Sunday School Lesson

December 1. Lesson IX—The Christian Home in a Modern World, Luke 2: 40-52. Golden Text—Honour thy father and mother.—Epreslans 6: 2.

ANALYSIS

I. THE CHILD IN THE HOME, Deut. 6: 3-9; Luke 2: 40-52; 2 Tim. 1: 3-5; 3: 14, 15.
II. SANCTITY OF HOME RELATIONS, Mat. 19: 3-9; Eph. 6: 1-9.
III. 3œ8]:9 (9 9œ5 9(8.5, Luke 24: 28-32.

INTRODUCTION— Revealing glimpses of home life are not infrequent in the Bible, sometimes unatractive and evil, sometimes rarely beautiful, always instructive. Only a few examples can be iven here, some merely by suggestion rather than description in detail. There is Abraham of whom the Lord says, "I have known him to the end that he may command his children and his household after him, that they may keep the way of the Lord," Gen. 20: 19. There is the hospitable tent-home of Jethro in Midian where Moses, the fugitive, is welcomed, Exod. 2: 20, 21. In the home of Micah, in the hill country of Ephraim, with his chapel, his altar, and his priest; there is real, though uninstructed, piety. In Samuel's childhood home a devoted mother prays for her son. The home life of Hosea is ooisoned by unfaithfulness, but redeemed and healed by a changeless and self-denying love, Hos.. chs. 2 and 3. Very memorable is the dignity and order of the household of the virtuous woman of Proverbs (ch. 31), whose "price is far above rubies," and whose children "rise up and call her blessed."

In the New Testament, individual character stands out more prominently than social or family life, but we have frequent reference to the virtues which make a good home—kindness, purity, hospitality, humility, dilligence, patience, fidelity, charity. It is under the influence and power of the Lord Jesus Christ that the perfection and beauty of home life has been attained.

I. THE CHILD IN THE HOME, Deut. 6: 3-9; Luke 2: 40-52; 2 Tim. 1: 3-5; 3: 14, 15.

The ancient law preserved in Deuteronomy requires both that the people shall keep the commandments of God, and that they shall teach them to their children. ch. 6: 1, 2, 7.. With this good law goes the promise of the blessing of God, v. 3. With it also goes the great central truth of religion, "The Lord our God is one Lord," and the summing up of all religious duty in the one great commandment, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." These, therefore, are to be kept as a sacred inheritance, this fundamental thuth and this comprehensive law, and taught to the children in the home. Apparently there is to be no excuse for neglect, and no evasion of this duty. All occasions are to be used, and both the parent and the home will be marked by the symbols of its obedience, vs. 7-9. The language of these verses is probably to be understood as figurative, but many Jews have taken it literally and have actually worn on the arm and forehead strips of parchment on which were written words of the law, and have enclosed similar pieces of parchment in metal or wooden cases nailed to the doorpost

that Jesus as
home where the
precepts of the ancient religion were strictly observed. He grew and waxed strong in spirit, filled with disdom, Luke 2: 40. At twelve years of age he was taken by his parents to the springtime festival of the Passover at Jerusalem. In this story (vs. 41-50), two things seem clear, first that he had become keenly interested in what he had learned of the temple and its worship, and second, that for so young a boy he had a most devout and real interest in religion. Coming with a fresh mind to the great questions of his religious faith and practice, he seizes the opportunity to learn what he can from the temple doctors who were astonished at his understanding. Absorbed in this higher interest he was, for the moment, forgetful of the day appointed to return home. But his parents, he thought, would have known. "Wist ye not," he said, "that I must be in my Father's House?" v. 49, Rev. Ver. Jesus is resented to us as a healthy, normal boy, well instructed, keenly interested in the best things, of unusual mental ability, obedient, and well thought of by those who knew him—a good all-round boy, owing much to a good home.

We are fortunate in learning from Paul something of the early life of his much-beloved younger friend, Timothy, whom, he says, he remembers in his rayers night and day. 2 Tim. 1: 3. Timothy's faith as, in some measure, an inheritance from his grandmother, Lois, and his mothe, Eunice. From a child he had known the holy scriptures, and Paul counsels him affectionately to continue in the reading and study of them. There is no better definition of the place and value of the Bible in the life of a child or a man than that given by Paul ch. 3: 14, 15.

