

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From International Question Book)

Studies in the Acts of the Apostles.

LESSON VII.—MAY 17.

CHRISTIAN CONTENTMENT.—PHIL. 4: 113. COMBAT VERSES 4 7.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The God of peace shall be with you.—Phil. 4: 9.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Joy, contentment, peace, repose in God are always learned in the school of Christ.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Phil. 4: 11-14. W. Phil. 4: 12-21. Th. Matt. 6: 19-34. F. Ps. 103: 1-22. S. Ps. 107: 1-43. S. 1 Tim. 6: 6-19.

INTRODUCTION.—The Philippian church was exposed to three trials, (1) from persecutors; (2) from poverty; (3) from some quarrelsome members, besides the usual trials of life. Paul comforts and exhorts them how to bear these trials. And the exhortation to joy and contentment comes with peculiar grace from one who was in prison, and liable any moment to martyrdom, and yet was full of joy and contentment.

HELD UP OVER HARD PLACES.

5 YOUR MODERATION—your forbearance; that ye discern which things not your own rights to the uttermost. 6 BE CAREFUL—suspicious, be careful with care. 7 THE PEACE OF GOD—peace which is like gold; peace which God gives; peace with God, with man, with ourselves, with others. 8 HONEST—honesty—honesty—contentment is not the simplicity which brings no more, nor indifference nor laziness, nor indolence, but repose in God's love and grace, making the most of all God gives us, using every opportunity for bettering our condition, without murmuring over what we cannot help; and trusting God perfectly in all. 12 I AM INSTRUCTED—I have learned the secret.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTION.—To what trials was the Philippian Church exposed? How might these tend to make them discontented? Where was Paul when he wrote this epistle? Had he learned the lesson of contentment? How would this fit him to give this advice to the Philippians?

SUBJECT.—THE ELEMENTS AND MEANS OF CHRISTIAN CONTENTMENT.

I. JOY (vs. 1)—ought the Christian to be the happiest of men? Why? How does Christian joy differ from pleasure? From a disposition to look on the bright side of things? What is it to rejoice in the Lord? Whose joy is the Christian's best? (John 15: 11.) What were the elements of Paul's joy? (Phil. 4: 10.) How did he express the most useful Christian joy?

II. FORGIVENESS (vs. 1)—What is meant by "moderation" in this verse? How does Paul explain it in two other epistles written about this time? (Eph. 4: 12, Col. 3: 14.) How will this forgivingness help us to be contented? What motives does he give for this virtue?

III. PRAYER OF FAITH (vs. 6)—Meditation of the word? Why? How may we avoid undue anxiety? Would these elements of joy or peace be found in this verse? About what things are we here taught to pray? How does believing help us to be contented? (1 Pet. 5: 7; H. 9: 14, 15; Matt. 7: 7-11.)

IV. THE PEACE OF GOD (vs. 7)—What is the peace of God? (John 14: 27.) How does Paul describe it? How may it be obtained? (Gal. 5: 22; John 16: 33.) How does faith in God give us peace?

V. THINKING ON NOBLE THINGS (vs. 8)—On what does Paul dwell in this verse? Why on what things are true? Just? Honorable? Pure? Lovely? of good report? Virtuous? praise-worthy? How will thinking on these things help us to overcome evil thought? How will such thoughts make us good?

VI. DOING THEM (vs. 9)—Whose example and teaching does Paul exhort them to follow? Will thinking on good things help us to do them? Will doing them help us to think upon them? Is either one enough when alone?

VII. MAKING OTHERS HAPPY (vs. 10)—What did the Philippians do for Paul, (vs. 14) that they helped him beyond? (Phil. 4: 15; 1 Cor. 1: 9.) What can we do to make others happy? How will this help you to be contented?

VIII. THE SCHOOL OF CONTENTMENT (vs. 11-13)—What is true contentment? Is it a hindrance or a help to progress? Where did Paul learn to be contented? Who helped him to be right and feel right in all these troubles.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

I. The happy Christian shows to the world how a godly master life serves.

II. The Christian cannot avoid having enemies, but he can make them help him show to the world a Christian and forbearing spirit.

III. Repose in God and believing prayer are great aids to contentment.

IV. We should cherish all the virtues, and be complete in character.

V. By thinking on noble things we become noble ourselves.

VI. Paul was a learner in the school of life with its various experiences, and Christ for his teacher.

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COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, May 5, 1885.

The British grain markets are very quiet, with little enquiry and a tendency of prices downward. Red winter wheat is quoted at 7s 9d; Canadian Pats at 6s. 3d.

