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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lesson XII.—First Quarter, For March 19, 1916.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Acts viii, 4-17. Memory Verses, 5, 6—Golden Text, Acts viii, 3, 1. c.—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

The persecution of the saints, which began with the murder of Stephen, continued under Saul as a leader or at least a very active persecutor, for he is said to have entered every house and committed men and women to prison. The persecution was so great that it is said that all the believers, except the apostles, were scattered abroad through Judea and Samaria, but they were everywhere preaching the word, and thus God made the wrath of man to praise Him (verses 1-4; Pa. ixvii, 10). Philip, the second of the seven Spirit-filled men who were chosen to serve baptism, now comes to the front as a preacher and is the prominent worker in the rest of this chapter. First we see him preaching Christ in the city of Samaria and working miracles, the people giving heed with one accord so that there was great joy in that city, many men and women believing the words of Philip concerning Jesus and the kingdom of God and confessing the same by baptism (verses 5-8, 12).

There was a man in Samaria who had been bewitching and deceiving the people by sorcery, drawing people to himself as a great man, but when he saw greater works wrought by Philip he was naturally humbled. This man professed himself a believer and was baptized. But Peter and John, having come from Jerusalem to help in the good work, found him out when he offered them money if they would give him the power of the Holy Spirit (verses 9-20). The gifts of God cannot be bought, nor does a true messenger of Christ ever seek any honor or glory for himself, for the Lord Jesus never sought. His own will nor the own glory and told the people that they could believe unless they sought honor from God only (John 8, 30, 44; vi, 28; viii, 50). The Holy Spirit never honors any man, but through men honors Jesus Christ.

We must cease from men and see no man save Jesus only (Isa. li, 22; Mark 15, 8). When Peter and John had helped the believers in Samaria, they also preached the word of the Lord in the Samaritan villages as they journeyed back to Jerusalem (14 to 17 and 25). The Lord Jesus had said before His ascension that when they received the power of the Holy Spirit they would be His witnesses not only in Jerusalem and Samaria, but unto the uttermost part of the earth (Acts i, 8). The first part was being fulfilled, but some of the ends of the earth have not heard yet after nearly 1,000 years. How great is His patience! In the power of God, manifest in the words and works of the apostles and evangelists, we have seen something of the later part of heaven in the work of giving the good news to men. We have also seen the ministry of angels in taking Peter and John out of prison and sending them to preach in the temple (chapter v, 19, 20), and now, while Philip is busy in the midst of this great work in Samaria, a messenger from heaven is sent to him to tell him to leave it all and go away down to the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza, but seemingly without giving any reason as to why he should do this.

Did ever a busy preacher of the gospel receive such a strange command? There did not seem to be any reason or common sense in it, but rather an interference with a great soul saving work. Might not Philip seem justified in saying, as Nehemiah once did, "I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down" (Neh. vi, 3). It was an evil spirit who was seeking Nehemiah, but it was the risen Christ who sent His angel to Philip because he saw a man of Ethiopia returning from Jerusalem with out having heard the gospel, although the apostles were at Jerusalem. I see two or three important things here—The necessity of trying the spirits to see whether they are of God (1 John 4, 1-3), the necessity of always making plain the way of life in Christ lest some hungry seeking soul may go away without knowing how to be saved and the necessity of prompt obedience when God speaks, no matter how unreasonable it may seem to us. We are glad to see that Philip arose and went (verse 27). If he had any committee to consult he would probably have been hindered; but, like Samuel, he was a man of God and had an ear for God and a willing heart. It is certainly most interesting to see this traveler, this treasurer of the queen of Ethiopia, reading the book of Isaiah as he journeyed and to be just at the place which told of a suffering Messiah, which we call Isa. liii, 7, 8, when a stranger appeared in the chariot, and hearing the words being read (for he was evidently reading) to be glad to obey, he asked, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" This followed the invitation to Philip to read and to explain the Scripture, and we see

EARLY VEGETABLES.

Everything Depends Upon the System of Transplanting.

Fully 90 per cent of the people who start a little vegetable garden with a view to marketing their produce complain that they are unable to get a fair price for their produce, says William Galloway in *Kimball's Dairy Farmer*. The reason is simple. Prices are regulated by supply and demand.

When the average grower takes his cabbage, tomatoes and cauliflower to market he finds his neighbors are all there with their produce too. The market is overstocked, and prices in consequence of competition are low. The man making big money today with vegetables is the one who can get his produce upon the market before his neighbors. This is so comparatively easy that any one with the average garden outfit can do it.