II. SANCTITY OF HOME RELATIONS, Mat. 19: 3-9; Eph. 6: 1-9.

There is good counsel here regarding three fundamental home relations, that of husband and wife, that of parents and children, that of master and servant—counsel in which is summed up the wisdom of the ages. To the mind of Jesus the relation of husband and wife is sacred and is divinely ordained. The Jews would have involved him if they could in one of the controversies of the time. One of their schools, that of Shammai, taught that a man could put away his wife for serious misconduct only. The other, the school of Hillel, held that he could "do so for any reason, for example, a spoiled dinner, or a physical defect," Peake's Commentary. Jesus admits only one sufficient cause for divorce, and frankly brands remarriage in any other case as adultery, Matt. 19: 3-9.

On the part of children, obedience and honor, on the part of parents patience and wise instruction—these are the homely virtues to which Paul exhorts his readers. As for servants, he counsels honest and single-minded service to their masters, remembering that before all else they are servants of Christ, who will receive their recompense from the Lord. The attitude of masters toward those who serve should be the same, forbearing threatening, holding all good work in honor, remembering that they, too, are servants of a Master in heaven, Eph. 6: 1-9.

III. CHRIST AT THE TARLE, Luke 24: 28-32.

The kindly hospitality of the two disciples was richly rewarded when they learned that the stranger whom they entertained was the Lord himself.

Tied to Mother's Apron Strings

National Review: In every walk of life the influence of woman has tended greatly to increase the family tie and to hold it tight long after, naturally, it has ceased to exist. Young men who should be out in the world earning, or perhaps failing to earn, their own living are to-day living at home, working in a feeble sort of way, perhaps many miles from it, and adding a ridiculously small amount to an insufficient family income. There is no greater check to emigration than the will of the women of England. So far from encouraging their sons to go out in search of new pastures, they will not even allow them to do so. Curiously enough, woman seems to prefer her son a curly headed darling clinging devotedly to her apron-strings rather than a man worthy of the pain with which she bore him.

Save the Birds

Cape Argus: Let us, before it is too late, do all we can to preserve this wonderful bird life of ours by the reservation of sanctuaries and by teaching school children to protect rather than destroy. Let us distribute literature in schools and to farmers on the economic value of birds. Why is there not a Chair of Ornithology in all our universities?

Teacher—"William the Conqueror invaded England in 1066. How do you suppose we know that, Johnny?"

Johnny—"By looking in the telephone book, I guess."

Autonomy For India

New Review: Britain has solved the problem of relating Ireland and South Africa to the Empire on a basis equitable both to England and to the populations concerned. There is good reason to believe that the Indian problem, more difficult because of the number and different kinds of people it involves, can also be solved without disrupting the Empire.

Farm Notes

Improving Herds and Flocks

On Illustration Stations operated by the Dominion Department of Agriculture as a part of the Experimental Farms System considerable attention is being directed to building up dairy herds on the stations and to developing good types of other livestock. The majority of the station operators are using purebred sires and many of the dairy and mixed farmers are keeping individual milk records and making butter-fat determinations in order to determine the production of each animal.

A study of the year's production of milk and fat on the different stations has revealed the need of the adoption of improved methods. In his report for last year the Supervisor of the illustration stations, published by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, it is stated that the average production of butter-fat varies from 408 pounds to 121 pounds on the different stations. Indeed, on one of the farms it was found that the average yield per cow was only 774 pounds of butter fat. These results show the need, and possibilities of systematic breeding and selection.

On many of the stations the herds and flocks have been so built up as to make them valuable sources of breeding stock for the farmers in the district. During the past year it is noted by Mr. Moynan, the Supervisor, that the operators of Illustation Stations sold 266 head of cattle, 310 hogs and 202 sheep for breeding purposes.

