

THE DUPLIN TIMES
Published each Friday in Kenansville, N. C., County Seat of DUPLIN COUNTY

Editorial business and printing plant, Kenansville, N. C.
J. ROBERT GRADY, EDITOR - OWNER
Entered at the Post Office, Kenansville, N. C., as second class matter.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$3.00 per year in Duplin County; \$3.50 per year outside Duplin County, in North Carolina; \$4.00 per year outside North Carolina, except to Men in U. S. Armed Forces, Anywhere, \$3.00 per year.

Advertising rates furnished on request.
A Democratic Journal, devoted to the material, educational, economic and agricultural interests of Duplin County.

National Advertising Representative
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New York - Chicago - Detroit - Philadelphia

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson for May 4

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SOURCES OF NATIONAL CONFLICT

LESSON TEXT—1 Kings 12:1-5, 12-18, 25.

MEMORY SELECTION—A man's pride shall bring him low; but he that is in a lowly spirit shall obtain honor.—Proverbs 12:18.

"He did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord"—this is the divine epitome of the life of Rehoboam the king as given in II Chronicles 12:14.

The destiny of the people hinged on the choices of their ruler, so they went down into confusion and sin because of his bad leadership.

Here we have magnified anew the great importance of making right decisions for ourselves and for their influence on others.

Life is full of choices, and the decisions we make determine our destiny both in this life and in the life to come. Since the great issues of our life may hinge on the simplest of choices, it is obvious that we need guidance at every point and in every moment of life.

The picture before us is astonishingly up to date. People were crying for relief from tax burdens. One group of leaders counseled moderation; another group said in effect, tax them all you can and keep on spending. The king, who in a monarchy had the final decree in his power, replied to the plea of the people with sarcastic indifference, to their need, and the ten tribes revolted.

I. A Friendly Request (vv. 1-5).

Governments exist for the people, not the people for the government. Political leaders seem to forget this axiom and begin to rule as though they need not listen to the reasonable pleas of the people. Tax burdens rise, regimentation of the life of the nation takes place, and sooner or later the people rise to overthrow the government. It happened in Rome; it was back of the French Revolution; it brought an uprising of the serfs of Russia; it can and will happen elsewhere if men who rule do not listen to reason.

Rehoboam made at least one wise decision—to wait three days before speaking and to seek counsel. He needed this, for having been brought up in the palace of Solomon without proper training for his place as king, he was quite unable to make immediate answer to their request. Incidentally, we note that much of the folly of Rehoboam is chargeable to the neglect of his father to rear him properly. May that terrible thing never be said about you and me regarding our children.

II. An Arrogant Refusal (vv. 12-15).

The picture of the two groups of advisers is a most graphic one and should afford the teacher an excellent opportunity to show young people especially, how important it is to heed the counsel of their elders. Even so, youth stands today at the fork of the road. Let us in all kindness, love, and tact seek to help them choose the right way.

Note the arrogance and pride of the young men and their king. They were not content to make a simple denial of the request. They did not have sense enough to temper the bitter disappointment of the people by an expression of regret. No, they had to use the foolish whip of caustic words and harsh judgments—what folly! Let us learn a needed lesson from their failure.

III. The Inevitable Revolt (vv. 18, 20).

There is a limit to what men and women can bear—and to their patience and their loyalty.

People, long submissive, ultimately come to the point where they think, and when they do, dictatorial rulers tumble from their self-made thrones. Would that the people of the earth realized the power which they have and that they would use it for the glory of God.

Rehoboam felt the power of the people who revolted, others have followed him, for it is still true in the world that the rulers "do evil" because "they prepare not their hearts to seek the Lord."

Rehoboam, who had awaited the arrival of this crucial hour in anticipation of taking his place as the king of the ten tribes, was ready, and was at once chosen as the leader of those who withdrew from the rule of the house of David. Rehoboam's sin brought this about, but it was also in the counsels of God (v.15).