The local grain market is very dull, and without change. We quote:—Canada Red Winter, 98c to \$1.00; White, 96c to \$1.00; Canada Spring 97c to \$1.00; Peas 78c to 79c; Oats, 38c to 40c; Rye, 63c to 65c; Barley, 50c to 60c; Corn 60c per bushel.

FLOUR.—The market is dull and values are less firm than they have been during the past two or three days, but nominally higher than they were last week. We quote:—Superior Extra, \$5.05 to \$5.10; Extra Superfine, \$4.90 to \$4.95; Fancy \$4.80 to \$4.85; Spring Extra \$4.75 to \$4.80; Superfine, \$4.55 to \$4.65; Strong Bakers, (Canadian), \$4.55 to \$5.00; Strong Bakers (American), \$5.25 to \$5.50; Fine, \$4.25 to \$4.35; Middlings, \$3.85 to \$5.00; Ontario bags, (bags included) Medium, \$2.30 to \$2.40; do, Spring Extra, \$2.20 to \$2.25; Superfine, \$2.15 to \$2.20; City Bags, (delivered), \$2.60.

MEALS.—Oatmeal, \$2.30 to \$2.40.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter—There has been some export demand during the past week, but the market is quiet, and prices are rather lower. We quote:—New butter, 17c to 20c; Creamery, (new) 23c; Eastern Townships, 10c to 15c; Morrisburg and Brockville, 9c to 14c; Western, 7c to 12c, as to quality. Cheese is quoted at 10c to 10 1/2c for new. The public cable is unchanged at 60s.

Eggs are in plentiful supply and lower at 13c to 14c per dozen, in cases.

HOG PRODUCTS are quiet and lower. We quote:—Western Mess Pork \$15.50; do, Short Cut, \$15.50 to \$16.00; Canada Short Cut, \$15.50 to \$16.00; Hams, city cured, 12c do, green, 9c; Lard, in pails, Western, 10c do, Can. 9c; Bacon, 11c; Tallow, common refined, 6c to 7c.

ASHES are unchanged at \$3.90 to \$3.95 per 100 lbs. for Pots.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Good butchers' cattle have been rather scarce and higher priced of late, but supplies are coming in more plentifully, and prices are again declining. There is no demand at present for shipment to Britain nor will there be until the ocean steamers arrive in port. The best butchers' cattle sell at about 4 1/2c per lb, fair conditioned steers and fat cows at about 4 1/4c do. Rough and leanish animals sell at from 3c to 4c per lb. Calves are rather scarce and prices are pretty high for this time of the year; sheep are also scarce and sell at about 5c per lb, live weight. A few weeks ago dressed mutton could be bought in quantities at from 3 1/2c to 4c per lb. Dressed hogs are plentiful, and sell at from 5 1/2c to 5 3/4c per lb. Good milk cows are scarce, and as the milkmen have been selling many of their fat strippers lately, they are anxious to replace them with good fresh calves cows.

FARMERS' MARKET.

The attendance of farmers at the markets of late has been pretty large, but now they have commenced spring operations on their homesteads and will not have leisure to bring produce to market for some time. There are no changes to note in the prices of grain and hay, but potatoes, turnips, beets and onions are offered in larger quantities than usual and prices are very low; more especially is this the case with potatoes and onions. Poultry, alive and dead, have been advancing in price considerably of late. Eggs and butter are very plentiful and prices are still declining; fresh made tub butter has already sold as low as 15c per lb, but choice prints still bring pretty high rates. Oats are 90c to \$1.00 per bag; peas, 80c to 90c per bushel; beans \$1.25 to \$1.50 do; potatoes 25c to 40c per bag; turnips, carrots, and beets, 25c to 50c per bushel; onions 30c to 60c do; cabbage 75c to \$1.00 per barrel; butter 10c to 35c per lb; eggs 14c to 20c per dozen; apple \$3.00 to \$4.00 per barrel; dressed hogs 6c to 7c per lb; young turkeys 13c to 16c per lb; geese 11c to 13c do; fowls 12c to 16c do; ducks 14c to 15c do; hay \$9.00 to \$12.50 per 100 bundles.

New York, May 4, 1885.

GRAIN.—Wheat, 90c; May; \$1.00 1/2 June; \$1.02 1/2 bid July; \$1.03 1/2 August. Corn, 66 1/2 May; 55 1/2 June; 56c July.

