

IMPORTANT NEWS  
THE WORLD OVERHappenings of This and Other Nations  
For Seven Days Are  
Given.

## THE NEWS OF THE SOUTH

What is Taking Place in the South-  
land Will Be Found in  
Brief Paragraphs.

## European War

Very little change is noted in the European war situation, excepting the Russians are credited with being on the offensive all along the Polish and Austrian borders.

It is reported from London that England will lift the embargo on cotton as contraband.

According to reports from Athens Greece is contemplating to aid the allies in the attack on Constantinople and the forcing of the Dardanelles, which is being rigorously continued by the Anglo-French fleet.

The Russians have been repulsed in a number of places along the Austrian border, and the German troops have been beaten back in Poland.

England refuses to concede the rights of neutral powers on the high seas in her retaliatory measure against Germany.

Tako Jonecu, Roumanian minister of the interior, has announced in Bucharest that a formal agreement has just been concluded between his country and the triple entente by which Roumania is bound to enter the war in the near future. Bucharest dispatches declare preparations are being made to call all classes of reserves for the army, which it is expected will move on Turkey.

It is announced in Paris that an agreement has been reached between England and France on one side and Russia on the other regarding the future status of the Dardanelles, which will give Russia free passage of the straits, over which the other two nations will claim control. This is the important step and crux of the whole European war situation and was the underlying cause of the entire conflict, precipitated some six years ago during the first Bulgarian outbreak against the Turks in 1908. Russia's eye has always been on the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles and has always been held in check by Napoleon, by Bismarck, by England, France and Germany, and by England and France together in the Crimean war. English and French troops have been landed from the Anglo-French fleet, which is forcing its way up the straits. Several more Turkish forts have been demolished and the Moslem troops are hastily giving way before the allied invaders.

The American steamer Dacia, recently purchased from its German owners, has been captured by a French warship and taken to Brest, where an investigation will be held regarding the nationality of the boat. The Dacia sailed from Galveston in January expecting at the time it would be seized.

## Foreign

William Graves Sharp, American ambassador to France, has begun the promulgation of the peace treaties between the United States and France which were negotiated by Secretary of State Bryan last year and which met with cordial response by President Poincaré and the French people. This treaty was the nucleus of the secretary's plan for peace treaties between twenty nations which was started before the outbreak of the present European crisis. It is believed by President Poincaré and Ambassador Sharp that the Bryan peace plan will soon meet with the consideration of all the nations which first agreed to take part. Representatives of Holland and the three Scandinavian nations in Paris are assisting the American ambassador in his promulgation of the project.

A large delegation of Americans and Parisians headed by Ambassador Sharp of the United States and President Poincaré of France, paid a great tribute to George Washington and held a patriotic demonstration and parade in Paris, which closed with Ambassador Sharp, placing a wreath at the foot of the Washington statue in Paris. The wreath was tied with the American stars and stripes and the French tri-colors.

Germany is reported to have favored President Wilson's vigorous note regarding the English water zone declaration and the admiralty office in Berlin will send word that the Kaiser is willing to life the ban provided England will cease the contraband on foodstuffs. England's attitude is doubtful, but it is believed she will obstinately maintain her present position.

The steamer Dacia, recently purchased by Edward N. Breitung from its German owners and captured on the high seas by a French warship and taken to Brest, has been stripped of the American colors and the American crew shipped back to New York. The French foreign office, however, has not been officially apprised of this act.

Queen Wilhelmina has informed Dr. Henry Van Dyke, American ambassador to Holland, that her nation will continue its present course of neutrality, but that she will stoutly maintain her rights on the high seas.

Mexico again takes the center of the stage so far as commanding the world's interest. Residents of the Mexican capital entertain grave fears of starvation and the city is being pillaged. Some of the foreign embassies have proposed an expedition against the revolutionists. General Carranza has publicly stated foreign interference is unnecessary and will not be tolerated. He has received a caution from American Consul Silliman representing President Wilson.

