

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

DEC. 16, 1883.

DAVID SPARING HIS ENEMY.

1 SAMUEL XXIV. 1-17.

1. David having valiantly tried to slay and revenge with Achish, King of Gath, was now a fugitive with about four hundred retainers, in the wild region south of Judah, and in the neighborhood of the Dead Sea. Saul, pursuing him in different parts with many success, was recalled by a report of the Philistines. No sooner, however, had he conquered them, than he resumed his pursuit. The region where David had taken refuge was full of caves; and one day when the fugitives lay concealed in a cavern, the processes of one of these caves, Saul and his army encamped nearby. Little suspecting they were near, the king himself, probably for shade and coolness, lay down within the mouth of the cave, in view of David and his men, while the dark night prevented their being seen at all. As soon as Saul was asleep, David's followers began to whisper that he had delivered his enemy into their hands. It is evident from their words that David had been trying to slay them that true faith in God which he continually exercised himself, but they interpreted his teaching in their own low, unworthy manner, and thought that this opportunity had been brought about by Divine power in order that David might take his revenge.

While David restrained his followers with an argument which he thought would weigh most with them, there were other motives at work to restrain him. Saul was not his enemy, except as he had chosen to make himself so. Moreover he was the father of David's wife, and of his dearest friend; and he cared more for their love than for Saul's hatred. He would not slay the Lord's anointed—nor one who was dear to those who were dear to him; but beyond all this David had too distinct a consciousness of what was right, to slay or permit to be slain, any man in his sleep. He was willing, however, to turn the incident to advantage in his own way. If he could prove to Saul that he had been so completely in his power, and yet had been spared, it might produce a better feeling towards himself. So he crept up to the sleeping king and cut a piece off the skirt of his robe. But such was his delicacy of feeling, that he almost immediately repented of having offered even this indignity to the person of the king. The man who was the cause of all his trouble—who was daily seeking his life, lay within his power, and he would not even detain him prisoner, but let him go away unharmed, with the prospect that he would still continue to pursue him to death.

2. No sooner had Saul disappeared than David went after him—at first a very hazardous thing to do. Though David had spared Saul's life, he had no reason to suppose that Saul would spare his if in his power. But probably David was so well acquainted with the cave, that he knew if there should be any hostile movement, he could immediately retreat into a place where his enemies could not find him. He advanced and called, "My lord, the king!" Saul's steps were at once arrested by the familiar voice, and David proceeded to expostulate with him. He assumes that all Saul's malice was caused by designing men, who endeavored to persuade him that David was seeking to undermine his authority. In proof that he had no enmity, he goes on to relate how Saul had been in his power, and brings forth the skirt of the king's robe as a visible evidence of the truth of his words. In the strongest terms he protests his innocence of all evil intention. He adds that he was altogether unworthy such distinguished honor as to be an object of jealousy to the King of Israel; and winds up by committing his whole case into the hands of the Lord.

3. Saul was susceptible to right influences when they were brought to bear powerfully upon him. The misfortune was that the good in him was evanescent, the evil persistent. A prophet one day, he was, in intention, a murderer of the next. And this predominance of the evil over the good marred his whole career. The thought that David had spared him when he might have taken his life, melted him down. The tears flowed from eyes long unaccustomed to weep; and in broken accents he calls David his son, and more righteous than himself, for he had rewarded him good for evil. His better feelings gaining for the moment the mastery, he acknowledges that he knew perfectly well David was the chosen one to succeed him, and he even condescends to ask that David would spare his family in the days when he should be called to the throne. Thus we see the effect of heaping coals of fire on our enemy's head (Prov. xxv, 22). But alas! as our previous occasions, Saul's repentance was but temporary. It gave David a little respite; but before long the King was again in arms, determined to see that he had accomplished his destruction.—W. M. S. S. Mag.

KEEP THE CHILDREN WARM.

