

IMPORTANT NEWS THE WORLD OVER

Happenings 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.

Foreign

Following the example of Bulgaria, Greece has ordered mobilization of all her troops. What plans Bulgaria has in mind and what Greece and Roumania will do, is still an open question, and until further developments, the course of the Balkans is still a matter for speculation.

The Bulgarian situation is absorbing the attention of France to the exclusion of all other topics. Little doubt is felt that Bulgaria has decided to cast its lot with the central powers.

At Como, Italy, attorneys for Porter Charlton, the American whose trial on the charge of murdering his wife there during their honeymoon trip, was set for October 5, have applied for a further postponement.

Another body that came ashore at Clonakilly, on the south coast of Ireland, has been identified as that of Mrs. Josephine Bruguiere of New York, an Arabic victim.

Bulgaria's mobilization—a war move that may solve the riddle of the Balkans—has struck London with dramatic suddenness.

Commanders of German submarines have been given strict orders that in case of doubt as to the intentions of liners to take the safe course and permit the ship to escape rather than run the lightest risk.

Of the thirty-four American and German papers found in the possession of James F. J. Archibald, the American newspaper correspondent, when he was apprehended at Falmouth, England, while proceeding from New York for Rotterdam, seventeen are described as having been made public and the other seventeen as being insufficient to warrant publication.

The greatest war budget in the history of the world was introduced in the British house of commons by McKenna, chancellor of the exchequer, as another step toward financing the war, which is now costing Great Britain nearly twenty-five million dollars daily.

Officials reports from Austrian and German headquarters and dispatches from the Balkan capitals show that the long expected Teuton campaign to be waged against Serbia has begun.

Freight traffic has been suspended on the Bulgarian railroads. Forty-five thousand Bulgarians in Macedonia and Thrace have been called to the colors.

Domestic

A Philadelphia dispatch reports that the Midvale Steel company, one of the largest of the independent steel concerns, has been sold for nineteen million dollars. The company will be reorganized. The company had refused to accept war orders. The plant employs 5,500 men.

W. K. Vickers, a lineman in the employ of the Georgia Railway and Power company, Atlanta, was killed when he was crushed by a heavy pole which fell while workmen were trying to place it.

Roy Canfield, an amateur automobile driver, was killed at Cedar Falls, Iowa, when his machine went over a 15-foot embankment in a fifteen mile race at the county fair. The accident was due to a blow-out.

An urgent request from Chicago, President M. M. Allison of the Dixie Highway association announces that the first official tour of the Dixie highway will begin at Chicago on October 9 instead of October 11, as previously announced.

Six bodies had been removed from the wreck of a section of the Seventh avenue subway excavation destroyed by a dynamite blast, and the task of uncovering the wreckage is reported to be proceeding rapidly. Two of the dead were passengers on the trolley, and four were laborers on the subway.

Cotton bulged a quarter of a cent a pound around the opening in New Orleans on September 21, and later took another upward turn, which landed the most active options in the future market 39 to 42 points, or more than \$2 a bale over the close of the preceding close.

The proposed mammoth credit loan to Great Britain and France, it is reported in New York City, is to be underwritten by a syndicate of American financiers, who are to receive a commission for their services. The loan will be between six hundred million and eight hundred million dollars.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr., is visiting the scene of the Ludlow battle in Colorado and the mining camps of Berwind and Tabasco on his inspection tour of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company properties. He talked freely with the miners and visited their homes and conversed with their wives.

Pononio Rodrigues, who was suspected of having kidnaped a Texas ranchman in February, 1914, has been placed in the Laredo, Texas, jail. He was formally charged with horse stealing, but interest is attached to his arrest in view of demands made by the Texas officials.

Dr. Austin Flint, alienist, who was much in the public eye recently as star witness for the state against Harry K. Thaw, was found dead in his home in New York City.

Anthony Comstock, the noted New York City vice crusader, died at his home in Summit, N. J., after a brief illness.

The legal battle over the estate of Francis A. Ogden, the eccentric Houston, Texas, millionaire, who died June 6, 1914, begins shortly in the probate court of Houston.

European War

The Russians in Galicia and Volhynia have forced General Mackensen to retreat. The Russians laid a trap for the Germans, and nearly succeeded in circling them before General Mackensen discovered their plans.

