GREAT NATION IN ARMS.

Voluntary Training Throughout the British Empire.

A despatch from Johannesburg says: —The Caledonia Society gave a banquet in honor of St. Andrew's day. There was a brilliant gathering, including representatives of the Army and the Administration. Governor McKenzie made an important speech. He said that he would follow the custom observed in many of the colonies of the Ministers making a forecast of the Government's policy at the banquets given on St. Andrew's day. He declared that the decision had been taken that all British subjects of suitable age should in the future bear arms. He expected that the citizens of Johannesburg on returning to the district would make a force of 20,000 men, which would be named the Rand Rifles. This force would be able to defend the district against any possible hostile force in South Africa. This was in the interest of the people, who would thus be enabled to recommence industry without fear of interruption.

A probable result of the war would be that the principle of a nation in arms as against a standing army would be accepted throughout the Empire. He believed that the beneficial training, physical development, and independence of the race would not interfere with its commercial and industrial progress. Germany, with conscription, was making a great industrial advance. The plan he mentioned was not conscription, but voluntary training. Governor McKenzie thanked the society for the references made to the Administration, and said he was doing his best to continue the Government until the civil authorities were replaced.

Messrs. Hoskins, Dunn, and others referred to the war as inevitable, saying it resulted from the irreconcilable conditions prevailing in South Africa, which were due to the Boers having diverged from their peaceful progress of fifty years ago.

FIRED ON THE AMBULANCE

Driver Killed and the Assistant Wounded.

A despatch from Pretoria says;—One hundred New Zealanders who were in Gen. Knox's fight at Rhenoster kop had all their officers and thirty men killed or wounded. They fought with dogged courage for seventeen hours without moving.

An incident of this fight deserves mention. A gunner of the Seventh Battery was lying wounded on the flat glacis which slopes toward the Boer position. One of the British surgeons tried to remove him, but the Boer riflemen made a target of him at once. The doctor crept back over the rise and brought up a Red Cross ambulance wagon so that the Boers would understand the nature of his mission. The moment the ambulance wagon appeared on the sky-line the Boers concentrated a fire on it at a distance of 400 yards. The native ambulance driver was killed and another assistant was wounded. The latter and the wounded gunner had to remain untended until night.

RELEASED PRISONERS.

De Wet Has Also Abandoned a Krupp Gun.

A despatch from Aliwal North says: —Wednesday night a British patrol came into contact with De Wet's outpost, close to the place where his main force was laagered. They took one prisoner, who stated that De Wet was suffering from continual trekking, and had abandoned a Krupp gun near the south bank of the Caledon river. The prisoner also asserted that all British prisoners captured at Dewetsdorp had been liberated, with the exception of the officers.

BURIED IN A MINE.

Desperate Battle for Life by Thirty-Two Miners.

A despatch from Scranton, Pa., says;—Imprisoned one thousand feet in a coal mine at Dunmore, near here, 32 men had a desperate battle for life on Wednesday, as the result of a mine cave-in, and only succeeded in gaining their liberty by digging their way out. The cave-in was at the mine of the Nay Aug Coal Company. Five acres of surface fell into the mine and completely blocked the exit of the 32 men, who were far in the interior. Those on the outside formed themselves into rescuing parties, and, while feeling that the men could not be reached in time, worked with a will.

Meanwhile the imprisoned men were not idle. With their shovels and picks they began working at a point where the fall had blocked the main gangway at a point where it led to a roadway through which an exit could be made.

After some hard work they succeeded in clearing away sufficient of the fall to get through before the rescuing party reached them. None of the men were injured.

AT BRONKPORT'S SPRUIT.

2,500 Boers Surrounded and 80 Have Been Killed.

A Pretoria despatch says that fighting has been going on for four days at Bronkport's spruit, Commandants Viljoen and Erasmus, with 2,500 Boers, are surrounded, and so far 80 Boers have been killed.

WANTS THE WAR TO END.

The British Cabinet Is Anxious That It Be Finished.

A despatch from London says:—Strong pressure is being brought to bear on Cecil Rhodes to induce him to hasten his plan for the pacification and federation of South Africa. Foremost among those who are applying this pressure are some of her Majesty's Ministers. Although they are working quietly and through unofficial channels, they are now convinced that the solution of the question lies in putting forward such terms as will enable Great Britain to maintain its dignity and yet clear the troops out of South Africa with as little delay as possible.

