

SUNDAY AT HOME

LESSON VI.—NOV. 5, 1911.

Esther Pleading For Her People.—Esth. 4: 1-5: 3.

Commentary. 1. Haman's wicked plot (vs. 1-9). A few years after Esther had been made queen an event took place which deeply affected the interests of the Jews in the Persian empire.

II. Esther's opportunity (vs. 10-14). Hatach—An officer appointed to wait upon Esther, who had brought to her a message from Mordecai.

III. Esther's courage (vs. 15-17). 16. fast—The need was great and the most effective means of help must be used. Fasting with the Jews on that occasion included an acknowledgment of helplessness, a drawing near to God, and faith in his ability to deliver them.

IV. Esther's success (vs. 13). 1. The king sat—The position of the king was such that he could see all who entered the court. 2. Saw Esther—As the king sat upon the throne, the two were face to face, though there was quite a distance between them.

3. It shall be even given thee—Earnestness, courage and united prayer had prevailed. Esther's mission was being fulfilled and the deliverance sought for did not seem far away. It was a testing-time in Esther's life when she was being prepared to become a queen, but the really crucial point in her career was



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trade is active and wholesalers have all they can do in attending to the orders coming in. Manufacturers, also, continue very busy. Country trade in the district is brisk and receipts of produce continue large.

London reports say conditions are pretty well as reported a week ago. Retail business is fairly brisk and wholesalers report excellent business in all staple lines, with prospects for a very satisfactory fall and winter business.

STATE OF CROPS.

Ottawa.—A bulletin of the census and statistics office, issued to-day, deals with the figures of the year 1900.

The census areas of field crops enumerated in the month of June have been compiled for all the provinces excepting Quebec and British Columbia, and the statistics of principal crops are given in this report, together with estimates of production.

For the years 1900, 1910 and 1911 the comparative quality of crops at the end of September was fairly uniform for wheat, oats, barley and rye; but peas, beans, buckwheat, mixed grains and flax were lower this year by eight to twelve per cent.

The comparative condition of fodder and root crops for the Dominion at the end of September ranges from 82 to 87 per cent. of alfalfa, 79.55 per cent., and of potatoes, 76.78 per cent., and is generally lower in Ontario than elsewhere.

The census enumeration of field crops taken in June shows for the Northwest Provinces, together with Ontario, the Maritime Provinces an area of 9,900,021 acres wheat, 7,061,969 acres rye, 1,291,255 acres barley, 1,288,033 acres rye, 1,080,615 acres flax—so which will be added to areas for two districts in Saskatchewan. For the harvest year of 1900 the corresponding figures on wheat, 3,981,870 acres oats, 765,273 acres barley, 156,352 acres rye, and 21,292 acres flax.

The increase in the production of the principal grains in the decade, computed for the present year on the estimates of correspondents, is shown to be in round numbers 148,035,000 bushels wheat, 157,049,000 bushels oats, 21,711,000 bushels barley, 644,000 bushels rye, and 18,300,000 bushels flax. These figures are exclusive for two districts in Saskatchewan.

SEASONABLE HINTS ON POULTRY.

(T. Utley in Canadian Farm.) We hear big talk of hens that average large profits for their owners. We hear tall talk of hens that lay every day (only missing Sunday on principle) but when all comes to all, the man that can depend on 150 eggs per year from each hen on the farm may rest assured that he is not losing money on his chickens. The main point is to secure eggs when "eggs are eggs"—during the winter months. Do not neglect this most important part of the chicken business. A good stock of early-hatched pullets, properly fed, are a sure source of profit. It is a good thing to have a supply of poultry if you are going to put down-to-date, practical lines.