Fertilizers for Potatoes

In the growing of potatoes on farms where stable manure is not plentiful commercial fertilizers of proper mixtures may be used with advantage. To demonstrate the value of commercial fertilizers when used singly and with manure potato fields on a number of the Illustration Stations operated by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa were treated in different ways, side by side, with a section receiving 20 tons of farmyard manure to the acre. Other plots of similar land were treated with 10 tons of the manure, and 750 pounds of the feltilizer, and a third plot with 1500 pounds of chemical fertilizer and a fourth plot was left unfertilized. The fertilizer used was one made up of four parts each of nitrogen and potash, and eight parts of phosphoric acid.

These demonstrations were carried on for three years at eleven stations in Nova Scotia. The three year average yields were from the farmyard manure plot 201 bushels to the acre. The plots receiving manure and fertilizer 236 bushels to the acre, the plots receiving only the commercial fertilizer yielded 226 bushels to the acre, while the unfertilized plots gave less than 100 bushels.

From these tests it was shown that the greatest gains were obtained on the plots where both manure and chemical fertilizers were used. To arrive at the value of these fertilizers it was calculated that 55% of the cost of the fertilizer was charged to the potato crop and 45% to succeeding crops. On this basis it was found that the increased yield cost $9.73 per acre or on a bushel basis less than 8 cents.

Commenting on this demonstation Mr. C. J. Moynan, Chief Supervisor of the Illustration Stations, says in his report for 1928 that under practical farm conditions it would appear that soils low in fertility can be restored to a profitable basis by the limited use of a chemical fertilizer to supplement the necessary amount of plant food which cannot be supplied by farmyard manure.

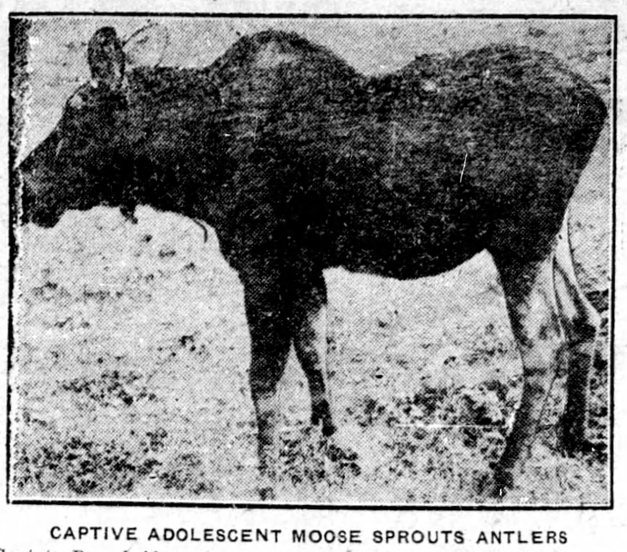
Poultry Improvement Work

Illustration Stations distributed over the country and operated under the direction of the Experimental Farm at Ottawa, are having a fine influence on the improvement of poultry. In the Eastern Quebec stations four years ago there were only 374 purchased birds kept on the twenty stations then in operation. In the Report of the Supervisor of the stations for 1928 published by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, it is shown that last year 1650 of the 1900 birds kept on twenty-two stations in the same part of the country were purebred and principally of the Barred Plymouth Rock breed.

The securing of these better birds has induced a number of the operators and adjoining farmers to improve their housing accommodation. On of the farms houses have been built to accommodate 250 birds and on other farms old buildings have been remodelled, making needed improvements in light and ventilation. The quality of the stock is being gradually improved by utilizing more and more purebred cockerels from stock which has produced 200 eggs or more in a year.

This work has so improved flocks as to make them breeding centres for the districts in which they are situated. During the year under review there were sold from these stations for breeding purposes 516 cockerels and 489 pullets. There were also sold 1631 settings of hatching eggs. — Issued by the Director of Publicity, Dom. Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

He May Be Ugly Later On



CAPTIVE ADOLESCENT MOOSE SPROUTS ANTLERS

Sent to Bracebridge over a year ago, by T. B. Toughs, this moose calf is kept in the backyard of the hotel and has become completely domesticated

The Future of Japan

Fortnightly Review: From being a customer of the industrial countries of the West, Japan has become a competitor; from a purchaser of manufactured goods she has become a producer; from agriculture she is turning more and more to commerce and industry, and from rural occupations her people are migrating to the towns and cities for a livelihood. The whole social and economic fabric of the country is undergoing a process of change, while labor disputes, unemployment, slums, and all the other well-known concomitants of industrial revolution are coming to the fore. With emigration abroad ruled out, however, on account of differences in economic standards, and with her own possessions overseas more valuable to her for development by native labor assisted by Japanese money and brains than for colonization by her own surplus millions, Japan's main hope for solving the problem of a rapidly increasing population seems to lie in the industrialization of the country. It is to this, therefore, that she has turned.