They also think that Mr. Rhodes is the only man equal to the demands of the hour. Several cablegrams have been despatched to him during the last few days, urging that he throw himself unreservedly into the van of the conciliation movement. It is felt that if he does so he will be the greatest man in the Empire, and can take almost any position he wants.

A high commanding officer, lately home from the Transvaal, states that the British Army in South Africa has been thirteen months without tents, and on half rations; their clothes are in rags, and all this has made the army unanimous in the cry to be allowed to go home. People may talk of the sufferings of the Boers, but the sufferings of our own soldiers are more severe. Nobody can stir without being shot at, and the shooter invariably rides away before anything can be done against him. Added to these things, there is the certain prospect of famine in the "conquered districts."

DE WET'S NEMESIS.

Guerilla Leader Again Treks, With Knox at His Heels.

A despatch from London, says;—Lord Kitchener informs the War Office that it is reported that De Wet's force has gone east and north-east from Odendaal. Gen. Knox is following it.

He also confirms the despatch from Aliwal North, that a Krupp ammunition waggon had been captured, and that all the British prisoners taken at Dewetsdorp, with the exception of the officers, have been released.

Lord Kitchener states that while the British, at the request of a Boer field cornet, were handing over some women to the Boers anear Belfast, under a flag of truce, the burghers vigorously attacked a neighbouring infantry post, which held out until relieved.

CHINA'S PARTITION.

Peace in China Impossible, Say Pekin Advices.

A despatch from London says:—The Pekin correspondent of the Morning Post, in a despatch dated Thursday, says the impression is growing among all the nationalities there that peace is impossible. It is believed that a resumption of the campaign in the spring is inevitable. The partition of the empire is regarded as the only solution of the trouble.

MARKETS OF THE WORLD

Prices of Cattle, Cheese, Grain, &c in the Leading Markets.

BREADSTUFFS, ETC.

Toronto, Dec. 11.—Wheat—Export demand for red and white wheat continues at 64c, middle freights, and 65c east. Goose wheat was rather better at 62c, middle freights. Manitobas are steady. No. 1 hard is scarce. Quotations are as follows; —Red winter, 64c; and white, 64c, middle freights; goose wheat, 62c, middle freights; No. 1 spring wheat, east, 66c; Manitoba, No. 1 hard, old, g.i.t., 93c; and No. 2 at 88c.

Millfeed—Scarce, Ton lots, at the mill door, sell as follows;—Bran, $12 to $12.50; and shorts, $14 to $14.50, west.

Corn—Steady. No. 1 American yellow, 47c, on track here; and mixed, 46c; Canadian corn, here, 45c.

Peas—Bids have declined, and offerings are light. There would be good buying of No. 2 on a basis of 68c, high freights, and 61 1-2c east, but holders want more money.

Barley—Quiet, and about steady. Exporters still buyers, especially of heavy feed barley. No. 2 east, 41 1-2c; and middle freights, 40 1-2c; No. 3 extra, 40c east; and 39c, middle freights.

Rye—Easy. New rye, 46c west; and 47c east.

Buckwheat—About steady but quiet. Car lots, west, are quoted at 49c, and east at 50c.

Oats—Quiet and about steady. Choice new white oats, middle freights, are quoted at 26c; and east at 26 1-2c. Light white oats, and mixed oats, west, 24c.

Flour—Irregular. Export buyers say there are fair offerings at $2.60 and they report buying under that figure. Holders ask $2.60 for 90 per cent. patents, in buyers' bags, middle freights; and exporters bid $2.55. Special brands sell locally from 10 to 20c above these figures.

Duluth, Dec. 11.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, cash, 73 1-4c; No. 1 Northern, 71 1-4c; No. 2, do, 62 to 67c; No. 3 spring, 53 to 60c; to arrive, No. 1 hard, 75 1-8c; No. 1, December, 71 1-8c; May 75 1-4 to 75 3-8c. Corn—Not quoted. Oats—23 1-2 to 23 1-4c.

