

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON 1. July 4, 1915.

Abesalom's Failure—2 Samuel 18; 1-15. COMMENTARY.—1. David's tenderness toward Abesalom (vs. 1-5). 1. David numbered—He mustered and reviewed his troops. We are not told how many he had in his army. Josephus places the number at four thousand. 2. A third part—David divided his men into three companies that he might succeed in dividing the forces of the enemy. Joab—He was the ablest general of his time and a man upon whom David relied in the campaign. David was himself a warrior, and even if his army was smaller than Abesalom's, he had great military leaders, and trained soldiers. I will surely go forth with you—He purposed to take the chief command in the engagement. 3. Thou shalt not go forth—So much depending on the life of the king, he was not allowed to take the field in person.—J. F. & B. If the king should be slain, Abesalom's end would be accomplished. That thou succumb us.—R. V. If David should remain in the city of Mahanaim, he would be able to send reinforcements wherever they might be needed. 4. What seemeth you best I will do—The king was inclined to yield to the wishes and judgment of his people. 5. Deal gently for my sake with—Abesalom—it was David's deep affection for the beautiful youth, which, notwithstanding all his errors, still yearned for him. The tenderness of the father exceeded the justice of the king—Whedra. David was the father of this worthless young man, and it is to be wondered at that he feels as a father? Who, in this circumstance, that had such feelings as every man should have, would have felt or acted otherwise?—Clarke. Abesalom should be spared, and the king's wicked deeds. All the people heard—The entire army knew the king's feelings toward his rebellious son and knew that he wished no harm to come to him. II. The battle in the forest (vs. 6-8). 6. The people—The supporters of David. Against Israel—The followers of Abesalom. It was in reality one faction of Israel against another. Here is an indication of the line of cleavage between Israel and Judah. The wood of Ephraim—The exact location of this forest is not known, but it was probably not far from the Mahanaim toward the Jordan. 7. The people of Israel were slain—Since twenty thousand of Abesalom's men fell in the battle, we conclude that he must have had an immense army in comparison with that of David. Evidently the Lord undertook for the king and gave him a decided victory over the rebellious army. 8. The battle was there scattered—The surface of the country was such that the army could not well keep together and David's men were separated into three divisions. The word devoured more people than the sword—The explanation generally given is that they perished in the pits and precipices and morasses of the forest; but this seems unlikely. More probably it means that, owing to the nature of the ground more were slain in the pursuit through the forest, than in the actual battle.

DRS. SOPER & WHITE



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valent to two or three dollars. A girl—This was worn to hold the loose clothing about the waist, and was often of expensive workmanship. 12. Against the king's son—The man was loyal to David. 13. Against mine own life—it was not simply respect for the king that kept him from touching Abesalom, for by doing so he would have incurred the king's displeasure and would probably have lost his life. Joab might have taken a position with the king against him. 14. Thrust them through the heart of Abesalom—Joab acted contrary to the king's express orders, but he was shrewd enough to see that David would not be secure in his kingdom while Abesalom was alive, therefore he took the responsibility of taking his life. 15. Ten young men—These armor-bearers accompanied Joab wherever he went. Slew him—If Joab's darts pierced Abesalom's heart, he was dead already, and the young men inflicted wounds upon his lifeless body. Questions.—Who was Abesalom? What course did he take to obtain the kingdom? How and where was he proclaimed king? What course did David take while Abesalom marched toward Jerusalem? How did Abesalom's army compare in size with that of David? What directions did David give his army regarding Abesalom? Describe the battle and the results.

PRACTICAL SURVEY.

Topic.—Rebellion by intrigue. I. Openly declared, justly punished. II. Heroically met and vanquished. I. Openly declared, justly punished. This lesson is a narrative of that fatal contest where Abesalom fought against his father David for the throne of Israel. It relates one of the saddest tragedies in human history. Abesalom knowingly pledged himself to his father's ruin. His last purpose was to deprive his father of his throne, his happiness, and even his life, if necessary to obtain that purpose. David had no greater enemy in Israel. Abesalom to live without his father's fellowship and blessing seemed most successful. Lost love was succeeded by antagonism. Wise and astute men encouraged and helped him. Forces were placed at his disposal. The aim of his ambition seemed to be within reach when he found his forces scattered by an opposing force, the strength of which he did not expect to meet. Abesalom learned emphatically that the authority despised had to be dealt with. After a long course of persistent wickedness Abesalom met his doom. He met David's soldiers. Although they spared him and gave him opportunity to escape, according to David's request, divine vengeance would not spare him. The instruments of his death were least thought of in battle. His inanimate tree and his trusted animal, together formed the mode of his execution. None of his companions in crime remained with him to release him from his torture, but left him to his fate, suspended between heaven and earth, a sad spectacle indeed. David, having no personal revenge against his own son, and knowing the character of Joab, he urged upon him as a strong restraint, consideration for himself as king and father. The legal question as to what would have to be done with a captured rebel had not been brought before the king's decision. To the soldier, who brought the report of Abesalom's distress, the question of prudence was not considered. Obedience to the royal authority was his prime duty, governing rule of his conduct. No persuasion of a general could turn him from his

