5 pounds; noon, 5 pounds; evening, 11 pounds. On Sundays, or days when the horse is idle, cut down the feed one-fourth.

Alsike clover is the wet land hay and forage crop. It is richer in protein than red clover and can be seeded on wet, sour land, when red clover and alfalfa will not grow. A man who has had much experience says it is a good plan to seed alsike clover with timothy, with orchard grass or with red top. When seeded alone the stems of the clover lie on the ground and make a mat that is difficult to cut. The grass serves to hold the clover up, and thus makes cutting easier. The mixture is also more readily cured.

A good mixture for hay is alsike clover, five pounds, and timothy, four pounds, per acre; or alsike clover, five pounds, and orchard grass ten pounds. Such mixtures will give most alsike clover with enough grass to hold it up. If more grass is wanted increase the seeding of grass. Buckwheat is about the easiest crop to succeed with. One item in its favor is that it can be sown at almost any time during the growing season for a cover crop, and can be sown throughout a long season for the grain it produces. Fruit growers keep on hand a supply of seed buckwheat.

Orchards may be renewed by cultivation, but deep plowing in orchards is disastrous, owing to the disturbance of many fine feeding roots that may not be noticeable to the plowman. Then scrape the trees and spray them. Sheep-keeping should be encouraged. No other animal can thrive on such short pasturage as the sheep. Sheep manure is the most valuable of all. On almost every farm there is a brushy field on which sheep could browse eight months of the year.

The presence of many weeds, especially sorrel and horsetail rush, indicates sourness. When the soil is made sweet with lime, weeds thriving in acid soil give much trouble. Care should be taken to handle alfalfa hay so as not to lose leaves, as these contain considerable more than 50 per cent of the feeding value of the hay.

It is the quiet, satisfied hog that brings the most money to the owner. Laxative feeds and exercise are the secrets of successful feeding. Should ensilage or roots be short, molasses make a very good supplement when fed at from two to four pounds per head per day. Cut feed means less waste and greater palatability. Cut straw mixed with the ensilage, or hay that would otherwise be wasted, cut and mixed with the ensilage and roots, is a great saving to the feeder, yet a mixture is very acceptable to the stock. Good rations for any class of live stock must be well balanced as to nutritive and palatability, succulence and nutrition. No two animals respond the same to any one food stuff; a study of the feeding of individuals is most essential and most remunerative. In-falco mares should be exercised daily. Overfat, unexercised mares usually show 60 per cent greater mortality and less ruggedness in their foals. The heavy winter milkers is usually the best and most persistent cow; give her an opportunity to make greatest profits. Quality in dairy products is the secret of success of individuals or companies. Why lose money in rearing three or four old steers when baby beaves and well-finished two-year-olds are commanding the top prices? Finish beef early and thoroughly.

THE PRIVATEER.

The steps of my first pulpit rested on the keelson of a ship. She was called the Valiant, an old Dutch privateer, a splendid specimen of Maine architecture. She was purchased by a Bethel Committee and transformed into a place of worship. The cabin formed the vestry, and though there were steps to the pulpit you went down into the pulpit instead of up. It is well for the world that we have done with privateering, and letters of marque will no more be issued. A privateer was an armed vessel, fitted out by private individuals, and carrying a commission from a belligerent Government to cruise against the commerce of its enemy in time of war. Many of our slave-traders were of this order, and the wooden walls of my old church first heard the groaning of the prisoner and the clanking of the slave chain, before they heard the songs of the Redeemer and the prayers of the saints. A change of Masters, truly. Did it ever occur to my readers that we are destined to serve? Whatever our rank, or station of wealth, we are here to serve. We are forbidden to be masters, "Be not many masters." One is your Master, even Christ. If you want to insult a Quaker, just say in your letter, Mr. Joseph Jones, Mister means master, and they do not recognize man as a master; that is why they do not uncover the head in the presence of others. My floating church first carried slaves to the West Indies; then she was transformed into a meeting place for God and the souls of men.

The way some men carry themselves, you would think that they carried letters of marque from a constituted authority, to swing around and look big, and make reprisals, but when they are boarded by a superior authority, and an iron is put in the fire, and the broad arrow is branded in the main mast, you capitulate at discretion; you hand back your sword, and your ship is confiscated. You see the point? Christ calls you His own, by conquest, by gift, by purchase, and you are really His, by voluntary surrender and consecration. Men are held in possession by the God of this world, who issues letters of marque boldly enough, but when a stronger than the strong man comes in sight, then the old rebel flag is nailed down and the flag of loyalty and freedom is hoisted up. What kind of flag flies at your masthead?

IRISH SPANIARDS. America Did Not Get All Emigrants of the Emerald Isle.

