

COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, August 1, 1883.

The telegraphic strike still continues and as a result but little is doing in the grain market generally...

FLOUR.—The sales this week have been not many but prices still keep up. August is always the quietest month in the year...

MEALS unchanged. Cornmeal, \$3.50 to \$3.70; Oatmeal, ordinary \$5.25 to \$5.50; granulated \$5.75 to \$6.00.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter quiet. Cheese dull and quotations for both unchanged. Butter—Creamery, 15c to 20c; Eastern Township, 13c to 14c; Western 12c to 14c.

Eggs, same at 16c to 17c. HOOD PRODUCTS are quiet and without change. We quote—Western, \$18.50 to \$19.00; Hams, city cured, 14c to 14c; do. canvassed 15c; Bacon, 13c to 14c; Lard, in pails, 12c to 12c; Tallow, refined, 8c to 9c.

ASHES, steady at \$4.70 to \$4.80. FARMERS' MARKET.

The showery weather this week has caused more farmers to bring produce to the markets, and although the demand is good, prices of a number of things are lower; especially is this the case with garden stuffs, which are of remarkably fine quality and are offered in unusual quantities.

LIVE STOCK MARKET. The numbers of beef cattle brought to market here have been not so large this week as on some former occasions, and the quality is not up to the mark, so that butchers find considerable difficulty in securing the right sort of animals to supply their trade.

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. 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 Roll 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.

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.

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.

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book)

LESSON VII.

Aug 12, 1883. [Josh. 21:14-20.]

THE LAST DAYS OF JOSHUA.

COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 11-16.

11. Now therefore fear the Lord; and serve him in sincerity and in truth; and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord.

12. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose ye this day whom ye will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

13. And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods;

14. For the Lord our God, he it is that brought us up and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; and which did those great signs in our sight, and preserved us in all the way wherein we went, and among all the people through whom we passed.

the land; therefore will we also serve the Lord; for he is our God.

15. And Joshua said unto the people, Ye cannot serve the Lord; for he is a holy God, he is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions nor your sins.

16. If ye forsake the Lord, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt, and consume you, after that he hath done you good.

17. And the people said unto Joshua, Nay; but we will serve the Lord.

18. And Joshua said unto the people, Ye are witnesses against yourselves that ye have chosen ye the Lord, to serve him. And they said, We are witnesses.

19. Now therefore put away, said he, the strange gods which are among you, and incline your heart unto the Lord God of Israel.

20. And the people said unto Joshua, The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.

21. So Joshua made a covenant with the people of the law of God, and took a great stone, and set it up there under an oak, that was by the sanctuary of the Lord.

22. And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the Lord which he spake unto us; it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God.

23. So Joshua let the people depart, every man unto his inheritance.

24. And it came to pass after these things, that Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the Lord died, being a hundred and ten years old.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Choose you this day whom ye will serve." Josh. 21:15.

TOPIC.—The Great Decision.

LESSON PLAN.—I. THE CHOICE OFFERED, vs. 14, 15. II. THE DECISION MADE, vs. 16-21. III. THE COVENANT RENEWED, v. 22.

Time.—B.C. 1425. Place.—Shechem.

INTRODUCTORY.

The probable date of this lesson is twenty-five years after the entrance into Canaan; and eighteen years after the division of the land among the tribes and the appointment of cities of refuge. Joshua, finding his end approaching, first called together the elders and heads of Israel and gave them his final charge. Afterward he assembled to the people also, with their representatives, at Shechem to receive from him his farewell counsels. He recounted God's mercies to Israel from the call of Abraham to their own time; summed up the victories to which he had himself led them; and closed with the impressive words, "Choose you this day whom you will serve; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." The entire people, with one voice, responded to this call, and pledged themselves to be faithful to their covenant with God. Joshua then made a record of the transaction and set up a stone pillar as a memorial of this renewal of the covenant. He died soon after, at the age of one hundred and ten years, and was buried in his own grounds at Timnath-serah.

LESSON NOTES.

V. 14. NOW THEREFORE—since God, has done such great things for you. FEAR THE LORD—reverence and worship him. SERVE HIM—by obeying his commands. IN SINCERITY AND IN TRUTH—not in pretence and form. PUT AWAY—renounce, have nothing to do with them. He decided in your purpose. Do not worship them in secret, while in public you in form worship the true God. THE FLOOD—the river Euphrates. IN EGYPT—see Lesson V. BE YE IT SEEM EVIL—unpleasant and profitable. CHOOSE YOU—by comparing the gods of the heathen with Jehovah. THIS DAY—be warned, bring them to a true, firm and final choice of God as their portion. (Compare 1 Kings 18:21.) GOD'S SERVICE is a matter of free choice. AND MY HOUSE—whatever course others in my lake, we are decided. Though others desert the cause of God, we should stand by it all our days. IF GOD FORBID—far be it from us; the expression implies abhorrence of idolatry. VS. 17, 18, good, substantial reasons for the choice. HE IS OUR GOD—we have bound ourselves to him by solemn vow. V. 19. YE CANNOT SERVE THE LORD—he shows the difficulty of the choice, and would have them count the cost. A HOLY GOD—his servants, therefore, must be holy. A JEALOUS GOD—as he has no equal, so he can suffer no rival. HE WILL NOT FORGIVE—rather, will not bear, will not tolerate. He is ever ready to show mercy to the penitent, however great their sins; but he will not clear or tolerate those who persist in their sins. V. 20. DO YOU HEAR—will be as severe as he had before been kind. V. 21. WE WILL SERVE THE LORD—Jehovah, in distinction from all the gods of the heathen. V. 22. JOSHUA MADE A COVENANT—literally, cut a covenant, adding to the sacrifice that was usually offered on such occasions. A renewal of their covenant with Jehovah as their King. V. 23. A STAFF AND ORDINANCE—both they and their posterity were so regard it as having all the force of divine law. V. 23. IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW—the sacred records. A GREAT STONE—according to the custom of ancient times to erect stone pillars as memorials of public events. UNDER AN OAK THAT WAS BY THE SANCTUARY OF THE LORD—under the oak (or terebinth tree) where Abraham and Jacob had built their altars (Gen. 12, 6, 1; 31:29), and where Theophanet was recognized when Israel entered Canaan, Josh. 8:30-32. THIS WAS—"the sanctuary of Jehovah" in Shechem. V. 27. THIS STONE SHALL BE A WITNESS—compare Mark 2:11 and Luke 19:40. (See also Deut. 32:1; Isa. 1:2.)

TEACHINGS.

- 1. The service of God is a matter of choice. 2. It is a good and reasonable service. 3. We should serve the true God, and him only. 4. Prompt decision in religion is a personal and present duty. 5. Though others may desert the cause of God, we should not.

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