

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson VII., August 13, 1916. The Grace of Giving.—2 Corinthians 9: 1-15.

Commentary. I. Liberality of the Corinthians (vs. 1-5). 1. Ministering to the saints—Paul refers to the collection for the church at Jerusalem, mentioned in 1 Cor. 16, 1-3. It had been his plan to help in relieving the distresses of the poor Christians there (Acts 11:29, 30). There were several reasons why the Christians at Jerusalem needed help. They were looked down upon by the Jews, and it is probable that many of them did not have employment on that account. Many strangers had remained at Jerusalem after Pentecost and were in poverty. A famine prevailed in that region in the days of Claudius, Superfluous for me to write to you—Paul apostle commended their spirit of benevolence and did not wish to be understood as urging them to give. He believed that it was only necessary for him to make a suggestion and the contribution would be ready at the proper time. 2. The forwardness of your mind—Your readiness.—R. V. for which I boast of you to them of Macedonia—Paul was then in Macedonia, and it would appear that he was asking the churches there to contribute to the needs of the poor. Aschaia—That portion of Greece in which Corinth was situated. A year ago—Or last year. Your zeal hath provoked very many—The example of the Corinthian Christians in giving had called forth a spirit of liberality in others. Provoked her means to stir up, in a good sense. 3. Sent the brethren—There were three, one of whom was Titus, but the names of the other two are not given (8:8, 18, 22).

4. Haply—Perchance, by any possibility. Come with me—There was some likelihood that Christians from Macedonia would accompany Paul to Corinth. We (that we say not, ye) should be ashamed—In a very delicate way Paul throws out the thought that not only he himself, but the Corinthians also, would be embarrassed if they were not ready with their collection, inasmuch as he had told in Macedonia of their generosity. 5. When ye had notice before—What had been promised before. Bounty—The gifts of the Corinthians are called a blessing, because they are so to others, and because they call down a blessing on those who impart them.—Cam. Bib. The offerings should be freely made. II. Rewards of liberality (vs. 6-11). 6. He which soweth sparingly—He calls it sowing in order that we may learn by the figure of the harvest that in giving we receive more than we gave.—Chrysostom. The figure is an impressive one. He who sows little, will have a small harvest. He who sows nothing, will have no harvest. The harvest will be in kind and in amount according to the sowing. Soweth bountifully—The farmer or the gardener sows more seed than he expects will grow and reach maturity. He makes allowance for the destruction of some of the seed by insects and supposes that some of the seed will not germinate. In Christian liberality there need be no fear that giving will go unrewarded. 7. As he purpeth in his heart—The heart of the Christian giver is to decide the amount of the gift. Not grudgingly. Not out of grief; not giving when one does it because he thinks he must. Gifts thus bestowed do not bless the giver, but may benefit the receiver. God loveth a cheerful giver—He who considers himself one of God's stewards is glad to give as the Lord prospers him. The Greek word translated cheerful is that from which our word hilarious comes. The cheerful giver is one who is joyous and happy in his giving. 8. God is able to make all grace abound toward you—God is not limited in all resources. If we give to the poor and to his cause, he is able to make us abound in his gifts to us. No one should shrink from giving for fear of being himself impoverished. God will bless his obedient, trusting children with temporal and spiritual gifts. Always having all sufficiency—The language is exceedingly forceful. Here is great encouragement for us to trust God. We are blessed according to our faith. Abound to every good work—God's plan is to bestow abundance upon us that we may impart temporal and spiritual good to others. 9. As it is written—The quotation is from Psa. 112: 9, and is here introduced to substantiate what has just been said. The man bestows the good things with which the Lord has blessed him upon the needy with which he shall not lack the means with which to abound in good works toward others. 10. He that ministereth—God. Shall supply and multiply your seed (R. V.)—This is a promise that the Lord who furnishes seed and supplies our wants will grant to us an increase of ability to serve him by serving others. 11. Being enriched in every thing—This verse expresses impressively the truth that those who give in his name will be abundantly rewarded. Bountifulness—the apostle makes free use of the words that stand for abundance, sufficiency and ability. Causest through us thanksgiving to God—Those who give should thank God that they have the ability to do it, and those who receive are thankful to God and to his children who give. III. Thankfulness for gifts (vs. 12-15). 12. The administration of this service—The bestowment of this public benefaction. Paul has referred to the service that was being rendered to the poor saints at Jerusalem by the gifts made by the church at Corinth. Thanksgivings unto God—This service would accomplish two things. 1. It would relieve the needy. 2. It would draw the attention of the givers, as well as the recipients, toward the Lord and would call forth thanksgiving to him. 13. Whiles by the experiment of this ministration—Through the evidence afforded by the service thus rendered. They glorify God—Those who are to receive the gifts will praise God for the faithful-ness and devotion of those who, in the name of Christ and His gospel,

