THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON II, FIRST QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, JAN. 14.

Text of the Lesson, Gen. iii, 1-15—Memory Verses, 13-15—Golden Text, I Cor. xv, 22—Commentary by the Rev. D. M. Stearns.

1. "Now, the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" In the first two chapters all is perfect, and God walks with man, and man communes with God. Now comes the wicked one in the guise of a serpent—full of hatred of God and man. See his aliases in Rev. xii, 9; xx, 2, and his end in Rev. xx, 10. He begins his work by insinuating that God does not love his children or He would not keep any thing from them.

2. "And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden." We cannot blame the woman for talking with him, for she probably had not heard of him who spoke to her through the serpent. We know him and deserve to suffer if we hold any parley with him. See Eph. vi, 11; Jas. iv, 7; I Pet. v, 8, 9.

3. "But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die." She both added to and diminished what God had said. Compare carefully chapters ii, 17, and let us give good heed to Deut. iv, 2; xii, 32; Jer. xxvi, 2. Our part is to be simply obedient and trustful and shun every insinuation and doubt.

4. "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die." What a deliberate lie! When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar and the father of it (John viii, 44). All liars shall have their portion with him (Rev. xxi, 8). One would think that such an attack upon God would have shown the woman that she was dealing with an enemy of God. But what shall we say of professed friends of God who today teach that there is no hell and not even a devil?

5. "For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." This seems to have been his own ambition (see Isa. xiv, 14), and he will yet find a man willing to be filled with it (II Thess. ii, 3, 4). We know that when He shall appear we shall be like Him, and then shall we know even as we are known (I John iii, 2; I Cor. xiii, 12), but this is to be reached by death to self, trust in the sacrifice of Christ and obedience to Him, never in any other way (Acts iv, 12).

6. "And when the woman saw, etc., she took of the fruit thereof and did eat and gave also unto her husband with her, and he did eat." This is the history of every temptation and sin, the outward object, the inward commotion, the increase and triumph of passionate desire, the degradation and ruin of soul. So with Achan. He saw; he coveted; he took (Joshua vii, 21). Adam and Eve had everything and yet sinned. Christ seemed to have nothing, yet stood firm.

7. "And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons." This was an eye opening that has left us blind by nature in the right direction ever since, as we need to be anointed and have our eyes opened to behold spiritual things (Rev. iii, 18; Ps. cxix, 18). What a contrast between the garments of light which they lost and these self made aprons! Fig leaves may well represent profession without reality (Math. xxi, 19).

8. "And they heard the voice of the Lord God, and Adam and his wife hid themselves." What a sight is this! God's dear children hiding from their loving Father and thinking that trees can cover them. What fools sin makes of us, and how blinded must be the mind that seeks to hide from the only true friend! Such has been the sinner's conduct ever since, vainly seeking to hide from God.

9. "And the Lord God called unto Adam and said unto him, Where art thou?" From the fall to the end of the Bible story it is a God of love seeking lost and straying people and man in his blindness hiding or running away from God. What does your soul say in response to "Where art thou?" Mine replies, Lord, thou knowest I am in Thee, and Thou art to me the Rock of Ages (Isa. xxvi, 4 margin). Once and for a long time I tried to hide from Thee, but now Thou hast taught me to hide in Thee.

10. "And he said, I heard Thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." Here is the first fear in Scripture, and it follows hard on unbelief and distrust of God. There will be no fear where there is confidence in God, for His perfect love casteth out fear (I John iv, 18); so that if our hearts can say, "Behold, God is my salvation," we should also add, "I will trust and not be afraid" (Isa. xii, 2). Some are afraid of the voice of God in His word because they prefer their own thoughts and ways.

11. "And He said, Who told thee thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" God of course knew the whole story, but before we can be forgiven there must be on our part conviction of sin and confession of the same. This God would give to Adam and draw from him that He might forgive him (see Prov. xxviii, 13, and I John i, 9).

12. "And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." This sounds very badly. Adam, thou hast fallen very far and brought us down with thee, for some of us have talked that way. But see the sin. He finds fault with the gift of God and lays the blame on her. Now see Jesus, who has taken upon Himself all the guilt of His body, the church, and borne it, that He might present her to Himself without spot (Eph. v, 27).