Buffalo, Dec. 11.—Spring wheat—Unchanged. Winter wheat—No. 2 red, held at 78c; white, 75 1-2c; mixed, 76 to 76 1-2c. Corn—Steady, No. 2, yellow, 43 1-2c; No. 3 yellow, 43c; No. 4 yellow, 42c; No. 2 corn, 42 3-4c; No. 3 corn, 42 1-2c; No. 4 corn, 41 1-2c; Oats —Firm; No. 2 white, 28 1-2 to 29c; No. 3 white, 29c; No. 4 white, 26 3-4 to 27c; No. 2 mixed, 25 3-4c; No. 3 mixed, 25c. Barley—Extra, 64 to 65c; choice to fancy, 62 to 63c; fair to good, 57 to 60c; low grades, 54 to 56c. Rye—Nominally 55c. Flour—Quiet, steady.

Detroit, Dec. 11. — Wheat—No, 1 white, cash, 77c ; No. 2 red, cash, 77c; December, 77c; May 79 7-8c.

Chicago, Dec.11.—Wheat was weak to-day, on lower cables and a poor shipping demand ; January, closing 7-8 to 1c lower. Corn closed a shade to 1-8c higher, and oats 1-8c lower. Provisions at the close were 2 1-2 to 7 1-2c improved.

Minneapolis, Dec. 11.—Wheat—Cash, 72 1-2c; December, 72 1-8c; May, 74 1-4c; on track, No. 1 hard, 74 1-2c; No. 1 Northern, 72 1-2c; No. 2, do, 70 1-4c.

LIVE STOCK.

Toronto, Dec. 11.—We had a total here to-day of 50 carloads of live stock, comprising 1,600 hogs, 1,000 cattle, 700 sheep and lambs, two dozen calves, and a few milkers.

We had no export business to-day. In other respects the market was steady, and quotably unchanged.

All the good to choice butcher cattle sold readily at good steady prices the prices for the best stuff ranging from 4 to 4 1-2c, per pounds. More cattle of good quality was here to-day than has been the case for some time. In regard to medium and inferior cattle, there was no change, sales were slow and prices were weak.

Stockers, feeders, and export bulls are unchanged, and slow of sale; bulls were a shade weaker.

Little was done in milkers, as few were up to the requisite mark; good cows are enquired for, and will sell up to $50 each.

Calves are steady and in fair demand; good calves are wanted.

No change occurred in sheep, though there were indications of weakness; prices range from $3 to $3.30 per cwt.

Lambs are firm, though for extra choice lambs a sahde more than the figures quoted below might be paid.

Hogs are firm and unchanged.

Hogs to fetch the top price must be of prime quality and scale not below 160 nor above 200 lbs.

Following is the range of quotations:—

THE CHASE AFTER DE WET.

Belief in London That the Great Raider's Capture is Near.

A despatch from London says: The fox chase has gone on in the worst possible weather, with drenching rains and swollen rivers. De Wet, having failed in a second attempt to force the passage of the Orange river, with Knox's troops in hot pursuit. He doubled back northeast on a zig-zag was not overtaken at Rouxville, and was apparently heading for Wepener over the road taken by Olivier in his retreat from Aliwal North last spring. But there was a chance that he might turn about on a fresh zig-zag and strike for Herschel, on the way to Barkley East.

The fox was still running when Gen. Kitchener's bulletin was sent out on Saturday morning, but was hard-pressed on all sides, and well-nigh caught.

Military men were convinced Saturday night that General Kitchener had not neglected to send a strong column to Wepener from Dewetsdorp, and if this had been done they could not perceive how the great raider could escape.

His abandonment of horses and carts they considered a sign that he was harried nearly to death, and they confidently predicted news of his capture any hour.

The British mounted forces are riding as never before during a campaign. One secret of their remarkable mobility is explained by military men as the adoption of Boer tactics. The British columns are moving light, and have horses to spare for remounts. The accounts of their wonderful marching have revived interest in the campaign.

Cattle.		
Shippers, per cwt.	$ 4 00	$ 4 50
Butcher, choice do. ...	4 00	4 40
Butcher, medium to good.	3 50	4 00
Butcher, inferior	3 00	3 50
Stockers, per cwt.	2 25	3 00
Export bulls, per cwt.	3 25	4 00
Sheep and Lambs.		
Sheep, per cwt.	2 75	3 30
Lambs, per cwt.	3 25	4 00
Bucks, per cwt.	2 50	3 00
Milkers and Calves.		
Cows, each	20 00	50 00
Calves, each	2 00	8 00
Hogs.		
Choice hogs, per cwt.	5 75	6 00
Light hogs, per cwt.	5 50	5 75
Heavy hogs, per cwt.	5 50	5 75
Sows	3 75	4 00
Stags	2 25	2 50

TRAVEL INTERRUPTED.