Protecting Infant Industries

Sydney (Australia) Review: While it would be manifestly absurd to impose a high tariff with a view to attempting to raise in this country an exotic fruit, it is clear that a benficial industry in its initial stages may well need protection and an Empire economic conference such as is proposed by Lord Passfield might well decide where the line should best be drawn between these two extremes, enabling each portion of th Empire to produce that for which it is by nature most fitted with the assurance that its markets will not be closed to it by artificial barriers.

"Yes, indeed, in London I was presented at court."

"What did they charge you with?"

There is Music Everywhere

O, there is music everywhere,
An all-pervading harmony,
In every sound that stirs the air,
There throbs a note of melody.

There rolls thro' every roaring street,
The rhythm of an epic rhyme;
The sounding stream of human feet
Moves on to music's perfect time.

In every silence there are chords,
Subtle and soft as strands of rain;
In sounds, akin to song, our words
Flow from our lips, a varied strain.

The soul that tunes the perfect ear,
Dissolves all discord into air,
And in the heart of things can bear
Nothing but music everywhere.

—J.C.M.D.

Dominion Status for India

The Round Table: There are, of course, many minor distinctions introduced by differences of race, language and government in the various parts of India, but these all take inferior positions to the fact that Dominion status in India means government by Indians, while in Australia it does not mean government by native Australians, nor in South Africa government by the negroes, nor in Canada government by Red Indians. To put it in a single sentence, while everywhere else, except in the Irish Free State, Dominion status has meant the dominance of men who were originally solonists, in India it means the handing over of government to the Indian peoples. As the conditions are wholly different, so it is inevitable that the Dominion Status of India will exhibit many variations from what we call Dominion status elsewhere. The kind of government that is in the mind of an ardent member of the National Congress when he talks of Dominion status is probably something wholly different to that foreshadowed by the Englishman at home when he lightly uses the same phrase. A principal objection to loose talk about such matters is that these rumours will presently be held to be promises, and beliefs as to what is to happen immediately in India will be set going when we all know that those beliefs probably cannot become concrete facts for generations.

Farming on Business Lines

Nineteenth Century: It is to be hoped, perhaps to be expected, that improved marketing is the first step to the changes necessary to bring prosperity to the countryside. For undoubtedly "From Farm to Consumer" is the slogan of successful agriculture, not undertaken in the manner of the individual ,supplying in small quantities, for in that wil rest no salvation. The farmer must supply direct to the public in the cheapest way—through the shops—moving his produce at the low rates used by the organizations which at the moment do this particular work for him. Until the farmer takes over the selling and, like the successful manufacturer, can somewhat control the price of his goods, the farming situation must remain an "agricultural crisis" constantly becoming more and more serious, with brief intervals of better days.

Volcano, Quakes Alarm Planters In Costa Rica

Ash Eruptions From Irazu and Mild Earth Tremors Felt Throughout Republic

San Jose, Costa Rica—Residents of Cartago and other small cities which lie at the foot of the volcano Irazu, as well as coffee planters and dairymen who live on its slopes, are greatly alarmed by recent eruptions of ashes from the craters of Costa Rica's most active volcano, and mild earth tremors which have bee felt in practically the entire republic. These, it is believed, are caused by Irazu.

The volcano rises to a height of 11,500 feet above sea level, and has three craters, two of which are active. The third, although less than a hundred yards from its mates, has been inactive since 1910, when earthquakes caused the activity of the others. These craters are situated in a bowl more than half a mile across, which also contains a small lake formed by rainfall and water draining into it. The lake is situated about two hundred yards from the craters.

The craters of Irazu can be eached only by a thee-hour climb on horseback over a trail which winds along the slopes of the mountain for about twenty-five kilometers. Upon reaching a height of approximately 10,000 feet one can see practically the whole of this tiny republic.