Go round to the show, and if you hear of some man "making good" at the chicken business get to know the way he works and grasp his methods. It is no harm to improve on them. There is, no doubt, following the "beaten track," but when you are so efficient in knowledge and confidence strike out for yourself. Do not stick to the "beaten track" right through. The men that make fortunes are the specialists—the men that use their brains to bring out a new breed, or work in a different direction. The first day old chicken men must have made huge fortunes. New and fortunes will continue to be made in the chicken business. The man that simply goes in to produce chickens for the table and eggs for eating will be a long time in making the dollars. It is the man that breeds exhibition stock and sells eggs for hatching that makes the money.

Never tackle the chicken business unless you have at least \$500 reserve capital over and above all requirements. This reserve may spell all the difference between success and ruin. It is all right for the farmer to go ahead and start at once, but let him get a thorough knowledge of the chicken business before launching out in a big way. Start with a few thoroughbred chickens and work up a connection for eggs and stock; then get a catalogue or list out. A good catalogue is the best of all investments with the chicken farmer. To advertise without a list or catalogue is like throwing water on a duck's back—it leaves no impression.

D. R. O. PATRON

Position Accepted by the Duke of Connaught.

Ottawa, Ont., Oct. 30.—The Duke of Connaught this morning became patron of the Dominion Rifle Association. He was waited upon by Colonel Sam Hughes who invited him to take the place of the withdrawal of Earl Grey. The Duke of Connaught said that as President of the National Rifle Association of England he had always taken a great interest in rifle shooting and gladly accepted the position to associate himself with the leading rifle shooting organization of Canada.

when she decided to approach the king at the risk of her life to make intercession for her people. The remaining chapters of the book tell impressively the story of Haman's downfall and the preservation of the Jews from the destruction plotted by their enemy. The discovery made by Ahasuerus, that Mordecai had been instrumental in saving him from a plot laid to take his life, while Haman was expecting soon to put White Haman was expecting soon to put Mordecai to death, he was made the unwilling instrument in doing highest honors to Mordecai. It became his duty to lead the horse which carried Mordecai through the streets of Shushan; and at the same time Haman was commanded to shout, "Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honor" (Esth. 6: 11).

III. Esther's opportunity (vs. 10-14). Hatach—An officer appointed to wait upon Esther, who had brought to her a message from Mordecai. Commandment—"Message"—R. V. 1: All do know. It was a universal rule, which was known by all. The object of this law was to maintain both the dignity and safety of the king. God's sceptre. Persian monarchs are always represented as holding a long, tapering staff in the right hand. His name was called. She therefore had just cause to fear the king's affections were alienated from her "and that neither her person nor her petition would be acceptable to him." Oriental monarchs were fickle and despotic. In attempting to save her people the queen must risk everything. The ardor of the king had, for the time cooled toward Esther, and she feared she had lost her influence with him. If so, how could she hope to influence him for the salvation of the despised Jews? We must not be surprised that Esther shrank from the summons of Mordecai. She proved her heroism by deciding to go before the king, although knowing the danger to which she was exposed.

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic—Life crises. I. Brought on by cruel hatred. II. Met by heroic self-sacrifice.

I. Brought on by cruel hatred. The ancient antipathy of an Amalekite to the Israel of God is clearly portrayed in the life and conduct of Haman. He was one of that nation with whom God had sworn that he would have perpetual hatred and enmity. Proud and malicious, he did not limit his enmity to the Jews. Haman charged no crime upon the Jews, only did they must and without mercy. The king took no time to examine document, but confidently trusted the arrangement to Haman without himself knowing the import of the edict. Upon Mordecai the first effect of the proclamation was bitter anguish, but his grief did not upset his judgment or cause him to lose faith. Yet grief so firmly rooted, and so well founded could not be removed without the removal of its cause. Mordecai had a strong belief that God would interfere in this case. Yet he believed it necessary to act with a determined and resolute will and unflinching energy in securing the deliverance of his people. Opportunity was the test of character, not only for Mordecai but to Esther, the only one whom he could direct in his attempt to overthrow Haman's plot. It was the tidal tunity of her existence, and the question was whether she would rise to the occasion and make it subservient to her greatness or whether it would sweep her away with it, as weak and irresponsible and unequal to the emergency. Power and opportunity measured her obligation to him as reasons why she should grant his wish. He would have her act under higher motives than those and in obedience to a higher will than his. Esther's womanly caution

brought out his courage and his faith. Her peculiar circumstances required peculiar service. In substance he may have reasoned thus. Hark! Will you separate your interests from those of your people and your God? If you could, would you thereby secure them? Remember for your humiliation that God can do without you. How can you bear the disgrace of having suffered your golden opportunity to be despised? Consider! Why are you thus blessed in temporal things?