The condition of Sarah Bernhardt, who suffered a relapse after her recent operation, is now said to be improved. The Democratic party of Portugal in session in Lisbon denounced the Portuguese president, who is one of their party leaders, as an outlaw and his administration officials as a band of public brigands.

## Washington

President Wilson has abandoned his trip to San Francisco to attend the Panama-Pacific exposition, at least for the present, on account of the European war situation. He says he feels it his duty to remain in Washington on the job during the grave crisis in international affairs. The president's determination has been highly praised as an act of much patriotism. Vice President Marshall has accepted the president's invitation to go to San Francisco to be the chief executive's personal representative at the exposition.

Chairman Gore of Oklahoma, the first chairman of the new federal rural credits commission, has announced the other members, who comprise Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia, Senator Owen of Oklahoma (Dem.), Senator Hollis of New Hampshire (Dem.), Senator Nelson of Minnesota (Rep.), Congressman Lever of South Carolina (Dem.), Congressman Moss of Indiana (Dem.), Congressman Hawley of Oregon (Rep.), Congressman Glass of Virginia (Dem.), Congressman Phelan of Massachusetts (Dem.), and Congressman Hay of Virginia (Dem.).

Congressman Joseph T. Johnston of Spartanburg, S. C. has been appointed by President Wilson as federal judge of the new United States bench in South Carolina created by the last congress.

The Sixty-third congress, perhaps the greatest and most eventful congress since the adoption of the American Constitution, came to a close on Thursday noon, March 4.

President Wilson has voted the power to preserve the neutrality of the United States and the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine in the absence of congress being in session by a joint congressional resolution introduced by Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin.

President Wilson and his cabinet held a prolonged conference in discussion of the English blockade of Germany. The president declared England was openly and defiantly interfering with the rights of the United States on the high seas and that it must be stopped. The situation between the nations is graver today than ever before.

President Wilson has signed the pensions appropriation bill which calls for \$164,000,000.

The rural credits reform legislation, which was one of the Baltimore platform pledges, has been redeemed by the Wilson administration just before the adjournment of the present congress. The house passed the farm loan law by a vote of 237 to 89 votes. The amendment offered by Senator McCumber of North Dakota in the upper house was voted down in the lower branch and the Bulkley-Hollis plan was adopted as originally intended. In addition to the tariff, currency, ship tolls and other great measures put through by the Wilson administration, this is one of the important bits of legislation that will make the present term memorable.

Congress has passed an act incorporating the Ellen Axson Wilson Memorial Home Association for the District of Columbia, which is the permanent memorial to Mrs. Woodrow Wilson and will be in the nature of dwelling houses for families in the tenement districts of the Capital City.

## Domestic

The lower house of the Oklahoma legislature at Oklahoma City has impeached two state officials, State Corporation Commissioner Watson and Insurance Commissioner Welch on charges of accepting money from railroad officials, riding on free transportation and charging mileage and expense accounts to the state. The two officials will now be tried by the state senate.

The minstrel comedian, known as "Honey Boy" Evans, died just as the curtain fell on a performance at Birmingham, Ala.

Over one hundred and sixty-five men were entombed in a West Virginia coal mine by a mine explosion at Hinton, W. Va.

President Wilson has ordered a probe of the alleged passport frauds, which have grown out of the Stegler incident.

Another Pittsburg millionaire springs into the divorce court limelight in the person of Edward E. Alsop, one of the steel magnates, 80 years old, who seeks separation from his youthful Southern wife, Mrs. Effie Alsop, aged 23, formerly a Georgia girl. Desertion is the plaintiff's charge. The case has caused widespread gossip in Pittsburg social circles.

The Mississippi Supreme court has upheld the constitutionality of a law recently passed by the legislature barring the use of whiskey in all social clubs.

WILL MAKE CLEAR  
NEED FOR MARINE

McADOO EXPECTS PAN-AMERICAN FINANCIAL CONFERENCE TO DO THIS.

