

Sunday School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. XI MARCH 13, 1904.

Death of John the Baptist. Matthew, 11: 1-2 Commentary.—1. Herod's terrified conscience (vs. 1, 2). At that time—During the missionary journey of the twelve. Herod—This was Herod Antipas, son of a tetrarch who had been the ruler of Galilee and Peraea. Thirty years before, he murdered the innocents at Bethlehem. "Of all the contemptible wretches of Scripture—not excluding Judas—there is no one who is a greater problem—Herod Antipas is the greatest—a little, petty, insignificant Nero, a King John of England, a bundle of petty vices."

II. Herod's faithfulness (vs. 3-5). 3. In prison—The place of John's imprisonment and death was Macherus, in Peraea, on the eastern side of the Dead Sea, near the frontier of the tetrarchy. Here Antipas had a palace and a prison under one roof, as was common in the east. For Herodias' sake—This woman was a granddaughter of the emperor Claudius. She first married Herod Philip, her uncle, who was the father of Salome. Herod had put away his legal wife, the daughter of Aretas, King of Arabia Petraea, and had married Herodias, though Philip, Herodias' husband, was still living.

8. Instructed—The vile Herodias saw that the hour had come for her to accomplish the deed which she had so long meditated upon. Mother—What a mother! Leading her own daughter into the vilest crimes. Give me here—She hastens (Mark vi. 25), to have the head of John cut off. The revel is in the night. Give me, "here," immediately. She took Herod by surprise and made her demand on the instant, lest Herod should change his mind. Head—What a bold request! She is thirsting for his blood and wants his head at once. In a charger—On a large platter.

IV. A foul deed committed (vs. ix. 1-2). 9. Herod's conscience was not entirely dead, and he was worried and troubled. For the oath's sake—He cared more for his oath than for his conscience, or John, or his God. He must not break it, but he must not break it kicked on the head never should have taken, which sat with him—He was afraid of offending the great men of his kingdom. A save to public opinion. To give the King the head which had led Herod to this: Rejecting the truth. 2. Continuing to indulge in his sins. A drunken feast; liquor is responsible for untold crime and misery. Not to give up dancing can but result in sin. 5. A wicked oath, which never should have been taken, but once taken, should have been broken immediately. 6. The fear of the people.

10. Beholded—But his prisoner was ready. John is not the only one who will be beheaded if the truth is upheld. Let any man to-day take his position against the evil in society, and eventually his head will roll into the basket; if he takes his position against evils in the church, not infrequently will his head come off ecclesiastically; if he opposes the corruption in politics, he will be beheaded politically. 11. She brought it—What a present!

12. His disciples—John's disciples, took up the body—"It had been thrown out," and they buried it in the just kindness that should show to one they loved. Sorrow, then brought them to Jesus. Antipas and Herodias were afterwards banished by the Roman Emperor to Lyons, in France, where they died. The remainder of their days in disgrace.

4. John said unto him—it seems that John faced the king himself with this rebuke. How bold and courageous. It was the duty of the disciples to rebuke the sins of politicians and those in authority. Not lawful—Because 1. He had put away his legal wife. 2. He had induced Herodias to forsake her husband. 3. Herodias was the niece and sister-in-law of Herod and the Mosaic law (Lev. xviii. 12-14). To have her—To marry her. The force of the original bears out this interpretation.

The Canada Life Assurance Company

57th ANNUAL REPORT

The Year's Business. The new business of the year was the largest ever submitted to the Company, and the figures in tabular form, together with those for 1902, are as follows:

Table with 3 columns: 1903, 1902, Increase. Rows include: Number of applications received (6,863 vs 5,022), Amount of Assurance applied for (\$13,881,960 vs \$10,687,072), Policies issued (12,635,032 vs 9,734,002), Policies paid for (10,122,139 vs 8,398,386), Total business in force (95,631,110 vs 89,170,575).

Of the applications received, 266 for Assurances of \$693,716 were declined, as not conforming to the Company's standard.