Half of the illness and fretfulness of little children might be prevented by keeping them warm enough. They are often so unequally dressed—some parts covered to excess, and

others, more vital still, left almost unclad—that they are in constant discomfort. They cannot tell the difficulty, and thoughtless mothers dismiss the whole subject with the general complaint of crossness. Warm under flannels and good homemade woolen stockings are a comfort beyond computation in the winter season. When worn in the winter it is common to delay putting them on until the seeds of a sad cold are sown, which may last for the season or even for life. If the mother is only beforehand with her calculations for the changing seasons, this might all be prevented.

TO TELL DIPHTHERIA.

"I was called out of bed past midnight to go four miles in the country and attend what the messenger stated was a bad case of diphtheria." "And you went?" "I had to. When I arrived I found a ten-year-old girl crying with a sore throat. I looked into it, asked the girl a few questions and found that she had done a big washing that day. Had a little cold—nothing else." "How can you tell the difference?" "I'll give you a rule by which you can always determine," was the response. "If the throat is red and smaller, no case of diphtheria; but if it looks as though some one had thrown a handful of ashes into the throat—a dull gray color—look out. It's diphtheria's danger signal."

GIVE ANIMALS SALT.

Stock may not require as much salt during the winter months while eating dry fodder as they do in summer; still it should be given them at least once a week. Animals may live and thrive for a long time without tasting salt; but as it is a well known natural vermifuge, it is always safe to use it liberally. It is also better to give stock salt frequently than at long intervals, and many good farmers keep a supply of salt in such positions that their animals can help themselves to it at all times. They will eat less salt at a time if it is placed within reach when ever their appetite craves it, than when it is thrown to them only occasionally. Salt fed to sheep during winter should have flour of sulphur mixed with it; about one ounce of the latter to a quart of the former will suffice. The sulphur is an excellent preventive of the various skin diseases more or less prevalent among sheep kept in small yards or stables in winter.

USEFUL HINTS.

Consider well what varieties of fruit you wish to plant before you order your stock.

A young lady in San Francisco recently fell dead at her own party. The cause was tight lacing.

There are countries where the most exclusive diet of the masses is beans; these contain 87 per cent. of nutriment.

That is the best system of schools which makes a steady demand for good teachers, and that means universal, fair, and thorough examinations, and fair wages, with prompt payment, as other State and county officers are paid.

Pieces of newspaper wrapped around the feet over the stockings, keep the feet remarkably warm. Nothing should be considered a trouble, which can have even a slight tendency to keep the feet warm, because there never can be recovery from disease or substantial good health without it.

It is especially necessary to store potatoes intended for seed in a dry place where they will not sprout. Potatoes that have sprouted are weaker and more inclined to disease than those that do not sprout until planted.

When it is considered how rich eggs are in nutriment it must be obvious that they cannot be produced in large numbers unless large quantities of rich food are consumed by the hens. Feed the pullets well now if you expect them to shell out this winter.

A little curry powder in chopped pickle gives a delicious flavor to it. A tablespoonful of the powder to four quarts of pickle is about the right quantity to use, unless you like to use the curry in place of pepper; then at least twice this quantity should be put in.

It is a good plan to make a little pair of sleeves to draw over the baby's arms when he is playing on the floor; a rubber cord may be run in the top if care is taken not to have it too tight; sleeves made of stockinet draw on and off easily.

Old jewellery may be cleaned and made very bright in this way:—Line a small tin cup with soft paper, fill with nice suds, put the jewellery in (one piece at a time, of course), shake it about well, rinse with clear water, and dry with a piece of cambric skin.

We see less piling of manure in heaps about fields, but it has taken farmers a long time to learn that the piling was a wasteful practice: the better parts of the manure leaching into the soil about the piles, making such spots too rich and leaving the field at large impoverished.

