Sunday School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. V. JULY 31, 1904.

Omri and Ahab.—I Kings 16:23-33.

Comentary.—I. The reign, character and death of Omri (vs. 23-28). 23. Began Omri—No acount is taken here of the four years he was contesting the kingdom with Tibni. From verse 15 we see that his reign must really have begun in the 27th year of Asa's reign, he began to reign alone. Twelve years—This is supposed to include the whole time of his reign—four years with Tibni and eight years alone. There is, however, a difference of opinion as to the chronology here. In Tirzah—He reigned six years in Tirzah and six in Samaria.

24. The hill Samaria—The palace of Tirzah being in ruins, Omri, in selecting the site of his royal residence, was naturally influenced by considerations both of pleasure and advantage. In the centre of a wide amphitheatre of mountains about six miles from Sechem, rises an oblong hill with steep, yet accessible sides, and a long flat top extending east and west ,and rising five hundred or six hundred feet above the valley. What Omri probably built as a mere palatial residence, became the capital of the kingdom, instead of Sechem. The choice of Omri was admirable in selecting a position which combined strength, beauty and fertility.—Stanley. Shemer—The Hebrew form is Shomer. Two talents—About $3,320.—Terry. This was a large sum for those days. Samaria continued to be the capital of the northern kingdom until Schalmaneser carried away Israel into Assyrian captivity.

25. Evil .... worse than all—He was worse than the wicked kings who had reigned before him. "He went farther than they had gone in establishing iniquity by law, and forcing his subjects to comply with him in it; for we read in Micah vi. 16, of the 'statutes of Omri' the keeping of which made Israel a desolation."—Henry. 26. Made Israel to sin—Note the power of a wicked life: 1. It is the more dangerous when associated with material prosperity (v. 24). 2. It transforms a king into a tyrant (vs. 25, 26). 3. It is the less inexcusable in a man of valor and capacity (v. 27). 4. It entails suffering and woe on succeeding generations.—Barlow, 27. And his might—It appears that he stood well in the army. for it was in the camp that he was elected to the throne, yet in his relation to Jehovah he stood worse than any of his predecessors and was farthest from God. A man may be skilful and useful to himself and others in all material and worldly things, while in spiritual and divine things he works only mischief and destruction. What without religion is so-called civilization?—Lange. 28. Omri slept—He died a natural death.

II. The reign and character of Ahab (vs. 29-33). 29. Year of Asa—Asa saw six kings of Israel buried. Began Ahab—More particulars are recorded of Ahab than of any of the other kings of Israel. 30. Did evil.... above all—He even exceeded the iniquity of his wicked father. 31. A light thing—He not only broke the second commandment by introducing false gods, but he broke he first also by bringing in heathen deities. Jezebel—One of the worst characters mentioned in the scriptures. She used every effort to establish idolatry in Samaria and exterminate the worship of God. Prophet and people were compelled to hide from the storm of her wrath. Her influence was also powerfully felt in Judah. Ethbaal—Jezebel's royal father was a priest of Baal and murdered his own brother, King Philetos. He was a fit parent of this woman.—Barlow. Zidonians—"This term was used among the Hebrews with much latitude. Josephus calls Ethbaal king of the Tyrians and Zidonians. It is probable that both Tyre and Sidon, with the adjacent towns, were often under one government." Served Baal—The chief male god among the Phoenicians, as Ashtoreth was the female divinity. An unholy alliance would never be entered into if the soul were not first demoralized. The results show how mixed marriages are dangerous.

32. Reared ..... altar, etc.—He built a temple and in it erected an altar where sacrifice might be offered to Baal. "Splendid shrines were built, especially one of vast size in the capital, and the rites and ceremonies of the new cult were exhibited on a grand scale, with sensuous accompaniments of all kinds—music, statutary, procession of robed priests, victims, incense, bands of fanatics worked up to frenzy by religious excitement, and the like. Astarte's emblems were erected, and license was given, under cover of her worship, to the grossest licentious excesses."— Rawlinson. 33. Made a grove—"The Asherah."—R. V. This was an image to represent the female divinity, of which Baal was the male. Did move—Ahab actually worshipped these heathen deities, and crushed out the true religion. We can be guilty of no greater sin than to reject God and the salvation he has provided through His Son. See John iii, 19, 36.

