

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XII.—JUNE 23, 1912.

Temperance Lesson.—Eph. 5: 11-21.

Commentary.—I. Fellowship with evil forbidden (vs. 11, 12). 11. With no fellowship—It is a tendency of human nature to mingle in society and form associations. God recognizes this fact and undertakes to give direction as to our fellowship. We not only exert an influence, but we are also the creatures of influence, and if we have fellowship with evil things are clear: 1. We have a tendency toward evil. 2. We shall become tainted and injured by the evil—it is most important that we guard well our associations. We must have no connection with the evil. Unfruitful works of darkness—The Christians at Ephesus were in the midst of paganism, and this warning was given that they might keep entirely clear of its evils. Reference is here made to certain "mysteries" connected with heathen worship, in which the most degrading and revolting evils abounded. They were carried on in darkness, or under cover. Deeds that seek darkness are ever open to suspicion. We read in Gal. 5: 19-22 of the "works of the flesh," and the "fruits of the Spirit realize "fruits" from their lives of holiness. We must shun those deeds that will not bear the light. In some of the heathen rites those celebrating them gave themselves up to drunkenness. This was especially true with respect to the worship of Bacchus, the god of wine. Reprove them—While we must not fellowship with evil, we are called upon to reprove it. The Christian cannot be true to his convictions without taking a decided stand against every form of evil. It is a shame even to speak of those things—the practices referred to were so vile that they should not be spoken of only to reprove them. Done... in secret—Heathen worshipers were initiated into the "mysteries" by their degrading rite, and were pledged to keep the secrets revealed to them on pain of death.

II. The way of wisdom (vs. 13-17). 13. Are reprov'd.—When they are reprov'd.—R. V. The reprov'g of evils brings them out into the light so that the intru character is revealed. As long as evil is allowed to remain in the dark it thrives, but when it is brought into the light, shame sends it to lead the wicked to desist. This principle is being applied to check modern commercial evil. The Christian is in the world to shine as a light and one of his duties is to expose and rebuke sin. The evils of the liquor traffic must be exposed and made to appear in their true and horrible light. 14. Awake thou that sleepest—These are not an exact quotation of any scripture passage, but are a paraphrase of Isa. 60: 1, 2. The apostle declared that the Christian Church, by putting away slumber and sloth, and arising, had become the true light that Christ intended it to be. The only way for men to become lights in the world is to have the light of God shining upon them and in them. They will then be the influence of their presence, be a rebuke to sin and a force for righteousness where they are. 15.—See then that ye walk circumspectly.—The thought is that we are to walk strictly according to rule, and that the rule is to be the very best possible. He who walks carefully by a bad rule is doing no better than he who walks carelessly by a good rule. The word "circumspectly" has in it the idea of looking all around. The Christian must be guarded at every point as to his manner of living. If we are lights we must shine with a clear and steady light, so that we shall not only expose sin, but point the right way. Not as fools, but as wise—A contrast is drawn between folly and wisdom. The unwise go carelessly through life and are open to all sorts of snares and temptations. The wise are constantly guarding against the least approach of sin. 16. Redeeming the time—"Buying up the opportunity."—R. V. margin. Let time be your chief commodity. Deal in that alone. On time eternity depends. In time you are to make preparation for the kingdom of God. Therefore buy up time—"Caras." Too much time has already been lost. There is none too much left for us, using it as faithfully and economically as we will, to accomplish the work before us. We can redeem the time by constancy of faith, by steadily doing the work which God assigns to us, by being filled with divine love and by encouraging others to follow the Lord. Because the days are evil—Evil influences abound, and multitudes need the help that we can give them. Temptations assail us and others, and our time must be employed in working and trusting in the world, and be prepared to do effective work in the Lord's great harvest field. 17. Wherefore be ye not unwise, since the days are evil, watchfulness is demanded, lest we be drawn into the snare that prevail. In the use of the word "unwise" there seems to be a reference to orgies that were held in the worship of Bacchus.

III. Intemperance forbidden (vs. 18). 18. Be not drunk with wine (vs. 18). The communion intoxicant among the ancients. The exhortation was to the effect that they should not give themselves over to the use of strong drink. There were doubtless converted drunkards among the Christians to whom Paul wrote, and wine was their special danger. Intemperance is a folly, a waste, a degradation, a sin. It (1) divests men of their native dignity; (2) sinks them below the brutes; (3) injures body and mind; (4) wastes their substance; (5) destroys the sacredness of the home; (6) is the parent of other vices; (7) is prohibited by the scriptures; (8) must be renounced or the end will be destruction. R. V. "The word here translated excess, means profanity and debauchery of every kind, such as are generally connected with drunkenness, and especially among the worshippers of Bacchus."—Clarke. Paul's prohibition is positive and absolute, filled with the Spirit—Here Paul shows the difference between the worship of the true God and of the heathen deities. At one offering sacrifices to Bacchus, the god of wine, it was the custom of the people to go drunk in his honor. The joy that is kindled by wine is degrad-

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ing, that which is kindled by the Holy Spirit is edifying and soul-inspiring. To be filled with the Spirit is to be in possession of the graces of the Spirit; it implies divine guidance; it is to be filled with God and to accept Him as the only portion of the soul.