The center of the Russian army is still retreating, and in the north von Hindenburg continues to make progress against Dvinsk, although much slower than formerly.

Berlin reports that a British attack south of the LaBasse canal broke down under German fire.

An Italian army headquarters statement announces that on the plateau northwest of Asiago the strong position of Monte Coston was stormed by the Italian troops. The Italians had virtually isolated it already by a skillful enveloping movement. The enemy's columns then tried to check the progress of the Italian envelopment by violent attacks on the days of the 17th, 18th and 22d, which broke against the firm resistance of the Italians.

General Joffre, Sir John French and King Albert of Belgium are developing a new plan of campaign that involves the almost continuous use of artillery on a vast scale along the whole line. The allies are methodically maintaining their shell fire for days at a time without infantry attacks.

Austrian and German artillery are reported to be bombarding Serbian positions south of the river frontier at various points along the hundred-mile front between the mouths of the Drina and Morava rivers. This action is introductory to the "steam roller" movement through Serbia long ago decided upon by Austria and Germany.

Gen. Sir Ian Hamilton, commander of the British forces at the Dardanelles, tells how the British and French through the summer kept at grips with the Turks in Gallipoli, with terrible losses on both sides in the arid, congested area, where the gain or loss of a few yards of trenches measured the tide of battle and the dead lay so thick that a temporary armistice was imperative at times.

The Germans occupied Vilna, Russian Poland, and by a wide-sweeping movement north of that city, almost surrounded a part of the Russian army fighting in the railway triangle between Vilna, Lida and Vileika.

Washington

The way has been cleared for the seizure of American-owned goods of German and Austrian origin now held at neutral ports of Europe by the British order in council.

The group of German firms which recently offered to buy a million bales of cotton at 15 cents a pound have raised the price to 16 cents a pound, and guarantee that the cotton will not be used for military purposes.

Aliens, such as actors, singers and others residing temporarily in the United States, must pay an income tax just as though they were full-fledged citizens.

It is reported to the war department that another American soldier—Private Henry W. Stubbfield—has been killed by Mexican bandits.

Tariffs on the Clyde Steamship company which provide for the cancellation of joint ocean-and-rail class and commodity rates from New York and other Eastern points to Charlotte, N. C., and destinations via the port of Charleston, were suspended by the Interstate commerce commission until January 25.

Exports exceeded three billion dollars during the year ending August 31, breaking all records. The exact figures were \$3,035,033,280, the bureau of foreign and domestic commerce announces.

The United States government will make no effort to secure the safe conduct from this country for Dr. Constantin Dumba, Austro-Hungarian ambassador, until the Vienna government has replied to the request that the ambassador be recalled.

According to reports received in Washington, business conditions all over the country are showing improvement and trade generally is picking up.

The federal advisory council has not yet taken up the credit loan by American bankers to England.

Prospects for the recognition of General Carranza, it was admitted in official quarters, are much more favorable than at any time since the United States began to exert its influence toward the establishment of a central government in Mexico.

Death decreased the government's Civil war pension roll nearly ten per cent during the last fiscal year, according to the annual report of the commissioner of pensions just made public.

James F. J. Archibald, the American correspondent who carried a message from Dr. Constantin D. Dumba, Austro-Hungarian ambassador at Washington, which led to a request from the United States for the ambassador's recall, issued a statement in New York City denying that he had connived to break the neutrality law of the United States.

FRENCH AND BRITISH ADVANCE IN WEST

TWENTY MILES OF TRENCHES
AND 20,000 UNWOUNDED SOLDIERS TAKEN.

A LARGE NUMBER OF GUNS

French Have Most Credit For Gains.—German Positions Around Verdun Weaken.

London.—The German trenches along a front of 20 miles between the Belgian coast and Verdun, and more than 20,000 unwounded prisoners, besides 22 guns and many machine guns have been captured by the British and French armies in the first offensive movement on the Western front in months.

The offensive followed a several weeks' almost incessant bombardment of German positions with big guns, which late last week increased in intensity, particularly in the sections where the infantry attacks took place, simultaneously with the drive of the armies British warships and French and Belgian batteries heavily bombarded the German positions on the coast between Zebrugge and Heuport.

The French, who have the most important gains to their credit, made their chief onset against the German lines around Perthes, Beausejour and Sulpes in Champagne, where in December they made a considerable gain of ground, and also north of Arras, where Souchez was stormed and captured.

