

Sunday School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. VII
MAY 15, 1904.

The Prodigal Son—Luke 15:11-32. Study verses 1-13.

Commentary.—I. Leaving home.—vs. 11-13. 11. A certain man.—The simple, unpretentious beginning of the most beautiful of all the parables. The man is here the image of God the Father.—Luce. Two sons.—Both are Jews. The idea that the elder son represents the Gentiles is foreign to the parable, but a later fact of history may be said to be representative of mankind, for we have in them examples of two great phases of alienation from God—the elder is blinded by a selfishness, yet the younger degraded by his unrighteousness.—Willeck.

12. The younger.—He represents openly wicked persons, such as publicans and sinners. He also represents the thoughtless, careless youth. He was overindulged and could be easily deceived. Give me—it has been a custom in the east for sons to demand and receive a portion of the inheritance during the father's lifetime.—Clarke. "The request showed 1. selfishness, 2. ingratitude, 3. self-will, 4. a self-righteousness, 5. unprofitableness, 6. narrow vision." He divided.....his living.—The yielding to the request strikingly sets forth the permission of freedom to man and shows the fact of God's bestowing many gifts upon even the unthankful and disobedient. Man's will is supreme in fixing his destiny.

13. Not many days.—He had decided upon his course and hastened to be gone. "Thus shadows forth the rapidity, first, of national and second, of individual degeneracy." Far away from his father.—Sinners who go astray from God venture their all. "Took his journey"—He was weary of his father's government and desired greater liberty. As soon as the tie was broken, he had taken of it. "He was soon gone."—Wasted the gifts God has given them. The worldly life is always a wasteful life. With a riotous living.—In 30 we see how long he fell. His body, mind and soul were debased.

14. In distress.—vs. 14-16. 14. Spent all.—He did not stop until his last dollar was gone. His passions ruled. "This represents the sinner who has thrown away the mercy, favor and love of God, and has wilfully rejected the salvation of Christ. A mighty famine will follow. In want.—He has lost the joy of living. He would now let the effects of his dissipated course. The steps downward were "apostasy, profligacy, penalty." See Prov. xxiv. 34.

15. Joined himself to a citizen. The wicked living that before represented by riotous living is here represented by servile living, for sinners are perfect slaves. To feed swine. This is a doubly degrading, and especially so to a Jew. "The degradation at the end of a course of sin is here represented." "Shame, contempt and distress are poured to sin, and can never be diverted."

16. With the hogs. The hogs were not the pods of some other fruit, but "the fruit of the ear of wheat, used for feeding swine. No man gave unto him. Those whom he had called his friends now deserted him. They had taken his money and then cast him aside. The agents do the same to-day. The saloonkeeper will rob a man of his money, health and character, and then kick him out of the back door to die."

17. He came to himself.—vs. 17-19. 17. He came to himself. Sin de-thrones the reason. A state of sin is a state of folly and madness, but the madness is in the heart (Eccl. 9, 3). His lack of reason is seen, 1. In his foolishness for his money. 2. When he left home. 3. When he went to live with hogs. 4. When he undertook to satisfy his hunger with swine's food. Bread enough and to spare. The agents in my father's house has bread to give to the poor. God's people are abundantly supplied with good things. I perish with hunger. Sinners will not be satisfied. They will eat themselves ready to perish.

18. I will arise. He had left home by his own free will, and he must return the same way. God compels me to do right. And go. Following the priests, the agents have an effort put forth. I have sinned. The first thing to do is to make a full confession of our sins (1 John 1, 1; Job. 33, 27, 28), against heaven. Against man. Every sin is a sin against God. And before thee. He had also sinned against his earthly father. "It is ever a token of the sincerity of repentance when one views even the sins committed against others as transgressions against God."—Lange. 19. No more worthy. He is ready to humble himself. He knows that in justice his father could shut the door against him; he will plead for mercy only.