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

In our review of the rapid decline of Israel to the culmination in its utter destruction we pause at the chapter headed "Omri and Ahab" for a glimpse of the rebellious nation. What pictures do these names bring before our eyes—pictures of moral degradation, pictures of cruelty, pictures of extreme stupidity! Like danger signals God has set the story of these two kings in the records to warn others of destruction at the end of the way of Omri and Ahab.

From the orthodox Jewish families who had revolted under Jeroboam has now sprung a generation of idolaters. It may have been "broad-minded" for Omri to recognize the good in all religions, but it was short-sighted enough for him to overlook all the evils of idolatry and to rear in his home such a profligate son as Ahab. Idolatry marks its devotees with cruelty. The house of Jeroboam has been completely blotted out; the house of Baasha was put to death; Elah was assassinsated; Zimri committed suicide. Both Omri and Ahab Ahab were cruel to those who stood in the way of their ambitions. Idolatry further degrades the morals of its victims. Selfishness and the sensuous influences of Ashtoreth have brought down to moral degradation both these men who are chief among God's people. With what persistent stupidity did these two kings pursue their wicked practices! With utter disregard for the frequent instances of the execution of God's wrath and in the face of His oft-repeated warnings did they cause Israel to sin. With what stupidity did they turn from the oracles of God to ask help at the shrines of the images of calves! How blind is he who sees reward and punishment, approbation and revenge in the hands of a dumb image or in high-sounding laws of nature, but who has no eyes to see the hand of the Almighty, which metes out justice and mercy.

Retribution is sure to follow the wicked. By promises of a less rigid government, by the advantages of his position and by his real merit as a general Jeroboam mighe win the hearts of the people and be popular for a time, but destruction came to every member of his family. God turned him over for destruction to those more wicked than himself. Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri and Ahab might be sucessfully seated on the throne, but what list of names could better show the foolishness of attempts to fight against God and yet escape his punishments? It may be that Omri's wisdom could postpone for a time God's judgments never grow weary in their pursuit of the wicked.

Omri was wicked but Ahab was more wicked; Omri served idols but Ahab served Baal with zeal. "Ahab did more to provoke the Lord of Israel that went before him." Not only lines of kings but families go from immortality to wickedness and from wickedness to greater wickedness until divine justice is meted out and the family name is blotted out. What a lesson should the father who is wreckless learn from Omri and his more wicked son! When the records are made shall they not surely read, "The father was wicked but the son was worse than the father?" This story of from bad to worse would be endless, and every father would be a link in the endless chain of despair but for the gospel of Christ, which may break the chain and start even the most wicked family on the upgrade. Let that gospel speedily reach the fathers of our land for our nation is in danger.

The worst crime with which the wicked Ahab is charged is that he married Jezebel. As a light thing the king of God's people has deliberately chosen as his wife this idolatrous woman. Solomon's strange wives brought sin with them, but Jezebel did more to corrupt Israel than all Solomon's court. The charms of Jezebel are still the snare of the young men who have the brightest hopes. A saintly mother in Israel once said: "Our young preachers make the worst mistakes in the choice of wives of any class of men on earth." God deliver our young men from the snares of the modern Jezebel!

Clark W. Shay.

A GERMAN SENSATION.

Developments in the Trial of Social-Democrats at Konigsberg.

Konigsberg, July 25.—Ae yesterday's session of the court which, on July 12, began the trial of the seven Social Democrats accused at the instance of the Russian Government of smuggling Anarchistic literature into Russia, the testimony given showed that some of the pamphlets in question appealed to the army, urging the soldiers to disobey the command to fire upon the populace.

The defence, near the close of the session, caused a sensation by moving to summon Mayor Petkoff, of Sofia, a former Russian dragoman in Bulgaria, and the editor of a Sofia newspaper, in order to prove that the Russian Government had been keeping agents in the Balkans since 1881 to incite the people against the rulers. The defence wishes to prove through these witnesses the Russians' responsibility for the murder of King Alexander and the Premier, M. Stambuloff, in order to draw the conclusion that Russia is not a civilized State having right of protection in German courts.

The court took the matter under consideration.

