

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From International Question Book.)

LESSON VI.—A GUEST.

THE PROPHETS OF BAAI.—1 KINGS 18:19-29. COMMIT VERSES 19-21.

GOLDEN TEXT.

If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him.—1 Kings 18:21.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The most important decision of our lives is, whom we will serve and love supremely.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 1 Kings 18:19-29. T. Ex. 32:26-35. W. J. ch. 24:14-28. Th. Luke 10:14-17. F. Deut. 8:1-25. Sa. Jer. 10:1-16. Su. Job. 35:1-13.

THUR.—18c. 97, immediately following the last lesson.

PLACE.—Mount Carmel, a ridge 12 miles long on the west coast of Palestine. It is 1,728 feet high at its summit. Elijah's sacrifice was in the eastern school, which rises like a wall from the great plain of Esdraelon. It could be seen by vast numbers, even as far as Jericho. There is on it a sort of natural fort, and near it an unending spring of water.

REFERS.—Ahab, king of Israel (19th year); Jehoshaphat, king of Judah (7th year).

INTRODUCTION.—In our last lesson we left Elijah confronting Ahab near Mount Carmel. Elijah had charged Ahab with being the cause of the famine, and he now challenges the king to a test as to who was the true God.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

19. PROPHETS OF BAAI.—priests who conducted his worship, and were called sometimes wild and frantic cries supposed to come from the inspiration of the idol. Hence they were called prophets, i.e., those who speak under special divine influence. OF THE GROVES OF ASHTOROTH, the Phœnician Venus. FAT AT—rather from. They were supported by Jehoiad. These had named prophets did not come. 21. HOW LONG HAD YE—i.e., are ye indeed, vacillating. BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS—whether to serve Baal or Baal. 24. THE GOD THAT ANSWERETH BY FIRE—a miracle that only God could perform. Baal was regarded as the sun, and it was not by so that if any idol could bring fire he could, and it is as fire in the influence of the spirit, in consuming sin, in warming another's big hearts, in giving light to mind and soul, in purifying men. ANY REASON which came to mind. THIS IS THE TEST OF A GOD. 26. O BAAI, HEAR US—this was repeated over and over again with shouts, fire, and smoke. 28. CUT THEMSELVES—thinking their god would be pleased with their torture. EVENING SACRIFICE—three o'clock p.m.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTION.—Where did we leave Elijah in our last lesson? With what had he charged the king?

SUBJECT: THE IMPORTANT DECISION.

I. THE CHALLENGE (vs. 19-20).—What did Elijah now propose to Ahab? Who were to be present? In what place? How was Mount Carmel especially adapted for this purpose? Why are Baal's prophets called prophets? Who were named by the prophet of the groves? Who supported them? Did Baal come with the great king? Did he die (vs. 21)?

II. THE CHAIRS (vs. 22).—Between what two gods must the people choose? What position did they take? What reasons had they for serving Baal? What reasons had they for serving the Lord? Why should we go to H? Why were they undecided? Why did they make no answer? What was the choice to make? What reason do you have for not serving God? What reasons have we for choosing him as our master and God? Why is idolatry unprofitable? Why is it dangerous?

III. THE TEST (vs. 23-24).—How many were on each side? How many on Baal's? How did Elijah propose to test which was the true God? Whose test was perfectly fair, and gave them every advantage? How would the Lord have proved himself? What was the true God? From what was the test adapted to Baal's claims? What respects is fire a good symbol of the true God? (vs. 24:1-3; Matt. 5:2; Deut. 1:24; Matt. 18:1; Ex. 17:1; John 1:9). What test something like this is the test of every religion? See H. p. 110. What did the people say to Elijah's proposal?

IV. THE FAILURE OF BAAI TO STAND THE TEST (vs. 25-26).—What did the prophets of Baal do? What was their prayer? What did they do to make Baal hear them? What was the object in cutting themselves? What did Elijah say to them? How long did they continue to cut themselves? What was the result? What is this work—sins, pleasures, honors, or the various forms of idolatry—any better able to help us in our times of need?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- I. Every one must make the choice between God and the world. II. Every person shall faithfully examine the claims of the religion. III. The test of true religion is the "answering by fire"—the purifying, cleansing power of the Holy Spirit, the power that brings revelations that gives spiritual life, that enlightens the mind, that cheers the heart. IV. Indecision in religion is stupidity and folly and death. V. Let us rejoice in a God that never sleeps, but is so great that he can hear every cry of every person in his whole universe. VI. Every substitute for the religion of Christ is a failure in meeting the great needs of men.

COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, July 29, 1885.

