

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XI.—DEC. 10, 1911.

Nehemiah and His Enemies.—Neh. 6: 1-19.

Commentary.—I. A plot against Nehemiah (vs. 1-4). I. It came to pass—These events belong to the period of the rebuilding of the walls, particularly to the time when the work was nearly completed. Sanballat—A leading officer among the Samaritans. His authority was received from the Persian Government. He was bitter in his opposition to the Jews in their efforts to build up the Jewish nation. Tobiah—An Ammonite, who was a man of influence, and who was associated with Sanballat in his hostility to the Jews. Geshem—A bitter enemy of Nehemiah and his people. He is mentioned in verse 6 under the name Gashmu. Had not set up the doors—It is probable that the work of putting the doors in place was left until the walls were completed, the openings in the walls being closed temporarily with some sort of barricade. In this way there would be no delay in building the walls, and the city would the sooner be protected. 2. Let us meet together—Nehemiah and his fellow Jews had been subjected to ridicule by their enemies (ch. 2, 3), they had been threatened (ch. 4, 1), and now an effort was being made through deception to bring Nehemiah into the power of his enemies to do him injury. The pretense of Sanballat was that he wished to hold a consultation with Nehemiah upon matters of interest to both. In the plain of Ono—A region about thirty miles northeast of Jerusalem. "An interview in the plain of Ono would have necessitated Nehemiah's absence from Jerusalem during three or four days. The object of his enemies was doubtless to seize or to assassinate him at a distance from Jerusalem."—Ryle. Thought to do me mischief—The enemies of the Jews recognized the fact that Nehemiah was the powerful leader among the Jews and a great victory would be won if they could only destroy him. 3. I am doing a great work... I cannot come down—Nehemiah realized the largeness of the task upon which he had entered and felt that his duty was in Jerusalem, rather than "in the plain of Ono." Why should the work cease—The work of rebuilding the walls was too great and too important to be allowed to stop, and it certainly would have been carried on with less vigor in the absence of Nehemiah, if it had not ceased entirely. Nehemiah was wise enough to know that Sanballat was planning his destruction, but he was too wise to let Sanballat know that he knew it. 4. Yet—"And"—R. V. Four times—This indicated Sanballat's eagerness to gain his point. Answered them after the same manner—Instead of weakening, Nehemiah maintained his same decision of purpose and showed himself to be a true man.

II. A false accusation (vs. 5-9). 5. An open letter—It was customary to fold a letter and seal it, when sending it to another, or, if special respect was to be shown to the person addressed, the letter was enclosed in a silken bag. To send an open letter to another was to show great disrespect to him. 6. It is reported—Nehemiah had braved ridicule, had discredited threats had withstood blameworthy, and now he was to be the victim of misrepresentation. In our day almost anything can be "reported," and it was true also in Sanballat's time. Among the heathen—"Among the nations"—R. V. and Gashmu with it—Gashmu was a bitter enemy of Nehemiah. He was not only bitter, but conscienceless. His train of bearers of unfounded reports has been numerous since his day, and some still survive. Think to rebel—This malicious falsehood was designed to terrify Nehemiah, and to turn the Jews against him on the ground that he desired to become king. Mayest be their king—Nehemiah had no such purpose. He held the office of governor, conferred by the Persian government, and was faithful in the discharge of the office and was satisfied. According to these words—According to the report given above. 7. To preach of thee—There is no doubt that there were prophets in Jerusalem who spoke highly of Nehemiah, but the report contained in the open letter was without foundation. Sanballat suggests (1) that Nehemiah had bribed prophets to support him, and (2) that their support as of a treasonable nature.—Com. Bible. Take counsel—Sanballat appeared greatly interested in Nehemiah's welfare, and he had made a strong appeal to him. 8. Thou feignest them—Nehemiah was bold to declare, not only that the reports were untrue, but also that they had their origin in the heart of Sanballat. 9. For they all would have made us afraid (R. V.)—It was the purpose of the enemies of the Jews to frighten them, so that they would not be able to build the wall of Jerusalem. Strengthen my hands—In view of all the opposition arrayed against him, Nehemiah made his prayer to God for strength. The words, "O God," are not in the Hebrew text and the marginal reading of the Revised Version is, "I will strengthen my hands." III. Enemies within the city (v. 10-19). 10. Shemaiah—He was professedly a prophet of the Lord. Who was shut up—He feigned to be in fear of Sanballat and the other enemies, and seems to have imprisoned himself in his own house to show how much he was afraid.—Whiston. Within the temple—Shemaiah proposed that he and Nehemiah should go into the sacred place where only priests might enter, that there they might find safety. Come to slay thee—Shemaiah sought to make Nehemiah afraid by telling him this falsehood. Had Nehemiah yielded to the request of Shemaiah, this showing cowardice, he would have lost his influence with the Jews and great discouragement and weakness would have come to them. Satan is not particular as to the methods employed in gaining his ends. He is satisfied to take advantage of circumstances or of human weaknesses to urge his cause. Sanballat's attack upon Nehemiah well illustrates Satan's attack upon God's people.