The Income. The gross premium and Annuity income was \$2,847,559.74, and the income from interest, including \$30,757.20 profit on sale of securities, reached the handsome sum of \$1,176,374.33. Together these make the total gross income (exclusive of payments on account of Capital Stock), \$4,023,934.07.

The Payments. The death claims paid during the year amounted to \$1,227,414.42. The matured endowments and death claims (including bonus additions), and annuities paid in 1903, amounted to \$1,528,420.46, while \$145,273.40 was paid as cash dividends and surrender values to policyholders, making total payments to policyholders \$1,673,683.86.

The Assets. The total assets at the 31st December, 1903, as shown by the balance sheet, amount to \$27,180,007.21, being an increase of \$1,215,074.71 over 1902—a growth that your Directors think is very satisfactory. The usual conservative practice of the Company has been followed in the valuation of its assets.

Table showing growth of assets: In 1883 \$5,664,000; In 1888 \$9,954,000; In 1893 \$14,313,000; In 1898 \$20,038,000; In 1903 \$27,180,000.

The Liabilities. In the valuation of the policy liabilities, the Company's own standard has again been employed, viz.: the Institute of Actuaries' Table, with interest at 3% for all business prior to January 1st, 1900, and the same table with 3% interest for policies issued since that date. The total net Reserve by this valuation standard amounts to \$25,093,374. In addition to this the Company holds Reserves of \$32,315 for lapsed policies subject to revival, and \$55,028 for instalment claims fund. After providing for these reserves and for all liabilities, except Capital Stock, there remains a surplus on policyholders' account of \$1,661,367.32. A large section of our business was valued on the new table known as the Om Table, and the Reserves brought out amounted to 90.7% of the Reserves required by the table now in use by the Company. So that it would appear that no material change in Reserve would result by the adoption of the more recent tables of mortality. So far as is known this is the first occasion upon which these new tables have been used in a valuation in Canada or the United States by any Company having an established business.

A full report of the meeting will appear in the Company's paper, Life Echoes.

What has not, as yet, been disclosed to us. Whatsoever she would seek—Mark adds (vi. 25), "Unto the half of my kingdom." Herod was ready to surrender half his kingdom for the pleasure of witnessing the performance of a lust-creating pantomime. How many are willing to sell not only their health, honor, virtue, prosperity, peace and purity, but heaven's eternal wealth of joy, for momentary pleasure—for the apples of Sodom?

John suffered imprisonment and death because he was good and preached the truth. Afflictions are not necessarily a mark of God's displeasure. Jesus suffered as no other man ever suffered, and we know that God was pleased with Him. Some of the prophets, all of the apostles except Saint John, and thousands of Christians since the days of the apostles have suffered martyrdom for the sake of Christ and His Gospel. It is not to be feared that we are not in divine order because wicked men are sometimes permitted to persecute us. "The history of sainthood is a history of suffering for righteousness' sake, from the righteous Abel to the last saint that entered the gates of pearl. Fidelity unto death is the essence of sainthood." "He that loveth his life shall lose it, and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal." "Bishop Latimer once dispensed Henry VIII. by a sermon he preached at court, and the king commanded him to repeat the next Sunday. But when he rose to preach he introduced his sermon thus: "Hugh Latimer, dost thou know to whom thou art this day to speak? To the high and mighty monarch, who can take away thy life thou offend; therefore take heed how thou dost speak a word that may displease." But, as if recalling himself, "Hugh, Hugh, dost thou know from whence thou comest, upon what message thou art sent, and who it is that is present with thee? Even the great and mighty God, who is able to cast both body and soul into hell forever; therefore be sure that thou deliver thy message faithfully." He then confirmed and urged more earnestly the offending truths he had spoken the week before.