IV. Rejoicing in the Lord (vs. 18, 19). 19. speaking to yourselves—Rejoicing or singing. "The early Christians sang not only in their public services, but in their private devotions also, and it was a common remark among their pagan neighbors that their daily lives were characterized by singing."—III. Notes. The "psalms" were probably those of David; the "hymns" were, according to Dr. Clarke, "extemporaneous" effusions in praise of God; "spiritual songs" were carefully prepared odes for singing in Christian worship, making melody in your heart.—The secret of the joy of the Christian is the fact that there is a song of gladness and a fullness of peace in the heart. He has melody in his heart because he has heard religion, and giving thanks always for all things—it requires divine grace to do this. It is easy to give thanks for the pleasing things that come to us, but the unregenerate heart has difficulty in giving thanks for the bitter experiences in life, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The name of Jesus is ever exalted in the writings of the apostles. The truth is emphasized that all spiritual good that comes to us is through him. 21. Submitting yourselves.—In the church of Jesus Christ all are members one of another. Each sacrifices his interests to the good of all. Whenever one seeks to exalt himself and become a master over the others, there is confusion and weakness in the fear of God—There must be submission only where no moral principle is involved.

PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic: Method of reproof.

I. To whom given. II. By whom given. I. To whom given. The unconverted pagan Ephesians sought to hide what they would not avoid. They were "children of disobedience" (Eph. 2: 1). All sinners are works of darkness. Continuance in sin produces hardness of heart and blindness of mind. The more deliberation there is in sin, the greater the sin. The practice of known sin puts conscience to sleep. The neglect of self-examination causes slumber. Being without a sense of guilt or of dependence on the mercy of God is an evidence of being asleep. Fellowship with any sin is forbidden. Sin has darkened the understanding, depraved the affections and rendered the soul insensible to every form of moral worth. The sleep of sin is a condition of spiritual death. The misery of the unregenerate is a total deprivation of the principal of spiritual death. Insensibility and carnal security make sin the more dangerous. Sleep does not ward off condemnation. Sin in every form of its indulgence is to be looked upon as an intoxication. Men may be intoxicated with pride and arrogance or with spite and malice or with confidence of their success in their evil enterprise. They may be "drunken, but not with wine"; and "stagger, but not with strong drink" (Isa. 29: 9). God discovers secret sins and brings them to light. The doctrine of Christianity is in the true light or test by which things are to be judged. The call to slumbering souls include a divine command, a divine promise, a personal call and present light. None can plead inability to obey God as an excuse for continuing in sin. Awakening implies conviction of sin and a sense of danger; arising implies a repentance of sin and a turning to God. Repentance restores sensibility. Startling and arousing convictions make way for spiritual life.

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MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

FARMERS' MARKET. Dressed hogs... \$11.25 \$11.50 Butter, dairy... 0.24 0.27 Eggs, dozen... 0.24 0.27

SUGAR MARKETS.

SUGARS are quoted in Toronto, in bags, per cwt., as follows: Do. granulated, St. Lawrence... 5.25 Do. refined... 5.10

LIVE STOCK.

Toronto despatch: Early receipts at the city cattle market this morning were 761 cattle, 767 sheep, 1,657 hogs and 617 calves. C. McCurdy bought one load of cattle weighing from nine to ten hundred weight at \$5.50 to \$7.00.

Export quotations: Do. do, medium... \$7.50 \$7.80 Do. hulls... 6.00 7.00 Butcher cattle, choice... 7.25 7.80

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN.

Minneapolis—Close—Wheat—July, \$1.15 1/2; September, \$1.00; December, \$1.10

DULUTH GRAIN.

Duluth—Wheat—No. 1 hard, \$1.14 1/2; No. 2 northern, \$1.12 1/2

WINNIPEG GRAIN MARKET.

Winnipeg—Open, High, Low, Close. Close. Wheat—No. 1 hard, 107 1/2; No. 2 northern, 107 1/2

OTHER MARKETS.

THE CHEESE MARKET. Brockville—Cheese showed another decline today, and the only transaction was a lot of fifty boxes at 13c.

ALEXANDRIA, Ont.—Nine hundred and thirty-three cheese sold at the meeting to-night at 12 1/2 c, all white. The usual buyers were present.

MONTREAL LIVE STOCK.