PRACTICAL SURVEY.
Perhaps no portion of scripture is more generally read and holds greater charm for the average person, both old and young, rich and poor than the lesson to-day. It can stand two tests which Byron declares to be conclusive of the merit of literary creations. It pleases immediately, and it pleases permanently; yet it sets forth the condition of every man, in his estrangements, degradation and dissipation as a sinner before God. We are inclined to weep with the poor boy when through his sin and folly he is brought to want and suffering, but when rightly understood this is the beginning, or at least the commencement to that which led to true nobility and permanent joy. The facts show us that his was a pitiable condition in heart, tendencies and attitude at the critical stage, when in his father's house he was surrounded by luxury and the elements of wealth.
The parable sets forth many important facts. Touching relationship. As a father is the instrumental cause of the son's being, so God is the source of all life. Man then is the dispensing of God, not a helpless creature. How high is his dignity, how rich his patrimony in his father's house. The relation he demands, yea, expects of man, is that of loving,

obedient fellowship to Him; but rather than yield this to God and come under the restraints of parental authority, man, in base ingratitude willingly, blindly, persistently turns from his loving, heavenly Father to pursue his own way. 2. The whole difficulty with mankind is alienated affection. This difficulty has its root in that enmity of nature which is not subjected to the law of God, neither indeed can he; so there is indifference to God's affectionate regard. His holy nature and His boundless mercy and grace. Self and self-indulgence become the uppermost, the actuating, controlling motives of the life. 3. Sin to relate, man in this course has many abettors, who will share with him his profligacy and commend his course of ruin. They will even band themselves in organized efforts to combat the thought that any allegiance is owing to the kind father, or that any restrictions should be placed upon the impulses of the depraved heart. "They say, 'His festive joy let us eat, drink and make merry.' 4. Thus thoughtlessly and indifferently men are led to forget their high relations and their desperate condition until awakened to the consequences of their own sinful course. They then discover that every step in the departure from God has been deeper debasement for themselves.

The picture must be drawn now to show the way back to God. 1. In this condition the prodigal reflected. He remembers one friend. Many call God cruel after they have wasted His benefactions and brought themselves to wretchedness, but the prodigal sees what he has brought upon himself by his own perversity. He then thinks that even his father's servants have enough and to spare, and he believes his father whom he knew to be good and kind would receive him as one of them. 2. He resolved to overcome his pride, humble himself and confess his sin. He could have rested there and have perished. One step more was necessary to place him in a hopeful moral relation. 3. He arose. Here was action. He passed beyond mere thought, mere regret, mere resolving. Nothing would satisfy him but complete reconciliation and a full restoration to the favor of his long offended father, and he now yielded himself fully to his father. All his proud independence was gone; all his self-will had given way; no longer was he inflated with his own self-importance or self-righteousness. His contrition was so deep that the truth of his father's love, so great, so constantly aggravated his guilt. So he returned, fully resolved to make no term or conditions, but to yield all his supposed rights and claims upon his father. In this he shows a large measure of faith in his father; faith in his father's power and faith in his father's readiness to pardon. It was the poor fellow's rightful attitude and his action in a proper spirit thereto that secured him the welcome that the father gave him.

William F. Ferriss.