The British markets are dull, but little doing, and but little change in prices. Red winter is quoted at 6s 11d to 7s, Canadian peas at 5s 6d. Chicago is also quiet, and there is no large amount of grain on the move. August is quoted at 87c Sept. and Oct. at 91c. The local market is very dull indeed, a sale of small cargo of Red winter at 92c, yesterday fixing a price below quotations. We quote—Canada Red Winter, 92c to 95c; Canada White, 92c to 94c; Canada Spring, 95c; Peas, 77c to 78c; Oats, 35c to 36c; Rye, 72c to 74c; Barley, 50c to 60c; Corn, 60c to 64c.

FLOUR.—There are but few reported sales on 'Change, and the daily receipts do not run over five thousand barrels. There have been some changes in prices. Patents going higher and Spring Extra lower. We quote—Patent, \$4.50 to \$4.85; Superior Extra, \$4.25 to \$4.40; Extra Superfine, \$4.00 to \$4.10; Fancy, \$3.85 to \$3.95; Spring Extra, \$3.80; Superfine, \$3.55 to \$3.60; Strong Bakers' (Manitoba), \$4.50; Strong Bakers' (Canadian), \$4.00 to \$4.15; Strong Bakers' (American), \$4.50 to \$4.75; Fine, \$3.40 to \$3.75; Middlings, \$3.20 to \$3.30; Pollards, \$3.00 to \$3.05; Ontario bags, (bags included) Medium, \$2.00 to \$2.05; do., Spring Extra, \$1.90 to \$1.95; do., Superfine, \$1.75 to \$1.80; City Bags, (delivered), \$2.25 to \$2.30.

MEALS.—Oatmeal, \$4.25 to \$4.40 per bushel. DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter—There has been no change in prices, and there is but little demand for export. We quote—Creamery, 18c to 20c; Eastern Townships, 15c to 16c; Morrisburg and Brockville, 15c to 16c; Western 12c to 14c. Cheese is also very dull at 7c to 8c for fine to good.

Eggs are rather lower again this week at 11c to 12c per dozen, in cases.

HOG PRODUCTS are quiet and steady. We quote—Western Mess Pork, \$13.50; do., Short Cut, \$13.75 to \$14.00; Canada Short Cut, \$13.75 to \$14.00; Mess Beef, \$15.00; India Mess Beef, \$25.00; Hams, city cured, 11c to 11c; do., canvassed, 12c to 13c; Lard, in pails, Western, 9c to 10c; do., Canadian, 9c; Bacon, 11c; Shoulders, 9c to 10c; Tallow, common refined, 7c to 7c.

ASHES.—Pots are higher at \$3.80 to \$3.85 per 100 lbs.

FARMERS' MARKET.

The farmers have been very busy at their hay of late, and only a small number find leisure to bring produce to the market, consequently the supplies of grain and hay are light with higher prices prevailing, more especially for good old hay which has sold lately at \$14 to \$15 per hundred. Garden stuffs are very abundant, of superior quality and low priced for so early in the season. The fruit market is rather excited with higher prices nearly all round, especially is this the case with lemons and apples. The recent hot weather has ripened the tomatoes earlier than usual and they are getting plentiful with prices rapidly declining. The prices of good print butter and fresh laid eggs are firm. Poultry, especially fowls and spring chickens, are plentiful and pretty low priced. Oats are 80c to 95c per bag; peas, 80c to 90c per bushel; beans \$1.25 to \$1.50; do; potatoes 25c to 50c per bushel; butter, 15c to 35c per lb.; eggs 14c to 25c per dozen; apples \$3.50 to \$4.25 per barrel; dressed hogs 6c to 6c per lb.; turkeys \$1.50 to \$2.00 the pair; fowls 8c to 8c; ducks 8c to 9c; do; spring chickens 25c to 50c; do; hay \$9.00 to \$15.00 per 100 bundles.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

There has been a considerable diminution in the supply of butchers' cattle offered on this market this week and prices have taken an upward turn, but the butchers are inclined to hold back and buy as few cattle as possible in hopes of more liberal supplies later on. Good butchers' stock sell at 4c to 4c per lb., and shipping cattle at 4c to 5c per lb. Half-fatted beasts sell at 3c to 4c, and lean animals at about 3c per lb. Calves are scarce and generally of inferior quality yet they realize higher prices. Sheep and lambs are plentiful, but owing to the active demand prices are maintained. Sheep sell at from \$3.25 to \$7.50 each and lambs at from \$1.75

to \$4. each. Fat hogs are rather lower in price at from 5c to 5c per lb. Milch cows are much less plentiful than formerly, yet there are more offered than can find ready sale; especially is this the case with common cows which sell at about \$25 each. The horse market continues quiet with very few horses offering and no demand from the United States.

