

The War in Brief

SUMMARY OF THE
EUROPEAN WAR
FOR ONE WEEK READ AT A GLANCE

January 4.—The land fighting, which is sporadic in the West, but more continual in the East, has brought about no material change in the situation. Artillery is playing the biggest part along the western front, although at points there has been close range fighting.

The Germans deny French reports that they have been driven out of part of the village of Steinbach, upper Alsace which has been the scene of sanguinary fighting for a week past.

There have been engagements on the Rivers Bura and Rawka in Poland, but seemingly the Germans are no nearer Warsaw than they were a week ago. They have commenced offensive operations in the direction of Gielce, one of the larger towns of Southern Poland, which doubtless has for its object the holding up of the Russian advance through Galicia on Cracow.

An attempted German advance from Mlawa in an effort to divert the Russian threat of outflanking the Teutonic center by crossing the lower Vistula, northwest of Warsaw, has been checked by the Russians.

According to Petrograd reports the Russians continue to sweep the Austrians westward along the Southern Galician railway toward Grybow and Neu Sandee and out of the northern foothills of the Carpathians. The Muscovites also are credited with having organized a new campaign against Hungary, advancing in four columns across the mountains. This, it is said, will not be like previous raids, but will be a regular invasion.

By request of King George yesterday was observed as a day of intercession and special prayers for the success of the Allies' arms were offered in every church and chapel of all creeds and religions in the kingdom.

January 3.—The destruction of the British battleship Formidable in the British Channel by a mine or a submarine boat, although one of those events expected so long as the British Navy is compelled to keep the seas, has caused widespread grief. This is due not so much to the loss of the ship, which was 15 years old and cost about \$5,000,000, as it is for the men—about 600 in number—who went down with her. So far as known only 141 of the Formidable's crew of 750 were rescued.

The French official statement indicated that the artillery exchanges on the battle front in France had not diminished in severity or frequency. Various places were mentioned where artillery fighting had taken place. At some, no results were given, while at others the French claimed successes, as for instance at Steinbach, in Alsace.

The Lokal Anzeiger says it has learned the eldest son of Doctor von Bethmann-Hollweg, Imperial Chancellor, was killed in action in Poland December 9.

The following official communication was given out at the German army headquarters: "In the western theater of war nothing of importance has happened near Neuport. The idea of retaking the hamlet of St. Georges which has been completely demolished by the enemy's artillery fire was abandoned in view of the high level of the water there. To the south of the canal we captured an English trench."

January 2.—The Austrians again have been driven out of the greater part of Galicia and according to a Vienna statement the Russians have crossed the Carpathians for the third time, but in Poland, where a more important battle is in progress, the armies of the Russian and German Emperors are still fighting for the banks of the rivers which intersect the country between the upper Vistula and Pilica Rivers.

In Flanders and France there has been a lull in the fighting on most of the front, disturbed occasionally, however, by artillery fire, infantry attacks and counter-attacks.

Along the Belgian coast fighting is confined to artillery bombardments. Westende and many other little towns which long ago were deserted by the civilian populations, have been made the target for shells of the Allies.

Walfish Bay, a British possession on the coast of German Southwest Africa, which the Germans took at the commencement of the war, has been returned by Union of South Africa forces, while the Australians have annexed Boshuisvlei Island, another of the Solomon Islands over which flew the German flag and about the last of the German islands in the Pacific.

January 1.—The Allies, although making no dramatic attacks on the German lines, are steadily hammering away with their artillery and when opportunity offers, push their lines a few yards forward. A French eyewitness describing battles from December 16 to 24, gives a good idea of the fighting and records gains, which, while each is only in yards, amounts in the aggregate to a considerable advance at many points.

A few hundred yards in Flanders were taken by primitive methods. Having the breeches of their rifles choked with mud, the Allies used

them as clubs and in many cases fought the Germans with their fists.

In one little French village within sound of the guns, Princess Patricia's Light Infantry, the first of the Canadian contingent to go to the front, is billeted, waiting its turn to go into the trenches. The men were accorded a splendid reception by their comrades in arms and the French villagers.

With the defeat of the Austrians in Galicia and South Poland and the retirement of the Germans across the Bzura, Petrograd believes the turning point has been reached in the battle of the Polish rivers. The chief fighting now is taking place on the Pilica, where the Germans still are on the offensive and have brought up big guns.

December 31.—The German official press bureau intimates that the Austrians in Galicia will have to make new dispositions, owing to the strengthening of the Russian forces there.