Bridges Washed Away Between Pretoria and Johannesburg.

A despatch from Pretoria says:—It was hoped that direct railway communication with Johannesburg, which has been interrupted owing to the destruction of a bridge at Irene, would be restored in a day, and that the use of a deviation from the regular line would not be necessary. Owing to the heavy rains, however, it has been impossible to repair the break caused by the washout, and it is now reported that another bridge has been washed away, making a further deviation necessary, in the line between here and the Cape. Heavy supplies are now being sent here to guard against any shortage that might be caused by further breaks.

It is probable that a town guard of British residents will be established here similar to the one at Johannesburg.

EXPENSES OF TWO WARS.

What the South African and Chinese Wars Cost.

A despatch from London says:—The second supplementary estimate of the war in South Africa, and the expedition to China for the financial year ending March 31st next, was presented on Friday. It amounts to £16,000,000. The expenses of the war in South Africa and China up to August last were £69,323,000, $346,615,000.

LOST OVER 100 MEN.

Boers Suffered Heavily in Their Attack on Convoy.

A despatch from Pretoria says: It is stated that the Boers suffered heavily in the attack on the British convoy that was proceeding from Pretoria to Rustenburg. Their casualties are estimated at 100. They were also frustrated in their attempt to obtain supplies.

EIGHT DROWNED.

Barge Founders in a Great Storm in Lake Erie.

A despatch from Erie, Pa., says:—In the midst of one of the most bitter gales that ever swept Lake Erie, the iron ore barge Charles Foster, in tow of the Iron Duke, went to the bottom at 4 o'clock this morning, 10 miles off Erie, and eight persons were drowned as follows:—Captain John Bridge, of Cleveland; first mate, unknown; second mate, unknown; seamen Robert Woods, William Kelly, of Port Austin, Mich.; Cook, Mrs. May, of Detroit, two unknown deck hands.

The Foster was one of the fleet of James Corrigan, of Cleveland, and for two months had been running from Duluth, to Erie with iron ore. Her cargo consisted of 1,500 tons of ore.

Captain Ashley, of the Iron Duke, made Erie in safety. In an interview he said:—

When we turned for the harbour a sea much heavier than any other experienced struck us. I ran to the stern. Just as I got there the Foster plunged in an awful sea and dove down nose first. There was not a cry from a soul of the crew of eight she carried.

The storm was so heavy that I could not put about to hunt for anyone. There would not have been a particle of use anyhow, because in those tremendous seas no one could have lived a minute, even if the water had not been icy cold. Had there been a cry for help I would have turned and risked my ship. It was all I could do to make port in safety myself. There had not been a single signal of distress from the Foster up to the time she sank.

There is from 800 to 1,000 feet of water where the wreck occurred, and there is little hope of ever being able to locate the place. The Foster was valued at $19,000, but there was no insurance, as it elapsed December 1 The cargo was not insured. The life-saving crew took a trip out to-day but could find no traces of wreckage

BOERS WERE HEADED OFF

Knox Prevents Them From Reaching Cape Colony.

A despatch from London, says;—General Kitchener reports from South Africa that the mounted troops of General Knox were engaged all day long on Sunday with part of General De Wet's forces north of Bethulie. The Boers, he adds, were headed off, and retired in a north-easterly direction.

A despatch from Cape Town reports Hans Botha has been raiding near Standerton, capturing cattle and stores. The British sent out a force which drove the Boers off and recaptured the loot.

BOERS BURNED CONVOY.

They Score Another Success Near Rustenburg.

A despatch from London says;—Gen. Kitchener, who is now commander-in-chief of the British forces in South Africa, has cabled to the War Office from Bloemfontein that 500 men belonging to the commando of Gen. Delarey, made a determined attack on a British convoy at Baffelspoort, that proceeding from Pretoria to Rustenburg.

The troops in charge of the convoy hastily took up a position to make a defence, but the Boers burned half of the convoy.

Reinforcements for the British arrived, and the Boers were then dispersed.