"The evil of intemperance robbed Herod of his manhood and made him the tool of a wicked and lustful mistress. It robbed him of his sense of justice. He slew an innocent man without trial or a cause for punishment. It robbed him of his reason. He promised half his kingdom, when he neither ruled a kingdom nor had the right to dispose of the petty provinces over which, by the kindness of Caesar, he was allowed to rule. Intemperate sport usually leads to crime. Herod would not drink and be merry, and so he killed an innocent man and blasted his record for all time. Alexander would out-drink Hercules, and so he slew his best friend Clitus, and filled a drunkard's grave at 32 years of age. Men lay their manhood at the feet of the goddess of lust because rum has stolen their brains." Intemperance spares no one, who comes within reach of the demon rum. Rev. Dr. Guthrie, of Edinburgh, said, "I have seen no less than ten clergymen, when I have set down to the Lord's table, doze through strong drink." Rev. Newman Hall once said, "The churches of England lose annually 30,000 members who are slaughtered through drink." "I loved. It was into the palace of the Caesars and hissed 'Tiberias' the great into the deep—'It is from it, it is from it, it is from it.'"

London Doctors. (Philadelphia Record.) There are considerably more than 6,000 doctors in London alone, while the total of Great Britain and Ireland comes to 37,730. The doctors increase at the rate of about 400 a year; but ten years ago, when the necessary curriculum was four years, instead of five, the average increase was twice that number.

Life's a Burden.—If the stomach is not right, is there nausea? Is there Constipation? Is the Tongue Coated? Are you Light-Headed? Do you have Sick Headaches? Any and all of these denote Stomach and Liver Disorder. Dr. Agnew's Liver Pills act quickly and will cure most stubborn and chronic cases. 40 in a vial for 10 cents.—77

Railway Employee Victims. In England, where automatic coupling cars are yet unknown, 150,000 railway employees are killed or injured in ten years in making couplings, as shown by reports of the Board of Trade. The effects in a way the mortality for passengers, which is very much smaller than on American railroads.

Like a Thief in the Night. Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Sciatica and other aches and pains come upon you when you least expect them. Be provided by keeping "The D & L" Mental Plaster on hand. Then you have nothing to fear from aches and pains.

Got Her Bumps. (Bellville Ontario.) A maiden fair, with sun-kissed hair, came tripping down the street; the air was keen, her age was "steep," and, readers, she was sweet. The sidewalk was sleet, and she went off her feet, with a jolt that shook her curls, and the words she next must be excused, for she's one of our best girls.

Wizz—He's a big young man, isn't he? Wagg—Oh, I don't know. I don't see him operating any air-ships.

The Markets.

THE OFFERINGS OF GRAIN TO-DAY WERE THE LARGEST OF THE WEEK. WHEAT IS EASIER, WITH SALES OF 2,500 BUSHELS OF WHITE AND RED AT \$1. AND OF 600 BUSHELS OF GOOSE AT \$7 TO 90c. TWO LOADS OF SPRING WHEAT SOLD AT 97 TO 99c. BARLEY IS UNCHANGED, WITH SALES OF 500 BUSHELS AT 47 TO 48c. OATS EASIER, 3,000 BUSHELS SELLING AT 38 1/2c. RYE SOLD AT 57c A BUSHEL FOR ONE LOAD.

Dairy produce in fair supply, and prices ruled steady. Choice roll butter 19 to 22c, and new laid eggs at 30 to 35c per dozen. Hay in moderate supply, with sales of 25 loads at \$10 to \$11.50 a ton for timothy, and at \$7 to \$9 for mixed. Straw is firm, three loads selling at \$10 to \$11 per ton. Dressed hogs and chickens at \$6.75 for heavy, and \$7.25 to \$7.50 for light.