Delicate and Feeble Ladies

Those languid, tire some sensations, causing you to feel scarcely able to be on your feet; that constant drain that is taking from your system all its former elasticity; driving the bloom from your cheeks; that continual strain upon your vital forces, rendering you irritable and fretful, can easily be removed by the use of that marvelous remedy, Hop Bitters. Irregularities and obstructions of your system are relieved at once, while the special cause of periodical pain are permanently removed. None so peculiarly grateful as those who are so interested in recommending Hop Bitters as women.

Feels Young Again

"My mother was afflicted a long time with Neuralgia and a dull, heavy, inactive condition of the whole system; headache, nervous prostration, and was almost 'the blues.' No physician or medicines did her any good. Three months ago she began to use Hop Bitters with such good effect that she seems and feels young again, although over 70 years old. We think there is no other medicine fit to use in the family. A lady in Providence.

BREADFORD, PA., May 8, 1875.

It has cured me of several diseases, such as nervousness, sickness at the stomach, monthly troubles, etc. I have not seen a sick day in a year, since I took Hop Bitters. All my neighbors use them. MRS. FANNIE GREEN.

\$2000 Lost.—A tour of Europe that cost me \$2000, done me less good than one bottle of Hop Bitters; they also cured my wife of fifteen years' nervous weakness, sleeplessness and dyspepsia." R. M., Auburn, N.Y.

High Authority.

Hop Bitters is not, in any sense, an alcoholic beverage or liquor, and could not be sold for use except to persons desirous of obtaining a medicinal bitters. GREEN B. RAUM, U. S. Com. Internal Rev. So. BLOOMINGVILLE, C., May 1, 1879.

Sirs: I have been suffering ten years and I tried your Hop Bitters and it has done me more good than all the doctors. Miss S. S. BOONE.

Baby Saved!

We are so thankful to say that our nursing baby was permanently cured of a dangerous and protracted constipation and irregularity of the bowels by the use of Hop Bitters by its mother, which at the same time restored her to perfect health and strength. The Parents, Rochester, N.Y.

How often do we hear of the sudden fatal termination of a case of croup, when a young life might have been saved by the prompt use of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral! Be wise in time, and keep a bottle of it on hand, ready for instant use.

Travellers in Africa assert that the most certain cure for malarial fever is strong coffee, and that sufferers from the prevalent malaria here would experience immediate relief from its use.

Get HIM OUT OF BED.—I was confined to my bed with Rheumatism, could not move hand or foot. A clergyman called to see me and advised me to use Minard's Liniment. I did so, and in 5 days was out of bed and resumed my work as well as ever. JAMES LANGILLE, Springfield, Annapolis Co., Md. 122 ly

Toad raising is a profitable Austrian industry. The creatures are produced for the London market, where they are sold for \$15 or \$20 per 100, and are bought by gardeners and agriculturists for use in destroying obnoxious insects.

AFTER TWENTY YEARS. A. Lough of Alpena, Michigan, was afflicted for twenty years with dyspepsia and general debility, which all treatment failed until he tried Burdock Blood Bitters, which gave him speedily and permanent relief.

Next year will be the centenary of the death of Dr. Johnson. It is suggested that a statue be erected in London to commemorate his memory.

For toothache, burns, cuts, rheumatism, use Perry Davis' Pain Killer. See adv.

The total number of cinchona trees in Bengal at the end of last year was 4,711,168, while the crop was the largest ever gathered, being 329,980 pounds of dry bark.

MOTHERS! MOTHERS! MOTHERS! Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child who cries and cries with the excruciating pain of cutting teeth? If so, go at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup." It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately, depend upon it; there is no mistake about it. There is not a mother on earth who has ever used it, who will tell you that she hesitates in recommending them as perfectly safe and purely vegetable compounds. The No. 2 is especially adapted for delicate women, advanced stages of consumption, piles, and children of the most tender years. The No. 1 is particularly recommended for the ailments mentioned in the adv., and may be relied on as a perfectly safe preparation, and where persons are exposed to cold or wet will prevent them from taking cold. They say it should be kept in every household.

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