11. Should such a man as I flee—Nehemiah was the governor and leader of his people, a man with a clear head and strong heart, to whom was committed a great work. It would have been utterly inconsistent with his nature to flee to save himself and let his people

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be swallowed up by their enemies. There was no cowardice in Nehemiah to which Sanballat or Shemaiah could appeal. I will not go in—His reply was prompt and positive. Nehemiah was a stalwart man of God. He saw clearly the path of duty. He had no occasion to argue the case with Shemaiah. Although Shemaiah came to him under the guise of friendship, Nehemiah discerned that his advice was wrong. 12. God had not sent him—He was a false prophet. Pronounced this prophecy against me—Instead of giving the prophecy for the good of Nehemiah, he had sought to destroy him by it. Had hired him—He was a hireling prophet. Professing to be the prophet of the Lord, he had prostituted the office to the basest ends. 13-19. Shemaiah was not alone in this plot. Other prophets were implicated. In spite of all opposition the walls were completed in the incredibly short space of fifty-two days. The completion of the work caused the enemies to be downcast, and they even came to understand that this work was of God. Question.—What report did Sanballat and other enemies of the Jews hear? What invitation did Sanballat and Tobiah send to Nehemiah? What was their purpose? What answer did Nehemiah make? How many times was the invitation sent? What was the significance of sending an open letter? What were the two principal charges contained in the letter? What was Nehemiah's reply to the letter? What effort did Shemaiah make? What did Nehemiah learn about Shemaiah?

PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic.—Devotion to duty. I. Brought greater tests upon Nehemiah. II. Brought defeat to the enemies of Judah. I. Brought greater tests upon Nehemiah. We have in this lesson the persistence of opposition in various forms from the enemies of Nehemiah and the Jews, and the persistence of endeavor by Nehemiah in the completion of the wall around Jerusalem. Nehemiah was a model man of business, a model of earnestness, unselfishness, faithfulness and piety—a good man in a great work. He had a fixed design and pursued a steady course. No specious pretense could call him from his work. He lost no time in rebuilding the ruined wall. He sought to keep up the quickened and responsive zeal of the people. His patriotism was strong because it was based upon true piety. He kept at prayer. He kept at work amid all the inducements to do otherwise. He was careful to ascertain facts, to detect plots, to weigh evidence, to examine character and to balance circumstances that he might arrive at the truth. Faith and prayer and work had achieved great things in Jerusalem. To the enemies of God's people it was a time of vexation and dismay. In spite of their warring words the gates were not advanced and unless they could quickly crush it, they plainly saw that all

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MARKET REPORTS TORONTO MARKETS. FARMERS' MARKET. Dressed hogs... 8 75 9 25 Butter, good to choice... 0 28 0 34 Eggs, new laid, doz... 0 60 0 65 Chickens, lb... 0 13 0 15 Ducks, lb... 0 13 0 15 Fowl, lb... 0 11 0 12 Turkeys, lb... 0 20 0 22 Geese, lb... 0 12 0 14 Apples, bbl... 2 50 4 00 Potatoes, doz... 0 45 0 50 Cabbages, doz... 0 80 0 85 Beef, hindquarters... 0 50 10 50 Do, forequarters... 6 50 7 50 Do, choice, carcass... 9 00 9 25 Do, medium, carcass... 7 50 8 00 Veal, prime... 10 00 12 00 Mutton, prime... 7 50 8 50 Lamb... 9 00 10 00 SUGAR MARKET. Sugars are quoted in Toronto, in bags, per cwt., as follows: Extra granulated, St. Lawrence... \$3 99 do, Redpath's... 5 95 do, Acadia... 5 80 Imperial granulated... 5 70 No. 1 yellow, St. Lawrence... 5 45 do, Redpath's... 5 45 In barrels 5c per cwt. more; car lots, 5c less.