The British lost 15 killed, including Lieut. Baker, and 23 wounded.

The Boers suffered considerable loss, some of them being killed with case shot at 50 yards. Guns and ammunition were sent from Rustenburg and Commando nek, and the Boers driven off.

COLORS ARE GATHERING

The Rev. Dr. Talmage Speaks of the Christian Character.

A despatch from Washington says; —Rev. Dr. Talmage preached from the following text; "There was a rainbow round about the throne."

During the last snow-storm I preached to you from the text in Job, "Consider the treasures of the snow." This morning when I looked out of the window and saw the storm—the rain and the snow commingling—a light thread and a dark thread in the robe of the storm—I thought I would preach to you from the passage, "As the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth." But in a little while the storm began to abate, and the light came into the sky, and the sunbeams streamed into my room, and then I concluded I would preach to you about the breaking away of the storms of life, and the "rainbow round about the throne."

I notice that none but the people who were in the ark saw the rainbow. It cast its shadow clear down into the water where the people were buried, and lighted up the dead faces with a strange radiance, but they could not see it. So only those who are at last found in Christ, the Ark, will see the overspanning glories of the throne. Hence you had better get into the Ark! As you call your family out at the close of the shower to show them the sign in heaven, so I want you all at last to see the grander rainbow about the throne. "Look there!" says Noah to his wife, "at that bow in the clouds; and, Shem and Japhet, look! look! the green, the yellow, the red and the orange!" I should not wonder if some of your own children in the Good Land should after a while cry out to you, "Look father! look, mother there is a rainbow round about the throne!" You had better get into the Ark, with all your families.

IF YOU WANT TO SEE IT.

I notice also that the chief glory of God comes after the rain. No shower, no rainbow; no trouble, no brightness of Christian consolation.

Your child asks you, "Father, what makes the rainbow?" and you say, "It is the sunlight through the raindrops." Therefore I wondered how there could be a rainbow in heaven, since there are no storms there; but then I conclude that that rainbow must be formed by the striking of heaven's sunlight through the falling tears of earthly sorrow. When we see a man overwhelmed with trouble, and his health goes, and his property goes, and his friends go, I say, "Now we shall see the glory of God in this good man's deliverance." As at Niagara Falls I saw, one day, ten rainbows spanning the awful plunge of the cataract, so over the abyss of the Christian's trial hover the rich-hued wings of all the promises.

I notice that the most beautiful things of this world are to be preserved in heaven. When you see the last colour fade out from the rainbow of earth, you need not feel sad, for you will see the rainbow round about the throne. That story about the world burning up has given me many a pang. But is it not a more melancholy thought that ruin is to come upon this great glory of the earth, in which the mountains are the chiselled sculptures, and upon the sky, in which the transfiguration of sunrise and sunset is hung with loops and tassels of fire. The trees must twist in the last fire—the oaks, and the cedars, and the maples; but in heaven there shall be the trees of life on the bank of the river, and the palm-trees from which the conquerors shall pluck their branches. The Hudson and the St. Lawrence, and the Ohio shall boil in the last flame, but we shall have more than their beauty in the River of Life from under the throne. The daisies, and the portulacas, and the roses of earth will wither in the hot sirocco of of the judgment, but John tells of the garlands which the glorified shall wear; and there must be flowers, or there could be no garlands.

I see the same truth set forth in the twelve foundations of

THE WALL OF HEAVEN.

St. John announces the twelve foundations of this wall to be, the first, of jasper—yellow and red; the second, of sapphire—a deep blue; the third, a chalcedony—of varied beauty; the fourth, emerald—a bright green colour; the fifth, sardonyx—a bluish white; the sixth, sardius—red and fiery; the seventh, chrysolite—golden-hued; the eighth, beryl—a bluish green; the ninth, topaz—a pale green mixed yellow; the tenth, chrysoprasus—a golden bluish tint; the 11 jacinth—fiery as the sunset; the twelfth, amethyst. But these precious stones are only the foundation of the wall of heaven—the most inferior part of it. On the top of this foundation there rises a mighty wall of jasper—of brilliant yellow and gorgeous crimson. Stupendous contrast of colour! Throne of splendour and sublimity! You see that the beautiful colours which are the robes of glory to earth are to be for ever preserved in this wall of heaven. Our skies of blue, which sometimes seem almost to drop with richness of colour, shall be glorified and eternized in the deep everlasting blue of that fiery stone which forms the second foundation of the heavenly wall. The green that sleeps on the brook's bank, and rides on the sea-wave, and spreads its banners on the mountain top, shall be eternized in the emerald that forms the fourth foundation of the heavenly wall. The fiery gush of the morning, the conflagration of the autumnal sunset, the electricity that shoots its forked tongue out of the thunder-cloud, the flame at whose breath Moscow fell and Aetnas burn, shall be eternised in the fiery jasper. It seems as if all earthly beauty were in one billow to be dashed up against that wall of heaven; so that the most beautiful things of earth will be kept either in the wall, on the foundation, or in the rainbow around about the throne.