bestow them. They will see that the Corinthian Christians not only professed faith in Christ, but they also exemplified that faith, for your liberal distribution unto them—For the liberality of your contribution unto them.—R. V. 14. And by their prayer for you—in addition to the thankfulness to God on the part of those to whom the gifts would come, there would be prayers for the benefactors and a desire to see those whose Christian love and liberality had found expression in the gifts so freely bestowed. 15. Thanks be unto God—The apostle expresses his gratitude to God for all that grace had accomplished for and through the Corinthian church. Questions.—What was Paul's purpose in writing the Second Epistle to the Corinthians? What collection is Christian in this lesson? Why did the Christians at Jerusalem need aid? What was the disposition of the Corinthians with regard to giving? What principles should govern one's giving? What is it to be a cheerful giver? How does giving in Jesus' name affect the giver?

PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic.—Christian beneficence. I. Its value. II. Its motive. III. Its reward. 1. Its value. Very remarkable was the tenderness, consideration and delicacy of feeling with which Paul addressed the church at Corinth. In his directions for collecting their contributions he recognized their merits. He respected their reputation. He studied their convenience. He not only gave credit for what they had done, merely as a matter of policy or politeness, but as a matter of justice. Other virtues had failed under the pressure of worldliness and carnality. They had maintained the benevolent enterprise of helping the poor. God honored that trait in them. Paul had been made glad by the report which he had received concerning the more spiritual faith in human nature under the influence of Christian grace. The ground of Paul's fear was the influence which the troubles and conflicts through which the Corinthian Church had been passing, would have upon the matter of external interests. Enemies of Corinth were earnestly endeavoring to undermine Paul's authority and destroy his influence. If they regarded the collection of Paul's affair, they would declare against it. Paul sought to overcome that malign influence by his kindly pleading and by sending messengers who would make it clear that the collection was a matter of public concern, and not one of personal profit to Paul. The matter was wholly under the regulation of the various Gentile churches as their united contribution to the mother church at Jerusalem. It was an indication of brotherhood between Jewish and Gentile Christians. It was the connecting link in the chain that was to bind them together. It was a strong testimony to the divineness of the gospel. The Corinthians had received Paul's reports and counsels with right feeling. They had cleared themselves of all complexity with the doings of the unworthy member. Paul felt sure they were cherishing proper sentiments concerning Christian brotherhood and charity, and of the duty of the strong bearing the infirmities of the weak. II. Its motive. Paul proceeded on the principle that nothing so inspires God's people to give to him as the remembrance of what God had given to them. He never lost sight of the one inspiring motive, the love of Christ toward us and his divine sacrifice in our behalf. After speaking of lesser gifts, Paul called attention to God's supreme Gift, showing that Christianity lays the basis for human duty in divine acts. Such duty requires the habitual ordering of character and conduct by the highest aims and models set before us, in a life regulated by the steady action of true principle. There was no appeal to selfishness in Paul's simple statement of a divine law in harvest. For cheerful giving, he teaches that it is necessary first of all that the heart should be free from the spirit of covetousness, since God measures all giving by the motive prompting it. God's abounding gifts were to be regarded by the Corinthians as the example and means for their own. Their giving would be ennobled by doing it at the right time. A check in the progress of charity would be harmful to them. Paul did not state how much a Christian should give. III. Its reward. Paul taught that all true service has its reward. He affirmed that the liberal helper was in every respect the wealthier and distinguished himself as those to whom giving brings keenest and purest pleasure with spiritual improvement. To such a higher manhood is awakened in the soul. It exercises in them the power of moral discipline. The certainty of a divine regard to the true giver rests on the direct promise of God. For every sacrifice made for others there comes closer fellowship with God. The fruits of righteousness will infinitely surpass the deeds done. The liberality of God extends through every stage of individual life and through every period of church history. Paul ranked cheerful giving among the evidences of Christianity. T. R. A.

