

LEONARD BORN WITH AMBITION TO FIGHT

Benny Leonard always wanted to be a fighter. There never was a time, except once, that he wanted to be anything else. He was raised in a fighting neighborhood in New York city, where a fighter was king. The germ of the world's championship was born in little Benny's breast in early childhood when he stood with the rest of the gang, open mouthed with admiration, while pugilistic stars of the day swarmed past.

"Who's dat feller?" little Leonard asked.

"Sh-h-h! Dat's Leach Cross, greatest fighter in the world."

"Who's dat feller?" Benny asked the next day of another admiring throng that trooped along after a grinning, cross-eyed lad.

"Sh-h-h! Dat's 'Knockout' Out Riven, de greatest fighter in the world."

So Benny Leonard decided to become a prize-fighter; they were the greatest "fellars" in the world.

A kind uncle gave the Leonard family of five boys a set of boxing gloves and the whole family started out to become champions. The boys set to and merrily battled away with each other and the whole neighborhood. Each block had its champion.

Soon Benny was the acknowledged champion of his own block—Ninth street and Avenue C. The vacant space in back of the Silver Heel A.C. was converted into a battle ground, and it was here that Benny won his first championship and his first purse.

He received 30 cents for whipping Joe Fogarty, the champion of Sixth street.

Benjamin Leiner—his true name—was born April 7, 1896. He is 21 years of age. There are five boys in the Leiner family and three girls. Benny lives at home. The love that binds this family together is remarkable. All the "mother stuff," as it is called, that you hear concerning Leonard is not the least bit faked—but is entirely true.

Benny Leonard began boxing five years ago and has fought over a hundred battles. He is absolutely unmarked and looks most unlike the general impression of a fighter.

He has been outpointed a few times—notably by Johnny Kilbane, Johnny Dundee and Freddie Welsh, and has been knocked out twice. Joe Shugrue and Frankie Fleming stopped him a few years ago in four rounds each. This was the only time he thought of quitting.

Always remarkably fast and clever he suddenly developed a punch two years ago, when he knocked out Joe Mandot. He attributes his wallop to a siege of outdoor life that he underwent to increase his strength.

Benny says that his brother Charlie, who was amateur champion featherweight, taught him the left-hand body punch that beat Welsh.

Leonard praises Welsh's remarkable cleverness. He changed his style of fighting six times during their bout in attempting to fool the wily old champion.

"I hope that I will be as good as Welsh after I have fought as many years as he has," said Benny.

Leonard bought Liberty bonds with the money he received in winning the title, and will enlist in a coast defence branch of the service.

He says that he will fight anyone up to 140 pounds, and that he can make 128 pounds himself if necessary.

He was sick the night he fought Richie Mitchell, and was surprised to win so easily.

Leonard is a rare combination of brains, speed, skill and hitting ability, and will be champion for a long time.

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BRITISH SCORE FURTHER GAINS AT BULLECOURT

Further Slice of Hindenburg Line Taken by Haig From Foe

HEAVY CASUALTIES

London, June 16.—Field Marshal Haig has taken another bite into the Hindenburg line, and has captured a section of the famous German position north-west of Bullecourt. The British advance in this region is the first determined one made there since the end of the sanguinary fighting which resulted in the capture of the town of Bullecourt by the British, and is in the direction of Hendecourt-Cagnicourt. The Germans resisted the British stubbornly, but finally yielded, after suffering heavy casualties.

In Flanders the British have extended their gains astride the Ypres-Comines Canal in the direction of Comines, and in the region of Messines, toward Warneton, on the Franco-Belgian border. One hundred and fifty prisoners and a number of machine guns were taken.

Since June 7 the British have succeeded in occupying the German first line trenches from the river Lys to the River Warnave, and have advanced their line on a seven mile front from 500 to 1,000 yards. British officially admits a withdrawal of the German front-line between Ypres and Armentieres east of Messines, as announced by Field Marshal Haig Thursday.

