Sunday School Lesson

September 15. Lesson XI—Teaching the Law of God—Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5, 6, 8-12. Golden Text—The entrance of thy words giveth light.—Psalm 119: 130.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE READING OF THE LAW, vs. 1-12.
II. THE FEAST OF THE SEVENTH MONTH, vs. 13-18.

INTRODUCTION—Ezra seems to have brought with him from Babylon a new edition of the ancient law, the origin of which was ascribed to Moses. It is difficult for us to understand why the priests and the people of Judah should have been ignorant of this law. We are told in Exodus of the "book of the covenant" (24: 7), which contained the laws in chs. 20-23, or part of them, and of the "two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God," "tables of the covenant," which were put in the ark and preserved there (Exod. 24: 12; 31: 18; Deut. 9: 10, 11; 10: 1-5). We are told also in Deuteronomy that the king must "write him a copy of this law in a book," and "read therein all the days of his life." In this case the law referred to may be the code contained in chs. 12-26, and may be the lost or forgotten book King Josiah (2 Kings 22: 8-10), whose reforms, based upon this book, coincide closely with the requirements of Deuteronomy. There is also the story of Samuel, last of the judges, who chose, under divine direction, the first kings of united Israel, and who "told the people the manner of the kingdom, and wrote it in a book, and laid it up before the Lord." (1 Samuel 10: 25; compare 8: 10-22). During the long period of exile in Babylon there must have been great danger that these earlier books would be lost, and it seems to have been due to men of the Spirit and mind of Ezra that both history and law of the early times were preserved and copied and made available for the restored community.

I. THE READING OF THE LAW, vs. 1-12.

In this chapter Ezra the priest and Nehemiah the governor appear together in a great religious service continuing eight days, in which the people are instructed in the ancient law, and the custom of celebrating the feast of tabernacles, long neglected, is renewed. Ezra had come to Jerusalem on his mission of teaching and reform fourteen years before, and at first, apparently, had had some measure of success (Ezra 9-10). But, on the whole, his mission does not seem to have prospered. He may have lacked power to enforce the law which he proclaimed, and which at first he persuaded some of the people to accept. Or there may have been a determined and well organized oposition to its enforcement.

The Water Gate (v. 1) was on the eastern side of the city, overlooking the Virgin's Spring. The book of the laws of Moses, which Ezra brought, robably contained most, if not all, the laws of the Pentateuch, and represents the first collection of canonical Scripture. It is interesting to note that the Samaritans adopted the same book of the law (the Pentateuch) and to this day it is their only sacred and authoritative Scripture. The Greek, "First Book of Esdras" (that is Ezra) says of him, "Esdras had very great skill, so that he omitted nothing of the law and commandments of the Lord, but taught all Israel the ordinances and judgments."

Ezra stood upon a pulpit of wood, or rather "a wooden platform," upon which others also were standing. At the beginning Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God. It is not easy to understand just how the reading and teaching was done. Most robably Ezra read first for all who could understand and follow his reading, and then chosen men (v. 6) gathered the people in groups and caused them to understand the reading. It must have required some such organized plan to convey instruction to some thousands of people. However it was done, Ezra and his helpers were able to make clear to all the demands of their law and religion, and to make them realize that this was the most important thing in their lives.

Tirshatha is a Persian word and is here the title of the governor. The statement made in some commentaries that this reference to Nehemiah is an interpolation and does not roperly belong to the story seems to be quite without foundation.

All the people wept, realizing how ignorant and neglectful they had been of these important matters (compare 2 Kings 22: 10-11). Weeping and laughter are often closely joined, and these simple folk, when comforted by their leaders and bidden make the day a holiday, soon turned their weeping into great mirth. Their mirth, we may be sure(was not lessened by the disposition to send portions to those who were in need. For, they learned, the joy of the Lord is your strength, that is, no doubt, the joy experienced in doing the Lord's will.

II. THE FEAST OF THE SEVENTH MONTH, vs. 13-18.

For the law governing the time and order of this festival see Lev. 23: 33-36 and 39-43; Exod. 23: 16 ("the feast of ingathering"); and Deut. 16: 13-15. The ritual is set forth in detail in Num. 29: 12-38. The festival seems to have had, like the Passover, a double meaning. It celebrated the ingathering of the fruit harvest and so the end of the old economic year, and it also commemorated the dwelling in tents during the long period of their life in the wilderness before the conquest and settlement of Palestine. The going out of the narrow, crowded quarters of the villages and towns into the fields, orchards, and vineyards, where they lived in booths made of olive branches, pine, myrtle and palm, must have been both healthful and delightful.