Following are the quotations: Wheat, white, bush, \$1; do. red, bush, \$1; do. spring, bush, 97 to 99c; do. goose, bush, 87 to 90c. Oats, bush, 38 to 39c. Peas, bush, 68 to 70c. Barley, bush, 47 to 48c. Hay, timothy, per ton, \$10 to \$11.50; do. clover, \$7.50 to \$9. Straw, per ton, \$10 to \$11; do. red clover, bush, \$6 to \$6.35; do. timothy, 100 lbs., \$2.25 to \$3. Apples, per barrel, \$1.50 to \$2.25. Dressed logs, \$6.75 to \$7.50. Eggs, fresh laid, per doz, \$3 to 35c. Butter, dairy, 18 to 22c; do. creamery, 23 to 26c. Chickens, per lb., 11 to 12c. Geese, per lb., 12 to 13c. Ducks, per lb., 12 to 14c. Turkeys, per lb., 15 to 20c. Pork, per bag, \$1.10 to \$1.20. Cabbage, per dozen, \$2 to \$2.25. Celery, per dozen, 45 to 50c. Beef, hindquarters, \$7 to \$9; do. forequarters, \$5 to \$6.50; do. medium, carcass, \$7 to \$7.50. Lamb, yearling, \$9 to \$10.50. Mutton, per cwt., \$7 to \$8. Veal, per cwt., \$8 to \$10.

Leading Wheat Markets. Following are the closing quotations at important wheat centres: New York, 101 1/4; Chicago, 96 7/8; Toledo, 99 1/2; Duluth, No. 1 N., 96 7/8.

Toronto Hog Markets. Dealers have advanced prices for live hogs 15c per cwt. for all of stock quality; \$5.15 will be the price for the present.

Bradstreet's on Trade. Trade at Montreal has again been seriously interfered with this week by the snow storms. The conditions of trade, as reported to Bradstreet's, are sound. Domestic, staple and imported goods are firmly held. The volume of spring business done so far is very fair, all things considered. Payments on March paper have been fair, but the slowness of retail trade in the country has to some extent affected the outside trade relations.

At Toronto the unusually heavy blizzard at the opening of this week caused further interruption to railway traffic, and trade has again been adversely affected. The annual spring millinery openings this week brought in many country buyers and hence sales have been large both in millinery and in dry goods. Payments on maturing obligations this week have been very fair. Prices of staple and imported goods are firm.

Trade at Quebec, although not quite as good as expected, all things considered, is fairly satisfactory. Shoe manufacturers continue busy, and many have orders ahead.

At Victoria, Vancouver and other Pacific coast cities the spring trade is fairly good and orders are coming forward in fair-sized volume. In Winnipeg there has been fairly good buying this week by the retailers. The travellers are meeting with a satisfactory demand through the West. Prices are firm. The outlook for a further large influx of settlers is encouraging. Wholesale trade at Hamilton has been fairly active, but the shipment of goods has been much hampered by the snow blockade. Sales are firm.

Trade conditions at London are satisfactory, and while the spring trade has been a little slow in a good many departments, payments have not been especially good, owing, doubtless, to the state of the country's trade. Prices are firm. Ottawa trade is in a sound, healthy condition. The volume of spring and summer business so far has been satisfactory.

Toronto Cattle Market. Receipts of live stock at the City Cattle Market to-day, as reported by Messrs. Fox & Hay, of the C.P.R. and G.T.R., were 13 cars, comprising 150 cattle, 90 hogs, 125 sheep, 22 calves and 80 hogs to Park-Blackwell.

All offerings of cattle, sheep and calves were quickly bought up at unchanged quotations, as will be seen by the different sales quoted. On account of light deliveries, less than 2,000 calves of all colors, prices for hogs are firm at \$5 to \$5.15 per cwt., fed and watered at Toronto.

From information received at different points in the country, the prevailing price paid to farmers at present is \$4.85 per cwt., both east and west of Toronto; and, at one point about 150 miles east \$5 was paid but this may have been a tight bid from local dealers, which sometimes occurs.

Exporters—Best lots of exporters sold at \$4.60 to \$4.75 per cwt., medium at about \$4.40 to \$4.50 per cwt. Export Cows—Export cows are worth \$3.40 to \$3.55 per cwt. Butchers' Cattle—Choice picked lots of butchers', 1,000 to 1,150 lbs. each, equal in quality to best exporters, are worth \$4.40 to \$4.50. Loads of good sold at \$4 to \$4.30; fair to good, \$3.60 to \$3.85; common, \$3.25 to \$3.50; rough to inferior, \$3; canners, \$2.50 to \$2.75.