"You are, perhaps, too much inclined to think," said a Spaniard recently, "that America is the only foreign country where Irish emigrants land. But there is an Irish emigrant in Spain, though less numerous, also important. It is probable that the special conditions of this old country, its Catholic faith, its monarchical spirit, and noble traditions, particularly attracted the more distinguished Irish families in search of a new home, while the middle and poorer classes preferred to sail to more democratic and English-speaking lands. "This would explain why most of the Irish-Spaniards belong to the army. The Spanish army lists abundantly with names like O'Shea, O'Connor, MacKenna, O'Neil, earl of Tyrone, became a Spanish field marshal, and in the Carlist wars won the title of Marquis del Norte. His son, though an officer in the Spanish infantry, was better known as a poet. Another poet of Irish descent died recently in Madrid, Fernandez Shaw. And the name of General O'Donnell is as famous in Spain as that of Wellington in England. General O'Donnell was in command of the Spanish troops which invaded Morocco in the last years of Queen Isabella's reign, and his triumphant march was only checked by the diplomatic opposition of England. "Most of these Irish-Spaniards emigrated during the first half of the nineteenth century. They were quickly absorbed by Spain—a country which quickly stamps her character on newcomers—and hardly any of their present representatives speak English, or have any knowledge of English and Irish life. But they carry everywhere their family tales of a dark past and their names as witnesses of their family romance, and their influence is no doubt overwhelming on the general opinion which Spain, ignorant of the progress of later years still entertains on the 'oppressed sister island.' "Another important link between Ireland and Spain is the Irish seminary for Roman Catholic priests still existing in Salamanca. It creates a continuous channel of communication for the clergy of the two countries. It must be added that the very numerous wealthy families who wish to give their daughters an English education generally place them in English-speaking convents, either in Spain or in England. These convents are generally Irish."—Exchange.

Death of a Pearl.

Pearls are almost the only precious gems which are subject to decay, and this happens very rarely. When disease attacks a pearl it turns color and after a time crumbles away. The most valuable pearl ever known is supposed to have become diseased. It belonged to a Russian millionaire who kept it carefully locked in a casket and refused to show it even to his most intimate friends. One day some Jewish experts prevailed upon him to let them see the precious gem. When he opened the casket he was dismayed to find the pearl had been attacked by disease and was already changing color. Soon afterward a heap of white powder was all that was left of the jewel. "I couldn't attend your luncheon, dear, because it rained." "Why, it stopped raining an hour before the time." "Yes; but by that time I had made up my mind not to go."—Boston Transcript.

CHRIST'S EXAMPLE.

Even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister. Whoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. Jesus of Nazareth went about doing good.—Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. The meekness and gentleness of Christ—in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.—Be ye kind one to another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. He that saith he abideth in him, ought himself also so to walk, even as



TORONTO MARKETS. FARMERS' MARKET.

Table with columns for various market items and prices. Items include Dairy Produce, Eggs, Butter, Pork, Beef, Mutton, etc. Prices are listed in dollars and cents.

MEATS—WHOLESALE.

Table with columns for meat items and prices. Items include Beef, Pork, Mutton, etc. Prices are listed in dollars and cents.

TORONTO CATTLE MARKETS.

Table with columns for cattle market items and prices. Items include Receipts, Cattle, etc. Prices are listed in dollars and cents.

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK.

Table with columns for Buffalo live stock items and prices. Items include Receipts, Cattle, etc. Prices are listed in dollars and cents.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Table with columns for Chicago live stock items and prices. Items include Receipts, Cattle, etc. Prices are listed in dollars and cents.

Our Humorists.

All we can say is that we hope any given humorist of ours will live out the greatest length of days and not stop joking before he dies. We need every moment of his threescore years and ten to keep us sane and kind, and we cannot be satisfied with a stunted measure of time for him. When he begins unsurpassably to delight the world our national pride as well as our human need is bound up in his continuance. Possibly we are going from bad to worse, as we have always been, but we think we have been kept from the worst by the humorist's smile, not by the satirist's frown. Other races, other lands abound in songs and sermons, but we have sent our laughter over the world to save it alive more than anything else could.—W. D. Howells in Harper's Magazine.

The Man Who Thinks.

A man with dirty face and hands, shirt soaked with perspiration, started, laid down his dinner bucket, rolled a broken knuckle out of the pathway between the tracks, put it close up against the ends of the ties, where no one could stumble over it, picked up his dinner bucket and plodded home. More than fifty other employees had preceded this man, each one carefully picking his way around the obstruction. I asked this man why he had not the trouble to roll the knuckle out of the pathway. He seemed surprised at such a question and said, "Why, some of the boys might get a bad fall if the knuckle was there after dark." I said, "All the other men passed it by," and he replied, "Oh, they're all boys, aren't they? They'd done the same thing if they'd thought about it." He said something, didn't he? "Yes, if they'd thought about it."—Eric Tailroad Magazine.

Irregularities of Time.

It is perhaps as well that we do not take the sun as our guide in the matter of time, for really it has no idea of punctuality. Only on four days a year does it come up to time arriving at the meridian exactly at 12 o'clock. Before astronomers decided to take no notice of its little "going on" it was necessary to watch the sun every day to regulate your clock. The consequence was that the public clocks were hopelessly at variance, and Delaware says he heard the public clock strike the hour one after another for thirty minutes. That had at least one advantage—the unpunctual man could always give his appointments by choosing his clock carefully.—London Chronicle.