The statement in v. 17 that since the days of Jeshua (Joshua) they had not done so must have been made by a writer unacquainted with 2 Kings 7: 8-10 and 8: 13. See also Ezra 3: 4 and 1 Kings 8: 2, 65, 66. Or, it is possible, that he means to say that the feast had not been kept since Joshua, strictly according to the law.

JABOT BIB COLLAR.

A becoming semi-sports type in chartreuse green rajah silk with two-tone of brown dots is fetching new idea of Paris to complement the sun-tan vogue. The jabot bib collar of Style No. 608 is what makes it so outstandingly smart, and softens its line. The hips are snug; skirt slightly circular. Sleeves dart-fitted below elbows. It is designed in sizes 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38 40 and 42 inches bust. It adapts itself lovely to cotton fabrics as printed lawn, sheer or handkerchief weight linen, printed voile and printed lawn. Shantung, rajah, silk, georgette crepe, crepe de chine and chiffon appropriate. It is stunning in rich wine red canton crepe which is advanced Fall note and quite suitable for immediate wear. Black crepe satin can be worked out nicely in reverse treatment and is entirely dependable for serviceable daytime wear. Pattern price 20c in stamps or coin (coin is preferred). Wrap coin carefully.

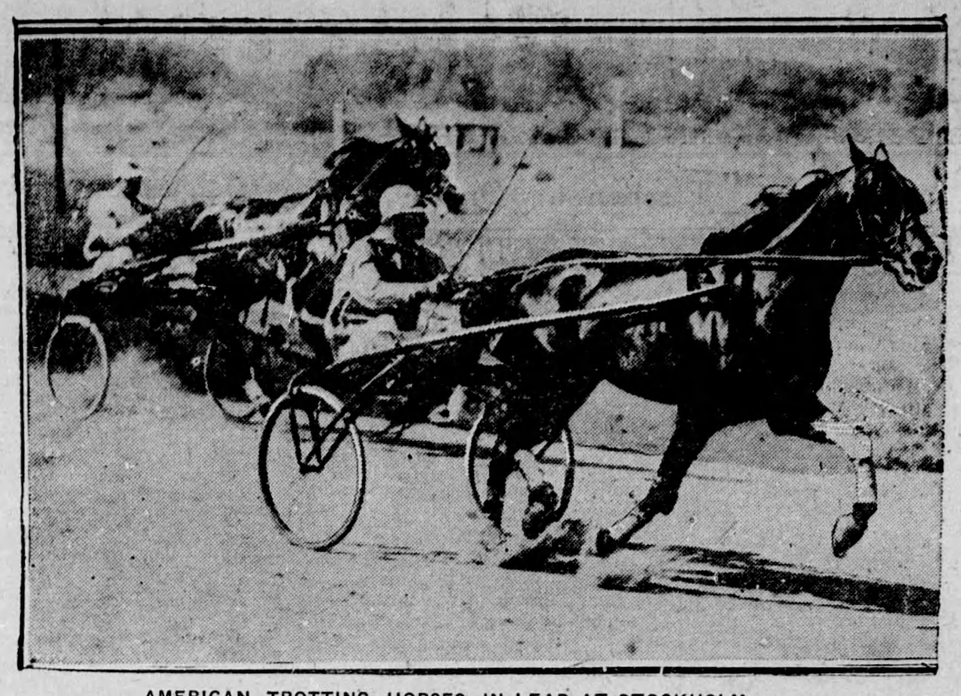
HOW TO ORDER PATTgRNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by an early mail.

Angry Customer—See here, these eggs you just sold me aren't fresh. Grover—But the boy just brought them from the country this morning. Customer—What country?

In some Pacific Islands fish is still used as currency. It must be a nuisance there to get a packet of cigarest from a slot machine.—"Glasgow Eastern Standard."

Showing Swedish Horse Lovers What Stan'ard Breds Can Do



AMERICAN TROTTING HORSES IN LEAD AT STOCKHOLM

Splendid action picture, showing Natalis and Chilton, two American trotters, capture first and second places in race held recently near Stockholm, Sweden.

Farm Notes

HOG FEEDING TROUGHS.

