

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON XI. December 10, 1916. Faithful unto death.—Revelation 2: 1-17.

COMMENTARY.—I. Message to the Church at Ephesus (vs. 1-7). 1. Unto the angel. To the pastor, or the one on whom falls the responsibility of caring for the church. Ephesus—Ephesus was situated in the south-western part of Asia Minor. The church there was founded by Paul (Acts 19). Write—John was commissioned to write to the church at Ephesus and to the other churches; but what he wrote to them is written also to us. That holdeth the seven stars, etc.—Compare the description here given by Christ Himself with that found in 1:12-16. 2. I know—Jesus would give the churches to understand that He was fully acquainted with their spiritual and moral condition. Labor—Toil, suffering, patience—Endurance. Canst not bear them: which are evil.—The Christians at Ephesus were zealous for the purity and integrity of the church. Say they are apostles, and are not—Those who falsely claimed to be apostles would be tested by the writings of the evangelists and of Paul. Liars—A strong term. It means that those who intentionally practise deception. 3. Hast not fainted—They had labored and suffered for Jesus' sake and had not become weary. 6. Nevertheless—Thus far Jesus had commended the church at Ephesus and the commendation was strong, but there was a serious failure that must not pass unnoticed. Thou hast loved thy first love—The state of any individual or church that has lost that fervent, soulful love which characterizes a young convert, is deplorable. There may be a form of godliness and many good works, but if there is a loss of the first love, the condition is no pleasing to God. Remember—One who has enjoyed the glowing love, that comes to the soul at conversion can not forget it. Jesus in His message calls upon the "angel" of the church and through him the church itself to repentance. Fallen—It is a sad fall to go down from one's first love to God to a condition of formalism. Repent—This failure calls for repentance, which includes sorrow for the sin and a hearty return to God. Do the first works—That early love was not a mere emotion ending where it began, within the feeling, but put itself forth in works.—Whedon. Will remove the candlestick—The candlestick is the church (1:20), and the church would suffer dissolution unless there should come a return to the Lord. Except thou repent—The responsibility upon the minister of the church is great. 6. But this thou hast—Jesus again commends the church at Ephesus. Deeds of the Nicolaitans—They were a class of professed Christians who attempted to make Christian freedom a license for the commission of wicked acts. 7. To him that overcometh—John in this book as well as in his other writings has much to say about overcoming. The Christian who retains his first love overcomes. II. Message to the church at Smyrna (vs. 8-11). 8. Smyrna—A city forty miles north of Ephesus, and Polycarp, a pupil of John, was at one time the minister of the church. The first and the last—Compare with 1:17, 18. The risen and ever-living Christ. 9. Tribulation—Severe affliction. This is a figure of a thrashing instrument being dragged over grain to separate the straw and chaff from the wheat. Poverty—Lack of earthly goods. But thou art rich—Rich in the possession of eternal life, heavenly treasure and of eternal life. Wasphemy, etc.—There were those who may have been Jews by birth and who professed to be Jews religiously, but did not show themselves to be the followers of Jesus. 10. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer—It is clearly foretold that the church at Smyrna would be called upon to suffer, but the Christians were encouraged by the comforting exhortation not to fear. The devil shall cast, etc.—Satan is represented as the great instigator of persecution against the saints of the Lord. Be thou faithful unto death—This exhortation means not only that Christians should be faithful all their lives long, but that should the faithful even to a martyr's death. A crown of life—Immortal life in glory is represented as the crown which they who are made kings through grace shall receive from the Lord. 11. Shall not be hurt of the second death—The saint's might suffer physical death as martyrs, but eternal death, the second death, with its unending torment, would have no power over them. III. Message to the Church at Pergamos (vs. 12-17). 12. Pergamos—Sixty miles northwest of Smyrna. Sharp sword—Rev. 16, 17. Where Satan's seat is—The god of Pergamos was Asclepias, who was worshipped under the symbol of a serpent. This may have given rise to the thought that Satan had his throne here. Another explanation is that Pergamos was a centre of fierce persecution against Christians. Thou holdest fast my name—Jesus uses strong statements in commendation of the Christians at Pergamos. They had not denied his name even in the face of death. Antipas—Nothing is really known of Antipas except what is given here. He was probably a pastor, or bishop, of the church of Pergamos who suffered martyrdom. Martyr—Witness. 14. Doctrine of Balaam—See Num. 25, 1-3. The account of Balaam and Balak is given in Num. 22:24-35. Doctrine of Nicolaitans—See v. 6, 16. Repent—Turn away from sin. The sins of which the church was guilty called for repentance. Against them—Against those who were sinning against God. With the sword of my mouth—Jesus refers to His words. See 1, 16, 17. The hidden manna—The hidden manna represents spiritual sustenance and the fruit of the tree of life. Reference is made to the pot of manna gathered in the wilderness and placed in the ark of the covenant (Exod. 16, 32-34). White stone—Many different interpretations have been given to this expression, and they cannot be included here for lack of space. It seems to us that the white stone, which is given to overcomers, indicates that they who