The French communication says the Allied forces continue to gain ground in Champagne. With the Advances thus recorded, this offensive has given the French possession of more territory than they had retaken from the Germans since the latter dug themselves in after the battle of the Marne.

According to the French account, the Germans were driven out of their trenches over a front of more than 15 miles, varying in depth from two-thirds of a mile to two and a half miles. The French in this engagement captured 12,000 prisoners. Apparently the advantage is being pressed still further, as the French communication makes only the briefest mention of the operation.

The importance of this gain lies in the fact that every yard of ground taken in this region weakens the German position around Verdun from which the Germans might be compelled to retire should the French succeed in making any further advance.

ANOTHER BROADWAY CAVE-IN

Three Injured When Street Sank Into Subway.

New York.—One death and the injury of three other persons resulted from the caving in of the street over the new subway in Broadway near 28th street. An unidentified woman, who was caught in the falling debris, died later in a hospital. The others injured were men. The police and firemen continued their search for several workmen reported missing.

The accident occurred a few blocks from the heart of the theatre district shortly before 8 o'clock and Broadway was crowded with people.

The weakening of supports in the subway, due to weight of traffic, is believed to have caused the beams and planking to collapse, making a hole about 50 feet long, extending about half way across Broadway. The pit was about 30 feet deep.

Two of the injured, a man and a woman were in an automobile that was carried down into the hole. The other person injured was believed to be a workman.

Smuggled Bulgarians Across Border

Toledo, O.—Charged with smuggling 800 or more Bulgarians from Windsor, Ont., to Detroit, then to Toledo, Mike Tonoff, Bulgarian, was arrested here by Government officers. The arrest followed affidavits made by some of the men brought across.

Conditions of Big Loan

New York.—The Anglo-French financial commission and Eastern bankers have reached a virtual agreement on the details of the proposed billion dollar credit loan to Great Britain and France. Following are the details of the loan agreed upon: The amount—approximately \$500,000,000; the securities—joint Anglo-French notes; the interest rate—5 per cent to yield the investor about 5 1/2 per cent by the notes being offered at slightly under par.

Carranza Troops Not Present

Washington.—Major General Funston, commanding United States troops on the border, and General Nafarrate, the Carranza commander, both disclaim for their men responsibility for the fighting near Progress, Texas, in which one American trooper was killed and an officer wounded. Reporting to the war department General Funston said his men had repelled the raiding party which fed across the border under the protection of soldiers "in uniforms" who were entrenched on the other side.

EXPRESS COMPANY WILL PAY \$10,000

CLAIMS OF STATE FOR BACK TAXES SETTLED BY COMPROMISE FOR 50 PER CENT.

DISPATCHES FROM RALEIGH

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

Litigation of the State of North Carolina against the Southern Express Company involving over \$20,000 of back taxes owing to the state by the company for the years from 1909 through 1912 was settled in conference between representatives of the state and the express company in the office of Governor Craig.

A compromise of \$10,000 was reached and agreed upon by parties.

Those appearing before Governor Craig in the matter under settlement were Corporation Commissioner E. L. Travis, Attorney General T. W. Bickett, State Treasurer B. R. Lacy, and General Counsel Robert Alston of Atlanta, Julius Martin of Asheville, A. B. Andrews of Raleigh and Agent J. J. Bowen of Raleigh.

The charge for collection of back taxes was made in 1913 following an investigation by the corporation commission. According to the order which was issued by the corporation commission then, it appeared that for 1909, 1910, 1911, 1912, there was imposed upon the express company, "upon its gross revenue derived from business done wholly within this state," an annual tax of two and a half per cent for 1909 and 1910 and three per cent for 1911 and 1912. The gross revenue for the Southern Express Company for this time, according to its own reports made to the commission, was 1909, \$313,052.73; 1910, \$348,865.57; 1911, \$385,900.27; 1912, \$432,810.01.

In making report to the corporation commission, however, the Southern Express Company, it is charged, deducted for those years the amounts paid railroad companies for transportation as follows: 1909, \$148,550.04; 1910, \$168,520.27; 1911, \$183,657.11; 1912, \$219,512.49.

By this method the company arrived at the amounts which it reported as gross revenues for the four years and upon which its franchise tax was computed and paid. These amounts were as follows: 1909, \$164,402.50; 1910, \$180,345.34; 1911, \$220,242.16; 1912, \$213,297.51.