principle. He was amazed that any one should think of deviating from a command so plain. His spirit was politically and morally sound and pure. Joab swept aside all such forceful pressure because his conduct was governed by the consideration of a policy of expediency. He was a man of deeds when matters were urgent. II. Heroically met and vindicated. David was challenged to vindicate his own throne. He was obliged to meet the insubordination and the revolt of his own son. He was obliged to care for the kingdom over which he had been appointed by God. The validity of his anointing was still unrevoked by him who ordained it. Duty to himself, his kingdom and his God compelled him to prevent the usurpation attempted. The recollection of such duty aroused courage and resolution. The battle had to be fought out in his own nature before it was transferred to the open field. David suppressed the pain of making war against his own son because it was right to do so, but that did not imply the uprooting from his heart of tenderness, compassion and yearning sorrow, even for a prodigal son. The emotions of his father heart were kept under by the prompt and energetic application of all his powers of mind and body in the performance of kingly duty. The calm and sober way in which he began to marshal his forces showed that help had come from God to subordinate the anguish of his heart to the sense of duty. He did not waver in his kingly design to subdue rebellion, nor did he show a wicked leniency toward an evil life in his son. He could not but see, in the rebellion, the chastening hand of God, before which it became him in his lifelong penitence, mingled with sincere trust, to bow. David's men offered themselves willingly in his service and readily risked their lives for his sake. They set an inestimable value on his life in comparison to their own. Patriotism and piety required utmost care for his preservation. A general and intense feeling of resentment was naturally felt against Abesalom by all except his father, whom he had carefully wronged. T. R. A.

FARM GARDEN BEST TIME TO PRUNE. "After three score years of experience in orchard culture," said a fruit grower, "allow me to say something on the proper time for pruning. There is but one proper time, the month of June, when the new bark forms on the wood." Then he went on to say that more arduous are times being pruned at improper times than from all other causes. If pruned in autumn or winter the bark will dry around the stump and heal there, but never over the end; this exposed stump will rot out in a few years, leaving a ragged hole where the water can enter, and the decay of the centre of the whole begins, shortening its life many years. If pruned in the spring, the wound bleeds, the sap often running down and killing the bark below, making a black unsightly wound, which never heals over, and the whole tree is subject to decay. If pruned in June when the new bark and wood are forming, the wound begins to heal at once, and no matter what the size of the branch cut may be, the wound will heal before decay begins in any of its vigorous and in good condition. Care should be taken to cut close to the trunk or larger branch, so that the wound may heal over the end for it cut two or three inches from the trunk or main branch, nature forbids to carry the necessary material to heal over the wound, and again the water enters and decay occurs. When from an accident the effect of snow or ice, a large branch is broken, cut temporarily, leaving a foot or more to be cut again close to the trunk in the month of June. The reason farmers generally prune in early spring is that they then have time and little else to do and are anxious to be at work, and thus have some excuse; but if they could realize the damage they are doing to their property, they might perhaps refrain and put their labor to better account at the proper season. The New York Agricultural Exper-