THE CUT LEMON. If You Have One Around Do Not Waste It. Do not let part of a cut lemon go to waste. With salt sprinkled on the surface, it will be found excellent for cleaning brass and other metal. Rub the metal well with it. Sparkling glassware and immaculate porcelain are obtained by washing in cold water with lemon juice added. Bisque figurettes and ornaments are also easily cleaned this way. Silverware first rubbed with lemon and then with alcohol and common whitening mixed, will have a high lustre. The method is both time and labor-saving, as well as satisfactory. White clothes are washed with less difficulty if lemon juice is used to soften the water in which the clothes are allowed to stand overnight. It also helps to remove the grease and dirt, but should not be used on colored clothes.

Making Poultry Pay

GREEN FEED FOR POULTRY.

One of the most valuable crops for summer green feed is rape. This gives an abundant yield and fowl of all kinds are very fond of it. It may be sown either broadcast or in drills. When sown in drills it should be cultivated until the ground is well covered. If the ground is at all rich and the top soil has been well worked the result-crop will surprise those who have never grown it before. If you have never tried it put in a small patch this season and be convinced of its value. For winter succulence mangels are unsurpassed. They are easily grown, keep well and nothing is relished more. Care should be taken to select a suitable variety. Some of the sugar beets are hard and are not so readily eaten as the mangels that are, although crisp, softer in the flesh. The sunflower is another crop that may be grown to advantage. An American poultryman, writing of this, says: "We have been feeding our poultry sunflower seeds for eight years, and find them an excellent feed for the fowls. The grain has a sort of nut-like flavor and is rich and juicy; hence is not only very palatable and nourishing, but acts as a gentle laxative. We usually feed them to the poultry in the heads, or if hulled we scatter them in the litter so that the birds will have to work for them."

TIMELY REMINDERS.

Be sure that there are no male birds running with the flock after you are through breeding. Send them to market, or if there are any that you want to hold over for another season pen them away from the hens. The surplus hens should all be marketed by this time, but there are always a few that have been left; dispose of all these that you do not wish to retain as breeders, as occasion offers. All the cockerels of the light-weight varieties should be sold as broilers. There is no money in holding them; till the fall and it only helps increase the glut in the market at that time. Moulting time will soon be here. Don't forget that a little sunflower seed is a great aid at that time. Be sure you are supplying plenty of tender green food to both the laying and the growing stock. If you are so situated that you can obtain milk, plan your fowls to it; nothing produces better results with fowl—youth or old. Have you ever raised any capons? If not, you had better caponize a few of your cockerels this year. If you have not a market for them at hand, try them on your own table and then convince your customers how much better they are than ordinary chickens. Do you realize the amount of money you lose every year through the depredation of cats? A cat that can be depended on is invaluable, but a dog is more dependable where there are chickens. No dog is better for this purpose than a Scottish terrier. It is patient, intelligent, and game to the core. GEORGE ROBERTSON, Central Experimental Farm.

SUNFLOWERS FOR FEED AND SHADE.