LIVE STOCK. Toronto despatch: Western cattle market: The market is much more brisk than for some days. Good cattle are selling very firm at about \$5.80 for top prices and it is generally believed that within another week this top will be boosted to \$6 and \$6.20. Hogs are firmer to-day, with a good trade. Sheep and lambs are firmer to \$15, higher. Receipts, 103 cars; 1,200 cattle, 1,100 hogs, 1,084 sheep and 151 calves. Latest quotations: Lambs, \$5 to \$5.40; sheep, ewes, \$3 to \$3.80; bucks, \$3; calves, \$3 and \$7; canners, \$2 to \$3; cows and heavy bulls, \$4 to \$5.25; feeders, \$4.75 to \$5.25; light stockers, \$3.75 to \$4.25.

OTHER MARKETS. WINNIPEG GRAIN MARKET. Prev. Close. Op. High. Low. Close. Wheat—Nov. 99 90 1/2 90 3/4 90 95 Dec. 95 95 1/2 95 3/4 95 95 May old 98 98 1/2 98 3/4 98 98 1/2 May, new 98 98 1/2 98 3/4 98 98 1/2 Oats—Nov. 40 1/2 40 3/4 40 3/4 40 3/4 Dec. 39 39 3/4 39 3/4 39 3/4 May 31 31 3/4 31 3/4 31 3/4 OUR APPLES IN LONDON. London—Apple supplies heavy; better Greenings and Ben Davis, 14s to 16s; demand; prices advanced two shillings. Golden Russets, No. 1, 18s to 20s, No. 2, 16s to 18s; Nova Scotia Ribston, 12s to 14s and 10 1/2s to 12s; Blenheim, 12s to 14s and 10 1/2s to 12s; Kings, 15s to 17s and 13s to 14 1/2s; Russets, 15 1/2s to 17 1/2s and 14s to 15s.

CHEESE MARKETS. Brockville—At to-day's Cheese Board the offerings were 600 boxes of colored and 120 boxes of white. The highest bid, 12 1/2c, was refused. The board adjourned for the season. NEW YORK LIVE STOCK. New York—Beef—Receipts, 2,042; steers, 13c higher; fat bulls and fat cows 10 to 12c higher; others steady to strong. Steers, \$4.50 to \$7.75; bulls, \$2.50 to \$5.50; cows, \$1.75 to \$5; calves—Receipts, 1,400; market 10 to 15c lower; veals, \$3.50 to \$9.50; culs \$4 to \$5; barnyard calves, \$2.25 to \$3.25; fed, \$3.50 to \$4; Western, \$3.50 to \$4.50; sheep—Receipts, 7,887; market 10 to 15c higher; sheep, \$1.50 to \$2.25; choice, \$3.00 culs, \$1 to \$1.25; lambs, \$2.50 to \$3.50; choice, \$4.50 to \$5.50. BUFFALO LIVE STOCK. Buffalo, N. Y.—Cattle—Receipts, 200; active and steady, veals—Receipts, 100; active and steady, \$3 to \$3.50. Hogs—Receipts, 3,000; active and 10c to 12c higher; heavy \$6.50 to \$6.80; mixed \$5.50 to \$6.50; yearlings, \$3.50 to \$4.50; weaners, \$2.50 to \$3.50; pigs, \$3 to \$3.25; sheep, mixed, \$1.50 to \$2.50.