13. "And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." She did not ask, as some do now, why God allowed the serpent to come to her, and why God did not keep her from falling, but she makes confession and pleads guilty. And both having now confessed the way is open for the revelation of God's salvation by grace (Rom. iii, 19-24).

14. "And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle," etc. What kind of a creature the serpent was before this and of what form we are not told. But it is evident he did not go upon his belly as now. Eve will tell us when we see her if it is worth while to know.

15. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed. He shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." The Lord God speaks to the enemy in the serpent and in the first clause declares the woman's restoration to God and her hatred of the devil, all brought about by God Himself, who says, "I will put."

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A LIBERAL CZAROWITZ.

Not After the Czar's Heart But That of a European Princess.

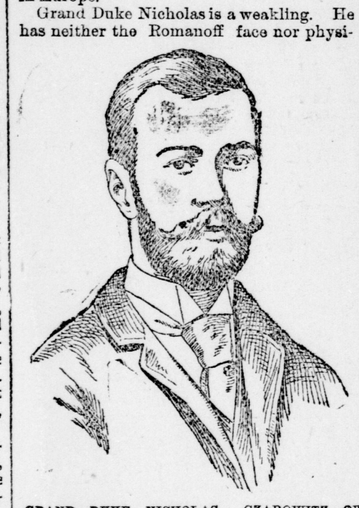
Another royal heart is being hawked in the courts of Europe. This time the owner of the heart is the Czarowitz, eldest son of the Czar, the coming autocrat of all the Russians—the powerful ruler, that is to be, of hundreds of millions of people. This young man is looking for a wife, a woman who will some day sit upon the Russian throne, the most powerful of her sex in the world.

Concerning this fortunate woman, that dreadful little rogue, rumor, has much to say. But this much lacks confirmation. Yesterday it was the daughter of the Prince of Wales, to-morrow it is a Danish princess and next week we shall have another story and another name. Indeed, the heir to the throne of Russia is the most engaged, but by no means the most engaging, young man in Europe.

Who is this Grand Duke Nicholas, fated some day to be the most powerful man in the world? He may become Czar of Russia at any time, should the anarchists or nihilists succeed in their designs of killing the present head of the Romanoffs. Little is known about him. As the immediate heir to the throne, and in view of the uncertainty as to the life tenure of the Czar, it has been the policy of Alexander III. to keep the Czarowitz from any dangerous, or even public post of duty. This accounts, in the main, for the fact that so little is known of the young man, who is now, by the way, a few months over twenty-five years of age.

Truth be told, there is very little about the young man to attract attention, aside from his position as the eldest son of the Czar. The Grand Duke, in fact, is a very colorless youth indeed. He lacks strength mentally and physically. He has shown no talent for anything of consequence. There is nothing of the Tartar about him. He is not at all a Romanoff in appearance. These men have nearly all of them been of the most impressive appearance. The mad Emperor, Paul, was a fine looking man. Alexander II. was one of the handsomest men, in point of physique and face, in Europe. The present Czar is a veritable Ajax, and is held to be the strongest man in Europe.

Grand Duke Nicholas is a weakling. He has neither the Romanoff face nor physi-



GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS, CZAROWITZ OF RUSSIA.

que, but, instead, resembles his Danish mother. Frequently there are rumors that the Czar has determined to use his autocratic powers and name his robust second son as his successor.

There is probably nothing in these reports. The one soft spot in the character of the present Czar is his love for his wife. Her influence over him is remarkable, and she, womanlike, loves her first born child, who has her face and amiable disposition; therefore she is not likely to allow him to be set aside if she can help it—and she probably can.

It appears true, however, that though the Czar may love his son well enough in a paternal way, he has no especial admiration for him as a prospective ruler of Russia. The massive, imperial crown of Russia and the flowing robes of state have looked impressive enough on such giants as the recent Czars of Russia, but the effect will be different when they are put on by the somewhat puny Grand Duke.

But this is not the worst. The Czar might forgive his son his weak physique and Danish face. There is worse. The Czarowitz is inclined to be a liberal; and in the eyes of the Czar this a crime against Russia and against him.