The bureau admits that the extreme left wing of the Russians is proving itself superior to its opponents. It announces that the French have assembled strong forces in the Vosges region.

The loss of the French submarine Curie is confirmed. The Curie was engaged in an attempt against the warships at the Austrian naval base of Pola and ventured there alone.

Emperor William has been in conference at his headquarters with Grand Admiral Prince Henry of Prussia and Admiral von Tirpitz, minister of marine, on the subject of the British raid on Cuxhaven. Prince Henry journeyed from Kiel to headquarters for the conference. The belief is said to prevail in Berlin that Prince Henry will be given supreme command of the German battleship fleet.

Incidental to the note of the United States to Great Britain insisting on early improvement in the treatment accorded American commerce by the British fleet, President Wilson has appealed to American shippers to non-contraband goods not to permit contraband articles to be shipped with them. President Wilson says the government can deal with the shipping situation only if the shippers use honest manifests.

Referring to the note addressed to Great Britain the president declared that large damages eventually will have to be paid by Great Britain for unlawful detention of American cargoes.

The state department announces that Germany is not inclined to press hurriedly its request for the cancellation of the exequaturs of neutral consuls in Belgian territory held by the German military. The United States in dealing with the request of Germany will, it is said, make no commitment which could be considered as recognition of Germany's possession of Belgium.

December 30.—The battle lines in the east and west have undergone few changes in the past day. French and German reports agree that the Germans have captured a section of trenches near Hellebeke, south of Ypres.

The reports of the numbers of wounded both armies are sending back from the lines in Belgium appear to show that the fighting on Christmas in the past month. Correspondents in the rear say the Belgians, as a result of five days sapping, captured nearly 3,000 Germans with only small losses to themselves.

According to Russian reports, German attempts to capture Warsaw have failed, while the Berlin official statement says there is general confidence that the German and Austro-Hungarian forces are making progress along the great front.

French newspapers are enthusiastic over the raid by British cruisers and sea planes on Cuxhaven. They consider that, although the German statement says that the ships at Cuxhaven and the gas works were hit by bombs, no damage was done.

The only damage the British expedition sustained was due to the loss of several hydroplanes, while Commander Hewlett was the only person who lost his life.

The authorities issued a warning today of the danger to people in the streets from guns which may be used in London against hostile aircraft and advised the people to take refuge in basements if they heard the sound of explosives or guns.

FLOODS HAVE KEPT TROOPS FROM FIGHT

HEAVIEST RAINS IN YEARS HAVE CONVERTED TRENCHES INTO RIVERS.

FRENCH GAIN NEAR ROYE

Turks Invade Russian Border.—Constantinople Claims Successes At Ardahan.

London.—The extremely rainy winter, the worst Europe has experienced in years, has caused floods in the river valleys of the Continent which have prevented any operations on a large scale on the western battle front and seriously interfered with those in the East. There have been heavy artillery engagements from the sea to the Swiss border and occasional attacks by the infantry of the opposing armies, which were not repulsed, have added a few yards to the territory in the possession of the attacking force, but have always proved costly adventures.

The French have gained a little ground between Albert and Roye, just north of the point where the line turns eastward, and east of Rheims and southwest of Verdun, where attempts to make untenable the German positions at St. Mihiel, on the Meuse are proceeding slowly. They also have made some advances in Alsace but have suffered a repulse to the northwest of St. Menchould.

In the East the Germans have captured the important Russian position at Borjomi, but elsewhere have been unable to make headway. The Russians as defenders of well fortified positions are aided by muddy roads, which hinder the German movements. The Austrians claim to have checked the Russian advance near Gorlice, on the South Galician railway, but apparently the battle there has not yet been concluded.

The Russians have taken the Austrian positions near Zukok Pass which should open another entrance for them through the Carpathians into Hungary, while the Austrian retreat in Bukovina is described by the Russians as a riot.

The Turks have crossed the Russian border in the Caucasus and according to Constantinople, have defeated the Russian garrison at Ardahan. They are, however, displaying anxiety for their remaining possessions in Europe by feverishly fortifying the whole coast line. What they fear is not disclosed, for it is considered hardly possible for the Allies to land a sufficient force to prove a menace to them. It is possible they anticipate an invasion from another source.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS GOOD.

Character of Commerce of the United States is Optimistic.

Washington.—Business conditions are described as generally re-assuring by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States in a report made public. The report adds, however, that the war has had a wide-spread and depressing effect on industry.