Another sensation was caused by a telegram from the Foreign Office stating that a treaty between Russia and Germany covering paragraph 260 of the Russian penal code does not exist. The paragraph refers to punishment for high treason against foreign potentates, which was shown to apply only where a treaty explicitly provides for it.

The newspapers are departing from the usual practice here of avoiding editorial comment on trials in progress. A number devote leading articles to the Konigsberg case this evening, showing the painful impression made on the public mind by the disclosure of the relations existing between the Russian and German Governments. The testimony brought out the fact that the Russian Embassy at Berlin gave the court at Konigsberg incomplete and misleading translations of passages of the Russian penal code, whereas the court's experts supply the missing words, which give an entirely different result. The National Zeitung expresses amazement, and the Tageblatt says it expects the case will soon be dismissed.

PACKERS' STRIKE ENDED.

The Controversy Will Be Submitted to Arbitration.

Chicago report: The strike of packing house employees, begun nine days ago, and which has demoralized the packing industry throughout the country, was settled here to-night at a conference between representatives of the packers, the officials of the Meat Cutters' Union and representatives of all the allied trades employed at the stock yards. The whole controversy will be submitted to a board of arbitration, both sides agreeing to abide by whatever decision this board may reach.

Pending the decision of the arbitration board, the men will be taken back to work as rapidly as possible by the packers, and it is agreed by the packers that all of the old employees are to be reinstated within forty-five days from the date work is resumed. If any of the former employees are still unemployed at the expiration of that time such persons are to have the privilege of submitting their cases to the arbitration board for settlement.

The strikers will return to work as soon as they can be notified of the peaceable adjustment of the trouble, and it is expected that by Friday morning everything will be in normal shape at all the plants in the different cities where the employees are on strike.

Negotiations between the master bakers and the journeymen at New Haven, Conn., for a new agreement are nearly completed. All points contained in the agreement of last year have been adopted, except those relating to pay for overtime.

OLDEST CITY IN THE WORLD.

Chicago Expedition Discovers the Ancient Adab.

Chicago, July 25.—Udnunki, the ancient Adab, perhaps the oldest city in the world, has been discovered by the University of Chicago's excavation expedition in Babylonia. This city has for many years been the object of search by Orientalists.

It is mentioned in the code of Hammurabi, an early King of Babylonia, which document was translated recently by Professor Robert F. Harper, director of the expedition. He has just received news here in a cablegram from Professor F. J. Banks, field director of the expedition. The uncovering of ancient Adab is one of the most important archaeological achievements of recent years. Dr. Banks informed Prof. Harper that he had found bricks bearing the syllables Ud-Nun-Ki at the lowest level of the ruins. He is certain that these bricks identify the city of Adab. With a force of 120 men he excavated the ruins at Bismya and found the remains of four temples, built one above the other, which he named according to the kings who built them. The dates became earlier, until finally the bricks identifying Udnunki were found. Among other articles are marble statues and many bronze objects.

COMPLETED THE FIRST STAGE.

Six Canadians in Second Stage of King's Prize.

Englishmen Made Best Score at Three Ranges.

Baynton Seventh in the Duke of Cambridge.

Bisley Camp cable: In the contest for the King's Prize at the annual meeting of the National Rifle Association yesterday, the bronze medal was won by Sergt. Walker, of the Northumberland Fusiliers, with a score of 101. Among the Canadians, Corp. McGregor, Sgt, Crowe and Pte. Baynton each scored 96; Pte. J. W. Smith 95; and Major Moore and Pte. Perry 94 each.

The bronze medal is awarded for the highest aggregate score in the first stage of the contest for the King's Prize.

There were three counts of 100, nine of 99, twelve of 98, and twenty of 97.