Is it not a comforting thought to recall that back of the confusion which men have created in their efforts to rule the world, God stands in the shadows watching, waiting and waiting for that day when the Prince of Peace, his Son and our Saviour, is to come as King of kings and Lord of lords to reign forever and ever. Blessed day! May it come quickly!

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AT HOME ON THE FARM WITH THE CITY COUSIN

"I'm afraid I don't quite follow you, Mr. Stephen," I says to the Extension Beekeeper this week, as he tried to explain the story about the bees and flowers to me.

"Well, Cousin, it's like this. Now here it is spring, the time when a young man's fancy lightly —"

I interrupted to tell him that I had heard the line quoted before, but couldn't quite connect it up with flowers.

"Oh," he says, as if the explanation was that simple. "If the flowers could think, their minds, too, would be occupied with thoughts of love!"

"You don't say," I commented.

"Now, as the bud breaks forth in the spring," the bee expert continued, "the flower exposes itself to the sun and the breeze, baring its secret desires—"

"But the bees," I said, "where do they come in?"

He explained that in the heart of the flower, richly flavored nectar is to be found. Above this sweet food are the stamens, loaded with nutritious pollen.

"To the honeybee, these are the essential elements of life," he told me. "And, as the bee probes for the nectar, pollen is dusted over her body."

At this point I asked him just what pollen is.

"Well," he said, "pollen is the male element in fertilization of plants and as the bee goes from flower to flower, a few grains of the pollen are brushed on to the stigmas." He explained that in this fashion the bee performs for the flowers the very necessary function of pollination.

"Because they respond to the summons to attend the wedding feast, the bees are often called 'Marriage priests of the flowers.'"

on a wet table or in the sink if breaking is to be avoided. Even a few drops of water on the outside of a glass coffee-maker, for example, may cause uneven heat distribution and result in cracking or breaking.

Left-over scraps from remodeling jobs may be used. Small, odd shapes will make favorite blocks for the baby, when sanded, painted and decorated.

Neglect is the cause of many so-called defects in pianos. To keep moths from getting into the felt, place a camphor ball inside the case. Keep piano away from any heating unit and from the direct rays of the sun. Keep furniture polish and oils, which discolor the ivory, away from the keys. Clean them only with soap on a damp cloth. All fine woods need occasional sandings to remove accumulated layers of wax and polish that after a time give a greasy look. Clean carefully with warm suds allowing surface to dry well before re-applying polish.

choice grade beef material coming from the spring fat cattle shows. Cotton prices went through a fairly wide fluctuation circle, opening the week sharply higher, but losing most of the advance in sharp declines Wednesday and Thursday. By Friday, the 10-market average stood at 35.77 cents a pound.

Moderate supplies of live poultry sold generally steady with fryers selling around 35 cents a pound. Hens showed almost no change at any market.

A somewhat larger supply of fresh eggs moved at easier prices, particularly ungraded offerings. Where offerings were light, prices were firm.

The United States accounted for 60% of the world's corn crop production last year.

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Weather Retards Truck Crops

The early Irish potatoes is below normal, with uneven stands resulting from adverse weather in March. Probable date of first harvest was set at June 1.

Strawberries have come through early-season bad weather in fairly good shape, with the plants having a heavy set of blossoms and indications pointing to a heavy set of berries. Plants, however, seem to lack the usual amount of foliage, which may result in smaller berries in size.

Although soil moisture is regarded as adequate, the lettuce crop may head up smaller than usual.

The small beet acreage continues to be in poor condition. After cold weather caused a reduced stand, the crop was further cut by a period of unduly wet weather.

The cabbage crop has made normal progress as the result of favorable weather during the first two weeks of April. If conditions continue favorable, prospects are for harvest to begin soon.

Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ending on March 15, totaled 280 million lbs.

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State College Hints To Homemakers

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Southern Farm Market Summary

Southern hogs dropped again this past week with declines ranging to \$1.50 or more a hundred pounds. Most livestock markets were experiencing the usual seasonal tapering off in supplies, but at the same time competition among packer-buyers was less active. Cattle marketings were also at low ebb with much of the good and

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