Buy your seeds early. Prepare your hotbed and get them started. Maybe you have no hotbed and perhaps do not know how to prepare one. Let me tell you. The best time to prepare a hotbed is about the beginning of March.

Get a few loads of fresh stable manure, sufficient to cover the space you intend to use. Spread it upon to a depth of not less than thirty inches; pack down firmly, then place your frame on the manure. The manure should extend at least a foot beyond the sides of the frame. Cover the manure inside the frame with six inches of sifted soil. The frame will then be ready for hotbed planting. The market for covering can be bought for about 75 cents each and will last for years.

Now we come to the real secret of early vegetables. Everything depends upon the system of transplanting. When the young plants are ready for transplanting, prick them off into pots or cans sufficiently large to allow of good growth; have the tomato pots not less than four inches across and the cabbage and cauliflower and similar plants not less than three inches across. This will give them a chance to develop into fine, big, healthy plants by planting out time. Before planting out water well so that the soil and plant can be turned out of the pots without disturbing the soil around the roots. The best time to plant out is after sunset, as at that time the plants get no setback and continue to grow as though never disturbed. If this plan is adopted, vegetables of the market can be produced at least two or three weeks earlier than when grown in the old way.

FRUIT GROWING IN KANSAS.

Growers Realize There Are No Profits in One Line System of Farming.

The evolution of fruit growing in Kansas has been rapid in the last few years. It amounts almost to a revolution. It has taken farm management surveys to show the general farmer that there are no profits in a one line system of farming.

Cheap home storage will mean a steady increase in the movement of fruits, especially the late fall varieties. Development of the home market eliminates all charges for transportation and does away with the profits of the wholesaler and retailer.

These are some points brought out by George O. Greene, lecturer on horticulture, Division of Extension, Kansas State Agricultural college, in discussing questions pertaining to the future of fruit growing in Kansas.

"Fruit growers have realized for some time that there are no profits in a one line system of farming, and almost all the really successful growers have been gradually working into some additional line," says Mr. Greene. "The man who previously grew apples alone is putting in cherries or strawberries or some other line of fruit in order that he may make his factory work more months in the year than previously. Some growers are even taking care of their byproducts in order that they may have an income in the slack months."

Uses and Abuses of Fertilizers

By Prof. R. J. H. De Loach, Director of Georgia Experiment Station.

1. THE USE OF COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS—HISTORY.

The First of a Series of Six Articles.

We would not be disposed to try to give a complete history of the use of commercial fertilizers, but only to show how the great industry began and grew in the Southern United States. Generally speaking, the farmers of this generation inherited the habit of applying fertilizers to soils, but have not been taught the underlying principles of the industry.

The use of some kind of manure on soils with crops for the purpose of increasing the yields goes back to ancient times. We know that many ancient people applied animal manures to their soils for this purpose. The Chinese, centuries ago, applied manures of various kinds to their soils and gardens and with phenomenal results. In Von Thun's *Travels in Peru* we find that as early as the middle of the last century notes were being taken on the actual value of guano by the Peruvians.

Bousiquat speaks of seeing fields in Peru on which wheat grew every year for two centuries, and the yield still high and the growers prosperous. The practice of using mineral fertilizers was introduced direct from Peru to the United States in the year 1846, and was based on such reports as we find above. It had already been used in England before it found its way into the United States, but Peru seems to be the country in which the application of minerals to soils as plant food originated. We do not know this is true, but all evidence points to this. It is of greater interest to us therefore that we know about the customs in Peru.

The first man in the Southern States to use this Peruvian guano was David Dickson, of Sparta, Ga., who saw an advertisement of it in the *old American Farmer* published in Baltimore. The South has perhaps never had a more successful farmer than David Dickson, who made many millions of dollars farming, and who was a pioneer in many other things as well as in the use of mineral fertilizers. In the year 1846, the year after it was introduced into the United States, he bought three sacks and used it, and on finding that it paid him, bought it in increasing quantities till the year 1855 and 1856, when he "went into it fully." As is suggested above, this is no doubt the first instance of the use of a concentrated mineral fertilizer on cotton in the United States.

The universal success with which Mr. Dickson met in the use of this Peruvian guano led many other prominent Southern farmers to follow him, and in every reported case, success followed its use. We are constrained to believe that the application of this mineral fertilizer to the cotton and other crops in the South could not possibly have been an accident. Its success was unquestionably based on the actual needs of the soil. A quickly available manure was what the crop needed, and when this was once applied results were evident.