Feeders—Steers of good quality, 1,050 to 1,150 lbs. each, at \$3.75 to \$4.25 per cwt. Stockers—One-year to two-year-old steers, 400 to 700 lbs. each, are worth \$3 to \$3.50 per cwt. off-colors and of poor breeding quality of same weights are worth \$2.50 to \$3 per cwt. M'leh Cows—M'leh cows and springers are worth \$7 to \$50 each.

Steadily Forging Ahead.

The Western Assurance Company is a Flourishing Financial Concern.

Of the many flourishing financial concerns which have their headquarters in Toronto, few can point to a more gratifying record than that disclosed at the annual meeting of the Western Assurance Company, a full report of which appeared in the columns of the Mail and Empire on Saturday, Feb. 20. The financial statement showed the company to be steadily forging ahead, an appreciable advancement in business being evident. The income for the year was \$3,678,387.45, and the expenditures were \$3,372,474.85, leaving a profit of \$305,912.60, or upwards of 15 per cent. on the company's capital stock. There was an increase of \$131,670.28 in premium earnings, and of \$10,681.71 in interest earnings, while there was a decrease of \$3,273.38 in losses incurred. With assets of \$3,346,357.25 and a reserve fund of \$1,289,850, the company's financial position is as secure and firmly established as wise and efficient management can make it.

An interesting portion of President George A. Cox's address was that in which he referred to the company's interest in the great fire at Baltimore. Having maintained an agency there for 30 years, it would be unreasonable to hope to escape without some considerable loss. The company's share of the insurance due had been estimated at \$350,000 which was about equal to the company's income for one month. The probable advancement of rates in other cities on similar properties to those destroyed will largely offset this loss.—Mail and Empire, Toronto.

SCHOOL TEACHER

Wants \$10,000 Damages for Breach of Promise. Goshen, Conn., March 7.—John Porter, selectman, tax collector, and constable, and a popular young man, was arrested yesterday on complaint of Miss Maud Huff, the town's school teacher, for breach of promise on a suit in which she claims \$10,000 damages. The bond required was \$12,000. Porter's defence is a complete denial.

\$4.50 SPRING SUITS

We make Ladies' suits. Our leader is a Spring Weight Cheviot. But in black, navy, myrtle green, daffodil, and seal. It is a full length suit, with a high collar, and a full length skirt. The coat has a full length back with blonde front. New fall of these suits. The skirt is trimmed with a band of the goods at the knee, the seams are lined, they are lined, they are lined, they are lined. The coat has a full length back with blonde front. New fall of these suits. The skirt is trimmed with a band of the goods at the knee, the seams are lined, they are lined, they are lined, they are lined.

SOUTHCOTT SUIT CO., LONDON, CANADA

Had Not Tried Them on. John Sharp Williams, the Mississippian, tells of a southern friend whose colored butler fell in love with a pair of loud-checked trousers which his master owned. By way of hastening the day when they should be turned over to him he threw some grease on them. Then he reported that he was unable to remove the spots. "Have you tried everything, Sam?" said his master. "Yes, sah," replied Sam insinuatingly, "I ain't tried no me good, but I'm sho' them pants 'll fit me."

A Very Smoky Reason.

"No," replied the other, "I stopped drinking just in time, thanks to you." "Thanks to me?" "Yes. When you started speaking I caught myself laughing at your stories, so I thought it was time to stop."

PATHETIC TALE OF OCEAN CASTAWAYS.

Drifted for Five Days in an Open Boat.

Heroism of Two Children Cold, Wet and Almost Foodless.

Skin Peeling Off Their Limbs, They Never Complained.