receive it are justified and pure, the white stone being an emblem of purity as well as of worth. The new name in the stone stands for assurance of acceptance with God and a revelation of God to the individual soul. Only those who overcome really know God. Questions—Give the names of the seven churches to which Jesus sent messages by John. What is meant by the angel of the church? What similarity is there in the several messages? What was the state of the church at Ephesus? What had the church at Smyrna to suffer? What remedy is proposed for the evils or defects in the churches at Ephesus and Pergamos? PRACTICAL SURVEY. Topic.—Divine admonitions. I. Against declension in vital piety. II. To perseverance under persecution. III. Against compromise with religionists.

I. Against declension in vital piety. In this letter which John was directed to write to the Ephesian church, Christ was presented as holding the stars in his right hand and as walking in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks. He was presented, in some distinct aspect of his character and work, to each of the seven churches, yet these particular symbols applied to all the churches. Holding the stars in his right hand indicated his special care over the ministers of his church, appointing them to their office, imparting qualifications necessary for the effectual discharge of their office, keeping them at his absolute disposal. The symbol of the stars tells of the pastor's duty, to lighten the darkness of ignorance, sorrow and sin. He is to reflect the light of the Sun of Righteousness. He is to keep his appointed course in obedient, reverent service to God. The emblem of the candlestick tells of the character of Christ's people, radiant, cheering, penetrating, beneficent, revealing, manifesting its source, but not itself. The church at Ephesus was threatened with the loss of its very existence. Christ saw beneath their admirable exterior a weakening in the springs of their spiritual life. The Head of the church marked every declension in piety. "First love" was the gem, which he prized most of all. Departure from it was regarded as a grievous fall, which called for prompt and practical repentance. Christ commended the Ephesians for their reluctance to wrong-doing, their patience in toil, their insight into character and their hostility to error. After crediting them with the good they possessed, he reproved them for their declension and urged their reform. His censure pointed to a slackening in those qualities for which they had been commended. The watchword to them was "Remember." They were exhorted to compare and contrast their past with their present. The most solemn part of the message was that in which the Master declared the removal of their candlestick. II. To perseverance under persecution. The letter to the church from Smyrna contained words of cheer from a reigning Saviour to a suffering church. To them he presented his mediating Saviour, knowing all, estimating all, foreseeing all, cheering them amid all, promising light and life at the end of all. The storm of persecution was beating fiercely on the despised community that dared defy the pagan population and their established worship. The church was subjected to the persecution of inveterate enemies and the bigotry and reproach of co-religionists. The poverty which they suffered was directly traceable to the fact of their being Christians. They were in danger of future afflictions and imprisonment. Their history can be compressed into the word tribulation. The Master's "Fear not" indicated how great the peril was of their being crushed and heart-broken. The discerning One discerned the coming storm and cheered his faithful people to stand firm in the day of their suffering and to be faithful even unto death. His words, "I know," afforded unspeakable comfort. His testimony, "Thou art rich," spoke volumes for the genuineness of their lives. III. Against compromise with religionists. The symbol of the two-edged sword indicated Christ's supreme right of judging his people. Pergamos was the incomplete church. It was indifferently to subtle inward influences which were corrupting its teachers and endangering the spiritual life of its members, and thus weakening the power of resistance. In Pergamos there were two forces that made life a battle for the Christian. The Church of Christ and the Temple of Idolatry. The Christians were not enjoined to leave the city on account of its wickedness. Consideration was granted for all their hindrances, and assurance given of a perfect understanding of their peculiar needs. Special strength and highest distinction were embodied in the promise made to the Church of Pergamos upon their faithful return to whole-hearted service and correct discipline. The possibility of triumph was made distinctive to each of the churches. The leadings of the Holy Spirit would be vouchsafed. T. R. A.