Canadians made the following scores at the 500 yards and 600 yards ranges:

500 Yards.

Pte. A. Baynton, 48th	33
Capt. H. C. Blair, Truro	30
Capt. J. Crowe, Guelph	34
Staff-Sgt. C. R. Crowe, Guelph	35
Color-Sgt. W. H. Davidson, 1st P. W. F.	30
Capt. R. Dillon, Whitby	32
Lance-Sgt. W. G. Fowler, 12th, Toronto	30
Color-Sgt. A.G. Gardner, Sherbrooke	28
Sgt. W. Gould, Guelph	29
Pte. J. G. Goudie, Quebec	28
Corp. R. McGregor, G. G. F. G.	31
Major W. P. Moore, Georgetown	31
Sgt. T. Mortimer, 10th	31
Pte. J. Perry, D. C. O. R., Vancouver	34
Pte. C. S. Scott, Ottawa	28
Pte. Neil Smith, Stewart	32
Pte. H. Tyers, 10th	31
Pte. T. Westman, Ottawa	27
Color-Sgt. Will. 13th,	27
Color-Sgt. W. H. Youhill, Winnipeg	27
Staff-Sgt. Bayles	32

600 Yards.

Blair	28
Staff-Sergt. Crowe	30
Davidson	28
Dillon	21
Gardner	29
Mortimer	32
Scott	24
Youhill	24
Bayles	26
Will	18
Fowler	26
Gould	29
McGregor	34
Moore	29
Perry	29
Tyers	26
Westman	28

Ninety-six competitors with scores of 92, over the three distances, will shoot for 54 places in the 300 who shoot in the second stage of the King's Prize.

Duke of Cambridge.

In the Duke of Cambridge, ten shots at 900 yards, the Canadians put on the following scores:

Baynton	45
Blair	39
Capt. J. Crowe	39
Davidson	27
Sergt. C. R. Crowe	35
Dillon	39
Fowler	33
Gardner	42
Gould	42
Moore	**43**
Mortimer	31
Scott	35
Tyers	43
Westman	35
Will	27
Youhili	38
Goudie	31
Smith	43
Perry	41

Corporal McGregor retired from the match.

The following take prizes: Baynton seventh, £4; Tyers 22nd, Moore, 25th, Smith 26th, Bayles 30th, Gould 39th and Gardner 43rd, each get £2.

In the "All-Comers' Aggregate" Corp. McGregor of Ottawa, took 33rd place, winning £2. Staff-Sergt. Crowe was 56th, and also won £2.

The "All-Comers' Aggregate" includes the Alexandra, the Daily Graphic, Daily Telegraph and the Graphic. It covers the 200, 500 and 600 yard ranges.

With a score of 48, made by eight bulls and two inners, Private Perry of the Canadian team, won fourth prize of £6 in the secretary of state for war competition, a ten-shot match at 900 yards. Bayles won the eighteenth prize, Tyers the twenty-first and Smith the twenty-third, each of £2, with score of 46.

In the range competition at 500 yards Capt. Crowe is 20th, winning £1, Pte. J. Perry 37th, 4s. In the 600 yards competition, Staff-Sergt. Bayles is 4th and Staff-Sergt. Crowe fifth, each winning £1.

In the "Martin's" Challenge Cup, a rapid fire competition at 200 yards, Sergt. W. Gould is the only Canadian who figures in the prize list. He took 116th place, winning £1.

The winnings of the team to date have been about £62. Those who have entered individual matches have secured a total of about £50.

DEFIED BY A MADMAN.

The Police Force of Canton, Ill., Held at Bay for Hours.

Peoria, Ill., July 21.—Frank Pierce today shot and killed his wife at their home in Canton, Fulton county, and then held the entire Canton police froce at bay. The sheriff's force was summoned from Lewiston. Pierce, after shooting his wife three times, barricaded himself in the upper portion of his house, and through the closed shutters announced he would kill the first officer to set foot on his premises. His mother was allowed to pass in and out of the house at will, but he would not permit her near the death chamber. He requested his brother-in-law, Chas. McGasten, to come to the house to talk regarding the disposition of certain personal effects, and he asked Fred Messler, an undertaker, to care for his wife's remains, but both at first refused to come until Pierce had been taken prisoner.

Later Pierce was thrown off his guard by Undertaker Messler, who finally consented to enter the house and prepare the body of Mrs. Pierce for burial. Officers then rushed in and captured Pierce, who is believed to be insane, after a desperate fight. They were forced to chloroform him.

TWO FAMILIES DISRUPTED.

Fred. Creed and Mrs. Alexander, of Toronto Missing a Month.