London, March 7.—A pathetic story told by ocean castaways has just reached London. Major Little, a British yeomanry officer, his wife and three children, took passage on the Mediterranean steamer Cygnet, which sailed from London Dec. 25. During a gale off Vigo, on Dec. 29, the wind blowing sixty miles an hour, fire broke out. The captain put the passengers in a boat in charge of the mate and four sailors, and then towed the boat. The Cygnet's cargo burned fiercely until the hold seemed to be a furnace. Flames spouted from the portholes and cracks in the deck. Eventually the hatchways blew off, the tow-ropes parted and the steamer sank. There had been no time to provision the boat except with biscuits and condensed milk. Those in the boat had no wraps. A bitter night followed, the boat was buffeted by the big seas, the children slept fitfully under a tarpaulin, in several inches of water, and they soon became numb. An Italian sailor of the name of Cirardi took off his coat and wrapped Edward Little, nine years old, in it. Cirardi was shortly afterwards washed overboard and lost. Major Little, looking under the tarpaulin, found that Edward had wrapped the coat around his four-year-old sister. For five days and nights they drifted in terrible distress, cold and wet and almost foodless. They had nothing to drink except a little rain water that was caught in the tarpaulin. The third night a sailor heard Edward under the tarpaulin praying that his father, mother and sister might be saved, and adding, "And please, God, don't forget the mate and the other kind men." The fourth day a steamer was sighted. She was hailed by those in the boat, who also waved oars and garments, but the steamer did not see them. The night brought still colder weather. The garments of the castaways were drenched and frozen. The bodies of the children were dreadfully frostitened, the skin peeling off their arms and legs, but the mate says they never once complained, and there was not a man in the boat who would not have gladly given his life for them. On the fifth night Major Little collapsed. The next morning the party were rescued by a fishing boat and taken to a little town of Figuera. Major Little died soon after landing. All have been seriously ill since and continue to be nursed. They have only now been brought to London from Lisbon.

CUPID IN THE STORM.

He Put Up With Inconveniences and Got Through.

Galt Reformer: When a Blizzard takes it upon itself to checkmate Cupid it is disastrous to the little man who struts around seeking those whom he may pinion with his darts. On Monday's 9.38 train from the south on the Grand Trunk, which arrived in Galt at 3 this morning (Wednesday), just 37 hours late, among other passengers were a lady and a gentleman who were to have figured as the principals in a marriage ceremony in Guelph Monday afternoon. The lady's name is Catharine Howe and the gentleman's John Alexander Mitchell. They are both Hamiltonians. The wedding was to have taken place at the home of the bride's mother, and no doubt everything was in readiness, even to the clergyman.

But Leroy's where Cupid was foiled. The Blizzard completely blocked the line and it was not until this morning the affianced couple reached Guelph.

A. J. Jackson, advance agent for Harrisburg Lane, was one of the passengers on the train, and he tells the story of the troubles which the couple experienced. When the train from Hamilton reached Harrisburg Monday morning it was the only other train which was expected that the change to the train for the north would be made immediately. But it wasn't, and the longer the delay, the greater the trouble became. Eventually, when the train was ready to go north, it was found that it would be impossible to get through. In the meantime the were-to-be married couple walked up and down in the waiting room, cooling to each other in accents sweet. This was all very well for a few hours, but as the day wore on, it got a bit tiresome, and the couple sat down in a corner. Choice quality hams, supper at the hotel on the hill at Harrisburg as guests of the Grand Trunk. When the other passengers retired for the night they went to the waiting room and sat through the night in their corner, snatching a few minutes' sleep here and there. From Harrisburg to Galt, the passengers whistled Mendelssohn's Wedding March and the Dead March in Saul, and sang such sweet and consoling selections as "Just Break the News to Mother."

Sandwich, Ont.—The Town Council last evening decided to refuse a renewal of the franchise of the Bell Telephone Co. The present system in the town is regarded as unsatisfactory. The Council will wait the decision of the Privy Council in the dispute between the Bell Co. and the city of Toronto. Before it arrives at a decision.