After a time it was found that the Peruvian guano, which contained principally nitrogen, was not so good as it was in the field of fruit, and hence its use was somewhat discouraged for a season.

The First Use of German Potash.

About this time the war between the States began, and at the same time the discovery of the potash beds of Germany, also, the offering on the market of various kinds of mineral fertilizers resulting from the teachings of Von Liebig of Germany, who was at that time the greatest chemist of the world of agriculture and its possibilities. As a result the popularity of Peruvian guano subsided and more study was given to the general question of the use of mineral manures, both by farmers themselves and the students of agriculture.

Two great contributing factors to the rise of the fertilizer trade in the South are first the abolition of slavery, and second, the rise of agricultural education. Before the war the question of land was secondary. If growing farm crops in the South "wore the land out," there were plenty of slaves to "take in more land." It was cheaper to take in land than to invest for any artificial manure. In 1862, the Morrill Bill passed Congress, creating agricultural colleges in the various states, after which there began a campaign for improving methods in agriculture. Experiments at public expense were begun on a small scale, and the public was induced to make greater use of plant foods of all kinds, as well as to improve methods of tillage. This, of course, caused an immediate increase in the use of mineral fertilizers, and out of which grew demands for great quantities of fertilizers. From this great demand there sprang up fertilizer factories in all parts of the country. All kinds of materials were tried out, some was good, and some was not, but much of both kinds used. The factories had no restrictions and many of them palmed off on the farmers anything that would smell strong and that could be put in sacks. This condition on account of state laws did not last long. We begin the next article by giving a resume of the part taken in the rise of the trade by the states themselves.

Manure is Valuable.

The best results from manure will be when it is hauled directly to the field, six or eight loads an acre, to be plowed under for corn or top dressed on pasture or grass land. It will benefit these crops and also the grain crops that follow. When fresh manure is to be applied to a grain crop top dress with it, six to eight loads, or if rotted manure is available it can be plowed under. On the North Dakota experiment station farm manure applied to corn land, six loads an acre, has increased the corn and the following three wheat crops enough to make a return of \$1.50 a load.

The Test.

It is the things a man could do but does not which stamp him as incompetent—Judge.

Tooth of a Shark.

A shark's teeth are movable at will and become erect at the moment the animal is seizing its prey.

A DESIRABLE BUNGALOW PLAN.

Design 1014, by Glenn L. Saxton, Architect, Minneapolis, Minn.

PERSPECTIVE VIEW—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH.

The size of this bungalow is 24 feet wide by 34-foot deep, exclusive of the front piazza. The living room and dining room are practically one. Dining room has a buffet, with high windows on each side. The kitchen, or kitchenette, has a range, cupboard, sink and broom closet. The grade door to the basement leads also to the kitchen. Every room opens from the main hall. The three windows at the right of the living room are especially designed so that a couch or other furniture may be placed under them. Full basement under the entire bungalow. First story 9-foot; basement 7-foot; in the clear. Birch finish throughout, with birch floors. Cost to build, exclusive of heating and plumbing, about \$2,100.

Upon receipt of \$1 the publisher of this paper will furnish a copy of Saxton's book of plans, "American Dwellings," which contains over 300 designs, ranging from \$1,000 to \$15,000; also a book of interiors, \$1 per copy.

Family Life Indispensable to Proper Care of Children

By Professor EARL BARNES, Author and Lecturer

FOR little children the family life gives the only possible conditions for sound growth, for they must have constant love as well as care or they will die, as do the asylum babies, like flies. The children of factory mothers survive by loving each other; those of fashionable mother-languish, for there is no substitute for paternal and maternal love.

NO COMBINATION OF SANITARY NURSERIES, TRAINED ATTENDANTS, TAKES THE PLACE OF PARENTAL SOLICITUDE.

Children compel the parents to make new syntheses of nature, literature and society. Socially the family must be interested in sanitation, politics, economics and everything that touches social life. Children educate parents as much as parents educate children. The foot loose man or woman moves away; the family man remains and corrects the evil. No man is more provincial than the cultivated club celibate. Cultivate women, though they may be workers, lead pathetic lives unless they realize their domestic lives vicariously. Family life is sometimes in disfavor because false ideals of wealth and position come to prevail. Luxuries seem indispensable and social pre-eminence very important. Young people sell their birthright for a mess of pottage.

