

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

First Quarter, Lesson V. February 3, 1907.
NOAH SAVED IN THE ARK. Gen. 8:1-16.

Golden Text.—"The salvation of the righteous is of the Lord." Psa. 37:39.

After Cain was sentenced he went into the land of Nod, a region thought to be toward India. Then followed Lamech and his family and Seth and Enos. The world had so increased in wickedness that God told Noah he would destroy it with a flood and that he should build an ark in which to save his family. This Noah did, requiring 120 years time and toil. Then was the threat of heaven executed and all the human family save Noah and his household perished.

The Deluge.

(1) Its reality.

Those who admit the truth of revelation do not hold the shadow of a doubt as to the reality of the deluge—not only detailed as matter of history in this book but as also referred to in several passages in the New Testament. It rests on the traditions of all nations. Scarcely a people who have not some tradition as to the deluge, the Persians, Egyptians, Chinese and Americans.

In the oldest books of Indian mythology, there are records resembling the account given by Moses. There are also the natural evidences. It would be impossible for such an event to take place without the earth bearing the abiding evidences of it. Now do these exist? I would reply. The loftiest mountains, at the greatest distance from the sea, abound with the remains of various tribes of sea-fish. Marine shells are found imbedded in the soil of mountains 14,000 feet above the level of the sea.

That the external crust of the earth has been broken is obvious, from vegetable and animal fossils which have been discovered in all the depths of the earth that have been examined.

(2) The Means by Which it was Effected.

None who believe in a Supreme almighty power will dispute God's ability to produce a deluge. The opinions of those who have studied natural philosophy vary. Some suppose it was effected by a comet; others that it was by one entire revolution of the earth; the sea was moved out of its place, and covered the face of the earth; and that the bed of the ancient sea became our new earth. There is one simple means by which it might have been easily effected. Water is composed of two gases or airs, oxygen and hydrogen—eighty-five parts oxygen and fifteen hydrogen. An electric spark passing through decomposes them, and converts them into water. So that God, by the power of lightning, could change the whole atmosphere into water, and thus the resources of the flood are at once provided. Yet we insist that you read and believe the account given by Moses. Gen. 7:11 etc.

Think of its Terrible Character.

Mankind may suffer great calamities by land or sea, through the appointments of the providence of God. Good men have often suffered, but this was the effect of divine indignation, the wrath of God. Here was God justifying his right and authority. The ruler of the universe summoning the elements of nature to punish his rebellious creatures. Scripture records on its pages the fearful calamities God has brought upon disobedient persons, and nations—the stoning of Achan, the opening of the earth to swallow up Keraah, etc. The smiting the presumptuous sinner with disease and sudden death. The destruction of Pharaoh and his host. The overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah. The destruction of Jeroboam, etc. But, here a world is arraigned, condemned and destroyed. A whole race is swept away, except Noah and his family. There never was anything like it, nor ever shall be, except the conflagration of the world by fire at the last day.

The Procuring Cause of the Deluge—Universal Wickedness.

The mind was totally alienated. Heart filled with evil, and only evil, and that continually. The cup of evil was full, the fruit ripe for destruction. There was impious rejection of divine influence and final impenitency.

After he had taken the survey, seen the guilt and determined to punish, yet he gave 120 years' space for repentance; and, if there had been a turning from sin as in Nineveh, doubtless, judgment would have been averted.

ed. But these years of grace were abused, and most likely despised. Final impenitency must bring destruction.

The Deliverance of Noah.

You see the reason why God exempted Noah from destruction. If Noah had been like the rest, he would have perished. Noah was a godly man. He was a just man. He believed in God, feared and obeyed him, and hence in the day of wrath, God provided for his security, and saved him and his house from destruction. The saving of Noah preserved for the world a splendid type of Christ who was to come as the Savior of mankind.

In name, Noah resembled the mission of Christ. The name signifies comfort and security. He was a type of Christ in his holy life, his public ministrations, as the deliverer of his family and as the priest of the world.

The ark bears some points of resemblance to Christ's church. Search for these points. Unite together in the church, by becoming heirs of God and of the Kingdom of eternal life. G. W. T.

FROM THE FIELD. ANTIOCH.

