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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

AUGUST 10.

ABSALOM'S REBELLION.

2 SAM. 15: 1-14.

David's double sin had been bitterly repented of, and no doubt forgiven of God, but its penalty had not yet been worked out. Its chastisement had to be endured, as Nathan had predicted, 2 Sam. 12: 10, 11. First came the shameful crime and death of his heir and son Amnon, 2 Sam. 13: 1, etc., and then follows the ungrateful treachery, insurrection and death of his favorite son Absalom—all the natural consequences of David's sin against family purity.

NOTES.

Absalom—father of peace, third son of David by Maachah, a Syrian princess. He avenged the crime against his sister Tamar by murdering his half-brother Amnon two years after the event, 2 Sam. 13: 23-29; fled to the court of his maternal grandfather at Geshur, where he remained three years, 2 Sam. 13: 37, 38; then was allowed to return to Jerusalem, where he lived two years in disgrace, 2 Sam. 14: 23-28; was finally forgiven by David, and spent four years in plotting his rebellion. Israel. "The limits of the kingdom a short time before had been Dan on the north and Beer-sheba on the south. But David reigned now from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates; from Gaza on the west to Thapsacus on the east, and from all the subject nations in this vast empire yearly tribute was exacted." Geshur, in the northeast of Bashan in Syria, where Maachah the mother of Absalom had lived, and where she still reigned her royal father Talmai, 2 Sam. 3: 8; perhaps a descendant of the giant race of Anak, Num. 13: 22. Ahithophel—brother of foolishness, grandfather of Bathsheba, 2 Sam. 11: 3 and 23: 34, a man highly esteemed for his wisdom, 2 Sam. 16: 23, and made chief privy councillor of David, whom he treacherously torsook to join Absalom. Slighted by the latter he committed suicide, 2 Sam. 17: 1-23; the only suicide in the Old Testament except in war. Gish, a city in the mountains of Southern Judah, Josh. 15: 51, the native place and residence of Ahithophel, who from it is called the Gilonite.

EXPLANATIONS.

Chariots, ordinarily used in triumphal processions; David used to go abroad only on his royal mule. Chariots and horses were a novelty in imitation of the pomp of heathen kings. Men to run before, trained runners to go before and accompany his chariot; cf. 1 Kings 1: 5. Such runners could go 120 miles in 14 hours. Early, when many people would be going in and out. Way of the gate, where men assembled for business, Ruth 4: 1, and the king was wont to hear and judge complaints; cf. Deut. 25: 7. Called unto him, making pretence of personal interest in each one. Thy matters, etc., he tells each one that his cause is just. There is no man, better, "no man will hear thee, from the king" downward. He excited a feeling of discontent against David. Oh that, etc., i. e. If I were only king! Obedience, to greet him as the king's son. Took, kissed him, would not allow the people to bow down before him, but embraced and kissed them as equals.

A. E. Blount, of Colorado, says in the N. Y. Tribune, that if farmers will only handpick enough seed from the tallest heads of wheat to sow an acre and put it alone upon some good ground, they will find so much improvement made the first year that they will continue to pick year after year.

The price of apples dried in evaporators and bleached is so much higher than that of the best dried by the old processes that the latter cannot be profitably followed. In some large fruit growing localities every farmer has an evaporator, and there should be at least one in every neighborhood.

When a lady faints, don't raise her as is generally done, but allow her to remain in a horizontal position, giving fresh air and a few sprinkles of cold water on the face (raising the person only causes the condition which we wish to overcome, Ammonia, (not too strong) may be inhaled. Loosen the clothing.

In regard to trimming raspberry bushes a correspondent of the Indiana Farmer says: "They should never be allowed to grow long and slender. This summer when the new sprouts get about three to three-and-a-half feet high pinch off the tips or cut with a corn knife, and don't wait till berries are ripe and gone, or they will be long again. I don't think it a good plan to take out the old wood in the fall, but do it now, and also cut off the laterals now, whether ends are dead or not. Cut back to six to twelve inches of main stalk.