The corporation commission contended that the reductions made by the express company were neither proper nor lawful; and if the company were allowed to deduct transportation charges, other expenses might as properly be deducted.

With this state of affairs facing it, the corporation commission adjudged the Southern Express Company to be indebted to the State of North Carolina in back taxes for these four years the amounts of \$3,718.25 for 1909; \$4,213 for 1910; \$5,009 for 1911; \$6,575 for 1912. All of it totaled \$20,413.32.

This order was issued on August 1, 1913, and since that time the attorney general of North Carolina instituted suit.

Warren County New Dog Law

Notable among the opinions delivered recently by the supreme court was on the Warren county dog law passed by the last legislature that imposes a tax of \$2 on each male and \$3 on each female dog in the county.

It was introduced by the representative from Warren originally to apply to the entire state and after many committee hearings and amendments, laws passed to apply only to Warren. (There was a restraining order by F. B. Newell and others against the county game warden, charged with collecting the tax, and this was dissolved by Judge Ferguson and his action is now upheld by the supreme court. Chief Justice Clark, in writing the opinion, took the position that in such matters, if the people don't want such a law, must be handled through the legislature.)

Waterways Men to Make Step

Congressman John H. Small of the First district and Congressman J. Hampton Moore of Pennsylvania spent one afternoon at Raleigh conferring with city authorities and Governor Craig in preparation for 200 or more delegates to the Savannah convention of the Atlantic Deep Waterways Association to stop over here November 8 for a few hours en route to Savannah. They met with the heartiest co-operation and every possible arrangement will be made for their occasion.

Reports to War Department

Adjutant General Young of the North Carolina National Guard forwarded to the war department reports from the captains of the companies of the North Carolina National Guard and the commanding officers of the regiments as to steps taken to eliminate the deficiencies charged up to each in the annual inspections held last spring. General Young said the deficiencies have been satisfactorily met.

General Lee's Address to Army

The State Historical Commission has received for the Hall of History a steel engraved copy of General Robert E. Lee's farewell address to the army of Northern Virginia on April 10, 1865.

Fire-Prevention Day Circulars

Circulars on Fire Prevention Day are being sent out from the office of the North Carolina Insurance Commissioner J. R. Young to county clerks, mayors of cities, fire insurance commissioners, journals and state papers.

Secretary Issues Several Charters

Buaffo Packing Company, of Warrenville. Capital stock, \$50,000. Subscribed stock, \$1,750. Incorporators, R. L. Egan, Jefferson; W. H. Jones, Warrenville; A. F. Robinson, Warrenville.

Asheville Development Company, of Asheville. Capital stock, \$25,000. Subscribed stock, \$4,800. Incorporators, J. M. Chiles, Kenilworth; D. R. Millard, Asheville; E. T. Belch, Asheville.

Lenoir Mills, of Lenoir. Capital stock, \$75,000. Subscribed stock, \$7,000. Incorporators, J. H. Beall, J. C. Seagle and T. T. Broghill.

Tax Assessments Given by Counties.

The recent order of the corporation commission affecting tax assessments in the counties is given in full because of the general interest throughout the state in its contents. The increase by counties is as follows:

Alleghany, thirty per cent; Anson, ten per cent; Ashe, twenty per cent; Beaufort, five per cent; Bertie, fifteen per cent; Bladen, ten per cent; Buncombe, five per cent; Burke, ten per cent; Caldwell, five per cent; Camden, ten per cent; Caswell, ten per cent; Catawba, fifteen per cent; Chatham, ten per cent; Chowan, ten per cent; Clay, five per cent; Cleveland, fifteen per cent; Columbus, five per cent; Craven, five per cent; Cumberland, ten per cent; Currituck, five per cent; Davidson, fifteen per cent; Davie, five per cent; Duplin, ten per cent; Durham, ten per cent; Edgecombe, ten per cent; Forsyth, ten per cent; Franklin, ten per cent; Gaston, ten per cent; Gates, five per cent; Granville, ten per cent; Greene, five per cent; Guilford, ten per cent; Halifax, five per cent; Harnett, five per cent; Haywood, five per cent; Henderson, five per cent; Hertford, five per cent; Hoke, five per cent; Hyde, five per cent; Iredell, ten per cent; Jackson, five per cent; Johnston, five per cent; Jones, ten per cent; Lenoir, five per cent; Lincoln, ten per cent; Macon, ten per cent; Madison, five per cent; Mecklenburg, fifteen per cent; Mitchell, five per cent; Montgomery, ten per cent; Moore, five per cent; Nash, five per cent; Person, ten per cent; Pitt, ten per cent; Polk, five per cent; Randolph, fifteen per cent; Richmond, twenty-five per cent; Robeson, ten per cent; Rockingham, five per cent; Rowan, ten per cent; Rutherford, five per cent; Sampson, thirty per cent; Scotland, thirty per cent; Wayne, five per cent; Yancey, five per cent; Tyrrell, five per cent; Union, ten per cent; Vance, five per cent; Warren, five per cent; Washington, five per cent; Wake, five per cent; Wayne, five per cent; Wilkes, ten per cent; Wilson, ten per cent.

