

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

OCTOBER 5.

SOLOMON SUCCEEDING DAVID.

1 KINGS 1: 22-35.

Not long (perhaps one or two years) after the plague which had stayed—see 2 Sam. 24: 15-25—Adonijah took steps during the illness of David to secure the throne of his father and supplant Solomon. The prompt action of Nathan defeated his purpose and brought about the public appointment and anointing of Solomon.

NOTES.

Bathsheba, granddaughter of Ahithophel and a woman of great beauty, the wife of Uriah, an officer in the army. David wickedly desired her for his wife, and so treacherously procured Uriah's death. Nathan, a distinguished prophet in the time of David and Solomon, faithful and fearless; author of a life of David and of Solomon. He reproved David for his sin against Uriah; and also informed him of the Lord's will concerning the building of the temple. Adonijah, fourth son of David and the eldest then living; beloved nearly as much as his father, famous for his beauty, but without special abilities as a ruler. He was forgiven for his revolt by David and also Solomon, but afterwards for a fresh offence was put to death. Abiathar, a high priest, fourth in descent from Eli in the line of Ithamar, younger son of Aaron. He was deposed by Solomon for his part in the revolt of Adonijah. Zadok, a high priest also descended from Eleazar, the eldest son of Aaron. He was high priest for Saul, and ministered at the tabernacle in Gibeon, Abiathar before the ark in Jerusalem. After the deposition of Abiathar by Solomon, Zadok became sole high priest, and from this time on the office was held by the descendants of Eleazar to the exclusion of those of his brother Ithamar. Benaiab, a famous warrior under David, captain of the royal body guard. He was loyal to Solomon and opposed to the pretensions of Adonijah, and after the death of Job was commander-in-chief of the army, 1 Kings 2: 29-35. Solomon, the youngest son of David and Bathsheba, famous for his wisdom and the prosperity of his reign. He had the honor of building the temple at Jerusalem. He ruled Israel for forty years, the king to gain his greatest prosperity in his time. His court was renowned among the nations for its magnificence; his capital and palaces for their wealth and splendor, and the nation for its commerce. He wrote 1000 proverbs, 1005 songs and other works. He was laid into ship, and was visited by heavy judgments. Gihon, a spring or pool, probably on the west side of Jerusalem. The anointing of Solomon was in the valley of Gihon, perhaps near the pool of Siloam, or as others think near the pool of the Bath.

EXPLANATIONS.

Nathan, come in, into the palace, not the chamber. Hast thou said, is it with your knowledge and consent? God sees King Adonijah, thus proclaiming him king. But me, Zadok, etc., this showed Adonijah's evil designs. Hast thou shared, is not Solomon to succeed thee? Hast thou changed thy mind and kept this change from me? Secret, or "servants," as Hebrew margin reads. Bathsheba, who had withdrawn as Nathan entered. As the Lord liveth, a common form of affirmation. King David live forever, a prevalent Eastern compliment to royal persons. The servants, the royal body guard, consisting of the Cherethites and Perethites. Ride upon mules, mules were then used by all princes, 2 Sam. 13: 29; but there was a royal mule; it could not be used without the king's special order. This would signify that David approved the proceedings in respect to Solomon. To Gihon, or "to Gibeon," as some readings give it, but Gihon seems more natural. Anoint him, the customary mode of inducing into the king's office, especially if there was a new dynasty or a disputed succession. Anointed, Judah, both mentioned to show that Solomon was made king of the whole nation. This public recognition of his successor by the old king accords with Eastern custom.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- 1. God is not indifferent in respect to the choice of persons to fill responsible positions in church or state.
2. God knows how to bring about his purposes even when powerful men aim to defeat them.
3. God employs right-minded men to oppose the designs of the ungodly.
4. The schemes of the ambitious and the evil-minded prosper only for a time.
5. He who seeks fitness for usefulness is in a line with the purposes of God, and in the way of promotion to pleasant and honorable position.—Solomon's Hand Book.

THREE TIMES A DAY.