I notice what must be the feeling of safety among the people of heaven. Have you ever seen a cloud burst? There have been days when it rained as if it would never stop. You knew, if it kept on in that way long, all the nations would be drowned; yet you had no apprehension, for you remembered

THE BOW OF PROMISE

painted on the cloud in Noah's time. So the glorified have but to look to the arch around the throne of the King to be reassured that the deluge of trial is for ever past.

On earth, the deluge of sin covers the tops of the highest mountains. I heard an Alpine guide, amid the most stupendous evidences of God's power, swear at his mule as he stumbled in the pass. Yes, the deluge of sin dashes over the top of the highest mountain ranges. Revenge, drunkenness, impiety falsehood, blasphemy, are but different waves of a flood that has whelmed nations. New York is drowned in it, London is drowned in it, St. Petersburg is drowned in it—two great hemispheres are drowned in it. But the redeemed, looking into the "rainbow round about the throne," see the pledge that all this is ended for them for ever. They have committed their last sin, and combated their last temptation. No suicide leaps into those bright waters ; no profanity befouls that pure air; no villain's torch shall fire those temples; no murderer's hand shall strike down those sons of God. They know that for them the deluge of sin is assuaged, for "there is a rainbow round about the throne." Now the world is covered with a deluge of blood. The nations are all the time either using, the sword or sharpening it.

Now the earth is covered with the deluge of sorrow. Trouble! trouble! The very first utterance when we come into the world is a cry. Without any teaching we learn to weep. What has so wrinkled that man's face? What has so prematurely whitened his hair? What calls out that sigh? What starts that tear? Trouble! trouble! I find it in the cellar of poverty, and far up among the heights on the top of the crags; for this also hath gone over the tops of the highest mountains.

NO ESCAPE FROM IT.

You go into the store, and it meets you at your counting-desk; you go into the street, and it meets you at the corner; you go into the house, and it meets you at the door. Tears of poverty! tears of persecution! tears of bereavement!—a deluge of tears! Gathered together from all the earth, they could float an ark larger than Noah's.

But the glorified, looking up to the bow that spans the throne, shall see that the deluge is over. No shivering wretch on the palace-step; no blind man at the gate of the heavenly temple, asking for alms; no grinding of the screw-driver on coffin-lid. They look up at the rainbow, and read, in lines of yellow and red, and green, and blue, and orange and indigo, and violet, "They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne, shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Thank God for the glory spanning the throne!

Oh that our eyes may all look upon this bow of promise, lifted by Christ's own hand! We shall trace the separate lines of beauty across the firmament. In the line of red I shall see the blood of my Lord; in the blue, the bruises that coloured his cheek; in the green, the freshness of his grace; in the violet, his humility; in all that curve of beauty, the bend of his right arm of love swung over all the redeemed.

But mind what I told you at the beginning, and what I tell you at the close—that none but Noah's family in the ark, saw the rainbow, and that only those who are at last in Christ shall discover it amid the glories of heaven.

"Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Christmas Gifts.

A PRACTICAL GIFT.

For a Christmas or a wedding present remember that a cake saw—that is, a thin, flat knife, with one edge cut into saw teeth—is the best knife to use to cut a loaf of cake. For a bride's loaf a silver one is often used, and is an appreciated wedding present, and one to be handed down in the family. It is so unusual a gift that it is not likely to be duplicated.

PINNING BLANKETS FOR BABY.