Opinions of the Supreme Court

There were opinions delivered in 13 appeals by the supreme court. The opinions follow: Card vs. Mason, Pasquotank, no error; Cutler vs. Cutler, Beaufort, affirmed; Cook vs. Veneer Company, Pasquotank, no error; Sexton vs. Duff, Pasquotank, affirmed; Horton vs. Light & Power Co., Beaufort, new trial; Fowle vs. Warrenton, Beaufort, new trial; Elliott vs. Railroad & Lumber Co., Beaufort, no error; Hobgood vs. Hobgood, Edgecombe, modified; Iron Company vs. Bridge Company, Nash, reversed; Brown vs. Telegraph Company, Edgecombe, new trial; Marsh vs. Early, Hertford, reversed; Newell vs. Green, Warren, affirmed; Blue Ridge Interurban Railway vs. Light & Power Co., Henderson, error.

Plan Forest Fire Protection

Special from Asheville—Owners of timber lands of this section of the state expect to save thousands of dollars during the coming fall and winter months as the result of the adoption of a co-operative plan of protecting their holdings against forest fires. State Forester J. S. Holmes spent some time here in conference with the lumbermen of this section of the state discussing plans for the employment of patrolmen and rangers by the individuals owning timber lands, the city of Asheville and the state.

Hotel For Mount Mitchell

Asheville.—That local investors and visiting capitalists have made arrangements to build a modern hotel of 50 rooms at the summit of Mount Mitchell was the announcement authorized at this city. Work will be started on the structure in time to permit its opening by the beginning of next spring. Boulders from Mount Mitchell will be used in the construction of the foundation and the wall will be constructed of immense logs from the mountain top. The rustic style of architecture will be used and modern conveniences will be provided.

Point Lookout, a Short Distance From the Grave of Dr. Elisha Mitchell

Mitchell, has been chosen as the site for the hotel and Perley & Crockett, owners of the railroad to Mitchell, state that they will extend their line to the location of the hostelry.

Dies From Burns

Snow Hill.—Attempting to extinguish a blaze started where her five-year-old son emptied a can of kerosene oil on the kitchen range, Mrs. Sam Cobb, of Maury, near here, received burns from which she died several hours later. The child also was burned, but is expected to recover.

Seventy-Five Bushels Per Acre

West Raleigh.—Seventy-five bushels an acre is what the North Carolina Corn Club boys are putting as their this year's average. Last week the officer in charge at the experiment station at West Raleigh asked each of the boys to report an estimate of the year's yield, and up to the latter part of the week about 1,000 had reported. It seems that this will be a good year for the corn crop, although it was rather unfavorable for a good stand to be obtained in some parts of the state this spring.

New Hosiery Mill

Hendersonville.—James P. Grey and his son, James P. Grey, Jr., of Johnson City, Tenn., have announced their plans to have a \$10,000 hosiery mill in operation in Hendersonville by the first of the coming year. A site has been purchased on Fourth avenue near the Southern tracks and plans and specifications are being drawn for the plant, machinery for which has been ordered for shipment on November 1. Mr. Grey states that it is his purpose to employ about 20 operatives to begin with.

HARDING EXPECTS 12 CENT COTTON

BROAD FOREIGN DEMAND FOR STAPLE WILL SEND PRICES UPWARD.

DELIVERS STRONG ADDRESS

Before Raleigh Chamber of Commerce He Praises Southern Banks and The Good Judgment of Bankers.