Alexander III. cannot understand liberalism. He never admired the somewhat liberal ideas of his father, and he can understand still less those of his son.

The young Grand Duke disagrees with his father in many essentials. His temperament is that of a scholar, and his tutors have made him a very fine one. The Czar does not like scholars in the abstract. He has to have them about him in certain positions, but he would be better pleased if he could do without them.

Another subject upon which the Czar and his eldest son disagree is with reference to the Emperor of Germany. The Czar has no especial love for that chipper young monarch. Grand Duke Nicholas has, and has given public expression to his opinion. Should he come into power at some time in the near future all the love making that has recently gone on between Russia and France would have been for nothing.

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PREPARING ITS SHELL.

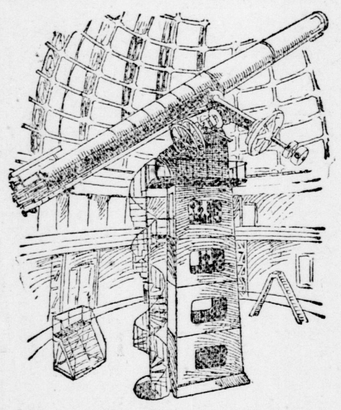
THE GREAT TELESCOPE OF THE CHICAGO UNIVERSITY.

Magnificent Buildings to Be Erected on the Shores of Lake Geneva—Details of the Projected Structures and of the Great Telescope.

Within a year from now will rise a magnificent structure, 200 feet above Lake Geneva, in which the largest telescope in the world is to be housed. In it that branch of science which makes the knowledge of the going and coming of the starry host on the firmament its special domain will be pursued, taught and carefully nurtured. Charles T. Yerkes, the well-known street railroad manager of Chicago, some time ago made a donation of $500,000 to the Chicago University. He specified that this sum was to be expended in

C. T. YERKES.

the creation of an astronomical department for the institution, and for no other purpose. It is stated that Mr. Yerkes is so well satisfied with the way in which his generous gift has been laid out by the recipients that he intends to increase the size of his donation at a future day. Out of the $500,000 given by him the board of directors of the university has spent $125,000 on that famous telescope known the world over by its donor's name, and which was an interesting exhibit in Manufacturers' building during the recent exposition. The column and head of this, the largest instrument of its kind in the world, are of cast iron and rise to a height of 43 feet, the weight being fifty tons. The polar axis, of steel, is 15 inches in diameter, 13½ feet long, and weighs three and one-half tons. The declination axis, also of steel, is 12 inches in diameter, 11½ feet long, and weighs one and one-half tons. The tube is of steel, sixty-four feet long and fifty-two inches in diameter at the centre, tapering toward the ends. Its weight is six tons. The driving clock, weighing one and one-half tons, is located in the upper section of the columns. It is wound automatically by an electric motor and is controlled by a double conical pendulum. It is geared to the main driving wheel, eight feet in diameter, which, when clamped to the polar axis, revolves it, together with the tube and all its accessories, all weighing twenty tons, in exact sidereal time. All quick motions, slow motions, and clamps, both in declination and right ascension, are operated by hand, and also by electric motors controlled by a switch-board placed within easy reach of the astronomer. The assistant astronomer likewise has full con-



THE YERKES TELESCOPE.

trol of all motions from the balcony which surrounds the head, and which, together with the clock, is reached by the spiral staircase. The total weight of the telescope is seventy-five tons. Up to the time of constructing the Yerkes telescope the one in the Lick observatory, near San Jose, Cal., was the largest in the world, its largest disk being 36 inches in diameter, the one in the great telescope of the United States naval observatory, 26 inches, being next in size. The Yerkes telescope has disks measuring 40 inches in diameter.

John Johnston, jr., a lawyer and capitalist of Chicago, gave the site to the university, stipulating that the observatory with the Yerkes telescope be placed thereon. The site is a tract of fifty-three acres on the western border of Lake Geneva valued at $27,000.

ONLY A FEW OF THEM LEFT.

Xiphioid Whales Which Belong to Long-Past Geological Ages.