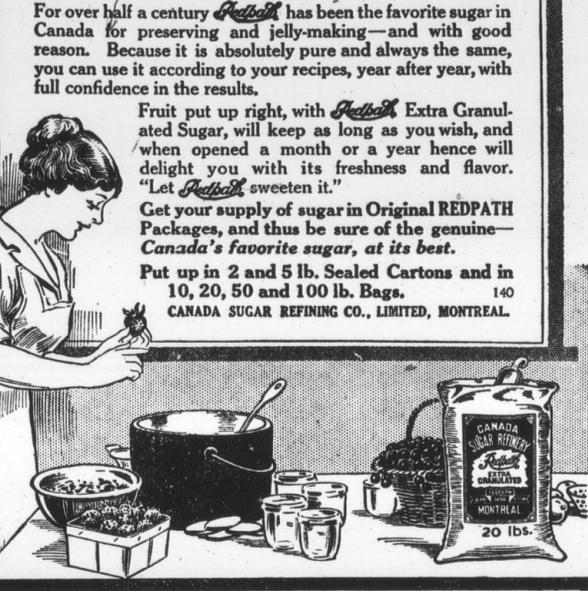
CHERRY JELLY

From a recipe of Charles Francastell, Chief Cook to Queen Victoria. Published in 1865. Clean 2 lbs. cherries and a handful of red currants, and bruise stones and kernels in a mortar; place in small preserving pan with 1 lb. John Redpath's sugar lumps and 1/2 pint spring-water; boil on the stove-fire about five minutes, taking care to remove scum as it rises; pour into a beaver jelly-bag and filter in usual way. Mix lumps with two canoes clarified tinsels, and pour into jars or mould.



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FARM GARDEN

BEST TIME TO PRUNE. "After three score years of experience in orchard culture," said a fruit grower, "allow me to say something on the proper time for pruning. There is but one proper time, the month of June, when the new bark forms on the wood." Then he went on to say that more arduous are times being pruned at improper times than from all other causes. If pruned in autumn or winter the bark will dry around the stump and heal there, but never over the end; this exposed stump will rot out in a few years, leaving a ragged hole where the water can enter, and the decay of the centre of the whole begins, shortening its life many years. If pruned in the spring, the wound bleeds, the sap often running down and killing the bark below, making a black unsightly wound, which never heals over, and the whole tree is subject to decay. If pruned in June when the new bark and wood are forming, the wound begins to heal at once, and no matter what the size of the branch cut may be, the wound will heal before decay begins in any of its vigorous and in good condition. Care should be taken to cut close to the trunk or larger branch, so that the wound may heal over the end for it cut two or three inches from the trunk or main branch, nature forbids to carry the necessary material to heal over the wound, and again the water enters and decay occurs. When from an accident the effect of snow or ice, a large branch is broken, cut temporarily, leaving a foot or more to be cut again close to the trunk in the month of June. The reason farmers generally prune in early spring is that they then have time and little else to do and are anxious to be at work, and thus have some excuse; but if they could realize the damage they are doing to their property, they might perhaps refrain and put their labor to better account at the proper season. The New York Agricultural Exper-

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

Table with columns for various market items like Eggs, Butter, Flour, etc., and their prices.

LIVE STOCK.

Table with columns for various live stock items like Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, etc., and their prices.

HIDES, SKINS, WOOL.

Wool has been forest up by the competition of dealers until it has reached a point where some of the Canadian woolen mills will not take it on, claiming that they can purchase New Zealand and Australian wools (much of which is being imported) at a lower price on a scored basis than they can purchase Canadian wools, while the present prices on Canadian wool is too high for the United States market, as they can buy down the Australian wool at their mills 7 1/2 per cent. cheaper than the Canadian manufacturer, which is much cheaper, figured on a scored basis, than Canadian wool. The growers generally are marketing their clip, taking advantage of the extreme high prices now being paid. Washed combing fleeces (medium), 34 to 35c. Washed combing fleeces (fine), 37 to 38c. Tub-washed, as to quality (fine), 35 to 38c. Washed rejections (barry, extra) (chaff), 27 to 28c. Unwashed fleeces (coarse), 25 to 26c. Unwashed fleeces (medium), 26 to 27c. Unwashed fleeces (fine), 27 to 28c. Beef hides—City butcher hides, green, flat, 14c per lb. Country hides, flat, cured, 16 to 17c per lb. Part cured, 15 to 16c per lb. Calfskin—City skins, green, flat, 14c per lb. Country, cured, 16 1/2 to 17 1/2c per lb. Part cured, 15 1/2 to 16 1/2c per lb., according to condition and take off. Deacons or bcb (alf), 7 1/2 to \$1.00 each. Horse hides—City take off \$1.00 to \$2.00.

OTHER MARKETS.

