

THE LESSON FOR SUNDAY

Third Quarter, Lesson IX, Numbers xlii, 17-20, 22-25.

The wilderness of the Sinai Peninsula, "great and terrible," was the school for His people. There He taught them the law and worship. The course of study covered a whole year. The graduation was to have occurred at Kadesh. Sin and folly marred it all. The "Commencement" of Israel in Canaan was set back a generation.

The appointment of the spies was a gross insult to Jehovah. He had assured the people that the land was good. He had promised the possession of it to them. That should have been enough. In the Lord's name, they ought to have set up their banners, and gone up at once to possess it. The long vista back to Egypt was studied with the memorials of God's faithfulness and power. The fact that he had been so mindful of them in the past should have been to them a pledge of future blessing.

They should have reasoned, "If God could take us out of the invincible clutch of a great world-power, Egypt, who prevents His planting us securely in Canaan?" but in the epidemic of fear, the breaking of Pharaoh's inflexible will, the plagues of their cruel oppressors, the deliverance at the Red Sea, and at Rephidim, awakened a "fearful manner," the wisdom of Sinai, all were forgotten. Israel conferred with flesh and blood in preference to taking counsel of the Lord, with the invariable and miserable outcome of such a course.

By this very deed the people showed their unfitness to enter the land of promise. A more palpable exhibition could scarcely be conceived of. The Lord acceded to their request, but knew that in doing so Canaan was as effectually closed to Israel as Eden was to the first guilty pair.

Moses, with the consent of the Lord, proceeded to choose, with the greatest care possible, a prince from each tribe. No doubt he strongly hoped that their report would restore the esprit de corps of the wavering host.

To this day Palestine is sort of bridge between Asia and Africa, on which there are always strangers passing back and forth. This little company would not necessarily attract attention, especially as they were probably attire das Egyptians, and likely spoke the language of that country fluently. If ever they got into close quarters, they might be trusted to get out by their wits. They belonged to a race notorious for finesse.

For the sake of greater security and more thorough exploration they may have gone by twos or threes. They crossed the south-land, which borders Canaan between the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea, and then probably threaded their way up the Jordan Valley as far north as snow-capped Hermon, returning by the lowlands along the sea, with occasional side-trips into the highlands. What memories an demotions must have been stirred in their minds as, here and there, they came to places indubitably associated with the names and lives of the patriarchs, until at length they stood at Hebron, where, four hundred years before Abraham had pitched his tent and reared his altar!

After an absence of forty days, they returned to the camp of Israel, bringing with them samples of fruits that would have put to shame the best exhibit of a modern horticultural society. The people had waited exactly as long for the return of these explorers as they had for the return of Moses from Mount Sinai, and much more patiently. Their report was listened to with avidity.

The exordium of the report was gracious. It pleaded, in the Jewish language of the Orient, the elemental fruitfulness of Canaan. The whole congregation of Israel had a striking confirmation of their words in the huge purple cluster from Eshcol, besides the pomegranates and figs.

But the exordium was short. It was a mere ornamental fringe to a body, the warp of which was unbelief and the woof distrust. "The land is desirable, of course, but its possession is impracticable." The towering stature, the invincible prowess, the vast number of the inhabitants, are pictured with most dispiriting effect. The Hebrews were accustomed to the sight in Egypt of ponderous fortifications. But these were on the dead level of the Nile Valley. To see such walls lifted upon the top of inaccessible cliffs would produce the extreme effect of impregnability. They could hardly tell where the natural base left off and the artificial superstructure began. The cities seemed walled to the very heavens.

They name five fierce nations inhabiting the land, who would at once form a league offensive and defensive against any invaders. And the Hebrews, dwarfed by four hundred years of cruel servitude, would only appear like grasshoppers before those sturdy and iron sons of the highland and lowland.

Two men hang that jury of spies, Caleb and Joshua dauntless souls, full of faith, demand a hearing. They hush, for a moment at least, the ever-augmenting murmur of disappointment, distrust, and incipient rebellion. They admit the difficulties, but at the same moment sound the bugle-call of faith: "Let us go up at once and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it!"

But infidelity is now rampant. The 10 faithless explorers reiterate the inability of Israel to cope with the gigantic Nephthim. They also interpolate a sinister hint against the land itself, as if it were impregnated with some deadly plague that consumed all who set foot upon it.

Demoralization is now complete. The whole congregation spend a night in weeping. On every side the exclamation is heard: "Death in Egypt would have been better than this." Treason and revolt are in the air. The proposition is openly made to elect a captain to lead them back to Egypt. In vain do Moses and Aaron prostrate themselves before the assembly, and Joshua and Caleb rend their clothes.

The people have said: "Would God we had died in this wilderness," and God takes them in their word. He announces death in the wilderness as the very penalty of this their revolt against him. But in evidence of his power which they had so mistrusted, he assured them he would bring their little ones, whose cruel fate they had deprecated into the land which they themselves should never see.

Responsibility of possession affirmed.

1. Ministry reports of Caleb and Joshua. 2. High-council of faith. 3. Evidence of fear and infidelity. 4. Complete demoralization. 5. Death in desert penalty. 6. 17-20. Pharaoh's part.

THE TEACHER'S LANTERN.

The inevitable eruption of sin at special moments in national and personal history, with all its train of disastrous consequences, is well calculated to stupify and illustrate its damning nature.

While Moses was bringing the law down from Sinai, the people were making and worshipping a golden calf in the plain. When the beautiful tabernacle was completed, the priest-hood instituted, and the ritual prescribed, two drunken young priests went reeling into the sacred place and presence with strange fire in their censers. So in this instance, when Israel stood at length on the threshold of Canaan, fully equipped to enter there was a cowardly halt, the use of a human expedient which discounted the truthfulness, fidelity, and power of God. The lapse was complete.

Caleb and Joshua had a close call to martyrdom. The stones were uplifted. God and His servants were openly and grossly insulted. The election of a new captain, and a return to Egypt were proposed.

How insidious the approaches of sin! The Hebrews had no idea of going to such lengths when they began.

"Quick as the apple of an eye, O God, my conscience make; Awake my soul when sin is nigh, And keep it still awake."

Again Moses appears in the lovely role of the mediator. Humble and disinterested, forgiving and patriotic, his mouth was full of arguments to God in behalf of sinners. He prevailed.

Too late, Israel repented their refusal to enter the land of promise. They added the sin of presumption to that of unbelief and rebellion. The next day, without the ark or presence of their leaders, they hurled themselves against the Amalekites and Canaanites. As well might Adam and Eve have thrown themselves upon the angels' chariot, flashing every way at the gate of a lost paradise.

THE SECESSIONS IN LINE.

A Movement on Foot to Have an A. R. P. Summer Resort at Black Mountain.—Mr. R. O. Alexander interested.

A number of lots at Black Mountain may be sold to prominent members of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church if the plans of Mr. R. O. Alexander and R. M. Boyce, of Due West, S. C., do not miscarry. Mr. Alexander owns 450 acres of fine land at Black Mountain. Recently he installed a gravity system of water and sewerage. Mr. Boyce is president of the Due West Female College, and an influential member of the A. R. P. Church. It is his scheme to interest a number of his friends in the project, purchase a number of lots, and hold a conference and religious meetings there during the summer. Mr. Alexander has agreed to erect a pavilion if a certain number of lots are sold. What Montreal is to the Presbyterian, Black Mountain may be to the Associate Reformed Presbyterians.

A MAGNIFICENT COIT.

Parolean King, Mr. W. S. Biggers' Blooded Horse, Splendid Specimen of Horse Flesh.

One of the finest colts ever seen in the city is "Parolean King" the property of Mr. W. S. Biggers, of No. 262 East Morehead street. He is but 15 months old, stands a little over 14 hands high and weighs 840 pounds. He is out of Parole, the champion early speed sire of 1906 whose 4-year record was 2:15. His dam is Dabibel, a product of Billy Wilkes. On both sides his breeding is of the best and those who have examined him say that he is one of the most promising horses ever brought to the State. He was bought by Mr. Biggers months ago, who registered him in the American Trotting Association.

Mr. Biggers drove Parolean King up town Wednesday and a great crowd gathered about him to look him over. For trim limbs and fine lines, a more splendid specimen of horse flesh has seldom been seen in the city.