Toronto, July 25.—It is not often that the quietude of Toronto is broken by such an affair as an elopment, but at the present time the east end is discussing the elopement of Fred. J. Creed and Mrs. Robert G. Alexander. Mr. Creed resided at 367 Parliament street, where he conducted a bicycle repair shop, with his wife and 7-year-old daughter. Mrs. Alexander lived at 356 Gerrard street east, with her husband and son of 8 years. Both families appeared to be very happy until about a year ago, when the neighbors noticed that Creed and Mrs. Alexander seemed to be very fond of each other.

Just one month ago yesterday the couple left their homes and have not been seen since. No one knows where they went, but is well known that they left together. The detectives have been asked to locate the elopers.

Mrs. Creed, since her husband has gone, has locked herself in the house, closed the store, and refuse to be comforted. Mr. Alexander, who is a painter by trade, also feels his condition, and refuses to talk regarding his wife's movements.

A prominent Southern lady, Mrs. Blanchard, of Nashville, Tenn., tells how she was cured of backache, dizziness, painful and irregular periods by the use of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—Gratitude compels me to acknowledge the great merit of your Vegetable Compound. I have suffered for four years with irregular and painful menstruation, also dizziness, pains in the back and lower limbs, and fitful sleep. I dreaded the time to come which would only mean suffering to me.

"Better health is all I wanted, and cure if possible. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound brought me health and happiness in a few short months. I feel like another person now. My aches and pains have left me. Life seems new and sweet to me, and everything seems pleasant and easy.

"Six bottles brought me health, and was worth more than months under the doctor's care, which really did not benefit me at all. I am satisfied there is no medicine so good for sick women as your Vegetable Compound, and I advocate it to my lady friends in need of medical help."—MRS. B. A. BLANCHARD, 422 Broad St., Nashville, Tenn.

—$5000 forfeit if original of above letter proving genuineness cannot be produced.

The Markets

Toronto Farmers' Market.

The farmers' market to-day was extremely dull, with nothing of consequence offering.

Dairy produce is unchanged, with sales of dairy butter at 15 to 17c per lb., and of eggs at 19 to 21c per dozen. Spring chickens easier at 16 to 18c per lb., and ducks at 11 to 12c.

Hay also dull with prices nominal in absence of offerings. Old quoted at $11 to $13, and new at $8 to $9. Straw nominal at $10 to $11 a ton.

Dressed hogs are unchanged. Light quoted at $7.50 to $7.60.

Wheat, white, bush., 92c; wheat, red, bush., 92c; wheat, spring, bush., 87c; wheat, goose, bush., 78 to 79c; oats, bush., 38 to 39c; barley, bush., 41 to 42 1-2; hay, old, per ton, $11 to $13; hay, new, per ton, $8 to $9; straw, per ton, $10 to $11; dressed hogs, light, $7.50 to $7.60; eggs, per dozen, 20 to 21c; butter, dairy, 15 to 18c; do., creamery, 19 to 21c; chickens, spring, per lb., 16 to 18c; turkeys, per lb., 13 to 15c; potatoes, per bag, 90c to $1.00; cabbage, per dozen, 50c to $1.00; beef, hindquarters, $9.00 to $10.25; do., forequarters, $5.00 to $6.00; do., choice, carcase, $7.50 to $8.25; mutton, per cwt., $7.00 to $8.25; veal, per cwt., $7.50 to $8.50; lamb, spring, lb., 11 to 12c.

Toronto Fruit Markets.

Trade in fruit in the local market was rather quiet to-day. Strawberries steady at 9 to 12c per box. Raspberries 10 to 12c. Lawton berries 15c. Cherries, basket, 75c to $1.25. Red currants, large basket, 65 to 85c. Gooseberries, basket, 60 to 90c. Huckleberries, basket, 90c to $1.20.

British Cattle Markets.

London, July 23.—Cattle are steady at 13 1-2 to 14c per lb.; refrigerator beef 11 3-8 to 11 1-2c; sheep 11 to 12c, dressed weight.

The Cheese Markets.

Watertown, N. Y., July 23.—Cheese sales 9,000 at 7 1-4c for large.

London, Ont., July 23.—There were 1,325 boxes offered by eight factories at the market to-day; sales, 220 at 7 1-2c, 130 at 7 9-16c.