As a certain famous cook has well said, there is no efficient educator in the household that has higher rank than the noble. Surrounded three times a day by the family, eager for refreshment of body and spirit, its impressions sink deep, and its influence for good or ill form no mean part of the warp and woof of our lives. Its fresh damask, bright silver, glass and china, give beautiful lessons in neatness, order and taste; its damask soiled, rumpled and torn, its silver dingy, its glass cloudy, and china

nicked, annoy and vex at first, and then instill their lessons of carelessness and disorder. An attractive, well-ordered table is an incentive to good manners; and being a place where one is incited to linger, it tends to control the bad habit of fast eating; while, on the contrary, an uninviting, disorderly table gives license to bad manners and encourages that haste which is proverbial among Americans. The woman, then, who looks after the table in these particulars is not doing trivial work, for it rests with her to give, silently, these good or bad lessons in manners and morals to her household three times a day.—Boston Post.

LESS MEAT.

We are not vegetarians, but we have a strong conviction that we Americans eat too much meat. The life-sustaining elements of our food are albumen and starch. The meat foods contain no starch; the vegetable food contains albumen as well as starch. There are other values in meat food on which we need not dwell, but they are not of the same rank and importance as the life-feeders, albumen and starch. Beans and peas contain more albumen than meat does, and wheat contains nearly as much. For the poor it is of great importance to know that they can live on palatable foods that cost less than half what meat costs. The difference would buy better homes, better clothing, newspapers and books, and nameless comforts. Civilization doubtless involves a decrease in the proportion of meat food. The plow displaces the herd, as well as the hunting Indian, as fast as population increases. One of the distinctions in modern life is doubtless to be found in the consumption of too much meat. It requires more land and labor to produce it than modern society can afford, and the result works out in privation of various kinds. Coming generations will eat less meat and be happier because other foods will cost less, and allow a larger margin for the comforts of life and the mental ailments.—N. Y. Ad.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

Last year I was induced to try an experiment in chrysanthemum growing; and for this purpose I purchased one pound of sulphate of ammonia, which I bottled and corked up, as the ammonia evaporates very rapidly. I then selected four plants from my collection, and put them by themselves and gave a teaspoonful of ammonia in a gallon of water twice a week. In a fortnight's time the result was most striking; for although I watered the others with cow manure, they looked lean when compared with ammonia-watered plants whose leaves turned to a very dark green, which they carried to the edge of the pots until the flowers were cut. As a matter of course the flowers were splendid. The ammonia which I used is rather expensive, as I bought from a chemist's shop; this year I intend getting agricultural ammonia, which is much cheaper. I have also tried it on strawberries, with the same satisfactory result, the crops being nearly double that of the others. It is very powerful and requires to be used with caution.—Gardener's Chron.

USEFUL HINTS.

Give your tenderest care to the best products of your farm—your sons and daughters. As a treatment for diarrhoea, a French physician recommends a glass of hot lemonade every hour, or half hour. Neatness pays. Keep your stock picked, stables cleaned, rubbish curbed up, and roadsides and mowing fields free from bushes and weeds. What is it but the worst kind of a mistake to pay hundreds of dollars for good farm machinery, and allow it for want of proper shelter to rot and become useless a year or so sooner than it should? To leave a lot of unclipped wood, wet or half-split wood at the pile, a lot of old harness hanging in the kitchen, and muddy tracks in the dining room and expect to see the woman folk good natured, is a great mistake. The American Cultivator suggests that one great reason why so much dilapidated wire fence is seen is because the wires are stretched too tightly. Cold contracts iron, making the wire shorter in winter than when the fence was built at a warmer temperature, and something has to give way. Good cookery, by developing flavour, increases the nutritiousness of food which had cookery would perhaps render indigestible. Hence a good cook rises to the dignity of an artist. He may rank with the chemists, if not with the physicians. Liquid manure is excellent for any growing garden crop. Any kind of manure, steeped in water for a short time, gives its strength to the water, which than can be poured out on the beds. The best way to apply it is to remove a portion of the surface, to be restored as soon as the water sinks away.

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