Three types of hog troughs have been tried at the Experimental Farms of the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa. These were made of wood, galvanized iron, and of concrete. The wooden troughs have been found to be the most serviceable and have the further advantage in that they may be constructed at home. The Dominion Animal Husbandman, in his report for 1928, favors the V-shaped trough because it is more resistant than other shapes to hard usage and it is simply made. The two sides are nailed together in the shape of a V and the ends nailed on. These ends it is recommended, should be extended at least twelve inches beyond the edge or lip of the trough in order to make it more stable and less easily tipped over by the hogs when feeding. Pine, spruce, hemlock, or other similar woods are suitable. The material should be two inches in thickness and eight or ten inches wide for most feeding purposes. The upper edges of the finished trough should be sheeted with galvanized iron to protect them against the chewing of the hogs. These troughs should not be nailed down but left so that they can be moved from place to place and easily cleaned when necessary. Galvanized or other metal troughs are more easily broken and bent than wood and are difficult to repair. Concrete troughs that are sometimes built into a cement floor are more difficult to keep clean than a moveable trough. hen these are installed the Dominion Animal Husbandman recommends that the bottom of the trough be slightly above the floor level. To facilitate the easy cleaning of the permanent trough a drainage hole should be left in one end and a wooden plug kept inserted in it. The wooden trough has the further advantage over the cement or metal trough in that the feed does not chill so quickly in it during the cold weather.

SHIPPING CRATES FOR HOGS.

The Experimental Farms ship out a great many hogs for breeding purposes, using individual crates in most cases. In his report for 1928 published by the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa, the Dominion Animal Husbandman describes the method of constructing a strong and rigid crate that is light in weight. The size of the crate for hogs of different weights are: for hogs up to 75 pounds, 9 inches wide, 2 feet high, and 2 feet 10 inches long; from 75 to 100 pounds the dimensions have to be increased to 10 inches in width, 2 feet 2 inches in height, and 3 feet in length. Hogs from 100 to 150 pounds require a crate 1 foot wide, 2 feet 6 inches high, and 3 feet 8 inches long. From 150 to 200 pounds the width should be 1 foot 2 inches, the height 2 feet 6 inches, and length 4 feet.

In constructing a crate it is first necessary to nail the floor firmly into the two floor skids then assemble each side and attach as a unit and nail in one end. The other end should consist of a removable gate set into grooves. Cross pieces should be placed across the top binding the two sides together. Spruce or pine is satisfactory wood to use. The floor skids should be 2 inches square and of the required length, and the lower slats on each side and on the ends should be flush with the floor. The spacing between the side slats should not exceed 2¼ inches. These are bound together with two uprights, or for the large crates a third one may be placed in the centre.

The crate may be constructed entirely of 4-inch material, five-eighths of an inch in thickness, but for the lower slats on each side wider boards up to 7 or 8 inches may be used according to the experience of the Dominion Animal Husbandman.

SELF-FEEDERS FOR HOGS.

While self feders for hogs save much labor they are not entirely satisfactory for the feeding of bacon hogs throughout the entire feeding period. This is particularly so in the case of newly weaned pigs, although a well balanced protein ration supplemented with milk by-products would appear to permit the use of the self feeder for the younger classes of bacon type hogs. In his report for 1928 published by the Dept. of Agriculture at Ottawa, the Dominion Animal aHsbandman states that some surprisingly good results have been obtained from using the self feeder throughout the entire feeding period. In too many cases, however, it is shown by experience at the Experimental Farms that the use of the self feeder has a tendency to result in a thicker type of hog than is usually produced by careful trough feeding.

BUTTERMILK COMPARED WITH BUTTERMILK POWDER.

In the feeding of hogs at the Experimental Farm at Ottawa each of two lots of five pigs was fed on an ordinary meal ration, while one lot received buttermilk and the other buttermilk powder. The test was continued for 98 days. The meal was fed at the rate of 4 per cent. of the live weight of the hogs. Buttermilk powder was mixed in water at the rate of two pounds to eight gallons of water, this solution was fed at the same rate as the buttermilk. Gains made by the hogs were not widely different. Those receiving the buttermilk powder required 2.44 pounds of meal per pounds of gain, while those fed buttermilk made a pound of agin on 2.2 pounds of meal. The total cost of the feed in the case of buttermilk powder fed lot was $44.55 and for the buttermilk $44.82. The cost per pound of gain, charging 8 cents per pound for buttermilk powder and 30 cents per 100 pounds for buttermilk, amounted to $7.02, as compared with $6.47 from pigs that received buttermilk. In this test 1,616 pounds of meal and 152 pounds of buttermilk powder proved to be equal in feeding value to 1,460 pounds of meal and 3,970 pounds of buttermilk, or with meal valued at $42 per ton and buttermilk at $6 per ton, the powder had a relative value of 7.53 cents per pound or $70.60 per ton. This test was carried on by the Dominion Animal Husbandman. The methods and results of the test are given in his Report for 1928, published by the Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

Some Fish Yarn From the West

Vancouver, B.C.—Angling for salmon in British Columbia waters has been so good this year that very few disciples of Sir Izaac Walton at the Coast have failed to land at least one of the silvery monsters.