NEW YORK, July 28, 1885. GRAIN.—Wheat, 98c July; 98c Aug.; \$1.00 bid Sept.; \$1.02 bid Oct.; \$1.04 bid Nov. Corn, 51c July; 51c bid August; 52c bid September; 53c bid October. Oats, 36c bid July; 37c bid August; 31c bid September.

FLOUR is somewhat higher this week. We quote:—Spring Wheat, No. 2, \$2.60 to \$2.70; do., Superfine, \$2.85 to \$3.05; Low Extra, \$3.20 to \$3.30; Clear, \$3.55 to \$4.40; Straight, \$4.45 to \$5.00; Patent, \$4.50 to \$5.50. Winter Wheat—No. 2, \$2.85 to \$3.40; Superfine, \$3.50 to \$3.70; Low Extra, \$3.45 to \$3.85; Clear (R. and A.), \$4.00 to \$4.50; Straight (R. and A.), \$4.15 to \$5.30; Patent, \$4.80 to \$5.75; Straight (White Wheat), \$4.60 to \$5.25; Low Extra (City Mills), \$3.60 to \$3.75; West India, sacks, \$3.80 to \$4.00; West India, barrels, \$5.00 to \$5.10; Patent, \$5.00 to \$5.50; South America, \$5.00 to \$5.50.

MEALS.—Cornmeal, \$1.50 to \$3.35 in brls.

FEED.—100 lbs. or sharps, \$20 to \$21; 100 lbs. or No. 1 middlings, \$18 to \$19; 80 lbs. or No. 2 middlings, \$16 to \$17; 60 lbs. or No. 1 feed, \$15.50 to \$16.00; 50 lbs. or medium feed, \$15.50 to \$16.00; 40 lbs. or No. 2 feed, 15.50.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter—Creamery, ordinary to fancy, 13c to 19c; State half firkins, ordinary to fancy 11c to 17c; Western dairy, ordinary to choice imitation creamery, 8c to 16c; Western factory, ordinary to choice, 6c to 11c. Cheese—State factory, ordinary to fancy, 4c to 8c; Ohio Flat, fair to prime, 5c to 6c.

Eggs.—State and Pennsylvania, in brls. 14c to 15c; Canadian, fine, 14c; Western, fair to fancy, 11c to 14c.

INCENDIARY FIRES, which are becoming common in Russia, are causing great alarm among the people. There were no less than four such fires in Moscow during one day. The buildings selected for destruction were mostly warehouses filled with dry goods and furs, and the fires were started in such places that the wind would invariably carry the flames over large areas. The loss by the fires was enormous, the damage being estimated at over a million of roubles. The authorities are convinced that this wholesale arson is a new terrorizing movement by the Nihilists and that they have invented some new combustible which will spread fire quickly. The police believe that the Nihilists have adopted this new plan of spreading terror because it is attended with less damage to the culprits.

SPECIAL CROP REPORTS from all winter and spring wheat growing States show that the North-Western wheat situation is generally considered favorable, but Michigan alone raises a crop equal to that of 1884. In South Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, Tennessee and Kentucky, there has been no improvement. In the two latter states millers are buying old wheat to start up their mills. The failure of winter wheat will disastrously affect the railways.

THE CHOLERA is still raging in Spain and large numbers of deaths are reported daily.

HE WAS OFF.

"There's one thing nobody can ever say about me," said a fish dealer. "They never can say that I was ever anything but generous."
"You're off your base," replied his customer.
"What makes you say that?"
"Why, because your very business makes you sell fish."
"ARE YOU PAPA'S BOY?" "Yes, sir." "And are you mamma's boy?" "Yes, sir." "But how can you be papa's and mamma's at the same time?" (After a pause) "Can't a nice carriage have two horses?"

EARLY RISING.

The delights of early rising
Oft are sung;
Every post seems to have them
On his tongue.
Still I've noticed, and you know I've
Often said,
Poets like, as well as you or I, to
Lie abed.
This induces the reflection,
By the way,
That poets don't always mean just
What they say.
Their enthusiasm oft is
But a hoax,
And their prettiest maxims just apply to
Other folks. —Somerville Journal.

"WHICH OF SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS DO YOU LIKE, MR. O'FLANNAGAN?" "Well, I like the Irish ones the best." "And pray, which may those be?" "Are you so ignorant as that, me son? Sure your education's been sadly neglected! Why, O'Thello, Corry O'Lanus, Mike Beth, Katharine and Pat Ruchio."

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