MAY 10 DATE OF MEETING

Bankers of Central and South America Will Meet Financiers and Officials at Washington.

Washington.—President Wilson has selected Monday, May 10, as the date for the Pan-American financial conference here, at which the Ministers of Finance and leading bankers of Central and South American countries will meet financiers and treasury officials of the United States to discuss the establishment of more satisfactory financial and commercial relations between the Nations of the Western Hemisphere.

In a statement announcing the date Secretary McAdoo said all the foreign Governments had responded favorably when approached informally regarding the conference and that formal invitations would be sent them immediately. Congress authorized the conference and appropriated \$50,000 for expenses.

"The Secretary of the Treasury," said Mr. McAdoo, "is given authority to invite, in his discretion, representative American bankers to participate in the conference. This discretion will be exercised so as to secure the attendance of as large a number as practicable of our representative financiers in order that a thorough and comprehensive discussion may be had of existing financial conditions throughout the Western Hemisphere and of the measures that should be adopted to strengthen financial and trade relations between the United States and our Central and South American neighbors. A suitable program will be carefully studied and announced in due time."

Senator White, who had offered much the same bill early in the contest over the original bill in the senate, took occasion to especially thank Senator Gilliam and Senator Nash for their support of the substitute bill in the conference committee and on the floor of the senate. Both had opposed the original bill and worked for the referendum amendment that finally worked its defeat through the senate amendment.

## MEDICAL BOARD ORGANIZED.

Rockefeller Foundation Undertakes Improvement of China.

New York.—The Rockefeller Foundation announced that it had decided to undertake a comprehensive plan for the improvement of medical and hospital conditions in China.

For this purpose the foundation has established "The China Medical Board of the Rockefeller Foundation," and plans first to develop medical education in China. This will include aid for the two or more medical schools in China; the strengthening of the staffs of the mission and other hospitals; assistance in the establishment of two modern tuberculosis hospitals, and the establishment of six scholarships to enable Chinese graduates in medicine to prosecute further studies abroad, and of five scholarships to enable Chinese nurses to obtain training in this country.

## Mad Georgian Kills Six.

Brunswick, Ga.—Armed with an automatic shotgun, Monroe Phillips, a real estate and timber dealer ran amuck in the business district here, killed six citizens, wounded 32 and was himself shot dead. Of the wounded Gunner Tolmas, a bank collector, probably will die. The dead are: Harry F. Dunwoody, prominent attorney.

William M. Hackett, undertaker. R. M. Deaver, policeman. George W. Asbell, motorman. Earnest McDonald.

Monroe Phillips, real estate and timber dealer.

## Bernhardt's Condition Good.

Bordeaux, via Paris.—A bulletin by Dr. Denue, attending Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, whose right leg was amputated recently, says Mme. Bernhardt's condition continues satisfactorily.

## Portuguese Minister Resigns.

Paris.—A Havas dispatch from Lisbon says the Portuguese minister of finance has resigned and that the minister of foreign affairs has taken over his department.

## Horne A Federal Prisoner.

Machias, Maine.—Werner Horn, the German reservist, who attempted to blow up an international bridge at Seaboard early last month and asserted that he did so as "an act of war" against Great Britain, has become a Federal prisoner. He will be taken to Bangor tomorrow for arraignment on indictments charging illegal transportation of explosives. Horn finished a sentence of 30 days in jail here on account of property damage caused in Vanceboro by the explosion.

## 781,000 Prisoners in Germany.

Berlin.—By wireless to Sayville.—Items given out by the Overseas News agency included: "Members of the Prussian Diet who have been visiting prison camps have received information that at present there are 781,000 war prisoners interned in Germany an increase since the end of 1914 of more than 200,000. The newspapers continue to devote their attention to the bombardment of the Dardanelles. The latest reports from Constantinople say no damage has been done and that shooting is from a longer range."