"Economy naturally prevails among all classes," says the report, "though remarks have been noted that this does not extend to automobiles. Future delivery goods purchases are smaller and collections uniformly poor, but lately a marked change has been noted in a lessening of difficulty in obtaining bank loans and in an easing of interest rates. Conditions in the South, while slowly improving, still present a serious problem."

Crops in general, the report adds, have been good, but the cattle industry confronts serious handicaps in difficulty in obtaining loans on cattle and the foot and mouth disease quarantine. The sheep and wool industry is excellent but general mining conditions are poor.

Germany to Exhibit.

San Francisco.—Despite the war two large blocks of space in the Palace of Liberal Arts have just been awarded Germany by the Panama Pacific International Exposition. The nature of the exhibit is not known.

Prayers for Allies' Success.

London.—Large congregations who crowded London churches for the observance of Intercession day offered special prayers for the Allied arms and in remembrance of those who have fallen. Four services were held at St. Paul's Cathedral. The first at 8 a. m. was conducted by the Rt. Rev. Arthur Ingram, Bishop of London. The great cathedral was thronged throughout the day. Westminster Abbey also had a large attendance. The sermon there was by Archdeacon Wilberforce.

Million Dollar Fires.

Philadelphia.—Two fires caused more than 11,000,000 damage in Philadelphia and Camden. Pennsylvania Railroad trains were held up more than an hour and a half by the flames which destroyed a lumber yard and 17 dwellings in North Philadelphia while traffic on the Philadelphia & Reading road from Camden, N. J., was discontinued because of a fire which destroyed the station there and damaged a lumber yard and the John Dalagie Shipbuilding plant. Four firemen were injured at Camden and 50 here,

IMMIGRATION BILL PASSES IN SENATE

MANY AMENDMENTS ARE MADE WHICH HOUSE WILL PROBABLY ACCEPT.

SENATE VOTE WAS 50 TO 7

Enough Friends of Measure to Pass Over Expected Veto of President.—Belgians Get Exceptions.

Washington.—The immigration bill, containing the restrictive literacy test for admission of aliens, passed the Senate 50 to 7. The overwhelming majority was recorded despite indications that President Wilson would veto the measure, as did former President Taft, if it should come to him with the educational test included.

The veto indicated that the bill could be repassed by more than the required two-thirds majority should the President reject the measure. Senators who voted against the bill were:

Brandegee, McCumber, Martine, O'Gorman, Ransdell, Reed and Walsh. The bill passed the House last February 241 to 126. Although the Senate amended the House bill in several particulars, the literacy test was unaltered, save for an additional exemption to Belgian subjects, adopted after prolonged debate.

Among Senate amendments, which House leaders have said probably would be accepted is one to exclude from the United States all persons of the African race or of negro blood. Another strengthens the phraseology of the prohibition of polygamists.

Closing hours of the debate were devoted to an amendment by Senator Lodge to exempt Belgian farmers from the literacy test and from provisions which prohibit American from soliciting or inducing immigration. Already American organizations are endeavoring to induce Belgians to settle in this country. The amendment, as finally adopted, 34 to 22, reads:

"That the provisions of this act relating to the literacy test or induced or assisted immigration shall not apply to agricultural immigrants from Belgium who come to the United States during the course of the present European war or within one year after its termination owing to circumstances or conditions arising through the war, if it is shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioner General of Immigration that the said Belgian immigrants come with the intention of engaging in agriculture in the United States and to become American citizens."

MUST EDUCATE FILIPINOS.

Laft Says Not Ready for Self-Government by Thirty Years.

Washington.—Former President William Taft told the senate committee working on the administration bill for enlarging Philippine independence, that the Filipinos in his opinion would be unfitted for self-government for the next 30 years—probably for the half century. Democratic party promises of independence, he declared, had resulted in unrest to which he attributed, in a measure, the recent revolutionary disturbances.

Neither President McKinley, President Roosevelt, nor himself, he said, had contemplated turning the Philippine government over to the natives before they were educated for self-government. He quoted from President Wilson's writing that "self-government is not a mere form of institution, but a form of character."

"We cannot present the Filipino people with a character," said the former president. "It must be acquired. You cannot make over a people in one generation. The time that will be necessary to make them an English-speaking people. If you give these people independence now or by 1920 either a Diaz would get in the Philippines or they would get into a condition that caused the fall of Diaz in Mexico."

