

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book)

LESSON IX.

Aug. 26, 1883. (Judg. 7:1-8)

GIDEON'S ARMY.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS. 2, 3.

1. Then Jerubbai who is Gideon, and all the people that were with him, rose up early, and pitched beside the well of Harod; so that the host of the Midianites were on the north side of them, by the hill of Moreh, in the valley.

2. And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people that are with thee are too many for me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against me, saying, Mine own hand hath saved me.

3. Now therefore go, to proclaim in the ears of the people, saying, Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him return and depart early from mount Gilead. And there returned of the people twenty and two thousand; and there remained ten thousand.

4. And the Lord said unto Gideon, The people are yet too many; I will bring them down into the water, and I will try them for thee there; and it shall be, that of whom I say unto thee, This shall go with thee, the same shall go with thee; and of whomsoever I say unto thee, This shall not go with thee, the same shall not go.

5. So he brought down the people unto the water; and the Lord said unto Gideon, Every one that lapped of the water with his tongue, as a dog lappeth, him shall I throw out by himself; likewise every one that boweth down upon his knees to drink.

6. And the number of them that lapped, putting their hand to their mouth, were three hundred men; but of the rest, the people bowed down upon their knees to drink water.

7. And the Lord said unto Gideon, By the three hundred men that lapped will I save you, and deliver the Midianites into thine hand; and let all the other people go every man unto his place.

8. So the people took victuals in their hand and their trumpets; and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men; and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

GOLDEN TEXT.—The sword of the Lord, and Gideon.—Judg. 7:2.

TOPIC.—The Lord our Defense and Deliverer. LESSON PLAN.—1. THE ARMY TOO LARGE, VS. 2. THE ARMY REDUCED, VS. 3-6. 3. THE ARMY READY, VS. 7-8.

Time.—1/2 hr. Place.—The well of Harod, near Mount Gilead.

INTRODUCTORY.

We pass over in our lessons a period of many years, of which there is a condensed history in ch. 10. During this period the Israelites were subjected to repeated oppressions on account of their idleness, and on their repentance judges were raised up to be their deliverers, as follows: First servitude, to Mesop Potamia; GIDEON. Second servitude, to Moab; EPHRAIM, SAMUEL. Third servitude, to Ishbub and Sisera; DEBORAH and BARAK. Fourth servitude, to Midian; GIDEON.

After the deliverance under Deborah and Barak, the Israelites remained at rest for forty years. Again they fell evil in the sight of the Lord, and a fourth oppression followed, more severe than any that had preceded it. The Midianites ravaged the country for seven years, reducing them to the deepest distress. Then, on their repentance, the Lord sent Gideon to be their deliverer. Hearing that the Midianites had encamped in the valley of Jezreel, Gideon quickly collected an army of thirty-two thousand men and marched against them.

LESSON NOTES.

V. 1. JERUBBAAL ("consorter with Baal")—a name given to Gideon by his overbearing the altar of Baal. Judg. 6:34; 1 Sam. 12:11. WELL OF HAROD—good for dry springs, at the foot (north side) of Mount Gilead, on the borders of Manasseh, now known as 'Ain Jalud HILL MOSES—now known as 'Little Hermon' in the plain of Jezreel, the modern Eszraelon.

V. 2. THE PEOPLE ARE TOO MANY—though only one tenth the number of the Midianites. (See ch. 8:10). God wished to show them that their strength was not in their numbers, but in Him. VAUNT THEMSELVES—boast of their valor. God was to deliver the battle and deliver Israel, and would make it evident that he was the author of the victory. V. 3. PROCLAIM—according to the law (Deut. 20:9), which was intended to prevent cowardice from making a panic in the whole army. MOUNT GILEAD—Gilead was on the east of Jordan, but Gideon was on the west, i. e. Jezreel. Some substitute Gilead for Gilead; others suppose the name may have been given to some part of the Gilead range.

THERE REMAINED TEN THOUSAND—two out of every three lapped their hands on their country's banner in the honor of trial. Right test often make thinking work in the tanks of God's professed friends. V. 4. THE LORD SAID—Gideon, it had to be, though his men too few, he saw they were too many. OF WHOMSOEVER I SAY UNTO THESE—i. e. express words, but by the result of the trial. V. 5. LAPPED OF THE WATER—taking it up in the hand, as people often do when they have no drinking cups. Three hundred lapped the water, the rest knelt down to it. THE REMNANT WERE TAKEN, the latter dismissed. V. 7. SAVE YOU—the whole nation. This was a pledge of success to three hundred against one hundred and forty five thousand—a huge demand upon Gideon for faith. Though God is powerful enough to do all he undertakes, and faithful enough to do all he promises, men may limit him by their lack of faith. Gideon trusted the might and truth of Jehovah, and so was enabled among the great chieftains of the world to the power and faithfulness of the Lord. Heb. 11:23-12:1.