"Another big benefit is derived from the planting of sunflowers by having the field where the poultry can range in it during the hot summer days. The leaves of the plants are so large and flat that they furnish an abundance of shade for the fowls, while the cool, moist soil is a fine place for them to enjoy their dust bath as they search around for bugs and worms. "In flat-planting sunflowers, we stir the ground thoroughly in early spring, give it a good harrowing, and with an ordinary corn drill plant the seeds, dropping them considerably thicker than we expect to leave the plants. Rows are three feet apart. "When the sunflowers come up we thin them out to one in a hill, from two and a half feet to three feet apart. If so rank that they will smother, their stalks being small and slender, and supporting very little grain. Hand-died correctly, the yield is enormous. "Give deep cultivation the first time. Follow with shallow cultivation. We use the one-horse, five-shovel cultivator, stirring only two or three inches of the surface soil. At the last cultivation the plants may be killed or give slightly. In case of dry weather, give surface cultivation with one-row harrow or cultivator to conserve the moisture. "With listing (which we like best in planting sunflowers), the ground is disked, then laid off in three-foot rows with the lister. The seeds are drilled in the same as with planting a thorough harrowing of the lister ridges is given as soon as the planting is finished, and another lighter har-

POULTRY PROSPECTS.

To anyone who has not carefully followed the direction of poultry development in Canada, an understanding of the status which the poultry industry has now reached, whether constitute a distinct surprise. Viewed from the standpoint of the farmer or of the produce trade it is now one of the best organized and most progressive of any of our live stock industries. Cooperation amongst farmers in marketing is improving the product, and realizing for them a higher price than they have hitherto been able to obtain. The reorganization of methods by the trade is providing against loss in handling, is assuring to the consumer a better article and establishing our export business upon a firm basis. —CANADIAN COUNTRYMAN.

STORY OF A WEATHER VANE.

Why a Grasshopper Tops the Royal Exchange in London. If you ever go to London among the places of interest there you will visit the public buildings known as the Royal Exchange. There is a cupola at the top of that building. Rising from that cupola is an iron rod with a huge grasshopper on it for a weather vane. And there is an interesting story connected with that grasshopper. It is this: One day, more than 300 years ago, a mother in England had an infant, a few months old, which she wanted to get rid of. So she wrapped it up in a shawl and laid it down under a bush in a field and left it there to die unless some one should find it and take care of it. Shortly after a little boy was coming home from school. As he passed by the place he heard a grasshopper chirping in the field. He stopped a moment to listen to it. Then he climbed over the fence to get it. But just as he was about to catch it he caught sight of the baby close by. He let the grasshopper go and, taking the baby in his arms, carried it home to his mother. She took charge of the baby and brought him up. He turned out to be a good plous boy. He was always decided in doing what he knew was right and in not doing what was wrong. When a young man he went to London and entered into business there. He was successful in business and became rich.—He was not only rich, but great. He was knighted and Sir Thomas Gresham. The Royal Exchange was built in honor of him. And he had the grasshopper put as a weather vane on the top of it in memory of the wonderful way in which when an infant his life was saved by the good providence of God.—Richard Newton in Bible Models.

that govern here? Oh, for a code-Napoleon. to show us the chart, and give us a pilot.

Does thought come and go, and is there a law for periodicity? Is it a fact that an image once presented to consciousness tends to recur, without voluntary effort, at the end of a specified period. This theory has been put forth by Dr. Herman Swoboda, of Vienna, who has been studying some interesting data bearing on the cause and significance of dreams. This scientist believes that impressions and events are again brought in to the field of consciousness after certain specified intervals, in the case of men after twenty-eight days. Thoughts and recollections, on the other hand, have a periodicity which is apparently not explained in any way by examination of the customary train of ideas. The reproduction of impressions and recollections is so regular that Dr. Swoboda has frequently succeeded in predicting the appearance of certain dreams at specific times. He himself always has the well-known "flying-dream" twenty-three days after he has been skating, and it is probable that continual use of our arms and legs in other than a normal manner, as in dancing, skating, bicycling, etc., will, after a period of twenty-three or twenty-eight days, produce the "flying-dream." Dr. Swoda tells of a case of a physician who dreams that he is called upon to see a sick child. The third of January the physician made a visit to the child under discussion, and the night of the 27th and 28th of March he had his dream. During his visit of the 3rd of January he had received his impressions, which after the triple lapse of the period of twenty-eight days were again presented in the dream. At the same time the physician had his dream the mother of the child had a dream which represented the former visit of the physician, in the case of the physician the dream creating a premonition that he would be called to see the child, while with the mother there was suggested the advisability of calling in the physician. A much more remarkable case, however, is that of a written correspondence carried on by Swoboda with a person at a distance. One day Swoboda's correspondent declared that he had foreseen in a dream the arrival of Swoboda's letter, and upon investigation it developed that the letters were written exactly twenty-three and forty-six days apart. From the time of starting the correspondence the time for the two writers was the same, a fact which indicates that the spontaneous recollection would lead the one who owed a letter to write the same, and the one who was to receive a letter to expect it, the next time the case being reversed. This fact will also explain why the letters written by the two men often crossed.