Prior to 1883 the naturalists of America knew nothing of xiphioid whales except from comparisons and the fossil records of the geological ages. During the year mentioned, however, one of these queer cretaceans was stranded upon the sands at Barnegat City, N. J. J. H. Ridgeway and his assistants managed to save the specimen, and immediately telegraphed for the officials of the National Museum of Washington. They went, of course, and took all the apparatus necessary for preserving such a unique curiosity. Among these Smithsonian worthies were scientists of international reputation, yet the creature before them could not be assigned to its proper class until after the brain was critically and scientifically examined—this on account of its great rarity. Before removing the flesh preparatory to "making a skeleton" of the great creature's bones a plaster cast of the exterior was made. After this operation had been finished in all its minute details the meat was cut away and the bones carefully articulated. A scientific report of the incident, quoted by the St. Louis Republic, closes as follows: "The xiphioid whales have a most interesting history. * * * They really belong to the geological ages, and perhaps only a few stragglers are now left in remote quarters of the globe. It would seem that they are but the surviving relics of a great race, which declined long ages before man appeared upon the earth."

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FIRST OF HOOFED ANIMALS.

Supposed to Have Lived on Western Prairies 500 Years Ago.

In the rooms of Professor E. D. Cope, at Philadelphia, the person fortunate enough to gain admission says the St. Louis Republic may see the creature which all naturalists are unanimous in pronouncing the first representative of the hoofed-animal species. The animal is not alive, neither is it entire so far as flesh and blood are concerned, but to the paleontologist, who cares only for the fossiled bones, the specimen is perfect. It is not larger than a yearling calf, and not nearly so tall, and was found in the Wind River country in Wyoming. Professor Cope named it Thenacodus primævus when it was first discovered, giving it as his opinion that it was akin to a specimen which was found several years ago in France (the paleotherium), and which gave Cuvier and the other naturalists so much trouble to classify. At the time of the discovery of the French specimen the savants of Europe decided that it was the ancestor of "hoofed critters," but the Wind River fossil, which is easily distinguished as being a type of the same is believed to be much more ancient. Cope's curiosity was found in rocks belonging to the eocene period and the time when it grazed on the western prairies has been placed as far back as 500,000 years. Every bone is perfect and in place and the specimen could not be purchased for $10,000.

HOW BABY WAS SAVED.

The Grateful Parents Make a Public Acknowledgment.

Mr. George F. Riddell, says the Collingwood Enterprise, is one of the best known residents of Singhampton, and in conversation with him and Mrs. Riddell, we were told the story of how their little girl was saved, which is well worth making public. The little girl is two years and four months old, very bright and intelligent. Her name is Lizzie, but her parents call her the "Pink Pills baby," and gave these reasons: When Lizzie was ten months old she was taken ill, the trouble being ascribed to her teeth, and so bad did she become that she was quite blind for two weeks. A doctor said there was no hope for her, and the parents shared his opinion, for the child was exceedingly puny. Mrs. Riddell said: "We frequently could not help wishing the little one was at rest, so much did she suffer." Mr. Riddell heard of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and determined to try them. As baby continued taking the pills she began to grow well and strong, and has gone on steadily improving. "I think," said Mrs. Riddell, "that baby would long since have been in her grave had it not been for Pink Pills. Mr. Riddell said he had been ill for some time himself, feeling nervous, worried and losing his appetite. His left hand also seemed to be losing its strength, and his weight decreased to 132 pounds. He resolved to try Pink Pills, and in six weeks he regained good health and appetite, while his weight showed an increase of 32 pounds. He is enthusiastic concerning Pink Pills with good reason.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are as beneficial in the troubles incident to childhood, as they are for persons of more mature years. They act directly upon the blood and nerves, strengthening and rebuilding the whole system. Sold by all dealers or sent by mail on receipt of 50 cents a box or 6 boxes for $2 50 by addressing the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., or Schenectady, N. Y. There are imitations against which the public is cautioned.

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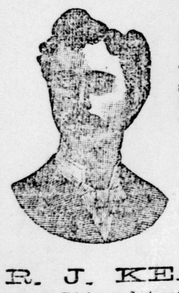

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