Nice ironing is almost as necessary to people of refined tastes as thorough washing. Spotless and shining table linen, snow white and polished shirt-bosoms, cuffs and collars, and smooth, neatly folded garments of all kinds not only minister to the pleasure of those who use or wear them, but they also exert an influence decidedly moral in its tendency. And it should be remembered that clothes which are nicely ironed take on a smoothness of surface which repels dirt; they soil much less easily, and hence require less washing and ironing than those carelessly ironed.

NO NEED TO DROWN.

"I always dread the return of the season when sea bathing is indulged in," said a gentleman. "My family have had several narrow escapes, and still they have a perfect mania for the water." "Why, there is no need to be afraid," answered his friend, "if you but retain your presence of mind. When you find yourself in deep water you will sink at first, but if you do not struggle you will come quickly to the surface again. On reaching it immediately draw a full breath and throw your head back. This will have the effect of placing you in a recumbent position on the surface of the water. Now, this is the most critical moment for those who do not know what to do next. Extend your arms at once on a level with your shoulders, with the palms of your hands downward, and begin gently paddling in the water with the movement of the wrist only. Extend your legs quietly and slowly in a line with your body. If you raise your arms, your head or your legs above the surface of the water you will sink, but if you have the presence of mind not to do so and not to struggle about you will never sink, so long as you keep paddling gently without exertion. So you may float on until you are picked up, or until you are numbed by the cold.—New York Sun.

BUTTERMILK.

An eminent French chemist, M. Robbing, in a treatise recently presented to the French Academy, expresses his belief that the period of human existence may be greatly prolonged, and enters into an argument to show that his belief is based upon sound reasoning. His argument is, that the mineral matter which constitutes an ingredient in most of our food after the combustion, is in our system to encrust and stiffen the different parts of the body, tending to render imperfect many of the vital processes. He compares the human body to furnaces which are always kindled, and says: Life exists only in combustion which occurs in our bodies, like that which takes place in our chimneys, and leaves a deposit which is fatal to life. To remove this he would administer lactic acid with ordinary food. This acid is known to possess power of removing or destroying the incrustations which form on the arteries, cartilages and valves of the heart. As buttermilk abounds in the acid, and is, moreover, an agreeable kind of food, its habitual use, it is urged, will free the system from the causes of death between the seventh-fifth and one hundredth year.

USEFUL HINTS.

A quince orchard will last for fifty years. Cut your first crop of clover and plow the second under, if you wish to enrich your land with green manure.

Never pass behind a horse in the stable nor place your hand behind him in the stall without first speaking to him. You may save life or limb by bearing this in mind.

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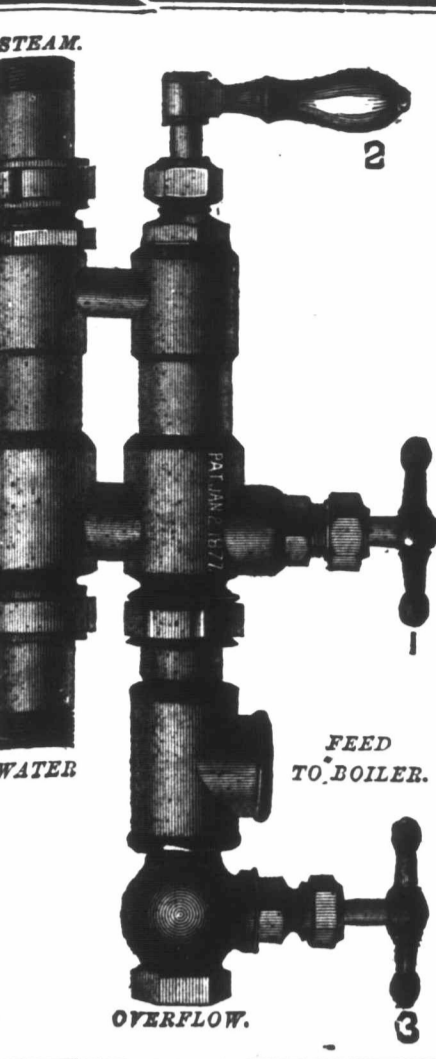
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