

# THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson X.—Fourth Quarter, For Dec. 8, 1907.

## THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Ruth 1, 14-22—Memory Verses, 16, 17—Golden Text, Ruth 1, 16—Commentary Prepared by Rev. M. Stearns.

Copyright, 1907, by American Press Association. A beautiful story of the days of the Judges, when there was so much rebellion against God and when for a time "every man did right in his own eyes" (Judg. xvii, 6; xxi, 25). Through God had His Othuel and Gideon and Barak and Jephtha and others and was quietly and surely working out His eternal purpose. The last word in the book, David, tells us one reason why the book was written. The first and last titles of Christ in the New Testament associate Him with David (Matt. 1, 1; Rev. xxii, 16), the name used more than any other in the Scriptures and whose throne is yet to give worldwide blessing. The closing verses of the book inform us as to its ancestry for several generations and that Ruth of our story was his great-grandmother and that her husband Boaz was the son of Rahab of Jericho, both of these women having honorable mention in Matt. 1, in which chapter David is the only man called king, although the names of many kings are given. The story of this book is a foreshadowing of the time when the weary gleaners shall possess the field in that morning when God shall help Israel and the meek shall inherit the earth (Ps. xli, 5, margin; xxxvii, 11; Matt. v, 5). Our kinsman Redeemer, the true mighty man of wealth, shall redeem the inheritance and deliver the whole creation from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God (Rom. viii, 21-23). "The kingdom shall be the Lord's" (Obad. 21).

Some one has outlined the book as follows: Chapter I, Ruth deciding; chapter II, Ruth gleaning; chapter III, Ruth resting; chapter IV, Ruth rewarded. The lesson assigned us is in the first portion, but we must look a little at the context.

It looks as if Elimelech and Naomi made a mistake in going to Moab, but God overruled it as He does all things—to work out His purpose. "Surely the wrath of man shall praise Thee; the remainder of wrath shalt Thou restrain" (Ps. lxxvi, 10). The loss of her husband and two sons in the land of Moab looks to Naomi like a chastening, for she says, "I went out full, and the Lord hath brought me home again empty" (verse 21). The going out was hers; the bringing home was the Lord's. She said, "The hand of the Lord is gone out against me; \* \* \* the Lord hath testified against me; the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me" (verses 13, 20, 21). Yet doubtless she was afterward glad, "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now have I kept Thy word" (Ps. cxix, 67). The fulness of blessing which came to her through Ruth could not have been known unless she had been emptied. Broken and emptied vessels are the kind the Lord uses. The name "Almighty" is suggestive of this, a name first used in Gen. xlvii, 1, and more times in the book of Job than in all the rest of the Bible. Job, although a servant of God, thought a great deal of himself (Job xxxix), but after he had his eyes opened to see and abhor himself he was blessed as never before (chapter xli).

That Naomi should urge her sons' wives to return to their idolatrous homes and people seems strange when she knew the God of Israel to be the only true God, but she was not specially joyful in the Lord about that time and was so lonely herself that she seemed to think only of the temporal welfare of her daughters-in-law. We do not say but that she should at all costs have sought to win the Moabitesses to the true God, but Christians will never win people out of the world by going down into it and being conformed to it. Think how the people of Sodom despised Lot when he pleaded with them. They knew him too well.

Naomi's testimony, on the whole, must have been for God rather than against Him, else Ruth would never have acted or spoken as she did. May her immortal words be ours as we turn to Him who loved us and gave Himself for us (verses 16, 17), and may we indeed be as devoted to Him as she was to Naomi. There is another gentle who always comes before me when I think of Ruth; I mean Itai, the Gittite, who said to David, "As the Lord liveth and as my lord the king liveth, surely in what place my lord the king shall be, whether in death or life, even there also will thy servant be" (II Sam. xv, 21). These gentiles make us think of two others in the gospel story, likewise a man and a woman who greatly refreshed our Lord by their great faith.

The words "steadfastly minded" (verse 18) make us think of Acts vii, 65; xi, 23; I Cor. xv, 58, and work in us a great desire to see "Jesus only" and run with patience looking unto Him.

"So they two went" (verse 19) points us to another instance of great devotion when Elisha refused to leave Elijah because he wanted a double portion of his spirit (II Kings ii, 1-15), and we read, "As they came; they two went on; they two stood; they two went over; they still went on and talked." When we desire to be filled with the Spirit as much as Elisha did that day and see Jesus as intimately as saw Elisha, something will surely come of it to the glory of God.

## GOT HIS SHIRTS.

Comical Frank a Princeton Student Played Upon a Tutor.

In "Princeton—Old and New," by James W. Alexander, is the following story:

"The mode of life was simpler in those days than now, but the same humor which still makes collegians so comic effervesced in the old days. When, for example, William Pennington, son of a former governor of New Jersey and himself afterward speaker of the national house of representatives, roomed next door to Senior Tutor Topping it was the custom for each man to hang on the outside knob of his door the bag containing his soiled clothes for the laundry. "Pennington stuffed his own shirts one day in Tutor Topping's bag and waited for the day when the clean linen was returned and laid out on Topping's bed. Then, knowing that two of the younger tutors were in Topping's room, Pennington knocked at his door. On entering he put on an embarrassed air, as if hesitating to speak in the presence of the other tutors.

"Topping in a lofty way said: 'These gentlemen are my friends. I have no secrets from them. Say what you wish.' Pennington still hemmed and hawed, but again urged to speak, blurted out: 'It is not my fault, Mr. Topping. I did not want to say anything about it now, but as you insist I must ask you to please return the shirts I lent you, as I am in need of them.' "Topping's rage and horror at being thus addressed before the younger tutors, who looked up to him as a Magnus Apollo, may well be imagined. He began to upbraid Pennington, who interrupted him by saying: 'It's no use, Mr. Topping, trying to deny the fact. I see the shirts there on the bed with your own things!' The tutor stood aghast, but Pennington stepped to the bed and picked out his own shirts, marked with his name."