Struck by Mine or Torpedoes.

Brixham, Devon, England.—Survivors here of the British battleship Formidable say the warship was struck by a mine or torpedo about the magazine. The explosion was terrific (but the magazine was not reached. Had that also blown up, the ship would have foundered without there being time to save anybody, they said. As the water rushed in, the men on the Formidable hurried to the deck and some got away in small boats. Capt. Loxley and his signal men did not leave the bridge.

Will Not Seize Food.

London.—A Reuter dispatch from The Hague says: "It is authoritatively stated that the Netherlands Minister at Berlin, supported by the Spanish Minister and the American Ambassador, recently made representations to the German Government concerning requisitioning of food in Belgium. The German Government immediately gave assurances that as long as the inhabitants of Belgium were supplied with food from elsewhere there would be no requisitioning of food."

BUREAU OF CENSUS REPORTS ON COTTON

NORTH CAROLINA MAKES BETTER SHOWING THAN ANY OTHER STATE IN NATION.

TAR HEEL CAPITOL NEWS

General News of North Carolina Collected and Condensed From the State Capital That Will Prove of Interest to All Our Readers.

Raleigh.

The last bulletin of the Bureau of the Census, the Department of Commerce, covering the supply and distribution of cotton, covering the year ending August 31, presents some interesting figures for North Carolina. It is shown that North Carolina cotton mills consume all but 28,323 bales of the crop of the State. The increase in the consumption of cotton was from 653,350 in 1913 to 906,177, or 38.7 per cent in 1914. That is considered a splendid showing, it is better than any other State in the Union did.

South Carolina still leads the South in the number of cotton spindles. The following named North Carolina counties, according to the latest estimates of the Census Bureau, have more than 100,000 cotton spindles each:

Gaston, 507,192; Cabarrus, 281,532; Mecklenburg, 267,800; Guilford, 213,868; Durham, 162,404; Rockingham, 159,986; Alamance, 140,592; Rutherford, 138,165; Richmond, 127,047; Stanley, 104,956.

Bristol County, Massachusetts, leads the United States with 7,145,232 cotton spindles.

Spartanburg county, South Carolina, leads the South with 804,436, Greenville county, South Carolina, has 742,690 and Anderson county, 574,784.

Ten North Carolina and 13 South Carolina counties have more than 100,000 spindles.

"Bristol county, Mass.," said the census report, "with 7,145,232 cotton spindles led all other counties, 64.7 per cent of the total spindle capacity for Massachusetts, 40.4 per cent for the total for New England and 21.8 per cent of the total for the United States. The industry was established in this county as long maintained a leading position. Fall River, the most important city in the United States from a cotton manufacturing standpoint, is located in this county, as are the cities of New Bedford, and Taunton."

In the Southern State, Anderson, Greenville and Spartanburg counties, in the western part of South Carolina, and Gaston county in North Carolina are the only ones with more than 500,000 cotton spindles each."

The total active spindles, ring and mule, in North Carolina, is 3,770,316, and South Carolina 4,583,712.

North Carolina has 3,702,280 ring and 68,036 mule spindles; South Carolina, 4,580,352 and 3,360.

Massachusetts with 1,547,778 bales, leads all the other states in the quantity of cotton consumed; North Carolina, with 906,177 bales is second; South Carolina, with 794,678 bales, third and Georgia, with 632,332 bales, fourth.

The consumption in North Carolina increased from 653,350 bales to 906,177 last year. That is 38.7 per cent. The increase in South Carolina was 27.5 and in Georgia 29.9 per cent.

North Carolina produced 935,000 bales last year, just 28,323 more than she consumed.

A Vital Statistics Bulletin.

Arrangements are being made by the bureau of vital statistics for the publication of a bulletin which will be devoted to the vital statistics reports for the state and such other matters as will be interesting. This will be in addition to the bulletin published monthly by the state board, devoted to general health work. The first issue will make its appearance in January.

State's History Being Preserved.

The biennial report of Secretary R. D. W. Connor of the North Carolina Historical Commission has been made to the commission, the members of which are J. Bryan Grimes, W. J. Poole, D. H. Hill, M. C. St. Noble and T. M. Pittman. The report is unusually interesting because of the amount and variety of the work done, including the transfer of the new quarters in the state administration building, of the commission and its invaluable records and of the great collection of objects in the Hall of History.