DREAMS.

Shall we ever have a hydrographer who can make up a chart of dreams? Dreaming is a solid fact; we all dream; we do not always remember our dreams. This fact throws us back on the original constitution of the mind, which is a part of our make-up, a standing proof of our immortality. We used to sing: "Saviour, breathe an evening blessing Ere repose our spirits' seal." We do not sing that any more, because it is not true. Repose does not seal and throw out of gear our mental machinery; it does quite the reverse; it sets us going on sweet and terrible journeys, so that we are sometimes afraid to go to bed. We beat the bats, we soar like eagles, we dive like dolphins. Are there laws

THE KEY TO HEAVEN.

Oh the heart is but what we make it, By the love that is there enshrined; And the soul that is blessed with the love that is best, Has its share of the Divine. Oh the soul is but shaped as we shape it, By the tools that God hath given; And each soul holds within its folds, The key that admits to heaven. —H. E. Stone, Erie, Pa.

HOW GREAT IS THY GOODNESS.

Since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him. Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit. Thou wilt show me the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. How excellent is thy loving kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

STARS BY DAYLIGHT.

It is worthy of remark that but for the brightness of the sky the stars could be seen in daylight. Even as matters stand some of the brighter of them have been seen after sunrise by explorers on high mountains, where the air is very clear and the sky dark blue. If we could go above the atmosphere the sky would appear perfectly black and stars would be visible right close up to the sun. Astronomers observe bright stars in daytime by using long focus telescopes, the dark tubes of which cut off the side light, and persons in the bottom of deep wells have noticed stars passing overhead, the side light being reduced by the great depth of the wells.

THE PRIMROSE.

The primrose has suffered injustice from the poets, who seem to regard it as a floral weeding. Shakespeare wrote of "pale primrose" that die "ere they can behold bold Phoebus in his strength." Spencer regrets "no fair a flower" should perish through "untimely tempest." Milton laments the "rathe primrose" that have written of it in similar strain. The primrose is a hardy plant and can exist on the mountain heights of Europe and Asia and even on the highest ranges of the Himalayas. And Disraeli recognized its color in the fried eggs upon his breakfast table.—London Notes and Queries.

Young Husband—Darning. I have a confession to make: My salary is 80 per cent. less than I told you before we were married. Young Wife—Oh, that's all right, Tom; I calculated on 50!—Judge.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS

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

FRESH MEATS, WHOLESALE.

Table listing prices for various types of meat such as Beef, Pork, Mutton, etc.

LIVE STOCK.

Table showing prices for live stock including Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, etc.

OTHER MARKETS

WINNIPEG OPTIONS.

Table with columns for Open, High, Low, Close for various options.

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN MARKET.

Table listing prices for grain in Minneapolis.

DULUTH GRAIN MARKET.

Table listing prices for grain in Duluth.

THE CHEESE MARKETS.

Table listing prices for various types of cheese.

CINCINNATI LIVE STOCK.

Table listing prices for live stock in Cincinnati.

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK.

Table listing prices for live stock in Buffalo.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

Table listing prices for various market items in Montreal.

LIVERPOOL PRODUCE.

Table listing prices for various types of produce in Liverpool.