WHAT ELECTION COST.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Maurus Jokai, the famous Hungarian novelist, is reported to be dying at Buda Pest.
Mr. Henry Bealey, jun., the victim of the Amaranth barn-raising accident, died of his injuries yesterday.
Mr. Alfred Moseley, writing to the Daily Express, declares India to be a source of weakness to the Empire.
Mrs. J. Grant Neeham, A. T. C. M., of Orillia, has been appointed Lady Principal of the Ottawa Ladies' College.
The Court of Appeal has granted leave to appeal from the conviction of Lieut. Col. John Gray and Frank A. Gray.
The Duke of Devonshire having resigned the Presidency of the British Empire League, the Earl of Derby was elected yesterday.
General Sir E. T. Hutton, formerly commanding the Canadian militia, has been awarded the good service pension of £100 yearly.
Mr. J. K. Osborne has written a letter condemning the course of the manufacturers' Association on the question of insurance.
The Toronto Bookbinders' Union has suspended the overtime wage rule as a result of the fire.
The authorities in Russian Poland are said to fear serious May Day disturbances engineered by the Socialists.
Nurses' Good Words.—"I am a professional nurse," writes Mrs. Elmer, Halifax, N. S. "I was a great sufferer from rheumatism—almost constant association with best physicians had every chance of a cure but in their power but they failed. South American Reducible Cure was recommended—to-day my six years of pain seem as a dream. Two bottles cured me: 106

The Markets

Toronto Farmers' Market.
The only grain on the street today was a lot of oats, which sold at 12 1/2c.
Butter in plentiful supply and lower, choice dairy rolls selling at 17 1/2c to 19c, and eggs at 17 to 20c per dozen.
Hay quiet and steady, with sales of 100 loads at \$12 to \$14 a ton for timothy at \$7 to \$9 for mixed. Straw nominal at \$10 a ton.
Dressed hogs are unchanged, lights being quoted at 87.25 per cwt., and heavies at 86.50 to 87.75.
Wheat, white, bush, 91 to 93c; wheat, red, bush, 91 to 93c; wheat, spring, bush, 90c; wheat, goose, bush, 82c; oats, bush, 40 to 41c; peas, bush, 65 to 66c; barley, bush, 45c; hay, timothy, per ton, \$12 to \$14; hay, clover, \$7 to \$9; straw, per ton, \$10; seeds, Alaska, bush, \$4.50 to \$7.50; seeds, red clover, bush, \$5.50 to \$7.75; seeds, timothy, bush, \$2 to \$3; apples, per bbl., \$1.50 to \$1.25; dressed hogs, \$6.50 to \$7.25; eggs, per doz., 17 to 20c; butter, dairy, 17 to 19c; butter, 19 to 20c; chickens, per lb., 13 to 14c; turkeys, dozen, \$1.25 to \$1.75; celery, per doz., \$1.25 to \$1.50; cabbage, per dozen, 40 to 50c; cauliflower, per doz., 40 to 50c; best potatoes, per doz., \$7.50 to \$9; beef, forequarters, \$5.00 to \$6.00; beef, choice, carcasses, \$7 to \$7.25; beef, medium, carcasses, \$6.50 to \$7.00; lambs, yearling, \$10 to \$11; pork, per cwt., \$8 to \$9; veal, per cwt., \$8 to \$9.50.

THE KILTIES IN GOTHAM.

New York Papers Give the 48th Highlanders Much Praise.
The New York papers are generally in their praise. The 48th Highlanders, who are taking part in the military tournament in Madison Square Gardens.
New York Sun: By far the most novel and picturesque display was made by the 48th Highlanders and their band of pipes and drum corps. They were arrayed in all the splendor of the tartan kilts surrounded by the black and white shawls. Their upper works were encased in the regulation scarlet tunic of the British army, conspicuous in buttons, buckles and epaulettes. After the Kilties had found their proper position, they went through a musical drill, which set the crowd wild. During the exhibition the pipe band played out a series of fine time tunes as distinctively Scotch as the top of Ben Lomond. Major Donald visited the majors in the reviewing box, after which the Kilties and pipers trooped out onto the Garden with the drums banging furiously.
New York Journal: The first feature to follow was the drill by the 48th Highlanders, and there was a burst of brotherly feeling and admiration across the line, and other mingled sentiments for the sturdy looking Scotch Canadians who marched into the arena to the stirring of many bagpipes. The parade that was declared by an enthusiastic in a telephone voice, to be "all the goods," and when they left they had the satisfaction of knowing they had opened the evening's program in a way that would be hard to better.
New York World: There was loud commendation for the National Guardsmen, and when the 48th Highlanders opened the program with bagpipes of garden. The unique drill by the 48th Highlanders, Major Duncan commanding, opened the program with regular program with bagpipes squealing and grunting.
New York Herald: After the march past the real business began with a drill by the 48th Highlanders, Canadian militia, under the command of Major Duncan Donald. They were accompanied by their bagpipes, which, with the exercises given, were vociferously applauded.
The tributes were very enthusiastically applauded.