I had the privilege of attending Antioch Christian Church recently and listening to Bro. J. D. Wicker. The weather was somewhat threatening, and the congregation not large. This was my first visit to this church and my first meeting with Bro. Wicker. He preached from Jeremiah 2:13. After preaching, I went home with Mr. Henry Wall. Bro. Wicker went and I enjoyed his pleasant company. Mr. Wall, while no church member is (I learn) one of the best young men in this section. His three sisters, Miss Pearl, Miss Belle and Mrs. Halthcock are worthy members of this church. I was pained to learn that the church is not prospering as formerly. No Sunday-school, no prayer meeting, and, to my surprise, I learned that there is not a member of the entire body who will superintend the school or even offer public prayer. The people would gladly attend if they only had a leader. Truly in this section "the harvest is great but the laborers are few." Pray that God may put it in the heart of some one to rise, Gideon like, and lead the faithful few on to victory. I notice this church is trying to grope its way through the darkness without the light of the Christian Sun to shine on its way. C. P. Wall.

A CHURCH FOR SALINAS, PORTO RICO.

The readers of the Sun have doubtless seen that the Western North Carolina Christian Conference at its last session decided to undertake the raising of a fund of \$1,500 for the purpose of erecting a house of worship in Salinas, Porto Rico. Rev. T. E. White having gone out from this Conference as a missionary, makes the Conference feel like it ought to do something to aid brother White in the blessed work of leading poor heathens out of darkness into light of the Gospel. Now I hope that each pastor and church of the said Conference will regard it a privilege to take part in providing means for the above mentioned enterprise. The Conference has suggested some simple plans which if carried out, we think will be sufficient to raise the amount necessary, without taxing any one heavily. If you will refer to the twelfth page of the annuals of the Western Conference, you will find the following plans viz.: That this Conference requests each church within its bounds to cultivate not less than one acre of as good land as they have in cotton, and the churches which do not raise cotton, let them grow corn or something else of sufficient amount to be equal to the amount obtained from not less than one acre in cotton and that the church members who do not farm, make their amounts equal to above mentioned plans. I call attention to the words, "not less than one acre." It is not reasonable to suppose that a church of a large and well to do membership would do no more than a church of small membership, hence we used the words, not less than one acre. We believe that there are several churches which will be able to plant more than one acre.

The membership of the churches can divide the amount of land they agree to plant among the families as will suit them and it will be a very small matter for each family, and yet, under ordinary circumstances, we

hope the whole of it when brought together, will be a sufficient amount to accomplish the object in view. We hope to have the hearty co-operation of all the pastors and churches. Now dear brother pastors, call the attention of your churches to this matter at once, so the churches can begin to lay their plans. The success of this plan depends very largely upon the pastors. I wish to say to the brethren and friends at large, that the raising of the \$1,500 will not necessarily be confined to the Western N. C. Conference, but we will be glad to receive aid from any of the brethren at large. I received yesterday one dollar from sister Angie Winfree, of Virgilina, Va., for the Salina church and another lady who has to work daily for her living and is dependent upon her own efforts, has written me that she will if nothing prevents give us \$25.00 for the Salinas church by next fall. Who will be next? I will acknowledge it through the Sun. We will accept cash or good subscriptions and report as they come to us. We will appreciate it, if the pastors of the said Conference will report to me, as soon as they can, of their success.

Yours in hope,
 P. T. Klapp.

Pittsboro, N. C.

BERKLEY, VA.

It has been more than two months since I came here to labor with these good people in the Master's work. Up to this time I have been almost too busy to write. But, brethren, I have good news. I am confident the Lord directed me to this field. The more I know of my field and people the stronger am I convinced of this. My congregations have been on the increase and interest in personal work is growing. We are now preparing for a revival in which we trust the Lord will add many to our present number.

Miss Alice True, who is now home on a furlough from Japan visited our church Dec. 30th, and spoke at the morning service on the needs of the "Foreign Field." She had many interesting curios, and delighted the children with her interesting stories of Japanese life. Though her visit was short, she made many friends, both for herself and her work. The good people here promised to contribute \$25.00 toward the school she hopes to erect for the benefit of the little ones in her field. At the close of her service, a young man came forward and was received by sister True into the church.