LAND SEGREGATION  
BILL VOTED DOWN

AMENDED ANTI-JUG BILL HAS EASY SAILING THROUGH SENATE—MANY BILLS PASS.

DISPATCHES FROM RALEIGH

Doings and Happenings That Mark the Progress of North Carolina People Gathered Around the State Capitol.

The senate listened for half an hour to arguments by Senator Majette and others on the Majette bill for a constitutional amendment to allow a system of rural land segregation between the races, as endorsed by the State Farmers' Union, and then voted 17 to 15 against the bill on second reading, killing the bill for the session.

The vote was first postponed and then Mr. Majette urged reconsideration of this with the fatal result for his bill.

The senate passed without opposition the bill agreed upon by the joint conference committee as a substitute for the anti-jug bill that the senate had amended to require a referendum and the measure went to the house, where its passage is assured. This means that prohibition legislation is terminating in a bill that will limit deliveries of "spirituous liquors" to one quart within 15 days to one person and not over five gallons of malt liquors with not over 5 per cent alcohol within a 15-day period when the bill had been passed without amendment.

Senator White, who had offered much the same bill early in the contest over the original bill in the senate, took occasion to especially thank Senator Gilliam and Senator Nash for their support of the substitute bill in the conference committee and on the floor of the senate. Both had opposed the original bill and worked for the referendum amendment that finally worked its defeat through the senate amendment.

## House and Senate Very Busy.

There was favorable report from committee for the Darden bill to allow commissioners of counties to pay \$10 reward for information to convict blind tigers and blockaders.

Doctor Carr pleaded for a bill for inspection of hospitals, convents, reformatories and the like, and it was passed with an amendment fixing it on his county of Duplin only on motion of Representative Vann; Representative Hutchinson's bill to amend the law as to bills-of-lading as evidence; require telephone companies to render statements.

The House concurred in the Senate substitute for the bill amending the pharmacy law and the amendment to the bill to give peanut pickers a lien on peanuts picked.

The Senate passed the bill to increase the fees of solicitors on a scale of running to \$25 instead of \$20, it being estimated that the bill will give an increase of about 30 per cent in the revenue of these officers. There were numbers of amendments offered and voted down, notably one by McLeod to strike out his senatorial district and, falling in this, to exempt Robeson county. An amendment by Senator Muse requiring reports of expenses of solicitors, was adopted and this immediately concurred in by the House.

The Senate passed with only one dissenting vote the Gilliam bill to amend the Constitution so as to restrict local and special legislation. It is a duplicate of that amendment lost at the last election and will now be submitted, if the House concurs.

The Senate passed the bill to require railroad employees in shops to be paid off semi-monthly.

Senator Gardner got up his bill to amend the law as to hours of labor in mills and remedying defects in the present law, fixing 60 hours and requiring better machinery as to child labor regulations as approved by the Committee on Manufacturers and this passed in second reading after an explanation by Senator Gardner.

## Senate Considers Machinery Bill.

The senate spent some time considering the machinery bill and voted down a substitute embodying the 1913 machinery act offered by Senator Muse because he opposed the tax assessment feature of the new bill with its county assessor feature with, as he charged, tax assessments as to sheriff settlements, and listing town property in May, and all were accepted and the bill passed in final reading to go back to the house for concurrence.

## Education Bill in House.

The house took up the omnibus education bill prepared by the committee to generally amend the public school laws and more particularly empowering the board of education of any county to raise the age limit for compulsory school attendance to 14 years. The provisions of the bill were explained by Chairman Mintz of the committee on education. There was considerable discussion and then the bill was referred to the committee on appropriations.

## Senate Bills Become Law.

Bills passed included: Omnibus justice of the peace bill; amend the law as to mortgages and torts; amend the library commission act; amend the revision as to the oyster industry; authorize the governor and commissioner of Agriculture to regulate commerce so as to prevent spread of foot-and-mouth disease among cattle; amend the law as to regulating security selling companies; protect and regulate agricultural fairs; authorize depositions in recorder's courts for defendants; amend the form of marriage licenses so as to show divorce when obtained and grounds, in marriage of divorced persons.