SUNDAY AT HOME

SUBMISSION AND REST. The camel at the close of day Kneels down on the sandy plain, To have his burden lifted off, And rest again. My soul, thou, too, shouldst to thy knees When daylight draweth to a close And let thy Master lift thy load And grant repose. Else how canst thou to-morrow meet, With all to-morrow's work to do, If thou thy burden all the night Dost carry through? The camel kneels at break of day To have his guide replace his load.

HOW AND WHY BEEF BREEDS WERE DEVELOPED

Bakewell First Practised Selection, Then the Brothers Colling Developed the Shorthorn, After That Came Other Breeds. Why Pure Blood in Any Herd Brings Profits To-day.

The development of special breeds of domestic animals began in the latter half of the 18th century (1750-1800). Before that remarkable epoch, man had made no steady effort to improve the natural types of animals beyond what could be accomplished by improving on nature in supply of food and shelter. Robert Bakewell first worked out the fundamental principles of scientific breeding, in establishing the Leicester breed of sheep. He showed that, by selecting the best as mates in breeding, the offspring could be secured that were superior, not only to the parents, but to any of their ancestors. Individuals of similar good qualities, bred together, produced those qualities in greater accentuated degree in the offspring. By continuing this process of breeding like to like he evolved a fixed breed of improved sheep. This rule was applied by Bakewell and by others in other lines of improvement, to the extent of breeding members of the same family or blood line, called line breeding, and of breeding close blood relations for successive generations, called in-and-in breeding.

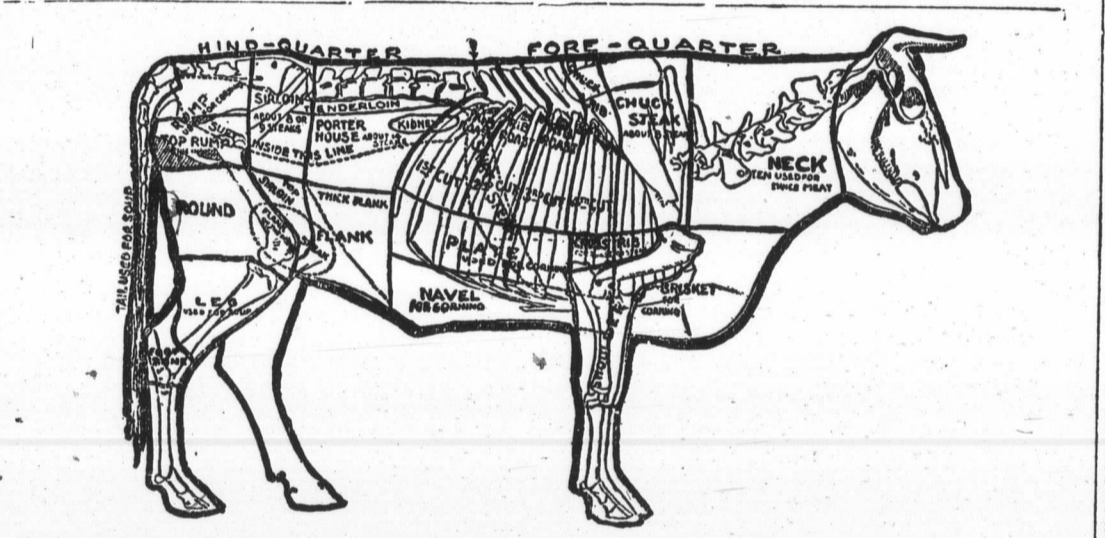
The important lesson to be derived from the creation of breeds is that only animals of good qualities should be used for breeding, and that this is particularly important in the case of the male, a fact which is becoming widely recognized to-day. It is important also to note the intensity of the qualities bred into the animals, resulting from a century of pure breeding. One of these animals, when bred to another of mixed or no particular breeding, will produce offspring more closely resembling itself