This first is 1 1-4 yards in length, made of very wide soft flannel. A hem across the sides and bottom 3-4 of an inch in width, then a row of feather stitching close to the hem in light yellow etching silk. In the center of the lower part are four cherub heads done in white outline stitch, with Asiatic outline embroidery. The top is gathered four times and after being drawn up to the right size is faced to make it strong.

A TABLE NAPKIN FASTENER.

A pretty and appropriate gift for a child is a napkin fastener made of a strip of plush lined with satin, or with satoen, and with a clasp at each end to catch the napkin after it has been tucked under the chin. The clasps may be hidden by a little ribbon bow and the child's initials or its name may be embroidered on the band.

BON-BON OR JEWEL BOX.

This three-cornered bon-bon box or jewel case represented here is of white linen, water color paper, or birch bark. To make of white linen; Cut a foundation of cardboard —six oblong pieces, two by five, three

of which are to be covered with linen and three with China silk of any preferred shade, pale blue, cream, pale green or pink, being the most desirable shades—and three three-cornered pieces five and one-quarter inches each way, and one just five. This smaller piece is covered with silk for the bottom, and is sewed to the sides after they are joined. The lid and outside bottom extends beyond the sides an eighth of an inch all around. The outside bottom is not covered, but is an extra heavy piece of cardboard, ten-ply, glued to the bottom. After all is done, an interlining of wadding and sachet powder is placed between the cardboard and material.

Before joining the two sections of the lid a small marble is covered with a bit of the silk and the ends of silk brought through a hole in the exact centre of the lid and glued firmly on the under side.

Embroider the design with Asiatic filo floss, using white for the flowers and shading with a delicate shade of green. The centres have a touch of orange and red.

A good-hearted man isn't necessarily a soft mark.

THE S. S. LESSON.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON, DEC. 16

"Zacchaeus (the Publican)." Luke 19. 1-10.
Golden Text. Luke 19. 10.

PRACTICAL NOTES.

Verse 1. Jesus entered and passed through Jerico. This is the same "entrance" and "passage through" referred to in verse 43 of our last lesson. It is fair to assume that Zaccheus lived in the "Roman city" of Jericho.

2. A man named Zaccheus. Concerning him no fact is recorded other than that we are about to study. The chief among the publicans was presumably a man of conspicuous mental force. The lower grade of publicans, those who personally extorted taxes from resisting or sullen citizens, were human brutes, men of hard hearts and thoroughly unscrupulous. But their "chief" must, in spite of social ostracism, have ranked higher in the community. He may have been probably was, just as bad at heart as they, but he did not do his own dirty work. The right to collect the taxes due from a province was sold at auction in Rome to capitalists, who employed natives of various social grades to do the collecting. Zaccheus stood midway in rank. He took his orders from the Roman receiver-general, and in turn gave orders to underlings who robbed the public. As the power of Rome was behind the publicans to enforce their demands, and as their work was never strictly supervised, the temptation to fraud and extortion was great. He was rich. This was both cause and effect of his being "chief among the publicans."

3. He sought to see Jesus who he was. The evangelist's phraseology emphasizes the superficial curiosity of Zaccheus. He did not seek to hear Jesus, but to see him, just as in recent times processions with Li Hung Chang or the Shah of Persia in them have drawn crowds.

4. He ran before. Hastened to a good point of view before the procession reached him. The only chance the little man would have. Climbed up into a sycamore tree. An "Egyptian fig" tree, which has low spreading branches.

5. Zaccheus, make haste, and come down; for to-day I must abide at thy house. The outline suggested for the teaching of this lesson presents three topics; Seeking and Finding the Saviour, and the Results of Salvation. This verse is the first, of three which are set apart to illustrate finding the Saviour; and in our religious thinking, writing, and speaking we are apt to think of Zaccheus as a specimen heedless sinner, to whom the divine call unexpectedly came. It is well thus to treat the narrative; but this profound truth does not exhaust the teachings of the passage. We must remember that our Lord might already be said to have begun his triumphal procession. All the way from Perea to Jerusalem, including the remarkable events at Jericho and at Bethany, the singing, exulting multitudes led him in triumph. We see all the events of the last two weeks under the shadow of the cross, but the disciples of our Lord and the attendant Pharisees and scribes and priests did not so see them, and to them his deliberate choice of Zaccheus from among all the citizens of Jericho was full of meaning—a meaning that does not readily come to us as we read the story. It carries with it the kernel of that statement that the Son of God came not to save the righteous but sinners; it told the truth of that other remarkable statement that harlots and publicans shall enter the kingdom of God while the children of the kingdom are shut out. Our Lord's invitation to Zaccheus said as plainly as if the words had been uttered, "You are the fittest man in all this town to entertain me." It was an awful rebuke of the priesthood, and of that hypocritical conventional moral propriety, which as a thin crust so often covers reeking iniquity.