The campaign in Belgium gives signs of developing into one of the most important of the war. The Germans apparently are unable to resist the pressure being constantly applied to them, and are being forced back at a comparatively rapid rate.

Present Strategic Position

The military correspondent of the Westminster Gazette, discussing the recent strategic position, says:

"There is a great military road in Belgium from the west through Ypres. There is another great road from the west through Armentieres along the valley of the Lys. These roads converge at Menin, which is an important railroad as well as a road centre. The Wytschaete Ridge lies in the angle between these roads, which is a possession commands. These geographical facts make it clear why the Germans fought so long to gain possession of the ridge and were willing to pay for it a price equal to that which they were willing to pay for Verdun, if their entire losses around Ypres be included."

By entering the ridge impregnable, they believed they had barred and bolted the front door into Belgium finally. But the ridge served another purpose. Together with the bastion of La Bassée it formed a cover for everything on the enemy's west front depended on the right wing remaining secure. Without Belgium as a military base the German campaign could not go on."

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SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson XI.—Second Quarter, For June 17, 1917.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, John xv, 1-17. Memory Verses, 15, 16—Golden Text, 1 Cor. xv, 20. Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

As the next lesson will be the quarterly review, we must endeavor to summarize the last two chapters in this lesson. It may be a little difficult to arrange all the events of the resurrection day and of the forty days before His ascension in their correct order, but that is a grand and comprehensive survey in Acts 1, 3. "He showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs."

Then in John xv, 31, the reason of John's gospel, "These are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through His name."

In His great prayer He said to His Father, "This is Life Eternal that they might know thee, the only True God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent" (John xvii, 3). He is alive forevermore, has the keys of heaven and of death and has all power in heaven and on earth (Rev. 1, 18; Matt. xxviii, 18), and it is for us to show these facts in our lives that others may know Him too. It does seem an amazing thing that even Peter and John had not received any of His sayings that He would rise from the dead on the third day (verse 9), though he had again and again so plainly said so (Matt. xvi, 21; xvii, 22; xx, 19, 19; xxii, 32; xxiii, 32; xxiv, 26; xxv, 18, 19). Neither had Mary Magdalene nor the other women received these truths, with the sole exception of Mary of Bethany.

How wonderful that He should appear first to Mary Magdalene and call her by name! (Mark xvi, 9; John xx, 16). His reason for not allowing her to touch Him is so clearly and simply stated in xx, 17, that we cannot but wonder that it does not satisfy every one. The other women met Him a little later and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him (Matt. xxviii, 9, 10), so that between these two appearances He must have been to His Father and returned. Between His death and resurrection He was surely with the Father, according to Luke xlii, 49, 49; but He was on His way to His Father in His resurrection body when He appeared to Mary and called her by name. Some time that day He had a special interview with Peter, then the walk to Emmaus was the two, and in the evening He appeared in the midst of those who were gathered in the upper room with the doors shut for fear of the Jews. He showed them His hands and His side and twice said, "Peace be unto you" (xx, 19, 20). He also commissioned Peter to go in His name and preach the forgiveness of sins. "Son of David, Son of Man, who art thou? He is a piece of broiled fish and honeycomb before them" (Luke xxiv, 38-43).

That Sunday a whole week of peace because He was not with the others that evening. But a week later Jesus came again and with the same "Peace be unto you" and asked Thomas to do just what he had said to the others he would need to do before he could believe that Jesus was risen from the dead. He saw and believed and exclaimed, "My Lord and my God." Jesus said, "Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed" (xx, 24-29). We should walk by faith, not by sight, for it is as he believes that we see (John xi, 40; 1 Cor. x, 13). In chapter xxi we have the record of the seven who went fishing, led into it by Simon Peter, perhaps because they were hungry, had no money and it may be that they had not seen the Lord for some time. Well, their toll was fruitless, for they caught nothing. So it is always without Him—nothing. In the morning some one called from the shore, "Have ye any meat?" and