Wheat—Open, High, Low Close. July, 1.25 1.34 1.25 1.27 1/2. Oct, 1.02 1.03 1.01 1.04. Dec, 1.02 1.03 1.01 1.04. Oct, 1.02 1.03 1.01 1.04. July, 0.54 0.54 0.54 0.54. Oct, 0.44 0.44 0.44 0.44. July, 1.62 1.62 1.60 1.60. Oct, 1.57 1.57 1.55 1.55. MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET. Wheat—No. 1 hard, \$1.30; No. 2 Northern, \$1.22; No. 3 Northern, \$1.15; Corn—No. 2 yellow, \$1.05; Oats—No. 2 white, 45c; 4 1/2c. Flour—Fancy patents, \$6.00; first clear, \$5.60; second clear, \$4.00. Bran \$2.50. DULUTH GRAIN MARKET. Duluth—Wheat—No. 1 hard, \$1.30; No. 1 Northern, \$1.22; No. 2 Northern, \$1.15; Corn—No. 2 yellow, \$1.05; Oats—No. 2 white, 45c; 4 1/2c. Flour—Fancy patents, \$6.00; first clear, \$5.60; second clear, \$4.00. Bran \$2.50. LONDON SKIN SALES. London—At the sheepskin sales to-day 9,928 bales were offered. The attendance was good and the offering met with a spirited demand, especially for merinos and crossbreds, which sold five to ten per cent. dearer. Half wool realized five per cent. higher. Short horn skins were barely steady. The home trade purchased the bulk of the offerings. France and Russia purchased a few. CHICAGO LIVE STOCK. Cattle receipts, 4,000. Market steady. Cows and steers, native, 6.85 to 7.70. Western steers, 7.00 to 8.25. Hogs and helters, 6.25 to 9.40. Calves, 7.00 to 10.00. Horse receipts, 20,000. Market steady. Light, 7.40 to 7.75. Mixed, 7.25 to 7.75. Heavy, 7.00 to 8.00. High, 7.00 to 8.00. Pigs, 6.70 to 7.40. Bulk of sales, 7.45 to 7.65. Sheep receipts, 10,000. Market steady. Native, 5.50 to 5.40. Lamba, native, 6.25 to 7.10. Springs, 7.00 to 7.10. BUFFALO LIVE STOCK. East Buffalo, Despatch—Cattle receipts fifty head; steady. Veals, receipts 100 head; active; \$4.50 to \$10.00. Hogs, receipts 600 head; active; heavy \$7.50 to \$8.00; mixed \$6.00 to \$6.25; yokers and pigs \$4.00; roughs \$6.00 to \$6.50; \$5.00 to \$5.50; sheep and lambs, receipts 400 head; active; lambs \$7.00 to \$10.25; yearlings \$5.00 to \$5.50; wethers \$6.50 to \$8.50; ewes \$3.00 to \$5.50; mixed, \$5.75 to \$6.00. LIVERPOOL PRODUCE. No. 1 hard, winter—10s. 10d. No. 1 Northern—10s. 10d. Wheat, spot—winter, 3s. 6d. No. 1 Manitoba—11s. 3d. No. 2 Manitoba—10s. 11 1/2d. No. 3 Manitoba—10s. 9 1/2d. Corn, spot—quiet. American mixed, new—7s. 11 1/2d. Flour, winter patents—3s. 6d. Hops in London (trading course)—3s. 10s to 4s. 15s. Beef, extra India meso—16s. Pork, prime mess, western—10s. Hams, short cut, 14 to 16 lbs.—70s. Bacon, Cumberland cut, 25 to 30 lbs.—70s. Short ribs, 16 to 24 lbs.—Nominal. Clear bellies, 14 to 16 lbs.—68s. Long clear middles, light, 28 to 34 lbs.—72s. Long clear middles, heavy, 35 to 40 lbs.—72s. Short clear backs, 16 to 20 lbs.—62s. 6d. Shoulders, square, 11 to 14 lbs.—54s. 6d. Lard, prime western, in tierces, new—48s. 6d. Lard, prime western, in tierces, old—48s. 6d. American, refined, boxes—38s. Tallow, prime city—34s. Australian in London—34s. 6d. Turpentine, spirits—38s. Rosin, common—11s. Petroleum, refined—24d. Lard Oil—31s. 6d. Cotton Seed Oil, full refined, spot—20s. 2d.

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NOTES.

Specialists in the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry have satisfied themselves that glanders vaccine is not effective in rendering horses immune from this dangerous disease. Of 13 immunized animals nine contracted the disease from natural exposures. If you want to make first-class cows from your young heifers, feed well while they are carrying their first calf and don't forget to handle them. Show them that you are their friend. Get them to like you, and they will respond when you come around with the milk pail. There is more in the handling of a young heifer than many farmers are aware of. The horse has the sense of hearing very highly developed, and distinguishes sounds and probably also the difference in sounds, from a very great distance.