than the other parent. From this fact arises the value of such pure bred animals for improving or "grading up" the common, scrub or ill-bred farm animals too generally found. Thus, by using a bull of good qualities and ancestry the whole herd is, in one generation, greatly increased in value, at a medium of cost. ARCHITECTS OF THE SHORTHORN. Toward the end of the 18th century the brothers Colling applied the new principle of selection of mates to the common cattle of the north of England, found in the Teeswater district, and established the Shorthorn breed of cattle. They and others in the first fifty years of improving this breed worked first for the improvement of the beef type and yield but with an eye also to maintaining their natural milking capacity. Before the middle of last century, two English breeders of different ideals evolved two types of Shorthorns. Bates secured improvement in both beef form and milking qualities, aiming at the fitness of bone, head and style. Booth regarded beef form as of sole importance, and was aware that its further development could be secured only by neglecting the milking propensity. He sought to fix in the breed the attributes of deep flesh, breadth of back, depth of quarters and large girth, especially at the fore flank, to give vigorous constitution.

Importations into Canada and the United States at that period were perhaps more largely of the Bates, or milking type, and their influence is seen in the good milking and beefing qualities combined in the common herds of Ontario, New York State, Ohio, and other eastern sections of the continent. The later development of the Shorthorn by its foremost breeders was in the direction taken by Booth. Amos and Anthony Cruickshanks, of Sittyton, in Scotland, were the most pro-

minent of these exponents of Shorthorn type. Attracted by the early maturing and heavy fleshing qualities, shown by good examples of the breed, they established a herd. The Shorthorn breed as revealed in the show rings of three continents to-day is pre-eminently the "Cruick-Shanks" Shorthorn. It is low-set, heavy, broad and deep—in a word, the parallelogram in form. The flesh is deep, especially on loin and hindquarters. The legs, head and neck are short and refined. The coat is covered thickly with fine, mossy hair. In color, red, white and roan are found. Summed up, the Cruickshanks or Scotch Shorthorn differs from its English ancestry in being more positively and more exclusively a beef animal, more deeply fleshed, with great refinement and symmetry, and with no pretensions to milking capacity. Other qualities stamped into the breed by these noted men are rapid and early maturity and strong constitutions. In fact, the things sought for most persistently by them were, in order, constitution, deep wealth of flesh and rapid growth to maturity.

The Highland cattle are not regarded as a utility breed, being small and slow of maturing. Like the Galloway—but more so—they are rugged and hardy foragers, yielding meat of a very fine quality. They are a mountain breed, as the name indicates, and are small in body and of very rugged constitutions. Be a Judge—Know Your Animal. For facility in judging beef animals whether pure bred or not, the following rules may be summarized with ad-



Amos and Anthony Cruickshanks determined to develop a Low-set, Heavy, Broad, Deep Beef Animal, with Fleshing Smooth and Particularly deep on Loin and Hindquarters. The Scotch Shorthorn was the Result. A Study of this chart will explain the increase in valuable cuts he secured.

breeds, yet producing calves capable of highly profitable feeding for beef. In fact, most of the farms of northern and middle England are stocked with milking Shorthorns of this type. Next to the Shorthorn in order of value, in the United States and Canada, is the Hereford. This also is an English breed, originated from the native cattle in the west of England, and accustomed to sparse, hilly pastures. On this account they make hardy "rustlers" for range, and so are favorites on the Western ranges. They are somewhat slower in maturing than the Shorthorns, but not faulty in this respect, and are relatively less heavy in the hindquarter than in forequarter. They are very strong and well fleshed in the back, and the marked development of the chest and heartgirth indicate marked constitution and pronounced ability to give their qualities to their offspring when crossed with common cattle. They are rather inclined to coarseness, however, and to a deficiency in development of the hindquarter. In color they are of a deep cherry red, marked by white face, the white extending down throat to dewlap and usually to hind flank and twist.