FLOUR is considerably higher this week. The following are the quotations:—Spring Wheat, Superfine, \$3.40 to \$4.00; Low Extra, \$3.45 to \$4.45; Clears, \$4.30 to \$4.70; Straight, \$4.35 to \$5.30; Patent, \$5.25 to \$6.40. Winter Wheat—Superfine, \$3.60 to \$4.00; Low Extra, \$3.75 to \$4.35; Clears (L. and A.), \$4.50 to \$4.90; Straight (L. and A.), \$4.75 to \$5.90; Patent, \$5.00 to \$6.10; Straight White Wheat), \$4.85 to \$5.75; Low Extra (City Mills), \$3.75 to \$4.00; West India, sacks, \$3.80 to \$4.05; West India, barrels, \$5.05 to \$5.10; Patent, \$5.15; to \$6.10; South America, \$5.10 to \$6.15; Patent \$5.15 to \$6.10. Southern Flour—Extra \$4.15 to \$5.50; Family, \$4.90 to \$5.75; Patent, \$5.20 to \$6.25; Rye Flour—Fine to Superfine, \$3.20 to \$4.50.

MEALS.—Cornmeal, \$3.15 to \$3.50 in bris.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter (new)—Creamery, ordinary to fancy 17c to 20c; State half tins, ordinary to fancy, 17c to 22c; Western dairy, ordinary to choice imitation creamery, 10c to 18c; Western factory, ordinary to choice, 9c to 14c. Cheese (old)—State factory, inferior to choice, 2c to 11c; Ohio flats, ordinary to prime, 2c to 10c. (New)—State factory, good to choice, 10c to 11c; do, skims, 5c to 9c; Skims Pennsylvania, common to prime, 1c to 2 1/2c.

Eggs—State and Pennsylvania, in bris, 14c; Western, poor to fancy, 12c to 14c; Southern, 12c to 13c; Duck eggs, 20c to 22c; goose eggs, 35c to 38c.

LAST SUNDAY what is at present thought to be a murder was perpetrated at Lindsay, Ontario. A man was found lying in a pool of blood on the roadside. The facts of the case are most revolting. The deceased man had used his second wife shamefully and she had gone to live with her father who, being bothered with visits from his daughter's husband, threatened to shoot him if he troubled him any more in trying to get back his wife. On Saturday night he went to his father-in-law while drunk and was shot. The neighbors heard the report of a gun, but being afraid to get mixed up with the affair cried out "murder" but quite exclusively did not want to go and see what the matter was. The coroner and a policeman were the first to visit the scene, and found the man dead, with a long gash in his leg from his knee up to his thigh. He had apparently died slowly to death. The name of the dead man was James Fanning, that of his father-in-law, Pogue.

A FIRE which occasioned great loss of life took place in New York, on the 3rd inst. The flames were first seen in the rear of a liquor shop on 1st Avenue. The building, a five story one, was occupied chiefly as tenement houses. The room in which the fire broke out was filled with inflammable material and the whole place was soon filled with a suffocating smoke which rendered it very difficult for the occupants to find their way out. All the inhabitants were asleep when the fire began and some were choked by the smoke before they were awakened, and died before the fire reached them. As soon as the alarm was given by shrieks through the house the tenants became panic-stricken; some jumped to the street from the windows, others rushed down stairs, falling over each other and suffering more or less serious injuries. When the firemen arrived they found the house surrounded by a great crowd, and the dead, dying or wounded lying on the sidewalk and in the halls and bedrooms. General alarm was given and ambulances, doctors and policemen came to the scene in goodly numbers. In half an hour fourteen wounded were lying on cots in Bellevue Hospital. Out of the thirty-six occupants eight were killed and fourteen were badly wounded. The house was reduced to ashes.

It is HINTED that Miss Cleveland will soon enter the matrimonial state.

THE STEAMER NEPTUNE has returned from the seal fisheries with about 15,000 seals.

THE NIAGARA PARK BILL has been signed by the Governor of New York.

A GREAT HAIL STORM in Petersburg, Virginia, has done terrible damage to the crops and in many places farmers will be compelled to replant.

THERE ARE 250 CASES of small-pox among negroes, at East Atcheson, Missouri. In the absence of quarantine regulations, guards with loaded guns are stationed in front of infected dwellings.

THE OKLAHOMA "BOOMERS" are a company of armed men numbering over a thousand who camped out on the borders of the Indian Territory and remained there for three years trying to get the land from the Indians. They have been steadily watched by federal soldiers and 68 of them having been caught, have been indicted by the United States Grand Jury in Topeka, Kansas. The indictment charges them with inciting and engaging in rebellion.

A PRETTY and convenient way to serve oranges is this: Cut the oranges in halves across the sections. With a sharp knife separate the pulp from the skin, and divide it into proper proportions for eating with a spoon. It can be done so nicely that it will not look as if it had been disturbed until it is immediately under the eye. A little sugar sprinkled into it improves the fruit, unless it is very sweet.

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