Cornwall, July 23. — To-day 2,042 cheese were boarded, 1,042 white and 1,000 colored; all sold, white at 7 1-2c, colored at 7 5-8c.

Belleville, July 23.—To-day 40 factories offered 3,785 white and 50 colored cheese; 7 1-2 bid for total offering; 7,730 sold on market; balance sold on street at 7 1-16c.

Alexandria, July 23.—To-day 1,480 boxes were listed, 1,110 white, 370 colored; all sold, white at 7 1-2c, colored at 7 5-8c. Sales: J. F. McGregor 407 boxes; J. A. Walsh, 604; J. A. McRae, 353; J. W. Weegar 116.

Canton, N.Y., July 23.—Butter 17 3-4c, cheese, twins, 7 1-2c.

Toronto Live Stock Markets.

Receipts of live stock were 10 car loads, 21 cattle, 836 hogs, 125 sheep and lambs, and 1 calf.

There was little business transacted with the exception of hogs, of which Mr. Harris bought 836 at unchanged quotations. Prices in other classes were nominal.

Exporters—Choice, well-finished, heavy exporters are worth $5 to $5.25 per cwt.

Export bulls—Choice export bulls sold at $3.75 to $4; medium at $3.50 to $3.75. Export cows—Prices ranged from $3.50 to $3.85 per cwt.

Butchers'—Choice picked lots of butchers', equal in quality to best exporters, 1,100 to 1,200 lbs each, sold at $4.75, loads of good at $4.25 to $4.50; medium at $4 to $4.25; common at $3.25 to $3.50; rough and inferior at $2.75 to $3.25 per cwt.

Feeders—Feeders weighing from 950 to 1,050 lbs, of fair quality, sold at $4 to $4.25 per cwt.

Stockers—Choice yearling calves sold at $3.25 to $3.50; poorer grades and off-colors sold at $2.75 to $3.50, according to quality.

Milch cows—Milch cows and springers sold at from $25 to $50.

Sheep—Export ewes old at $3.65 to $3.75; export bucks at $3 to $3.25 per cwt.

Spring lamb—Prices ranged from $2.75 to $4.25 each.

Hogs—Prices for straight loads, fed and watered, were $5.40 per cwt, and $5.15 for lights and fats.

Veal calves—Prices ranged from $2 to $8 each, and $3.50 to $5 per cwt.

Bradstreets on Trade.

In Montreal the holiday season is making the wholesale trade a little quiet. Orders for the fall are fairly unmerous and well distributed in various departments of wholesale business. Crop reports from the west are favorable on the whole. The west continues to buy liberally. The conditions of trade at Montreal are sound and the outlook for the fall is encouraging.

Toronto wholesale trade is pretty well distributed. Fall orders booked so far are satisfactory. Values of staple goods are firm. Wool is dearer. The demand from the domestic mills, too, is better, owing to the scarcity of the local supplies and the higher prices. Remittances are not specailly good at the moment.

In Victoria and Vancouver wholesale trade is fair and the outlook is promising. The demand from interior Provincial trade centres is good, and an increased demand from the north is expected during the next few weeks. Local industries are moderately active.

At Winnipeg there is a fair amount of activity in wholesale trade circles. Buying for the fall and winter is on a scale which indicates confidence in an increased consumption of staple goods. Crop reports are slightly more varied, but on the whole showing satisfactory progress.

Business at Hamilton this week has been fair for this season. The sorting trade is about over in wholesale circles, but the retail demand for seasonable goods continues very good. Fall orders have been satisfactory and the outlook for the fall and winter trade, as reported to Bradstreet's, is encouraging.

London wholesale trade circles report a fair number of fall orders coming to hand. The outlook for business through the country is promising. Prices of staple goods are steady to firm.

There has been a fair demand in Ottawa for goods for shipment for fall and winter. The sales of seasonable goods are somewhat less in jobbing departments. Prices are generally steady.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sir H. E. Taschereau has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Colonial Institute.

The University of Aberdeen is seeking power to confer the degree of Doctor of Science in Agriculture.

The bones of nine persons have been unearthed at Greenwich on some ground which was filled in about the year 1854.

The London division of the Corps of Commissioners increased its membership last year from 1,818 to 1,876.