V. 8. So THE PEOPLE—the three hundred. CAME THEY TO GO WITH HIM if pleased. RETAINED—kept, owing to their warlike confidence. IN THE VALLEY—the valley of Jezreel. WITH THIS BAND GIDEON OVERTHREW

those older and stronger.

TEACHINGS:—

1. The Lord can save by a few as well as by a great army.

2. He requires courage in those that would serve him.

3. We should undertake nothing in our own strength.

4. God's presence and favor give courage to the fearful and strength to the weak.

5. A few with the Lord's help are more than a great number without his aid.

COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, August 15, 1883.

The condition of the market this week has decidedly improved. A goodly quantity of grain has gone forward and a steady business has been done at prices quoted, which are from 5c to 10c a bushel better all round for wheat. We quote: Canada Red Winter Wheat, at \$1.18 to \$1.20; Canada White at \$1.15 to \$1.16; Canada Spring, \$1.15; Corn, 62c per bushel; Peas, 97c; Oats, 35c to 37c; Rye, 66c to 70c.

FLOUR.—In opposition to this state of affairs, the flour market continues very quiet but very firm, at outside prices. There is no demand for export and in consequence Superiors are not wanted. Bakers are asked for moderately, for local trade but not to any extent.—Superior Extra, \$5.30 to \$5.35; Extra Superfine, \$5.15 to \$5.20; Fancy, nominal; Spring Extra \$4.95 to \$5; Superfine, \$4.30 to \$4.40, Strong Bakers, Can., \$5.25 to \$5.30; do. American, \$6.25 to \$6.75; Fine, \$4.00 to \$4.10; Middlings, \$3.50 to \$3.90; Pollards, \$3.40 to \$3.50; Ontario bags, medium, \$2.50 to \$2.60; do. Spring Extra, \$2.40 to \$2.50; do., Superfine, \$2.10 to \$2.20; City Bags, delivered, \$3.05 to \$3.10.

MEALS.—Without change. Cornmeal, \$3.50 to \$3.70; Oatmeal, ordinary \$5.25 to \$5.50; granulated \$5.75 to \$5.80.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter.—Nothing interesting. Creamery, 12c to 20c; Eastern Townships, 15 1/2c to 16 1/2c; Western 12c to 15c. Cheese—Stocks are large and increasing, and an attempt to hoist prices has failed. The amount of cheese made this year will be enormous, and there is but little chance of better prices quoted at 8c to 9c as to quality. Public cable at 49c.

MEAT PRODUCTS.—Market steady and easy. We quote: Western, \$17.00 to \$17.50; Hams, city cured, 14c to 14 1/2c; Bacon, 13c to 14c; Lard, in pails, 12c to 12 1/2c; Tallow, 8c to 9c.

ASHES.—In demand about \$5 to \$6.10 for Pots.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Owing to an improvement in the numbers and condition of the butchers' cattle offered on this market lately, there is a tendency to lower prices all round, and the same may be said with regard to mutton criers. There is also a slight decline reported from the British markets and shippers are not caring to buy much at present. It may be stated, however, that the prices of beef and mutton on the British markets are still considerably higher than is usual at this time of the year. A few of the best fat cows on this market are sold at from \$20 to \$25 each, or about 5c per lb., but the general run of pretty good stock is from \$30 to \$40 each or 3 1/2c to 4c per lb., while leanish animals sell at about 3c do. The large supplies of sheep and lambs have caused lower prices, although the quality is above the average. Good lambs are sold in lots at from \$3 per head and common lambs at from \$2.50 to \$2.75 each. The supply of live hogs is larger and prices are again declining, sales of small lots are being made at 6 1/2c per lb.

FARMERS' MARKET.

Liberal supplies of both farm and garden produce are being brought to the market here and housekeepers have ample opportunities of replenishing their larders at moderate rates. Few farmers are bringing potatoes to market, as the prices are too low to induce them to leave their harvest work to dig and bring to market their potatoes, but the market gardeners continue to supply them in abundance. Spring chickens and ducks are abundant, but owing to the very active demand, pretty high prices are realized. Good butter is rather scarce and higher in price, but there is an abundance of common stuff. Eggs have advanced about one cent per dozen this week

and are likely to go still higher. The hog market is well supplied at low rates. Oats are from 90c to \$1.00 per bag; peas 90c to \$1.10 per bushel; new potatoes 55c to 65c per bag; tub butter 16c to 20c per lb; prints 20c to 30c do.; eggs, 19c to 25c per dozen; apples \$4 to \$5.50 per barrel; lemons \$7.00 per box; black currants 80c to 90c the pail; blueberries 70c per box. Hay \$5.00 to \$9.00 per 100 bundles of 15 lbs; straw \$3 to \$5 per 100 bundles of 12 lbs.

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.

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 Koll Call" and "Quatre Bras," or, if preferred, the celebrated picture by Doré, "Christ Leaving the Praetorium," 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.

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.

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