Met by heroic self-sacrifice. Esther's special mission was to avert the destruction which threatened her people. In the heroism of a great surrender she declared, "So will I go." The king's crafty, designing foe, a wicked, favorite was Esther's enemy, a wicked, people Esther must hazard her life. Performance of duty must follow resolve. Her season for action was brief and precious and if neglected could not be recalled. Her heart was moved to sincere dependence upon God. She was charged to use her influence on the side of right and justice, and against oppression and tyranny. The yearning of Esther's soul through her fast made it appeal to Jehovah. The same power which supported her, at the same time moved the king's heart to listen and accept her. Mordecai and the Jewish people, engaged in prayer while Esther exposed herself to death in their behalf. When the time came for Esther to approach the king she found her way was clear. This splendid devotion to the welfare of her people would never have been an opportunity to be exercised had she not meekly learned and diligently practised the lessons of her girlhood which Mordecai taught her in his pious home. God moved Esther's heart to great wisdom and prudence in her management of her undertaking. His true piety in the ex-ward God united all her wisest calculations and efforts with the goodness and power of God. Her bold resolution and solemn preparation are rewarded in a successful issue and the crisis was met. In reverence, in submission, and for safety Esther touched the golden sceptre, and then all the power of the faithful discharge of duty brought rich results. Mordecai's firm faith in an overruling providence, God's recognition of human instrumentality in his government and Esther's practice of self-sacrifice form the important principles of this remarkable history. Each individual life has its special plan which God designs to work out. Only as the individual meets and accepts that plan can it be said that the life is most successful. T. R. A.

THE FRUIT MARKET. Trade here is rather quiet, with prices steady. Apples, Snows, bbls, \$3.50 to \$4.50. Greenings, do., 2.00 to 3.00. Grapes, basket, 1.00 to 1.50. Strawberries, doz., 1.00 to 1.50. Lemons, case, 5.00 to 6.00. Bananas, bunch, 1.75 to 2.00. Cabbages, dozen, 1.00 to 1.50. Potatoes, sweet, bbl., 4.00 to 4.50. Onions, bag, 1.00 to 1.50. Cranberries, case, 3.25 to 3.50. Currants, case, 5.00 to 6.00.

SHILOH'S CURE

SHILOH'S CURE STOPS COUGHS HEALS THE LUNGS A LUCKY LAD. New Haven, Conn., Oct. 30.—Inventory of the estate of Mrs. Helen A. Marsh, of Hamden to-day reveals a bequest of \$110,000 to Ernest W. Marsh of New York, who as a lady's year ago gave up to the elderly woman his berth in a sloping car on a New York to Washington train. Mrs. Marsh also sent Marlowe to Harvard college and Harvard law school. The estate totaled \$111,383.

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LIVE STOCK.