## Pass Bachelor Tax Bill.

In spite of the terribly congested calendar and great flood of work, the house took time for a bit of horseplay in passing a facetious bill credited to Benton of Columbus imposing a tax of \$2 on bachelors for support of the home for fallen women, with an amendment by Mickle of Forsyth providing a fine of \$1 to 2 on all married men who stay out after 10 o'clock at night, this to benefit the fund for woman suffrage. It passed applicable to Columbus county only.

## Change Name of State School.

A bill passed to change the name of state school for Feeble-minded to "Caswell Training School," as did bills to prevent trial of prisoners in prison uniforms and shaven heads; perfect details for electing United States senators by the people; provide rural police in Columbus county.

## Carter-Abernethy Investigation.

The joint resolution from the House enlarging the powers from the special committee of the House to investigate the Carter-Abernethy contempt case and charges of immorality against Judge Carter was laid before the Senate and passed without a dissenting vote. This is the resolution that provides for the expenses of the investigation through providing stenographers counsel, witness fees and mileage and any and all other expenses that may be incurred in the investigation. The resolution was ordered enrolled for ratification.

## Seek Federal Cooperation.

The House passed a resolution on motion of Senator Gardner looking to the acceptance of the co-operation terms of the Federal Government in the farm demonstration work under the Smith-Weaver bill for which the Senate has just passed the bill appropriating \$11,000 to be expended by the State in this work.

## Mt. Mitchell Appropriation Passed.

The House passed the bill from the Senate to appropriate \$20,000 for the purchase of the top of Mount Mitchell and preserve this original forest and most valuable watershed as public park for the people of the State. It is the Weaver bill that has already passed the Senate.

## No Appropriation For Home.

The House Committee on Appropriations reported unfavorably the McRae bill for \$25,000 to establish a home for fallen women, a measure that had already passed the Senate. The joint committee on appropriations reported favorably by one vote majority a bill to increase the pensions of the several classes of Confederate pensioners.

## Regulate Importation of Cattle.

The Senate took up the bill of Senator Miller to authorize the Governor and Commissioner of Agriculture to stop or regulate the importation of foodstuffs and cattle into the state at their discretion and passed it with little discussion, the purpose being to be in position to take prompt and effective steps to prevent or stay invasion of the foot-and-mouth disease which has recently appeared in Virginia.

## Fish Commission Bill Passed.

The state-wide fish commission bill completed its running of the gauntlet being passed by the House by a vote of 53 to 51 after an especially spilted final argument, then had its amendments concurred in by the Senate and order made for its enrollment for ratification.

## Woman Reformatory Bill Passes.

The McRae bill to establish a reformatory for fallen women was passed by the senate.

## Bynum Divorce Bill Killed.

The House reopened the matter of the passage of the Bynum bill for allowing absolute divorce after five years separation where some one of the statutory cases is involved and killed the bill by a vote of 50 to 42.

The calendars in both houses are terribly congested and committees are reporting great numbers of additional bills at the opening hour of every session in preparation for the final deluge that can but characterize the last hours of the session.

## Senate Bills Pass Final Reading.

Amend the charter of Beaufort, provide bonds for Woodland school district, Northampton county; improve roads of Wake county and employ road engineers; establish boundaries of Waco Graded School district, Cleveland county; encourage reclamation of swamp lands; authorize New Hanover county to issue bonds for free ferry and build causeway across Eagle Island; authorize special hospital tax in Henderson county; amend the Smithfield township road law; amend the charter of Lenoir.

PISGAH FOREST ROAD  
NOW OPEN TO PUBLIC

FIRST OFFICIAL ORDER OF FORESTER REGARDING NEW NATIONAL PARK.

SCENERY IS MAGNIFICENT

Wonderful Road Was Built by George W. Vanderbilt Without Regard of Time or Money.