TO GROW COTTON IN SOUDAN.

Leigh Hunt Convinced That the Scheme Will Prove Successful.
London, May 9.—Leigh Hunt, who recently visited the Sudan and returned in London. He says he has just completed a contract for a Government tract of land, on which to experiment in growing cotton. He continues: "I know cotton can be produced in the Sudan, and will give the result. What I want to know is whether, all circumstances considered, the industry can be established on a commercial basis. The Berber-Suakin Railway is essential to the success of the industry. When it is complete, I believe the scheme will be much greater. I consider the prospects of the cotton growing scheme distinctly hopeful, but would prefer to speak of them in a year or two, when the British will be more inclined to listen, when I can say I have accomplished this and that rather than now, when I am only entering on the experiment."
In Mr. Hunt's opinion the Sudan has promising future. The fertile territory contains land which will be developed by the power of the cotton, the work of Major-General Wiggate, the Governor-General of the Sudan.

WM. M'CREARY'S DEATH.

Found Dead in Bed at the Russell House, Ottawa.
Ottawa, May 4.—Mr. William M'Creary, M.P. for Selkirk, was found dead in bed at his room in the Russell House at 6:30 this evening. He had apparently expired some time during the previous night, and the fact remained undiscovered for several hours. The chambermaid furnished to get admission to the apartment yesterday morning, but thought nothing of it. On finding the door still locked during the dinner hour to-night she became alarmed and communicated her suspicions to Chief of Police Powell and Mr. Eddie Nicholson, who were emerging from their rooms on the other side of the corridor. The two gentlemen looked through the transoms and saw Mr. M'Creary's body lying on the bed. The rigidity of the figure indicated only too plainly what had happened, and, without further delay, the door was forced open. The body was attired in a night shirt, and lay with the right leg extended and the left slightly bent. The eyes were closed, and the appearance of the features was peaceful.
The appearance of the body and the condition of the bedclothes seems to suggest that after retiring Mr. M'Creary felt oppressed and sought relief by pulling down the clothes. Coroner Baptie was no-

BANGS SENT FOR TRIAL.

Ten Thousand Dollar Mail Robbery Case Moved Stage.
Regina, May 9.—The preliminary trial of Bangs was concluded this morning, and the accused was committed to stand his trial at Regina at the next sittings of the court, probably in June.
The written statement made by Boyce referred to in his evidence yesterday, was not submitted as evidence, but had previously been handed to Mr. Walsh, counsel for Bangs. Walsh declined to make it public, on the ground that it would be prejudicial to his client.
It is understood, however, that it contains practically the same evidence as was given by Boyce yesterday. In his cross-examination of Boyce, referred to in his evidence yesterday, was not submitted as evidence, but had previously been handed to Mr. Walsh, counsel for Bangs. Walsh declined to make it public, on the ground that it would be prejudicial to his client.
The preliminary hearing in the Wilcox, Boyce and Behan cases will be resumed on Thursday.

CANCEL HALF-THE STOCK.

Two of the Companies Will Issue New Shares Instead.
Toronto, May 9.—At the regular meetings of the Boards of Directors of the Western and British America Assurance Company, held respectively yesterday and today, the following action was taken to overcome the losses incurred by the Baltimore and Toronto conflagrations, and to give each company such surpluses as would practically ensure the continuance of the payment of dividends. In the case of the Western \$1,000,000 of the capital will be written off and a like amount of new stock issued, and the British America will write off \$300,000 and issue \$300,000 new stock. It is expected that the advanced rates and generally improved conditions of the fire insurance business, which now prevail, will have the effect of placing it on a more satisfactory footing than it has been for many years past.