Somerset County Council has decided to represent to the Board of Trade the urgent necessity for providing a harbor of refuge in the Bristol Channel.

"Ladies' Day" on the Guelph Street Radial Railway for the benefit of the General Hospital was a decided success. The total receipts amounted to about $700.

While the liner Philadelphia was on a voyage from New York to Southampton a flying-fish 12 inches long and 15 inches across the "wings" darted into the engine-room.

The new musical prodigy, Florizel von Reuter, was summoned from an orchestral rehearsal of his first Symphony on Monday to play to the Queen at Buckingham palace.

Mr. Hall Caine's continued absence from the Manx House of Keys is causing dissatisfaction among his constituents at Ramsey, many of whom are calling for his resignation.

There seems to be a curious cosmopolitan element about horse-racing in Germany. The German Derby was won at Hamburg by Con Amore, with Bon Marche second and Real Scotch third.

Marked improvement in the shooting of the regular army, and in the interest taken in musketry, have been observed at the Eastern District rifle meeting, which has just concluded at Colchester.

Wiliam Banner was walking with a flag in front of a steamroller near Bishop Auckland when he fell, and the roller, weighing thirteen tons, passed over him, crushing him from head to foot.

There were 2,465 births and 1,143 deaths registered in London last week, being eighty-nine births and 172 deaths below the average numbers in the corresponding weeks of the previous ten years.

The Union and Consolidated Traction Companies at Chicago, Ill., have been presented with a new wage scale for 4,500 employes. Cable men want 26 cents an hour instead of 25, and electric men want 25 instead of 23 and 24 cents.

The municipality of Troppau, in Austrian Silesia, has followed the example of the Bohemian and Moravian capitals in making the trailing of ladies' dresses in the public parks punishable with a fine.

In the last letter written to his wife by a master mariner, who was "presumed to be dead" in the Probate Court, he said, "If we recognize one another in the next world, the next fellow you marry will have a tussle there with me."

Mr. Robert Glockling, of the Ontario Labor Bureau, has returned from a convention of similar officials in Concord, N. H. As a result of the discussions there will be hereafter co-operation in the collection of statistics. The convention will meet next year in Quebec.

General William Booth, of the Salvation Army once explained his theory of getting work done. "They call me a pope sometimes. I reply it is the only way. Twenty people are banded together, and nineteen are for taking things easily, and if you leave them to themselves they will take the easy path. But if you say, "Go; that's the path," they will go. My people now want and wait to be commanded."

"My method of work?" said Jules Verne. "Well, until recently I invariably rose at 5 and made a point of doing three hours of writing before breakfast. The great bulk of my work was always done in this time. My stories have really nearly all been written when most folk are sleeping. I have always been a wide reader, especially of newspapers and periodicals, and it is my custom whenever a paragraph or article strikes me to cut it out and preserve it for future reference."

Paderwski, the famous pianist, says that his fingers are as precious to him as life, for he could never play if he lost any of them. He makes insurance from time to time to cover special risks, as when he is going on a long journey by land or sea, but, apart from these, his two hands are regularly underwritten from year to year. He pays $4,000 annually in this way, with the result that if anything went wrong with one of his precious hands at any time so that he could no longer earn an income by his playing he would be paid $50,000 cash down by the underwriters.

POETRY UNAPPRECIATED.

Daniel Collins' Begging Methods Land Him in Jail.

Toronto, July 25.—Daniel Collins was arrested by P. C. Hawthorne for vagrancy. He is a one-legged man, and was endeavoring to get money by begging. In order to elicit sympathy he would hand each passer-by a card, on which the following verses appeared:

"Look, kind stranger, as I pass by,
As you are now so once was I;
As I am now you may sometime be,
But I hope and pray it shall never be.

"Never think your gifts are wasted,
Bread on waters cast are they,
And perhaps you will find them
Coming back to you some day—

"Coming back when sorely needed
In a time of deep distress;
So let your gifts be given freely
Gift and giver God will bless."

On the other side of the card was printed: "Kindly give what you can. I am trying to raise enough money to buy an artificial limb."

In the Police Court yesterday Magistrate Denison sent Collins down for 60 days.

THIS ORIGINAL DOCUMENT IS IN VERY POOR CONDITION