## ST. LOUIS' GOLD MINE.

Traces of the Metal Once Found Within the City Limits.

St. Louis has never been known as a gold mining center, but there was once a gold mine within the limits of the city, and, what is more, it yielded gold, which is more than a great many gold mines in the Rockies have done.

In the sixties of the last century there was a well dug on a hill just east of Carondelet park, and the well diggers, noticing some bright, sparkling yellow particles in the clay at the bottom, did a little washing on their own account and found several grains of gold in the pan. The news soon got abroad, and two ex-miners from the west who were living in the neighborhood quickly got the idea that there was money to be made in St. Louis gold mining, so they sank a shaft not far from the well, fully expecting rich returns from their work. They did actually find gold, but in quantities so small that they estimated a yield of about 15 cents per ton of clay, so they filled up the hole and gave up the undertaking in that place as a bad job.

But they had all the miner's enthusiasm, and the fact that they found gold at all merely stimulated their zeal to try in another place, so they went to the side of a hill where the Glaise creek had washed away the earth and made a clay precipice. They dug a hole there, where they also found traces of the precious metal, but in no greater quantities than before. Then they went up the creek about a quarter of a mile and sank another shaft, with no better result. They spent the whole spring and summer digging holes around in the neighborhood of the park, but the only benefit they realized from their work was the sobriquet "two lunatics," and people laughed at them so much that both left and went back west, where digging holes in the search for gold was taken more seriously than in St. Louis.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

## Theater Seats.

The seats were in the orchestra on the theater's left. "The left side of the house always sells out first," said the box office man. "Everybody seems to prefer it to the right. I don't know why. Boxes especially—we can sell two left to one right box every time. Nobody takes the right side for choice. And there is no reason for this. As much goes on in the right extremity of the stage as in the left—we proprietors always look after that—and you see just as much from the right as from the left side. Why, then, is the left side always at a premium?"—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

## The Name Bismarck.

Few people know how Bismarck and his ancestors got their name. Bismarck is the name of one of those ancient castles a short distance from Stendal, on the road from Cologne to Berlin, in the center of the old marquisate of Brandenburg. The castle had this name because it defended the "marca," or the line where the river Biese formed a boundary in former times or mark of defense against intruders; hence the name of Bismarck.

## When Greek Meets Greek.

"Gracious, my dear," said the first society belle, "I do hope you're not ill; you look so much older tonight." "I'm quite well, thank you, dear," replied the other. "And you—how wonderfully improved you are! You look positively young!"—Philadelphia Press.

Facts are God's arguments. We should be careful never to misunderstand or pervert them.—Edwards.

Nothing is so new as what has long been forgotten.—German Proverb.

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## LEGAL NOTICES.

### MORTGAGE SALE.

Pursuant to a mortgage deed executed on the 30th day of January 1906, by C. C. Childers, and L. L. Childers his wife, of Randolph County and State of North Carolina, to the first part, W. C. Hicks of Randolph County and State of North Carolina, party of the second part, and the same being filed for registration in the Office of Register of Deeds of Randolph County, State of North Carolina, on the 15th day of February 1906, at 9 o'clock a. m., and duly recorded in Book No. 109 Page 302, default having been made in the payment of the same, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the Court House door in Asheboro, Randolph County, North Carolina, on Monday, December 23rd 1907, at 10 o'clock p. m., the following described tract of land in the County of Randolph, State of North Carolina, in Trinity Township, adjoining the lands of Joseph Welborn, J. J. White and others, and bounded as follows, viz: Beginning at a point, J. A. Welborn's corner; thence North 175 poles to a black oak to J. J. White's line; thence East 81 poles to the Ousewater; thence with the grandieries of Ousewater River 1/2 miles; thence East 1/2 mile to the west bank of Ousewater River; thence North 50 degrees West 1/2 poles and to Hills to a sand-pile, thence South 28 1/2 degrees West 40 poles and 20 links to a stone fence's corner; thence West 56 poles to the beginning containing 109 acres more or less.

W. C. HICKS, Mortgagee, W. D. WELBORN, Assignee.

### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of Mrs. E. F. Riser, late of W. C. Hamilton's, Clerk Superior Court for Randolph County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned, duly verified on or before the 25th day of November 1907, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons liable to said estate are expected to make immediate payment.

This 15th day of November, 1907. JOHN T. BRITTAIN, Administrator.

### NORTH CAROLINA. In the Superior Court.

RANDOLPH COUNTY, Frances Stewart, Plaintiff, vs. Frank Stewart, Anne Lassiter, Elizabeth Owsen, William Stewart, Eliza J. Foster and husband, Prater, Jefferson Stewart, William Henry Stewart, B. H. Stewart, art and S. May Stewart both married to persons unknown, Mary Stewart, Anna Stewart and other unknown heirs-at-law of Henry Stewart, Defendants.

The defendants, Eliza J. Prater and husband, Prater, Jefferson Stewart, Henry William Stewart, Beina Stewart and S. May Stewart both married to persons unknown, Mary Stewart, Anna Stewart and other unknown heirs-at-law of Henry Stewart, deceased will give notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Randolph County, to sell a certain parcel of and situated in Collier Grove's township in said county for division among the heirs, in conformity with what are the defendants, and the said plaintiffs will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court for the County of Randolph at the Courthouse in Asheboro, N. C., on the 21st day of December, 1907, and answer to the petition in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the court for the relief demanded in said petition.

This 20th day of November, 1907. W. C. HAMMOND, Clerk Superior Court.

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