FREEDOM AND INDIVIDUALITY ARE GROSSLY EXAGGERATED, FOR THE TRUTH IS THAT TO BE ABSOLUTELY FREE WOULD MEAN OUTLAWRY FROM THE UNIVERSE.

LEOPARD MOTH A TREE FOE.

A Destructive Pest That Attacks Particularly the Shade Varieties.

In many cities and towns of the eastern coastal plain, and particularly in Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, the leopard moth, or *Zanuca pyrrhus* line, has become one of the most destructive shade tree pests, says Alfred MacDonald of the Harvard forest school in the American City. Because of its boring during its two year larval period, entirely concealed in the trunk or limbs, and because it keeps its burrow closed with silk and bits of wood it is a most difficult insect to combat. Trees about Boston, Cambridge, Salem, Lynn and other cities in eastern Massachusetts have suffered greatly, and many val-

IMPROPER PRUNING.

kept in pleasing bushy forms with well rounded lines, preserving the natural habit.

The fault with amateur pruning of shrubs is generally from the fact that the work has been done with too much tender consideration for the plant. The upper branches are the strongest growth, and by cutting away only a little of the top, new growth is forced at the top, making the bush top-heavy. As long as a number of limbs are allowed to remain on the tree, a top-heavy branch there is no danger of pruning too severely, as vigorous branches will start out near the base.

Trouble Ever Present.

"Do you have any trouble when you are saying your lessons in school, Tommy?"

"Yes, sir."

"What seems to trouble you most?"

"The teacher."—*Stray Stories.*

Take Flight.

"Riches have wings, they say."

"Yes, and whenever I go after them they migrate."—*Boston Transcript.*

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FARM AND CITY.

Effective methods of co-operation between the farmer and the business man are the most important problems facing the commercial association today. Just to the extent that the farmer can raise better grain and more of it, better cattle and more of it; just to the extent that their boys and girls can secure broad education and social advantages and the farm has the attachment to them, they are going to be prosperous and contented. All these things, of course, tend to create a favorable effect upon trade, and the business men in every town depending upon agriculture for its growth are vitally concerned with the welfare of the farmer.

—Professor R. A. Moore of Wisconsin University.

RURAL CREDIT SYSTEM.

Small North Carolina Village Taking Initial Step in New Movement.

Lowe's Grove, a small North Carolina village six miles from the city of Durham, is taking the initial step in the new movement for rural credits, has put an end to the high interest rates formerly charged to Durham county farmers, says the American City. The new Lowe's Grove Credit Union was organized recently when sixteen residents of Lowe's Grove school district subscribed their names for stock in the new organization.

The McRae credit union bill (chapter 115, public laws of North Carolina), which was passed in 1915, permits the organization of credit unions of from 25 to 100 farmers in the county districts. The credit union may lend money at 6 per cent to the individual members on the security of personal property. If the farmer owns no property he must secure the indorsement of his landlord or of two or more property owning neighbors, and in this case must give a lien on his crop to the local credit union for further security. As applied in Lowe's Grove it is claimed that this plan will cut interest rates from the prevailing 8 to 10 per cent to a flat 6 per cent basis.

The Lowe's Grove Credit union is stated to be the first practical result of the American rural credit commission's European studies. It is largely modeled on plans originated by John Sprunt Hill, a Durham financier, who was a member of the commission.

ALSO FOR SOUTHLANDS.

Beauty of line is the distinctive mark of this suit. Made of a beautiful quality of white broadcloth, the skirt has a fullness that is achieved by box plait, while the skirt of the coat gets its flare from two inverted plaits over each hip. The revers are faultlessly tailored, and the demibelt is finished with four white pearl buttons both back and front.

The jaunty little spring hat is of white satin with a grosgrain band and a pink rosette on the outside of the left brim. This suit is correct for board walk, pier and hotel wear all the spring.

YOUR SPRING BONNET.

The newest shade for hats in vogue. It is particularly fetching as seen in the little helmets, which do not look a bit warlike because smoothly covered with crepe georgette and trimmed most uniquely with rosette green leaves. This foliage is also in crepe, but of the crinkly sort, and how it permanently retains its crispness is known only to the maker. Possibly, you would prefer one in gleaming material, like a brown novelty straw.

Pruning Shrubs.

Plants can be pruned and trained in almost any desired form. Fruit trees, such as apples, pears, peaches, plums and apricots, can be trained to cover walls, fences or the sides of buildings. Shrubs that naturally grow in a bushy form can be trained in tree-like form, but for general use shrubs should be

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