MONTREAL LIVE STOCK. Montreal—At the Canadian Pacific Live Stock Market the receipts of live stock were for the week ending Nov. 25: 3,200 cattle, 3,500 sheep and lambs, 2,600 hogs and 200 swine. The market was fair, a steady feeling prevailed in the market, and prices show no important change. There were no really choice stock on the market, therefore the top prices paid were only for the best, and do not indicate that the market was any lower. The demand was only fair, as buyers generally were well supplied with meat, consequently the trade was rather slow, but at the close but few were left over. The demand for sheep and lambs was good, and the supply was fair. The market was fairly active, with no change in prices to note. An easier feeling developed in the market for hogs. Prices showed a further decline of 10c per cwt. At this reduction the demand was fair from packers, and sales of selected lots were made at \$4.40 to \$5.50 per cwt. The demand for calves was good. Cattle—Butcher's cattle, choice, \$5.75 to \$6; do, medium, \$4 to \$5.25; do, common, \$3.25 to \$3.50; canners, \$2.25 to \$2.75; butcher's cattle, choice ewes, \$4 to \$5.25; do, medium, \$4.25 to \$4.75; do, bulls, \$3.50 to \$4; milkers, choice, each, \$7; do, common and medium, each, \$5 to \$6; Springers \$3 to \$4; sheep—Ewes, \$3.75 to \$4; bucks and culs, \$3.25 to \$3.50; lambs, \$3.50 to \$5.75; Hogs—o. b., \$6 to \$6.50. Calves—\$3 to \$10.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE. Liverpool Cable—Close—Wheat—Spot, quiet, futures easy; Dec. 7s 2 1/4d, March 7s 1 3/4 d. Flour—Winter patents, 7s 6d. Hops—In London (Pacific Coast) 111 5s to 112. Beef—Extra India Mess, 86s 8d. Bacon—short cut 14 to 16 pounds, 73s. Bacon—Cumberland cut, 28 to 30 pounds 47s 6d; short ribs, 18 to 24 pounds, 51s 6d; long bellies, 14 to 16 pounds, 59s 6d; long clear middles, light, 28 to 34 pounds, 52s; long clear middles, heavy, 35 to 40 pounds 47s 6d; short clear backs, 16 to 20 pounds 47s 6d; shoulders, square, 11 to 13 pounds 48s. Lard—Prime western in kegs, 46s 6d; American refined in pails, 48s 6d. Butter—Common, 1s. Cheese—Canadian finest white, 70s, do. colored, 70s 6d. Tallow—Prime city, 55s 6d. Turpentine spirits, 55s 6d. Resin—Common, 1s. Petroleum—Refined, 6 3/4d. Corn—spot, mixed American mixed, 5s 4d; futures firm; Jan. 5s 3 3/4d, Feb. 5s 7 1/4d.

BRADSTREET'S REPORT. Montreal reports to Bradstreet's say the past week has seen some increase in the volume of business moving at retail and further interest is being displayed in sorting lines of winter goods. Wholesale are also busy on holiday shipments. The demand for staple commodities compares well with the same season in previous years and the total turnover of business for December promises to be heavy. The port is practically closed for the year. Toronto reports to Bradstreet's say all lines of trade report an excellent movement of seasonal and staple lines. While the sorting trade is good, there is much more doing in the way of shipping holiday lines. Western business of all kinds continues heavy. Crop scares have given place to a general feeling of confidence regarding the ultimate outcome. The quality of grain is generally fair and prices are sufficiently high to guarantee profitable returns from the lower qualities. Local factors are all busy. In some lines there is still a shortage of skilled help. Winnipeg reports say the demand for reasonable merchandise continues brisk but traffic congestion seems to be interfering considerably with deliveries. It is to be hoped Christmas goods will not be held up until too late for use. Vancouver and Victoria reports say wholesalers there are busy rushing forward shipments of goods to interior up-country points which they are anxious to have placed before the arrival of bad weather. Hamilton reports say general business conditions there continue very satisfactory. Retailers report an excellent movement of general lines and wholesalers are busy sending out sorting parcels and holiday goods. Country trade in the district is generally fair and improvement is looked for when roads improve. Deliveries of produce are heavy and prices generally steady to firm. Collections are fair to good. London reports say an excellent volume of business is moving there. Ottawa reports say retailers there have had another busy week.