On the 12th of last January the commission began the removal of its collections from its quarters in the Capitol which it had occupied seven years, to the new building, where it "as the second floor, especially designed for its purposes. The two large exhibition rooms contain the great collection of relics, manuscripts, rare editions and portraits. There are also a document room, the offices and rooms for the repair and mounting of manuscripts. The building is equipped throughout with steel furniture and is believed to be fireproof.

Canning Clubs in the South. Results of the Girls' Canning Club movement in Southern States, promoted jointly by the department of agriculture and the general education board are detailed in an installment of the latter organization's annual report made public in New York recently.

"Each girl," says the report, "takes one-tenth of an acre and is taught how to select the seed, to plant, cultivate and perfect the growth of the tomato plant. Meanwhile portable canning outfits have been provided, to be set up in the orchard or the garden, and trained teachers of domestic science instruct the local teachers in the best methods. When the tomatoes are ripe the girls come together, now at one home and now at another, to can the product. The girls are taught the necessity of scrupulous cleanliness; they sterilize utensils and cans, seal and label and indeed manufacture an easily marketable product."

"Three hundred and twenty-five girls were registered the first year; 3,000 the next, 23,550 in the year following, in 1913 there were upward of 30,000 in 14 different states."

"The entire expense of the Girls' Canning Club work has at all times been borne by the general education board, except for local contributions. In 1911 an initial appropriation of \$5,000 was made; \$25,000 the following year, and in May, 1913, the appropriation of the board for this purpose was \$75,000."

"Though the national government through the department of agriculture had entire control and supervision, it has borne no part of the expense. The states in which the work is now going forward on this basis are Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama, Oklahoma and Texas."

"The average profit made by the girls reporting in 12 states was \$21.98, but not a few made sums far in excess of a Meacon county, Mississippi, girl realized a net profit just under \$100 on her 950 cans of tomatoes; a girl living in Aiken county, S. C., netted \$60.51."

Advancement of Adult Farmers.

Commissioner of Agriculture directs special attention to the official showing that last year's crop of cotton in North Carolina was 790,000 bales and that the cotton mills of the state consumed that year 869,915 bales, nearly 100,000 bales more than was grown in the state.

The commissioner has just filed with Governor Craig his biennial report for the state board of agriculture, being practically the same as was officially passed upon and published in connection with the recent annual meetings of the state board of agriculture.

The commissioner declares in his introduction to the report that there has never been such advancement among adult farmers anywhere as has been attained in North Carolina the past several years through the special efforts of the department of agriculture in this direction. The state has risen, he points out, from the twenty-second to the thirteenth in the Union in the value of its agricultural products and in cotton has taken first place among the cotton states, producing 315 pounds to the acre in 1911.

Patents For Tar Heels.

Washington.—Davis & Davis, patent attorneys report to the grants to citizens of North Carolina, of the following patents: George F. Bahan and F. R. Chadwick, Charlotte, bobbin-stripper; Fred D. Blake, Charlotte, car step; Michael E. Rudisill, Henry River, thread-guide; Walter Woodall, Benson, plant-lifting attachment for cultivators; Olmedo C. Wyson, Greensboro, dove-tailing machine.

Mailing Out More Reports.

Commissioner of Labor and Printing M. L. Shipman recently mailed out reports to the members-elect of the state legislature. Letters with the reports called attention of the new members to the various features of the report.

1,000,000 More Pounds of Tobacco.

Probably another million pounds of tobacco will be sold in Kingston in January, according to estimates of tobaccoists. The season's sales to date have been 17,554,300 pounds, nearly as much as has been sold in any previous entire season.

Superintendent Joyner Reports.

Dr. J. Y. Joyner state superintendent of public instruction, has filed with Governor Craig his biennial report and recommendations to be transmitted to the legislature. He urges an effective law to assure uniform examination, graduation and certificates for teachers through enlargement of the powers and work of the state board of examiners created by a former legislature. He urges that every county in the state be required to employ a competent superintendent for his whole time.

Suggests Caring for Birds.

The department of agriculture is bestirring itself in the interests of the wild birds that show a disposition to be neighborly with man. A recent bulletin admonishes residents of city as well as country to supply food for such of the birds as remain with us throughout the winter and directs attention to the fact that assistance of this sort is necessary because man, in his war against weeds, in his cultivation of the soil, in his improvement of wild land, has destroyed the natural sources of food supply.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course.)

LESSON FOR JANUARY 10

DEBORAH AND BARAK DELIVER ISRAEL.