Raleigh.—Hon. W. P. G. Harding, member of the Federal Reserve Board in a forcible address delivered at the annual banquet of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce at which there were honor guests representing numbers of the leading commercial organizations of the state, declared that "it is no longer a secret that there is a broad foreign demand for cotton. Estimates now range from 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 bales and a price of 12 cents looks less improbable tonight than 10 did a month ago."

Continuing Mr. Harding said on this subject: "For the first time the crop movement has begun with an abundance of cheap money available for Southern bankers and upon their judgment, advice and co-operation depends, to a great degree, the question of whether or not farmers shall receive intrinsic values for cotton this season."

"My friends," declared Mr. Harding, "the financial emancipation of the rural South is no longer an illusive dream. It can be made a glorious reality and surely you of North Carolina whose forefathers at Mecklenburg framed the original declaration of political independence will not be laggards in this movement for the new freedom."

Mr. Harding's address was an illuminating presentation of the purposes and the work of the Federal Reserve Board.

He opened with an expression of appreciation for the opportunity to visit the Capital City of North Carolina, a State rich in colonial and national traditions and history and especially powerful in national prestige at this time, with the President a North Carolinian in boyhood, with Josephus Daniels in the cabinet and "with one of your senators, chairman of the Senate committee on rates and the other chairman of the great Finance Committee of the Senate, and with a Representative of your State, Congressman Claude Kitchin, soon to be called to assume the duties of chairman of the Ways and Means Committee of the House and the majority leadership in that body."

Continuing Mr. Harding declared that "the important chairmanships held by your Senators and Representatives will give your state a commanding influence in legislative affairs during the term of the next Congress."

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INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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

LESSON FOR OCTOBER 3

ELIJAH IN NABOTH'S VINEYARD.

LESSON TEXT—I Kings 21:1-20. GOLDEN TEXT—Be sure your sin will find you out.—Num. 32:23.

Ahab disobeyed God and failed to follow up his victory over Ben-Hadad (ch. 20:31-34). Thereupon one of the prophets resorted to a plan whereby Ahab was rebuked and also received a message that sent him "to his house heavy and displeased" (v. 43). All of this needs to be borne in mind when we study Ahab's course of action related in this lesson. Learn by heart the tenth commandment; also Luke 12:15.

I. The Schemes of Men, vv. 11-16. Ahab had been king for twenty years (B. C. 906?7). Jezebel was his summer capital, about twenty miles northwest of Samaria. The chief actors in this tragedy were Naboth, a well-to-do citizen; Ahab, a petulant monarch to whom Naboth refuses to sell his vineyard; Jezebel, the Lady Macbeth of Ahab's court; elders and nobles of Jezreel, willing tools in the transaction; false witnesses, executioner, and Elijah, the servant of God, who confronted the monarch in his newly gained possession. Ahab was constantly in conflict with the purposes of God and with his Word. Naboth had no right to sell his vineyard (see Numbers 35:7; Lev. 25:23; also Ezek. 46:16) and sturdily stood out for his God-given rights. These land laws were rigid, but at the same time wise and beneficial. Instead of yielding to God's law Ahab sulks like a petted child (v. 4) and thus again runs counter to God's Word (see tenth commandment). At this juncture Jezebel, his wife, appeals to his pride and power as the king (v. 7), and offers to procure the coveted possession. The methods of mankind whereby vast possessions are accumulated do not always bear investigation; murder and rapine, broken hearts and shortened lives, weakened bodies and stunted children can largely be traced to the sin of covetousness, against which we all need to be on guard (Luke 12:15; Eph. 5:5). The first sinner was covetous (Gen. 3:6), so also were the chosen people of God (Josh. 7:21), and it was this that caused the first disension among Christian believers (Acts 5:1-3). Jezebel most graciously gave Ahab that which belonged to others; how free we all can be with the property of others! She also cloaked her designs with the mantle of religion (8-13).

II. The Sentence of God, vv. 17-20. The dead Naboth was happier than his neighbors of Jezreel, the king and queen or any of the other evil participants. Ahab began by breaking the first commandment (I Kings 16:31; Deut. 5:7) and thus laid the groundwork of the whole train of evil for which he and his household and his reign are famous. The elders readily obeyed the word of Jezebel and Ahab profited thereby, but now he was to hear the Word