The Ladies' Aid Society has sent in its first annual contribution of \$25.00 for the Orphanage at Elon. This they hope to repeat each year.

This from the "Norfolk Landmark" shows what the young people of a church may do. The Young People's Auxiliary Society has installed a very beautiful two manual pedal bass list, Mason and Hamlin reed organ. Price, \$1,500, which adds very materially to the architectural appearance of the auditorium and makes it possible for the choir service of Main Street Christian Church to be equal to that of any other church in Berkley ward. It is said to be decidedly superior to small pipe organs of equal cost. Miss Naomi Eley will continue as organist.

M. L. Bryant.

EDUCATIONAL BOARD MEETING.

Notes by the Way.

Having received notice from Sec. Baker, of Springfield, Ohio, that the Educational Board of the A. C. C. would meet in Dayton, O., Jan. 9, I left Burlington, N. C. Monday after-noon, going to Winston-Salem, and thence by the way of the N. & W. to Columbus, O., where I took the "Big Four" for Dayton. We left Roanoke, Va. at 4:30 P. M. Tuesday, and were speeding westward on a splendid train when night came on and we retired, expecting to be called just before reaching Columbus next morning. I thought to reach Dayton about ten A. M. Wednesday. While passengers slept, brave and true men were at their post of duty. The engineer had his steady hand on the throttle, and his eye on the rail. The fire-man shoveled coal into the roaring fire-box of that great engine, as it swung around curves, and climbed steep mountain grades. The conductor was watchful after the welfare of his passengers and true to schedule orders. I should judge from the events of that night that every man of the crew stood in his place. The night was dark, and heavily fell the rain: but the

track-walker, with lantern in hand, trod the path of duty assigned him along a lonely and wild section of track, when lo, before him he saw a mountain-landslide had blocked the way and torn up the track. He gave notice and signalled the approaching train of the danger, and so no harm came to any one save nine hours delay, and the damage done to the track and the cost of repairing the same. Our duties in life may be very humble, menial, apparently, but still the position we fill, the duties we perform, may be fraught with immense consequences. What if that track-walker had not done his duty that night? The possible answer is fearful to contemplate. Some of us did not know what had happened until morning light. In the mean time the track had been cleared and repaired, and we reached Dayton about nine hours late. I joined the Board in their session, and attended the same until the close about noon Friday.

The meetings were harmonious, and I believe definite, progressive, educational steps were taken. Of the business transacted, I mention the following: The election of Rev. F. C. Coffin to fill the vacancy on the Board caused by the death of Dr. W. A. Bell of Indianapolis, Ind.; resolutions regarding the death of Dr. Bell; election of Treas.; review of reports from affiliated schools and colleges; course of study; arrangement of correspondence course; schedule of appointment; and resolutions approving the chair, or professorship established by our brethren in Canada, in the Macmaster University, Toronto. Our Board met in the C. P. A. building. This is a splendid structure and well adapted to our needs as a people. I wish to return especial thanks to our efficient publishing Agt. J. N. Hess for kindness shown during my stay in Dayton. Sunday was spent with Dr. Barrett and his congregation at Covington, O. I preached for him that morning. He was at Eton attending the one hundredth anniversary of that church. While in Covington, I had the opportunity of hearing evangelist Gonn of Chicago. The Covington Church has a splendid Church building, modern Sunday-school rooms, and an excellent parsonage.

Monday morning, I started homeward by way of Cincinnati. At Cincinnati I took the Queen and Crescent to Harriman junction and from there the Southern to Burlington. This route takes you through fertile fields of Ohio and Kentucky and through the scenic mountains of eastern Tenn., and along the French Broad River, and through the beautiful "Land of the Sky" in Western North Carolina. My thanks are due and are hereby tendered to Rev. Dr. W. S. Long and to Prof. W. A. Harper for kindly supplying me at Burlington on Sunday, during my absence. Dr. Long preached in the morning, and Prof. Harper delivered a Christian Endeavor address at night. I have heard the sermon and the address very highly spoken of.

P. H. Fleming.

Jan. 18, 1907.

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