Toronto despatch: The light run to-day following a light rain, receipts may be the means of bringing choice, to-day choice butchers are in the market. Numerous cattle still drag and are too heavy to allow a real active market. Sheep and lambs are steady at yesterday's prices. Hogs are unchanged at Monday's decline. Receipts show fifty cars, comprising 1,200 head of sheep and lambs, 100 hogs and 100 calves. To-day's quotations: Cattle—Choice, \$6.30 to \$6.35; do., medium, \$5.75 to \$6; do., bulls, \$4.50 to \$5; do., butchers, \$4.50 to \$5; do., canners, \$1.50 to \$2.50; butchers' choice, \$4.50 to \$5; do., medium, \$3.50 to \$4.50; do., light, \$2.50 to \$3.50; milkers, choice, \$5 to \$7.50; do., common and medium, each, \$3.50 to \$4.50. Sheep—Ewes, \$2 to \$4; bucks and culs, \$2.50 to \$3; lambs, \$3.50 to \$5.50. Hogs, f. o. b., \$5 to \$6.50. OTHER MARKETS. CHEESE MARKETS. Madoc—There were 265 cheese boarded; 25 sold at 13 1/2-16c; balance at 12c. WINNIPEG GRAIN MARKET. Prev. Close. Open. High. Low. Close. Oct. 100% 100% 100% 100% 100% May 100% 100% 100% 100% 100% Dec. 100% 100% 100% 100% 100% May 100% 100% 100% 100% 100%

OTHER MARKETS.

Wheat—Close. Open. High. Low. Close. Oct. 100% 100% 100% 100% 100% May 100% 100% 100% 100% 100% Dec. 100% 100% 100% 100% 100% May 100% 100% 100% 100% 100%

NEW YORK LIVE STOCK.

New York—Beaver—Receipts, 3,623 head; best steers, firm; others slow to a shade lower; cows, steady to a shade higher; calves, \$2.75 to \$3.75; sheep, 1,752 head; market active and firm to a shade higher; veals, \$2 to \$2.50; culs, \$1.50 to \$2.50; grassers, \$4 to \$5.50; to \$7; sheep and lambs Receipts, 12,113 head; sheep, about steady; lambs, 25 to \$2.25; lambs, \$2.50 to \$4; culs, \$1.50 to \$2.50. Hogs—Receipts, 7,471; market lower at \$3.50; pigs, \$3 to \$3.50. CHICAGO LIVE STOCK. Chicago Report—Cattle—Receipts estimated at 27,000; market steady to 10c lower; beefs, \$4.50 to \$5.75; Texas steers, \$4 to \$5; western steers, \$2.15 to \$2.75; stockers and feeders, \$3.25 to \$5.70; market, \$1.50 to \$4; calves, \$5 to \$8.50. Hogs—Receipts estimated at 25,000; market, \$6 lower; light, \$5.75 to \$6.37 1/2; mixtures, \$5.50 to \$6.50; heavy, \$5.50 to \$6.45; ed. \$5.50 to \$6.50; great choice, \$6.50 to \$7.50; heavy, \$5.50 to \$6.50; pigs, \$3.50 to \$5.70; sheep—Receipts estimated at 55,000; market, steady to shade lower; native, \$2.25 to \$2.75; western, \$2.50 to \$3.75; vealers, \$3.80 to \$4.25; lambs, native, \$4 to \$6; western, \$4 to \$6.10. LIVERPOOL PRODUCE. Wheat—Spot nominal futures, weak, Dec. 7s 5 7/8d, March, 7s 6d, May, 7s 4 7/8d. Corn—Spot steady, American mixed 6s 6d. Futures, Jan. 9s 9 3/4d, Feb., 9s 9 1/4d. Flour—Winter patents, 27s 9d. Hops—In London (Pacific coast) £10 10s to £11. Beef—Extra India mess, 90s. Pork—Prime mess western 100s, 55s. Hams—Short cut, 14 to 20 lbs, 55s; bacon, Cumberland cut, 26 to 30 lbs, 55s; 6d, short ribs, 16 to 24 lbs, 80s 6d; clear bellies, 14 to 16 lbs, 55s 6d; long clear mids, light, 29 to 34 lbs, 60s, do., heavy, 35 to 40 lbs, 50s 6d; short clear backs, 16 to 20 lbs., 50s, shoulders square, 11 to 13 lbs., 40s 6d. Lard—Prime western in tierces, 45s 6d. American refined in pails, 46 1/2d.

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