Asheville.—The first official order of the forestry services affecting the recently purchased tract of 87,600 acres of the Vanderbilt timber lands at Pisgah Forest was made a few days ago by the forester in charge when it was ordered that the road to the top of Pisgah be thrown open to the public and that vehicles be allowed to ascend the mountains from 9 to 1 o'clock, making the descent from 3 to 6.

Heretofore passes have been necessary to obtain a trip over the excellent mountain highway of unusual beauty; but in the future all persons who desire to make the trip will be allowed to do so with the understanding that they drive at a moderate rate of speed.

The road was constructed by the late George W. Vanderbilt at great expense, the creator of Biltmore ordering that a highway be built from his mansion to the lodge at the summit of the mountains without regard for time or money. The road was in the course of construction for several years and has been pronounced by experts as one of the best mountain highways in the world.

The highway, opened to the public, promises to prove one of western North Carolina's biggest attractions, going through the very heart of the finest stand of timber in the United States—the property on which Gifford Pinchot inaugurated scientific methods of forestry.

## Wooten's Will Was Brief.

Kinston.—Exactly three years before the date of his funeral, on February 28, 1912, to be exact, the late Emmett R. Wooten, speaker of the house of representatives, made his will. The document is one of the briefest on record, contains only about 85 words in holograph and was written on a memorandum sheet bearing the business heading of an insurance company.

The will was found among his papers, and names his widow, Mrs. Nannie C. Wooten, as the executrix. She is the sole beneficiary. Mr. Wooten was the owner of considerable personal property and real estate, although he was not excessively wealthy. Clerk of the Court Heath turned over the letters to Mrs. Wooten as executrix.

## Wiping Out Hog Cholera.

Scotland Neck.—It is now pretty certain that the heretofore dreadful disease, hog cholera, that has killed thousands of pounds of meat in this section, will be almost, if not quite eliminated. The local live stock agent, N. B. Stevens, says he has inoculated 2,022 hogs since coming here a little more than a month ago, and from the reports received the percentage of deaths from the disease has been very materially decreased, there being less than a dozen deaths among the hogs treated and in many herds, there were well-developed cases of cholera.

## Cleveland Drainage Costs Less.

Shelby.—One of the few instances in which public work is carried on at a less expense than was anticipated is in the draining of Buffalo Creek and its tributaries. The district was formed about two years ago and a bond issue of \$108,000 voted. The drainage commissioners have been faithfully working on the reclamation of the land with two big dredge boats for a little over a year. Chairman A. H. Cline says the work will be completed in two months and there will be left something like \$25,000 in the treasury which will go to paying the interest on the bonds.

## Buncombe Has Big Corn Club.

Asheville.—That a call will soon be issued for the first meeting of the youthful corn growers of Buncombe county who have joined the Boys' Corn Club was announced by the agricultural committee. The meeting will be held sometime during the latter part of the present month or early in April and at this gathering the boys will meet with Demonstrator E. D. Weaver and make plans for the campaign of the coming year looking to the production of the maximum yield per acre at a minimum cost.

## Will Have Suffrage League.

Wilmington.—Preliminary arrangements for the formation of a Woman's Suffrage League in Wilmington were made at a meeting of a number of prominent women, both married and single, at the home of Miss Elsie Kidder, on South Third street. The meeting was well attended and the greatest interest was shown in the movement. Those who have signified their purpose of uniting with the movement are among the most prominent women of the city, leaders in the social life of the community.

INTERNATIONAL  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)

LESSON FOR MARCH 14

SAUL GAINS HIS KINGDOM.

LESSON TEXT—I Samuel, chapter 11. GOLDEN TEXT—He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit, than he that taketh a city.—Prov. 16:32.

In order to repay Israel's victory under Jephthah, Nahash the Ammonite demanded the right eye of those besieged in Jabesh in Gilead, knowing that the left eye would be hid by their shields and they would thus be incapable of warfare. For Israel to make any covenant with the Ammonites was contrary to God's commands (Ex. 23:32; Deut. 23:3).