THE STERNAMAN CASE.

Mrs. Sternaman's Latest Judgment Was Announced on Appeal.
Buffalo, May 9.—Mrs. Olive A. Sternaman's most recent judgment against the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, by which she is to receive the full amount of the policy on the life of her late husband, whom she was accused of murdering, has been affirmed by the appellate division. This case has been before the courts for several years, Mrs. Sternaman being at times winner and at other times loser in her efforts to collect the insurance. She commenced her action shortly after the Canadian court acquittal of the crime of murder charged against her. The costs of the suit now far exceed the amount of the policy. The appellate division was unanimous in affirming the judgment of the trial court here.

"SOO" REORGANIZATION.

Canadian Improvement Company Gets Extension of Option.
Philadelphia, May 9.—The Canadian Improvement Company, which is financing the reorganization of the Consolidated Lake Superior Company, has been granted an extension on its option which would have expired to-morrow, in order that all the creditors of the Consolidated Lake Superior Company may have another opportunity to transfer their interests to the Canadian Company.
All the New York banks interested in the Speyer loan have consented to the extension, and the Philadelphia banks will do the same to-morrow. An attorney for the Reorganization Committee said to-night that the reorganization plan will be declared operative probably this week, and that those stockholders who have not yet paid their assessment under the new plan will be given two weeks to do so.

IONIAN AT MONTREAL.

Arrival of the First Ocean Boat of the Season.
Montreal, May 9.—The Allan Line royal mail steamship Ionian arrived here to-day from Liverpool, and was the first ocean vessel to reach Montreal this season. Her arrival, with flags flying and whistle blowing, was the signal for an outburst of whistling from all the vessels import that had steam up. Captain Brown reports that altogether forty hours were lost on the trip, owing to fog and sea.
The local shipping situation is unusual. Ocean navigation is open, with a vessel booked for departure as early as Saturday, and yet it is reported that no freight has arrived here by the inland water routes on account of the delays caused by ice, especially in the Soulanges Canal. For the next two weeks, therefore, shipments are likely to be very light.

THE IRISH CRIMES ACT.

British House of Commons is Against Its Repeal.
London, May 9.—The House of Commons to-night, by a vote of 197 to 124, rejected a resolution in favor of the repeal of the Irish crimes act. George Wyndham, Chief Secretary for Ireland, in opposing the motion, confessed that nothing could justify the anticipation of a reoccurrence of social disorders in Ireland, but said that the repeal of the crimes act could only do harm by reviving the angry passions now laid at rest.
Mr. John R. Redmond, leader of the Irish party, expressed his extreme dissatisfaction with Secretary Wyndham's statement, which he declared would lead the Irish people, if they had the means, into open rebellion.

IN PURSUIT OF HEREROS.

Germans in Africa Resume Active Hostilities Against Them.
Berlin, May 9.—Despatches received to-day from Col. Lettow, Governor of German Southwest Africa, indicate the energetic resumption of hostilities against the Hereros. Etoroff's force of 706 men, at Otjensau, has been ordered to pursue the enemy's main body, which is retreating apparently to Otjomangombe, northwest of Katjappa, and to endeavor to gain its east flank.
The German main force of 964 men is camped on the railway, ready for operations, when the East Prussian horses, which are now on the way, arrive.
The losses of the Hereros at Otjomangombe and Ovambo prove to be greater than was at first believed. Among the wounded is Chief Samuel.
In the famous Bohemian glass factory region glass-blowers receive \$5 to \$8 a week, working 40 hours a week, get \$3 to \$3.50 per week engravers, \$4 to \$6; skilled painters and gilders, \$6 to \$8.

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