

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

LESSON XL.

Sept. 9, 1883. (Ruth 1: 1-16.)

RUTH AND NAOMI.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS. 16, 17.

14. And they lifted up their voice, and wept again, and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law; but Ruth clave unto her.

15. And she said, Behold, thy sisters-in-law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods; return thou after thy sisters-in-law.

16. And Ruth said, Instruct me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go, and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.

17. Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the Lord do so to me, and more also, if I should not do after thy words.

18. So they two went until they came to Bethlehem. And it came to pass, when they were come to Bethlehem, that all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this Naomi?

19. And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me.

20. I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty: why then call ye me Naomi, seeing the Lord hath so cruelly dealt against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?

21. So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess, her daughter-in-law, with her, which returned out of the country of Moab; and they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.—RUTH 1: 16.

TOPIC.—The Good Part Chosen.

LESSON PLAN.—I. RUTH'S FRIENDSHIP, VS. 16-18. 2. NAOMI'S RETURN, VS. 19-22.

Time.—Probably about B.C. 1300. Place.—Moab east of the Dead Sea, about one hundred miles from Bethlehem, where our lesson ends.

EXTRACURRICULAR.

The history in the book of Ruth falls within the period of the Judges. From the mention of a famine as the occasion of the first events, it has been supposed that they occurred at the time of the Midianite invasion. On account of the family who seems to have been confined to "the land" of Gathaim, Elimelech, of the tribe of Judah, with his wife Naomi and his two sons, removed into the land of Moab. Elimelech having died, his sons married two Moabitish women, Orpah and Ruth. After three years the sons died, and Naomi resolved to return to her native land. Her daughter-in-law offered to go with her, when she dissolved their former bond, so Orpah turned back, but Ruth persevered in her purpose and went with her to Bethlehem.

LESSON NOTES.

V. 11. ORP AH KISSED HER MOTHER-IN-LAW—she loved her, but she could not give up her home prospects for the future, and, like the young man in the gospel, she went away grieving.

V. 15. INTO HER GOALS—the home gods of Moab. If Ruth went with Naomi she must give them up. V. 16. INSTRUCT ME—do not speak with me. A more simple, touching and complete expression of filial love could not be imagined. Thy people—MY PEOPLE, THY GOD MY GOD—she not only loved Naomi tenderly, but she chose to serve the God of Israel.

V. 17. THE LORD TO GO TO ME—inflict the severest punishment. Her pledge was strengthened by a solemn appeal to Jehovah in the common form of an oath. V. 19. THEY CAME TO BETHLEHEM—Elimelech's native city, the birthplace of David and of Jesus, six miles south of Jerusalem. WAS MOVED—Naomi must have been well known and her previous circumstances must have been common to her hearers.

The contrast was such that the people could scarcely believe their eyes. V. 20. NAOMI—pleasant. MARRIED—RUTH TOOK HER PART. BUTTERLY—both taken away my comforts and supports. V. 21. FULL—with husband, sons and property. EMPTY—she was left with poverty. THE ALMIGHTY HATH AFFLICTED ME—in her despondency she regarded her afflictions as tokens of the divine displeasure.

22. BRINGING OF BARLEY HARVEST—about the middle of April. The Lord had guided the feet of the women to Bethlehem at this particular time. According to Hebrew law (Lev. 19: 9, 23: 22), it was the privilege of the poor and the stranger to follow the reapers and gather up the gleanings. Ruth went out for this purpose, and was providentially guided to the field of Boaz, who afterward married her. Thus the Moabitish maiden became the wife of the noblest man in Judah, and a mother in the family which gave David to Israel (1: 22) and Jesus to the world (Matt. 1: 25-26).

TEACHINGS.

1. Crosses are often nearer to comforts than we suppose.

2. They choose wisely who choose the service of God even in bad seeming services.

3. God honors the love of children for their parents.

4. He has more than a father's care for the children of his love.

5. Jews and Gentiles are all one in Christ.

THESE ARE MANY who seem to think that the cheapest literature for Sunday-schools, which can be had is the best. Even many, who purchase for themselves and for their children the best food available for their bodies, freely buy that which is rotten and poisonous for their minds and hearts. What supreme folly! Aye, more; what immense injury and injustice are done those who are fed on such mental food!—Selected.

COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, August 29, 1883.

Prices have advanced a cent or so a bushel this week, but this is about all that can be said of the market. We quote: Canada Red Winter Wheat, at \$1.20 to \$1.21; Canada White at \$1.15 to \$1.16; Canada Spring, \$1.11; Corn, 62c per bushel; Peas, 47c; Oats, 35c to 37c; Rye, 69c to 70c.

FLOUR.—The market this week has fluctuated somewhat but without any very great change in prices as a result. The volume of business is as a matter of course small nothing else can be looked for at present. Quotations to-day are:—Superior Extra, \$5.40 to \$5.45; Extra Superfine, \$5.20 to \$5.25; Fancy, nominal; Spring Extra \$4.95 to \$5; Superfine, \$4.40 to 4.50; Strong Bakers, Canadian \$5.25 to \$5.35; do. American, \$6.25 to \$6.50; Fine, \$4.00 to \$4.10; Middlings, \$3.80 to \$3.90; Pol. lards, \$3.40 to \$3.50; Ontario bags, medium, \$2.50 to \$2.60; do. Spring Extra, \$2.40 to \$2.45; do., Superfine, \$2.10 to 2.20; City Bags, delivered, \$3. to \$3.05.

MEALS.—Without change. Cornmeal, \$3.50 to \$3.70; Oatmeal, ordinary \$5.25 to \$5.50; granulated \$5.75 to \$8.00.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter.—The market is by no means in a satisfactory state. The make has no doubt been very large but the amount shipped has been very small, and the stock is mainly in producers' hands as yet. We quote, Creamery, 18c to 19c; Eastern Townships, 15c to 17; Western 12c to 14c. Cheese market firm. Contracts for the year's output being made on a basis of about 8c for July, 9c for August and 10 for late makes. Quoted at 8c to 8c for July; 9c to 9c for Aug.

ASHES are very much unchanged at \$5.10 to \$5.20 for Pots.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

There is an improved demand for good cattle both from shippers and city butchers, and higher prices are being paid for these, but all other kinds are dull of sale and lean stock are still declining in price. A few of the best butchers' cattle were sold here lately at from 5c to 5c per lb., and shippers have been paying from 5c to 6c for good to choice steers. Common steers and dry cows in pretty good condition bring about 4c per lb., and ordinary dry cows 3c to 3c do. Leanish animals are slow of sale and prices range from 2c to 3c do. There is a slight falling off in the supply of sheep and lambs, and drovers are asking higher prices, but butchers are not anxious buyers, as they are in expectation of much larger supplies, and with lower prices, in the course of ten days or a fortnight. There is an improved demand for good milder cows, but other kinds continue dull of sale. There is a dearth of good serviceable horses on this market at present, while there seems to be a greater demand than usual.

FARMERS' MARKET.

Farmers are now in the midst of their harvest work and consequently have less spare-time to bring their produce to market, and the results are a much smaller supply of most kinds of produce and prices advancing in many cases. There is a scarcity of potatoes and prices have advanced about fifteen cents per bag during the past seven days, but larger supplies and lower prices are expected to come around again before long. Poultry are scarce and have been advancing considerably in price of late, also the prices of eggs have an upward tendency. Market gardeners keep the market well supplied with green vegetables and half-grown roots such as onions, beets, carrots and turnips; also liberal supplies of tomatoes, melons, green corn ears, &c., are offered at lower rates. The fruit market is plentifully supplied with apples, not a few of which are showing signs of decay. Considerable quantities of blueberries and black currants are still offered, but plums are getting more plentiful, but are generally of inferior quality. Supplies of hay are large and prices low. Oats are from 90c to \$1.00 per bag; peas, 90c to \$1.10 per bushel; new potatoes, 60c to 75c per bag; tub butter, 16c to 20c per lb; prints, 20c to 30c do.; eggs, 19c to 25c per dozen; apples, \$2.00 to \$4.00 per barrel; lemons, \$7.00 per box; black currants, 80c to 90c the pail; blue berries, 70c per box. Hay, \$5.00 to \$8.00 per 100 bundles of 15 lbs; straw, \$3 to \$5 per 100 bundles of 12 lbs.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Our subscribers throughout the United States who cannot procure the international Post Office orders at their Post Office, can get instead a Post Office order, payable at Rouse's Point, N. Y., which will prevent much inconvenience both to ourselves and subscribers.