6. He made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. This verse justifies the command made in the last verse. Zaccheus's joyful haste shows his character. Pharisees had invited our Lord to banquets, when it was prudent to do so; but most of the Pharisees and scribes would have very grudgingly met such a self-invitation as this; but Zaccheus loved the characteristics which he saw in Jesus. Doubtless he was at heart a seeker before he found a Saviour.

7. When they saw it, they all murmured. This gushing, inconsiderate throng, who sounded our Lord's praises one moment and criticised him the next, who ordered Bartimeus to be silent and almost immediately said, "Rise, be of good comfort, the Master calleth for thee," helps us to understand how the triumphal song, "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord," was so speedily succeeded by the wild cry, "Crucify him, crucify him!" Till a man is converted he can never be reconciled to the way God dispenses his favors. He was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. That Zaccheus was a publican was enough. That broke every law of patriotism and ecclesiasticism, and it was a crime in the mind of the average Jew even to associate with such a man.

8. Zaccheus stood. Doubtless an hour or two or three had passed between the events of verses 7 and 8. The feast was spread, such guests as Zaccheus could command had been summoned, the poor lined the walls, Zaccheus had placed our Lord in the seat of honor, conversation had begun, pearls of wisdom had been given by the Galilean Messiah to that heterogeneous crowd. Then came the greatest sensation of the day, when the host himself arose, and with great gravity made the following confession and pledge; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. Notice in this the profound reverence Zaccheus felt toward our Lord. He turns to him as the representative of all ecclesiastical and rational power. Notice, too, that what we are apt to to call generosity, though much of it would be the merest justice, came in this case before what we are apt to call justice. Of course, the publican's conduct would have been unjust if more than half of his goods had been taken from others by false accusation, for it was his duty to pay all his debts before he gave. But fifty per cent to benevolence! If I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. This was in strict accord with the moral ideas of the ancients, which, strange to say, in many regards were in advance of those prevalent in Christian countries nineteen hundred years after our Lord's teachings. The Roman law obliged publicans to make fourfold restitution when it could be proved that they had abused their power. No man is a true follower of Christ who is not both just and generous.

9. This day is salvation come to this house. Salvation from the vile doom in both worlds to which public opinion had sentenced Zaccheus. Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth and Galilee, the Messiah, on the direct route, as most of the crowd believed, to assume his throne in Jerusalem, reverses public opinion, and pronounces the salvation of this man, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham. He had forfeited his sonship by his vile profession, but he is now restored by this inexplicable rabbi. That a spiritual transformation was also wrought in Zaccheus at this time the narrative implies. The incident in every part is full of comfort to all who, out of favor with their fellowmen, long for the favor of God.

10. The Son of man. Everyone would recognize that by this phrase Jesus referred to himself. To seek and to save. The seeking shows his love, the saving shows his power. That which was lost. Out of God's household. This verse, which has been wisely selected as the Golden Text of the lesson, contains the gist and marrow not only of the incident we are studying, but of the whole career and teaching of Jesus, and of the whole history and doctrines of Christianity, in so far as Christianity is really the offspring of our Lord. Wherever churches or individual Christians neglect to seek and to save that which is lost, or keep before them any other ideal than this, they are untrue to the spirit of their divine Lord.

PLAIN LEMON TAFFY.

Boil sugar to the crack, add a teaspoonful of lemon juice and a few drops of the extract of lemon; then continue boiling till the mixture begins to change color, have ready a well-oiled dripping pan, pour out the mixture, and after it is slightly cool mark off in squares with a warm oiled chopping knife, pressing the knife downward and rocking it back and forth.

This is the way to mark off all candy, as it will not drag the candy as an ordinary knife will do.

INCREASING HIS IGNORANCE.

Guyboy—What have you been doing all day?

Bighead—Increasing my ignorance. I have just read the latest historical novel.