The best fishing story of the season is being told by Captain J. H. Mutus, of Waterloo, Port Washington, on the Gulf of Georgia.

After trolling off shore near his home for a few minutes he decided to change the spoon bait. He hauled in his line. When the spoon left the water and was rising toward the gunwale an eight-pound salmon jumped fo rit an dlanded inside the row boat.

The fish is exhibited here by A. E. Craddock, manager of the Auto Club of British Columbia, a son-in-law of the Angling enthusiast.

Gabby Gertie

"Wraps and pelts are frequently exchanged at summer fur sales."

Harold C. Lewis, an Englishman visiting the United States, says he has yet to find one place here where a human being could taste a real cup of tea. That Boston tea party ruined us.—St. Paul Pioneer Press.

According to a Shanghi message Canton and General Chen-Chi-tag is in flight. For other sports items see other pages.

Said he, "I think I'll buy a rope
And end this daily strife."
And so he bought a rope of pearls
Much wanted by his wife.

Cocoanut Palm Still Untraced By Scientists

Both American and African Origin Suggested in the Theories of Birthplace

Science is still grappling with the mystery of the origin of the cocoanut palm, according to Dr. John K. Small, head curator of the museum at the New York Botanical Garden, Bronx Park, and associate of Thomas A. Edison duringthe inventor's rubber experiments in Florida.

While many have located the birthplace of the palm in parts of the American continent, the eminent student of palms, Baccari, has pointed out that an African palm is its closest relative.

Its true nationality may have always remain in doubt. The reason it that its great thick-husked nuts are inveterate travelers and colonizers, sailing the seas since time immemorial and starting a new race of cocoanuts wherever they were cast up on a tropical shore.

These sturdy cocoanuts vessles, in which the elements of a forest of palms lie dormant, can brave the storms of the ocean for months, only sprouting into apparent life when conditions favorable to colonization have been found.

To-day cocoanuts are found along the seashores of Florida, Central and South America, the est Indies the South Sea Islands, India, Australia and Africa. One species at least, called Cocos, seems to be pecular to South America.

Cocoanuts grow sparsely in such climates as that of southern California, but the extensive groves are in warmer countries, and the great commercial plantations are in the Orient.

The biggest single area of cocoanut palms in the world is in the Philippines, where they cover the entire southern end of the Island of Luzon in a rense grove. An automobile can pass for a day beneath their share, towns and villages are built among them, the oil and meat of hteir nuts are the materials of an important industry, while their milk furnishes a native beverage.

Thus the cocoanut is at home in many arts of the world. But if a plant's nativity can be judged by the place where its enemies lurk, there are certain reasons for upholding the theory that its origin may really be African. Only in Africa is found the robber crab, which climbs the cocoanut tree and feeds on the nuts, or the huge rhinoceros beetle which devours the young cocoanut leaves.

Reparations

London Daily Chronicle (Lib.): Great Britain's share of reparations was fixed at Spa by internationl trety. The percentage cannot be altered against her without her consent If she firmly refuses to be plundered, no one can plunder her. By this refusal let Mr. Snowden immovably abide. He will, of course, hear rough words. The French and possibly the Italians will exclaim that the Conference must break up. Perhaps it even will break up; though we have our doubts. But uspposing it did—which we should greatly regret—we say this. Better a break-up than another concession to the practice of treating Britain as the world's milch-cow. She was milked by her Tllies throughout the war; by them and by America she has been milked since. The process must stop being extended, once for all. It was always unjust. It is to-day, in view of our suffering, quite unbearable.

Ships Copy Refrigerated Air System of Picture Theatres

Tacoma, ash.,—Motion picture theaters are responsible for more comfortable traveling to tropical climes. Several steamship lines operating on the Pacific are installing refrigerated air systems similar to those in the theaters. Mid-summer voyages to South Sea and mid-Pacific ports thus will be made more pleasant.

Some one estimates a jazz saxophonist must move his fingers 500 times a minute. We don't know how often his neighbors must move.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER