

**THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

LESSON XII. FOURTH QUARTER. INTERNATIONAL SERIES, DEC. 20.

**Text of the Lesson.** I Kings x, 1-10 and Matt. ii, 1-12—Memory Verses. I Kings x, 6-9; Matt. ii, 10-11—G. I. de Texts, Prov. xxix, 2, and Matt. i, 21—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

Copyright, 1903, by American Press Association. As we have a choice of lessons for this week, or, better still, two good lessons which nicely run together, we purpose giving a summary of each. In each lesson we see the great ones of earth coming from far countries to worship the Lord, the King of Israel, and to bring Him gifts, pointing us onward to the time when Isa. ix, 1-3, 10, 31, and the whole chapter as well as all the prophecies concerning Israel's future glory shall be fulfilled in the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.

As to the lesson in I Kings x, concerning the queen of Sheba, the fact that this visit is fully recorded both here and in II Chron. ix, and that our Lord Jesus Himself referred to it (Matt. xii, 42) marks it as an event of more than ordinary importance, and our Lord's reference to it points to a time and fulfillment yet future. It was not the fame of Solomon, but the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, that led her to visit Jerusalem, and she looked upon Solomon as king for the Lord his God, sitting on His throne (II Chron. ix, 8). She brought much gold and precious stones and abundance of spices, but King Solomon gave her all her desire, whatsoever she asked, in addition to that which he gave her of his royal bounty. She also conversed with him of all that was in her heart, and by his God given wisdom he told her all her questions. She came laden with presents for the famed king and possibly thinking a good deal of herself, but she confessed that the half of his glory had not been told her, and she returned to her own land emptied of self and laden with his favors. A sight of the glory of God to the face of Jesus Christ will effectually blind us as to the importance of self and the attractiveness of this present world. See Acts vii, 1-5; xxvi, 12-20; Job xlii, 5, 6; Isa. vi, 5; Dan. x, 8.

When His word is our guide, His glory our aim, His will our delight, Himself our all in all, we shall be blind to all else. In the land she had heard of Solomon, and his God (verse 6) must have borne the name of the Lord, and she did not believe that she had seen the King of Israel.

**MIXED METAPHORS.**

The industrious Mr. Lucy has lately been collecting a bundle of mixed metaphors, Irish and others, which he has heard from his high perch in the gallery of the house of commons. The Chronicle has one quite worthy to be added to the collection, for it says that "Mr. Balfour's sheep hoped for bread, but he gave them a stone." The image of a hungry Southdown sniffing at a loaf in the hope of finding it edible and then breaking his teeth on a geological specimen is full of pathetic beauty. But really all disturbances of style in the discussion of the fiscal question are only symptoms of the disturbance of mind and spirit which Mr. Chamberlain has caused, and the immortal Mrs. Lirripér herself, no bad hand at a confusion of metaphors, might have truly said that his bombshell has "bred fruitful hot water for all parties concerned." — Manchester Guardian.

**He Knew What He Was.**

There are times when the most tactful of men are taken aback by some unexpected retort. Such an experience befell King Edward of England in connection with the visit of the South African contingent of colonial troops to London at the termination of the Boer war. One of the Cape scouts was an unmistakable mulatto, with a magnificent record for gallantry, however. The king was reviewing the men, walking down their extended line, and occasionally speaking to one of them. Opposite the colored man he stopped.

"And who are you, my man?" he asked.  
"I'm a nigger, youah majesty."  
The "most tactful ruler in Europe" was nonplused by the unlooked-for reply, but he managed to say: "Good! Then remain so, my brave fellow." With this he passed on.—Success.

**Plants That Shoot Arrows.**

The arrows are crystal needles of exalate of lime of microscopic dimensions and are shot from minute capsule shaped bodies found in the tissues of such plants as the Indian turnip and the Polynesian taro. Dr.

**Women as Well as Men Are Made Miserable by Kidney and Bladder Trouble.**

Kidney trouble preys upon the mind, discourages and lessens ambition; beauty, vigor and cheerfulness soon disappear when the kidneys are out of order or diseased.

Kidney trouble has become so prevalent that it is not uncommon for a child to be born afflicted with weak kidneys. If the child urinates too often, if the urine scalds the flesh, or if, when the child reaches an age when it should be able to control the passage, it is yet afflicted with bed-wetting, depend upon it, the cause of the difficulty is kidney trouble, and the first step should be towards the treatment of these important organs. This unpleasant trouble is due to a diseased condition of the kidneys and bladder and not to a habit as most people suppose.

Women as well as men are made miserable with kidney and bladder trouble, and both need the same great remedy. The mild and the immediate effect of **Swamp-Root** is soon realized. It is sold by druggists, in fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles. You may have a sample bottle by mail free, also a Home of Swamp-Root pamphlet telling all about Swamp-Root, including many of the thousands of testimonial letters received from sufferers cured. In writing Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., be sure and mention this paper. Don't make any mistake, but remember the name, Swamp-Root, Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root, and the address, Binghamton, N. Y., on every bottle.

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chemistry, describes the extraordinary spectacle he beheld in the field of his microscope when the "bombs" contained in a drop of taro pulp began to discharge their arrows. Sometimes only one or two needles and sometimes groups of four to ten were discharged at once, the bomb recoiling as the projectiles left it. Dr. Wiley suggests that the intense burning and pricking experienced in chewing such plants as those described are due to the release and discharge of these crystal arrows when the plant tissues are crushed in the mouth.

**The Blase Shah.**

The shah of Persia, who received some months ago from his English friend the order of the Garter, is said to have the most tired appearance of any of the reigning sovereigns. His eyes are wearied by the sight of every luxury. During his visit to England all the statuary was removed from Marlborough House out of regard for his susceptibilities, but he showed small interest in his surroundings. One toy did excite his interest, however, and this was a tiny jeweled bird, which sang delightfully. The shah shoots excellently and has only sixty odd wives, as compared with the 1,720 of his predecessor.—Leslie's Weekly.

**The Enjoyable Part.**

Mrs. Church—Do you enjoy going to the theater?  
Mrs. Gotham—No, I can't say that I do. The cars are so frightfully crowded, don't you know. But I always enjoy it after I get there.—Yonkers Statesman.

We have neither learned right the Christmas lesson or ser lesson aright unless we each for ourselves come to Him, seeing Him as our own personal and bringing to Him all we would have as a glad thank offering. He may use us and it to our advantage known to others. It was a name known to them from the east that led them from the east to Herod, when they turned aside to Herod, when they turned aside the star, God graciously restored the star, and led them to the child. I am sure those who turn not aside from following Him (Heb. xii, 1, 2; Pa. ixli, 1).

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show forth the... we... to... and... out... light... told... men... and... in heaven... Many among the... for the first time... of God and of the redemption... in Christ Jesus for them ask. "How long have you known this?" "Why did you not come and tell us sooner that our fathers might have heard it?" "How can people believe in Him of whom they have not heard?" (Rom. x, 14.) What shall we say at the judgment seat of Christ concerning our unfaithfulness to the trust committed to us to proclaim repentance and remission of sins in His name among all nations? (Luke xxiv, 46-48.)

Concerning the Christmas lesson in Matt. ii, 1-12, and the familiar story of the wise men who came from the east to see and worship the King of the Jews, how few among believers ever think of Him or speak of Him as the one who is yet to rule God's people Israel! (Verse 6.) The words in Isa. ix, 6, 7, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given," are so familiar and so much said and sung at the Christmas time, but shall we hear anything of the rest of the passage, of the throne of David and of Christ as sitting upon it and of the government that shall be upon His shoulder and of the peace when He shall reign? (Luke i, 32, 33; Isa. xxxii, 1, 17.) If not, are we faithful teachers, or do we shun to declare the whole counsel of God because perchance it might offend some? We may have to wait until "the morning" to know all we would like to about these men—who they were, how many there were, what they knew about the King of the Jews and how they knew, what land they came from, what was the effect of their tidings upon their countrymen when they returned, etc.—but they make us think of Ps. lxxii, 10, 11; Jer. iii, 17, 18; Zech. xiv, 16, as well as Isa. ix.

That Herod and all Jerusalem should be troubled because of Him makes us think of Rev. vi, 15-17, when kings and mighty men and all, great or small, shall be so troubled that they shall cry to mountains and rocks to crush them because of the wrath of the Lamb. According to the custom of our time, these men should have given gifts the one to the other when they saw the child, but instead of that they gave all to Him.