TO OUR YOUNG FRIENDS!

Inducements for your Co-operation in assisting us to increase our Circulation.

August is a splendid month in which to canvass for a newspaper. You can take subscriptions either for a year or for four months; boys and girls are out of school, and many of them like nothing better than to enter on a competition in the public service; the farmers are in good humor and are willing to invest a few cents in a newspaper.

The Weekly Messenger was commenced in January, 1882, and by the end of that year had found its way to the homes of over five thousand regular subscribers. This year, so far, it has made but little progress. Its present circulation is 7,000. It is now about time to stir if we mean to make during this year a stride equal to that of last year. The Messenger is not a children's paper, but it is very much prized by young people because it is so interesting, and they always are the best canvassers. The price of the Messenger is FIFTY CENTS a year, or TWENTY CENTS for four months. Anyone sending us FIVE subscriptions for a year may send TWO DOLLARS and keep Fifty Cents, and anyone sending us FIVE subscriptions for the remainder of this year may send us FIFTY CENTS and keep Fifty! The commission is the same in both cases, because in both cases we gain a new subscriber, and we want the work to pay the workers.

In addition to these commissions we will give the person sending us the largest list of subscribers TEN DOLLARS, to the second FIVE DOLLARS, to the third THREE DOLLARS, to the fourth TWO DOLLARS, and to the fifth ONE DOLLAR.

In the above competition every full yearly subscription will count for four, as there is four times as much money sent us.

Still further, to every one who sends us more than twenty-five names we shall send a present of the pair of those much-admired pictures, which have always given so much satisfaction to their recipients, "The Roll Call" and "Quatre Bras," or, if preferred, the celebrated picture by Doré, "Christ Leaving the Prieory," the original of which was declared by the Rev. Theodore Cuyler to be the greatest painting of modern times, and in this every full yearly subscription will count for three, as it will be treble the time.

REASONS AND HINTS.

The above offer is made so as to secure for the Messenger a good start, as we are convinced that it only needs to become generally known to be taken everywhere. If our young canvassers are enterprising they can secure this end. The paper will only pay with a very wide circulation, and if that is obtained it can be greatly improved. We do not so much look for very large individual lists as for a great many small ones, and so we have arranged the awards so that all will be rewarded irrespective of prizes. Every good worker, however, will have a chance of being published as a prize winner if he only extends his efforts far enough and writes to his friends at a distance. The real prize, however, is the good work accomplished. The country is full of pernicious literature, which is sowing the seeds of wickedness, and it is the duty of all to take their share in the effort to overcome evil with good. When you send in your money tell us how you go to work and how you get along.

Carefully Observe the Following Directions.

Write names and addresses plainly; head each letter you write "For August Competition"; as soon as you get five or more names send them with the money, by post-office order or registered letter (the former preferred), addressed to

JOHN DOUGALL & SON,

"WITNESS" OFFICE,

MONTREAL, P. Q.

When you get more names to add to your list send them on, and say how many you have sent before. Mail your last letters by the 31st of August. We trust that very many of our young friends will send in good lists, and so materially increase the circulation of the Weekly Messenger, as to, at any rate, make its headway fully equal to that of last year. We know that this little paper is the best, for its price, published anywhere, and we feel convinced that those who, through the solicitation of our young fellow workers, gain an introduction to the Messenger will not be willing thereafter to be without it, but will become regular subscribers.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON.

Montreal, July 28th, 1883.

MONTREAL DAILY WITNESS, \$3.00 a year post-paid. MONTREAL WEEKLY MESSENGER, \$1.00 a year, post-paid. WEEKLY MESSENGER, 50 cents; 5 copies to one address, \$2.00. JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal, Que.

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER is printed and published at Nos. 33, 35 and 37 St. James street, West, Montreal, by JOHN DOUGALL & SON, composed of John Dougall, of New York, and John Reipath Dougall and J. D. Dougall, of Montreal.