LESSON TEXT—Judges 4:1-16. GOLDEN TEXT—The righteous cried, and Jehovah heard, and delivered them out of all their troubles.—Ps. 34:17 R. V.

There are two inspired accounts of this victory, one in prose (Jud. 4) and one in poetry (Judges 5). They present different views of the same event. Israel had been oppressed for 20 years under Jabin and Sisera, his chief captain (4:2) though it seems to have been that the northern tribes of Naphtali, Asher and Zebulun, the Galilee of Christ's day, were chiefly concerned.

Mother in Israel.

I. Deborah's Call to Service, vv. 4-9. As the people forsook God he forsook them, and they became easy prey. If we withdraw from his service we also withdraw from his protection. Although Joshua had burned Hazor (Joshua 11:1-11), yet because of Israel's backsliding it is now strong enough to become the ruler. It is so with sin—allow it to exist and it will conquer. When, however, Israel repented and cried unto God (v. 3) he raised up a deliverer and in this case it was a "mother in Israel" (ch. 5:7). The word Deborah means "bee," and it is suggested that "she answered her name by her industry, sagacity and usefulness to the public, her sweetness to her friends and sharpness to her enemies" (Matthew Henry). Her husband's name is given, but none of his achievements. From her dwelling place at Beus, as she sat beneath a palm tree she gave forth her wisdom and judgment to the people who brought their difficulties before her (Ex. 18:13; Deut. 17:8-12). Judgment of sin always precedes any manifestation of grace (I Cor. 11:31, 32). Deborah, the judge, recognized the gravity of the situation, for she was not only a judge, but a prophetess by divine appointment (II Pet. 1:21). When she called Barak at once recognized her note of authority (v. 6). Deborah gave Barak explicit instruction and direction. In this chapter only the two tribes most interested are mentioned (5:17, 18).

Bold, Sagacious Leader.

II. Barak's Conquest of Sisera, vv. 10-16. Barak was a bold, sagacious leader and chose one of the world's best and most famous battlefields, Esdraelon. Barak led his men to Mt. Tabor, from which could be seen the whole region where Sisera's armies were spread out upon the plain. From chapter 5 it appears that some came to the battle from the tribes of Manasseh and Issachar (5:14, 15) and that others were expected who failed to obey the summons (5:15, 17). From the slopes of Mt. Tabor, Deborah and Barak saw Sisera and his iron chariots advancing across the plain. One of the descendants of Hobab, Moses' brother-in-law (Num. 24:22 R. V. m., and Judges 1:16) had revealed the place of Barak's camp (v. 11). Heber should have been in the land of Judah and Simeon and not in such close proximity to the enemies of Israel. Josephus says that when Barak saw Sisera's army drawn up, and attempting to surround the mountain of his encampment his heart failed him, and he determined to retire to a place of greater safety. Deborah, however, urged Barak to attempt the battle, "for this is the day in which the Lord hath delivered Sisera into thine hand." The thing was as sure to be done as if it were done already. As we read verses 11 and 12, together with 5:17-19, it would look as though Sisera seemed to have the advantage against Barak and his ten thousand men. Sisera did not, however, count upon Barak's powerful ally—God. "Is not Jehovah our aid before them?" Deborah had enthusiasm and zeal, but needed Barak's action. She depended upon the sure word of God and was devoid of fear (Rom. 8:31). She knew that victory was certain, for God had said so (v. 7). Her charge, "Up, Barak!" was a clarion call and served to nerve the entire army of Israel. Verse 15 tells us who it was that won the battle that day (see also 5:20, 21; Josh. 10:10; Chron. 15:15-17). Even the stars fought against Sisera, meaning that God turned the elements to the advantage of Israel's army. Showers of meteors have been recorded in this land in recent times and 5:21 tells of the floods of water that "swept away" overthrew the chariots of Sisera. The word "discomfited," we are told, scarcely suggests the sudden terror and confusion which fell upon Sisera's army. Like all of God's victories, it was most complete.

A Brave, Outraged Woman Executed a Sentence which some male member of her family would certainly have been bound to carry out.

The "curse of Meroz" (5:23) is that bestowed upon the shirker, the cowardly and idle. It is the curse of uselessness, the causes of which are cowardice, false humility and indolence. The work of the Avenger is a necessity.

Evil stalks the world on the way to execution; though wrong reigns, it must and will lead through the power of the highest to Christ's glory (Eph. 5:12, Rom. 8:37-39).