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herself, but also for the fetus. She needs bone-building material to build up the framework of the future skeleton. If this dry cow is to be fed during the late fall, when pasture is not available, good clover hay, some silage and a mixture of two parts bran and one of oil meal, about two or three pounds per day, will make a good ration. Brewers' grains are now in much greater demand than formerly, and are a far more valuable food than they appear. They are not considered so good for milk production as wet grains, but are far easier to handle. Before feeding to cows they should be soaked. Experiments go to prove that dried grains are a profitable food for fattening when used in conjunction with hay. With sheep also good results were obtained, and they replace hay, being more effective for winter-feeding. Their price is higher than formerly, but the value per food unit compares very favorably with other concentrated foods. At present they have an additional advantage in being bulky food when soaked in water. The fertility of the soil can best be built up and held by feeding a large part of the crops and returning the manure to the land. If it is not possible to get manure, plow under crops grown for the purpose. There should be deep-plowing, but no sub-soiling. Leguminous crops should be grown for the nitrogen they give the soil. The term "catch crop" applies to any crop that is not regularly planned for a certain field. That is to say, it is a crop put in where another crop has failed, or after another crop has been removed from the land. For instance, millet sown where a corn or other grain crop failed, or rape sown with a grain crop, or after a grain crop, or in corn at the last cultivation to furnish fall feed, is a "catch crop." By "rich cream" is meant milk rich in butter fat. Milk richest in butter fat is also richer in casein. The value of manure from stock is about in this order: Poultry manure, which forms an splendid ration for winter-feeding, is followed by sheep, pigs, horse and cow manure. The vice of feather-pulling among poultry, it is said, can be stopped by dissolving aloes in water and washing the feathers of the birds that have been plucked. The coating makes the feathers distasteful, and the guilty ones will not make a second attempt. It is generally estimated that it costs a cent and a half to produce an egg at the present high price of grain. That is to say, if a hen lays 120 eggs in a year, which a good hen should do, it will cost \$1.80 for her feed for the year. Should the hen lay less the proportionate cost of each egg will be increased. Bran at all times may be fed a work horse with advantage, and it is best mixed with oats. Oats, corn and timothy are a splendid ration for winter-feeding. The work horse will require at least one pound of grain for each hundred pounds of live weight, daily, and may take a fourth more when the work is extra hard. The following is recommended as a reliable condition powder for live stock. Two pounds of ground flaxseed as a base, in which mix five ounces of well-dried charcoal and one pound of common salt. Mix all well together. Give at first two tablespoonful in feed of grain twice a day. After two weeks give half the quantity. Shingles are usually 16 inches long, and a bundle of them is 20 inches wide, and contains 24 courses in the thickness at each end. A bundle of shingles will lay one course 80 feet long. When shingles are exposed four inches to the weather, 1,000 will cover 107 square feet; five inches, 132 square feet; and six inches, 160 square feet.

played in sorting lines of winter goods. Wholesale are also busy on holiday shipments. The demand for staple commodities compares well with the same season in previous years and the total turnover of business for December promises to be heavy. The port is practically closed for the year. Toronto reports to Bradstreet's say all lines of trade report an excellent movement of seasonal and staple lines. While the sorting trade is good, there is much more doing in the way of shipping holiday lines. Western business of all kinds continues heavy. Crop scares have given place to a general feeling of confidence regarding the ultimate outcome. The quality of grain is generally fair and prices are sufficiently high to guarantee profitable returns from the lower qualities. Local factors are all busy. In some lines there is still a shortage of skilled help. Winnipeg reports say the demand for reasonable merchandise continues brisk but traffic congestion seems to be interfering considerably with deliveries. It is to be hoped Christmas goods will not be held up until too late for use. Vancouver and Victoria reports say wholesalers there are busy rushing forward shipments of goods to interior up-country points which they are anxious to have placed before the arrival of bad weather. Hamilton reports say general business conditions there continue very satisfactory. Retailers report an excellent movement of general lines and wholesalers are busy sending out sorting parcels and holiday goods. Country trade in the district is generally fair and improvement is looked for when roads improve. Deliveries of produce are heavy and prices generally steady to firm. Collections are fair to good. London reports say an excellent volume of business is moving there. Ottawa reports say retailers there have had another busy week.

FARM GARDEN. If the cow has been properly fed there will be no necessity of giving any medicine after calving. A bran mash over which some water has been poured is a very acceptable feed, especially in cold weather. Ground oat, mixed with grain and a pail of warm water can be given, for it will be found that her feverish and exhausted condition at this time demands considerable water, and it is much better to be given warm than cold. She should not be exposed to cold draughts of air. The udder of a cow should be elastic and pliable, and show many folds when milked out. If it is symmetrical and well proportioned, as it should be, the teats will be about equal distance apart, and smooth and evenly shaped. A large udder does not always indicate that the cow is a good one, but it is imperative that her milk veins be large, and the more winding and branching they are the better. Though these veins do not carry milk, as one would naturally suppose, they convey blood from the udder to the body, and the more blood that passes through the udder the more milk the cow will give. In that milk is produced from the blood. The dry cow is usually the one that receives the least attention on the farm. She is, as a rule, getting the refuse of the herd. In the winter she is kept on dry cornstalks or similar feed, with little or no grain at all. It is absolutely essential to feed liberally the dry cow for two reasons; first, it must not be forgotten that the dry cow needs feed not only for

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