1. The Cry of Jabesh, vv. 1-3. This event probably occurred about a month after the previous lesson. It was a proud, haughty demand made of these Israelites. Exhausted and hopeless, they had offered to become servants in order to live. So today we frequently find men willing to compromise with the world and the devil, who only hold them in derision and contempt (v. 2). Compromising Christians are always blind leaders of the blind (Matt. 15:14; 6:22). The demand of Nahash would also bring reproach upon Israel, yet this same king afterwards showed kindness to David (II Samuel 10:2). History records that Emperor Bel II actually sent an army of 14,850 sightless men back to the king of Bulgaria, who died of grief and horror.

11. The Conquest of Ammon, vv. 4-11. Nahash granted the request for a seven days' respite. Here was Saul's opportunity—wrong to be righted and people to be saved. Saul had held his peace since being anointed by Samuel, employing his time in everyday toil and duties (v. 5), for the messengers did not find Saul at home idle. The tidings of this insult were told to the people who lifted up their voices and wept (v. 4). The news of this threatened calamity reached Saul's ears and his conduct effectively put to silence those "worthless fellows" who despised him and had brought no presents at his anointing (10:27). Instead of tears Saul is moved to deeds. Like Cincinnatus and Israel Putnam, he left the plow to take up the sword. Saul did not, in his own strength, undertake to relieve Jabesh, for "the Spirit of God came upon him" (v. 6; see also Judges 3:10; 11:29; 13:25; Luke 24:49; Acts 10:38). This moved Saul to anger, not alone at such an evidence of cruelty, but more at the contempt Nahash had for God and his people. Saul associated himself with Samuel, the man of God, and summoned the nation of Israel to his side.

The Holy Spirit gave Saul clear assurance of a call from God, and he responded with unquestioned faith (Rom. 8:31). The people responded with great rapidity, the fear of God came upon them also. We have the good news of a better deliverance from a more subtle foe to proclaim in the present age. They all resorted to Bezek, west of the Jordan. The messengers returned bearing a message having two meanings (v. 10), and that helped to keep Nahash ignorant of Saul's actions on the other side of the river. Dividing his army into companies Saul attacked the enemy "in the morning watch," and completely overwhelmed them and put them to rout. As the Ammonites had refused to show any mercy, they in turn were judged unworthy of mercy (v. 11, see also James 2:13; Matt. 7:2).

111. The Crowning of Saul, vv. 12-15. Saul's victory so impressed the people that they demanded to know of Samuel who it was that had refused him as king, desiring to put them to death. Saul showed his wisdom by not permitting such a course of action. Many today refuse God's divinely appointed king who will yet be glad to acknowledge him (Luke 19:27; Phil. 2:10). In the next place Saul did not claim credit for the victory for, said he, "The Lord hath wrought deliverance in Israel" (v. 13 R. V.). All real victories come from God (Ps. 44:3; I Cor. 15:10). This was the true kingdomly spirit. Saul reaped the reward of his humility, his forbearance, courage and activity in the loyalty and pride of the people. Samuel gladly shared in the success of Saul and led the people to Gilgal for the crowning ceremony. This was the place where Israel had first encamped under the leadership of Joshua and where the twelve stones from the river had been set up as a testimony to God's real presence and deliverance.

Saul had natural and physical characteristics calculated to make him a great and useful king—self-restraint, modesty, military invention and a capacity for leadership.

He was shrewd, patient and generous. He thus stood on the threshold of his kingdom with the possibilities of untold usefulness and blessing.

We are "kings and priests unto God." He has ushered us into his kingdom. Power, usefulness, influence, helpfulness, victory over sin are before us. "Napoleon said that his nobility dated from Arocle and Marenco. May ours date from the victories of love over the evil within us and in the world." "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (I John 5:4).