Senator Simmons Makes Appointments.

Special to The Observer.

Statesville, Aug. 29.—Senator F. M. Simmons announces, through his clerk, Mr. A. D. Watts, the following appointments: To the United States Military Academy at West Point, John Groves Billings, of Pine Creek, Alleghany county, principal; Thomas W. Ferguson, of Kendall, Wilkes county, first alternate; Bruce H. Carraway, of Lenoir county, second alternate. To the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Clinton W. Morgan, of Hertford, Perquimans county, principal; Frank W. Wilson, of Greenville, Pitt county, first alternate; Belknap Battle, of Asheville, second alternate; R. C. Warlick, of Jacksonville, Onslow county, third alternate.

News Notes From Evergreen.

Special to The Observer.

Evergreen, Aug. 29.—Our town here is passing through a most gracious revival. The pastor of the M. E. church here is being assisted by Rev. Fred Brown, formerly of Red Springs. Mr. Brown is a young man who has recently entered our ministry and is a man thoroughly filled with God's spirit. Having been tempted himself, he knows how to reach the great masses. Our people have fallen greatly in love with this eminent young man who is doing so much for our Master's Kingdom.

Next Saturday there will be a great gathering of our Baptist folks here, it being the annual Sunday school anniversary of a number of Baptist Sunday schools. We are looking forward to a great time.

"Regular as the Sun."

Is an expression as old as the race. No doubt the rising and setting of the sun is the most regular performance in the universe unless it is the action of the liver and bowels when regulated with Dr. King's New Life Pills. Guaranteed by all druggists. 25c.

The Limit of Life.

The most eminent medical scientists are unanimous in the conclusion that the generally accepted limitation of human life is many years below the attainment possible with the advanced knowledge of which the race is now possessed. The critical period that determines its duration seems to be between 40 and 50; the proper care of the body during the decade cannot be too strongly urged; carelessness then being fatal to longevity. Nature's best helper after 40 is Electric Bitters, the scientific tonic medicine that revitalizes every organ of the body. Guaranteed by all Druggists. 25c.

THE COLLEGE STUDENTS.

Large Delegation About to Leave Charlotte—University Gets 22.

Probably the largest delegation in the history of the city will go out within the next few days to the various colleges of the State and to the University. A list which is complete so far as obtainable, and probably nearly so, is given perewith. The University leads with 22, the Agricultural and Mechanical College is next with 13, while Davidson follows with 8.

SIX GAMES OF BALL.

Two Crack Teams of the South Atlantic League to Play in the City Next Month—The Players.

The two picked teams of the South Atlantic League which are to play a series of six match games of ball in Charlotte from the 9th to the 14th of next month come well recommended. The personnel of the two teams is as follows:

Charlotte Champions—Reisinger, catcher; Wilkison, first base; Logan, second base; Morris, (captain), shortstop; Lewis or Griffin, third base; Meyers, right field; Howard, center field; Mullis, left field; Hoff, Schwenk, Paige and White, pitchers.

Ranicki—Robinson and Fox catchers; Evans, first base; Lally, second base; Dooin or McMahon, shortstop; Lipe, third base; Kanzier, right field; Burt (captain), center field; Lohr, left field; Lee, Savidge and Holmes, pitchers.

From Charlotte the two clubs will go to Salisbury for a series of three games, playing there the 16th, 17th and 18th. They will play in Greensboro the 19th, 20th and 21st. Jumping then into Virginia, the two will separate, and match games with the league clubs in that State will follow.

Those who will go to Davidson: Battle Irwin, George Wilson, E. T. Cansler, Jr., Parks Rhyne, Wallace Long, Parks Davis, J. L. McChintock and Horace Johnston.

Those who will go to the Agricultural and Mechanical College: Olin and Carl Sadler, Rufin Smith, Edwin Wadsworth, Malcolm Bradford, Vaughn Byrum, Ralph Freeman, Howard Brown, John Wilson, Frank McDowell, John Craven, Joe McCoy, Jackson Beall, Walter Cowies, Charlie Mc-

Advertisement for Long-Tate Clothing Co. featuring a man in a suit and the text: 'Young Men are You Going to School This Fall? Won't you need a new Suit? If so, our College Clothes need no second introduction to well dressed young men. They breathe the very atmosphere of the college campus. Bigger in quality and lower in price than any young men's clothes you'll see anywhere. Costs you nothing to try one on. (Goods sent on Approval Returnable at Our Expense) LONG-TATE CLOTHING CO.'