THE HARDY POLLED BREEDS. The Aberdeen Angus is purely Scotch in origin, and is especially distinguished from the two English breeds of beef cattle by being polled or hornless, black in color and cylindrical rather than square in general form. Their chief distinction in utility is the fine quality of their flesh and the small proportion of waste on the block. Longer of body in proportion than the English breeds, they are heavily developed in the hindquarter, fine of bone, short and fine haired, smoothly fleshed throughout, and finish without roughness or excess of fat internally or in patches between skin and flesh. Where well "marbled" flesh of finest quality brings a relatively high price, the Aberdeen An-

gus is most profitable. They are smaller at maturity and slower in maturing than are the English breeds, however. Like the Scotch Shorthorn, the Angus is an inferior milker. Like the Aberdeen Angus, the Galloway is native Scotch, polled, black and fine in quality of flesh. It is smaller, however, and lower set with more of the parallelogram shape characteristic of the Shorthorn. It has a heavy coat of long, mossy hair, and is proportionately heavier and sturdier of bone than the Angus. Galloways are rugged and hardy, accustomed in their development to severe winters with little shelter, and to scattered, scanty pasture. The Red Polled of southern England, being a dual-purpose breed, combines, as one would expect, the characteristics of the beef and dairy types. In form it is very similar to the Aberdeen Angus, though less pronounced in the development of those parts most desirable from the butcher's standpoint. In reality it is not so popular for its double purpose as are the milking Shorthorns; the latter being superior milkers, while larger of body and giving a frame which yields more beef when finished.

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vantage. It should be noted that bulls cows and steers have characteristic differences in form which show a variation in details given, and that young animals of various stages of growth exhibit development of the characteristics of maturity in lesser and differing degree. The recognized table of points for beef animals should be studied as the basis of self-training in judging beef cattle. The ability to judge skilfully is an accomplishment of value to any farmer. It is important also to keep in mind the correlation of the parts of the body when buying or selling breeding animals, or when choosing a bull from one's own herd for breeding. This correlation is no less important in stockers or steers for feeding, and in the finished heaves. The bull, for instance, must have pronounced masculinity, as his propretency or ability to give his offspring those excellent qualities he may have, depends upon the vigor which is indicated by the massive, crested neck and head, the deep and wide chest and quick active movements. The cow especially must be of full width between hooks and pin bones, depth and width of chest, and largeness of barrel; which indicates the power of maternity and the good feeding capacity. The steer to be a good feeder, must be refined in bone, short and fine of neck, with small head, broad back and without unduly prominent hook bones or spinal column. The coarse, large head, large horn and long neck indicate a slow, wasteful feeder. Large, coarse bones will yield poorly in the proportion of valuable parts at slaughter.—Canadian Countryman.

He—Did you tell Bones I had a head like a tack? Her—No, I said you were a man of great penetration.—Lampoon. It's all right to be natural, but even the man with false teeth isn't apt to envy the man who suffers from toothache.

tarry to be refreshed, to have our vision purified, and enlarged, and then we go down to duty. There was quiet in the Cavendish Laboratory where Dr. Rendell Harris and a friend were trying to make a magnetic measurement. They could not make out what caused the instrument to behave in so extraordinary a manner, till they discovered that they were working in the neighborhood of some iron pipes, which were falsifying their results. The human heart is an insulator; spiritual influences flow through it, and flow out. It is often the victim of sensations of the moment; success intoxicates, disappointment dejects. The heart is the life. Some day the old nature dies and a new nature is born. A new insulator invades and inspires, spiritual streams flow with the glory of a new light. There is disturbance, there is delight, departure, decision, and destiny, and anchorage in a quiet haven for ever! H. T. Mille.

MARKET REPORTS

Table listing market prices for various goods such as Dairy Produce, Eggs, Poultry, and Vegetables.

SUGAR MARKET. Wholesalers quote on Canadian refined sugars, Toronto delivery, as follows: Royal-Alpha, granulated... 100 lbs. 7.85...

LIVE STOCK. Receipts—461 cattle; 150 calves; 2,675 hogs; 123 sheep. Butcher cattle, choice... 7.20 7.65...

OTHER MARKETS. WINDYBEEF GRAIN EXCHANGE. Wheat—Open, High, Low, Close. Dec. ... 1.87 1/2 1.88 1/2 1.84 1/2 1.81 1/2...

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK. Cattle, receipts 16,000. Native beef cattle... 7.00 12.35...

BUFFALO LIVE STOCK. East Buffalo, Nov. 29.—Cattle, receipts 386; steers 15.

TEN MINUTE COLD CURE RELIEVES ALMOST INSTANTLY. Nothing cures so quickly as the healing Pine Essences of Catarrh-zone. It fills the breathing organs with a healing, soothing vapor that relieves irritation at once.