Montreal—At the Canadian Pacific Live Stock Market, the receipts of live stock for the week ending June 8th were 725 head of cattle, 1,300 sheep, 1,300 hogs and 1,800 calves. The supply on the market this morning for sale consisted of 700 head of sheep and lambs, 1,000 hogs and 1,400 calves.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Chicago despatch: Cattle—Receipts estimated at 4,500; market slow, generally steady.

Beaves... \$6.10 \$6.40 Texas steers... 6.50 8.20 Western steers... 6.50 8.25

IN THE POULTRY WORLD

When properly conducted, squab-raising is sure to produce a reasonable profit. It is an occupation which requires close attention to details, some hard labor and a thorough knowledge of methods.

It is absolutely folly for any one to go into squab-raising unless he knows the business. If he is unable to get experience by securing employment in a squab-raising plant, the best introduction to the industry would be to raise a few pairs of pigeons for a year or two, keeping careful records of the production of each pair and accurate accounts of all expenses and the income.

NEW TOWNSHIPS

Twelve to be Opened Up in Northern Ontario.

Encouragement of Development of Old Ontario.

Toronto, June 17.—The Provincial Government made official announcement yesterday that it had decided to open for settlement twelve additional townships in Northern Ontario. Seven of these are located in the Cochrane district, where demands have been numerous and insistent for some weeks, and five are in the Matheson district.

Since the opening of spring there has been a large influx of settlers in the vicinity of Cochrane, some two hundred applications for lands having been received by the Crown Lands agent at that point for lands particularly in the townships of Blake, Glackmeyer, Lamarche and Brower. This unusual demand, following on the heels of a steady line of regular applications, has practically exhausted the lands in these four townships open for settlement under the Cochrane agency.

In this connection the Department of Agriculture is making special preparations to serve the northern districts by special agricultural representatives this season. Under the direction of the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, the County Minister of Agriculture, stated yesterday that it had been decided to appoint four special officers for work in the north country similar to that being conducted by the department in older Ontario through the local county representatives.

In order to provide farms for the greatly increased number of people wishing to locate in the vicinity of Cochrane, the following townships have been thrown open for settlement: Blount, Leitch, Conquhoun, Calder, Fournie, Fox and Pyle, while the following have been opened under the Matheson agency: Matheson, German, Stock, Betty and Bond.

It has been decided to place all the agricultural district representatives throughout the whole Province under the supervision of Mr. C. F. Bailey, Assistant Deputy Minister.

Simultaneously with the work in Northern Ontario, the Department of Agriculture plans encouragement of further development of the older settled portions of the Province. Under the legislation of last session the sum of \$5,000 was voted to further county publicity work. By a recent order-in-Council the Government has determined the lines upon which this grant may be participated in by the various counties. The Province agrees to bear one-third of the cost of the work undertaken with a view to advertising the agricultural resources of any county or district, providing the amount does not exceed \$1,000 in any one year. Under the terms of the grant, as defined by the Government, each county association must have its plans approved by the County Council, and the literature must be submitted for approval to the Minister of Agriculture.

Some careful system of elimination of non-producers is just as essential to make squab-raising a continuous and prosperous business as are proper methods of feeding and housing. Even with a flock of apparently healthy pigeons records must be kept so that birds may be removed when they cease to be of value. With intelligent watchfulness for the improvement of the stock, there is every reason why squab-raising should prove a reliable means of gaining profits. Small space and little capital will provide a start, and there is a steadily growing demand in all big cities for a supply of good squabs.—Howard Butcher.

INSPECT ROAD

Commissioners Complete First Part of Their Task.

Ottawa, June 17.—Messrs. F. P. Guleus and G. Lynch-Staunton, K. C., commissioners enquiring into the construction of the Transcontinental Railway, have returned from an inspection of the line east and west of Cochrane. Part of the trip was made by handcar. Evidence was taken at several points. The commission also intends to visit other parts of the road in Quebec and New Brunswick, but will not be ready to report for some months.

The fundamental object of the enquiry is to determine the extraordinary discrepancy between the estimates and actual cost.

TO CLOSE SALOONS.

Perth Amboy, N.J., June 17.—Mounted patrolmen and sheriff deputies to-day order all saloons closed in the vicinity of the plant of the American Smelting & Refining Company here, where serious strike riots occurred last night, in which two policemen were injured by stones and three rioters wounded by bullets.

THE SOUTH POLE

Two of Scott's Men Confident He Reached It.

London, June 17.—Two members, Scott and Gibson, of Commander Scott's antarctic expedition, arrived at Plymouth last night. The men said they were confident their leader had reached the South Pole and added that but for the early formation of the ice Scott would have reached home this year.

They were greatly disappointed to learn that Amundsen had first reached the pole, but point out that fine weather and a good route were good speed factors in the Norwegian's success.