Advertisement for Hotel Clegg Greensboro, N. C. featuring a horse and the text: 'HOTEL CLEGG GREENSBORO, N. C. Newly furnished throughout. American plan \$2.50 and upward per day. European plan \$1 and upward per day. W. F. CLEGG, Prop't.'

Advertisement for The Pleasure of an Outing featuring a bottle of June Apple Juice and the text: 'The Pleasure of an Outing. or the happiness of a home can be greatly increased by the refreshing comfort of "June Apple Juice." The pungent, snappy flavor of freshly gathered, tree-ripened apples makes it a favorite with all who have tried it. Sterilized and absolutely free from alcohol, it is a most delightful home beverage; and exercises an exhilarating influence upon the entire system. When you have that "all gone" feeling, try a glass. Sold at all grocers, etc. Sold only in bottles bearing label and June Apple Juice crown stopper. MANUFACTURED BY THE RED ROCK CO., Atlanta, Ga. MAKERS OF RED ROCK'

Advertisement for Purcell's Ladies' Specialty Store featuring a woman in a corset and the text: 'PURCELL'S Ladies' Specialty Store PURCELL'S Never Were CORSET VALUES Better Demonstrated Than by the NEW STYLES of the Famous Royal Worcester Corsets Prices: \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$3.00. For over forty years these reliable corsets have maintained a standard of excellency which has placed them Above Comparison For two generations they have increased in popularity solely upon their merit. Merit which springs from honest materials and honest labor and from conscientious study of the requirements of the figure combined with a determination to give the best possible value. You are asked to examine their sterling qualities at our CORSET DEPARTMENT. Merode Underwear PURCELL'S Onyx Hose'

Advertisement for Mida Lithia Water featuring a woman and the text: 'WHAT A BLESSING. Many Charlotte People Are Learning to Appreciate. What a blessing it is! Sought after by thousands. Charlotte is finding it out. Many a miserable man is happy now. Nights of unrest, days of trouble. Any itching skin disease means this. Itching Piles mean it. Eczema just as bad and just as bad to cure. But Doan's Ointment relieves at once and cures all itching of the skin. A blessing to a suffering public. Here's a Charlotte proof to back our statement: J. R. A. Alexander, who lives in Charlotte, N. C., Pine street, says: "I have used Doan's Ointment for itching hemorrhoids with excellent results. I got a box at R. H. Jordan & Co.'s store and gave it a thorough trial. I found it gave me more relief than anything of the kind I have ever used. I have not been bothered with my old trouble since I used it. You have a splendid remedy and I am glad to recommend it to others." For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other. GEM DINING ROOM. is the occupation of witches. It's complicated to its greatest degree when you're asked to think about something connected with this restaurant. STIRRING THE SOUP is where the magic art of cookery comes in for the first item that precedes the dinner course. Our menu from beginning to finish creates a "stir" as to its excellence and moderateness of price. Eat here and you'll be contented and well fed. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.'

Advertisement for Mechanics' Perpetual Building and Loan Association featuring a rooster and the text: 'SUBSCRIBE TO THE 50th SERIES OPENS SEPTEMBER 1st The Mechanics' Perpetual Building and Loan Association now of an authorized capital of \$5,000,000 with nearly \$2,000,000 subscribed makes here by the announce to the public that the 50th SERIES will commence September 1st and the first payment to be made on the first Saturday—the 7th of September. The 49th series having reached the unprecedented volume of 3,836 shares, we are encouraged to hope for the 50th to be equally as large if not larger in volume. Investments in shares in the Mechanics' Perpetual is no longer confined to this city or county, nor even to the "State" as we are daily receiving inquiries from every part of the country with a view of investing in shares with us—and as a matter of fact—we have already, ere we make this announcement, our 600 shares subscribed for. The subscription books for the 50th are now open at our office 207 North Tryon street. Very respectfully, R. E. COCHRANE, Sec. & Treas. S. WITKOWSKY, Pres.'