Limon, which is the Caribbean port, and Puntarenas, on the Pacific Coast, can both be seen on a clear day. Also, the San Juan River, which forms the boundary between Costa Rica and Ricaragua, and a number of silvery lakes in the neighboring republic, are visible from the peak.

Thus the only boundary of the country not visible from the volcano is that of Panama, the view of which is shut off by a range of mountains, some peaks of which are slightly higher than Irazu.

The trip to the craters must be made during the early hours of the morning to view the surrounding country, because clouds usually form in the valley and rise to the slopes of the volcano shortly after sunrise, and because rain frequently falls on the mountainside after noon. Frost forms practically every night, and small shrubbery and coarse grass are the only vegetation above an altitude of 10,000 feet.

It is not strange that the inhabitants of cities and plantations in the vicinity of the volcano are alarmed by the recent activity of Irazu. Since 1723, when the first City of Cartago was destroyed by eruptions and strong earthquakes, the countryside has suffered on five occasions, in 1756, 1822, 1831, 1888 and 1910.

The sides of the active craters are now covered with a yellowish-green coating of sulphur which forms from the fumes emitting from their mouths. Inasmuch as a strong prevailing wind blows from the north, the southern rim of te bowl is approximately 500 feet higher than any other side, caused by ashes which have settled.

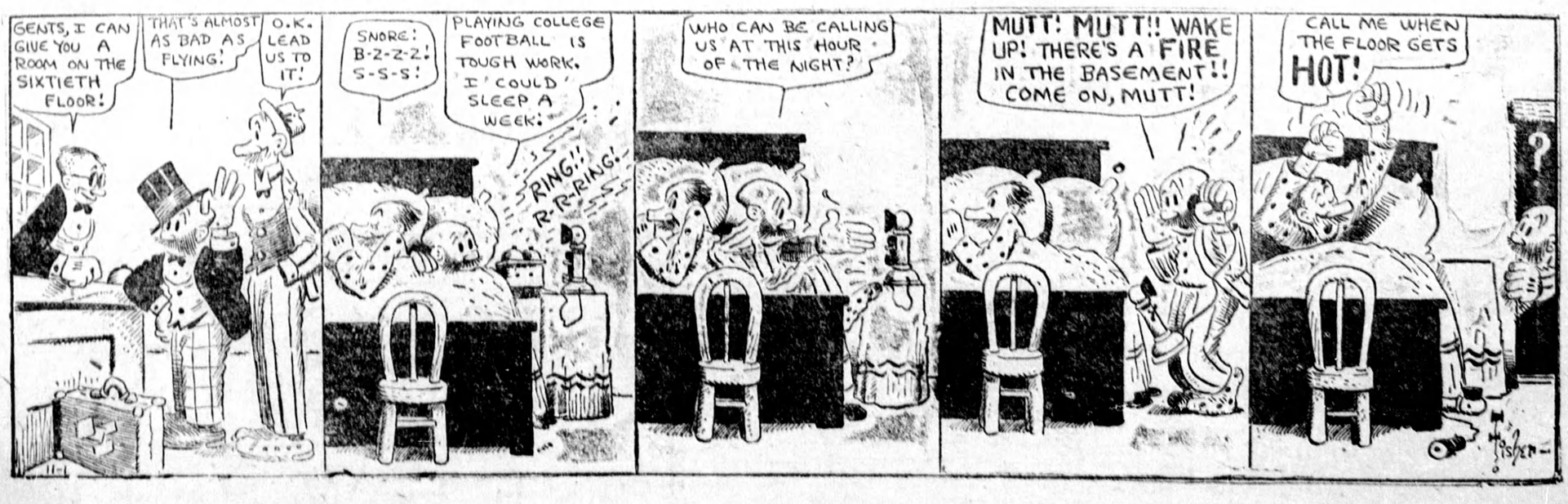
Trees and vegetation to te south of the crater for a distance of more than five miles are withered by the coat of volcanic ash and sulphur fumes carried by the wind.

A noise like the breaking of waves on a rocky coast is heard inside the craters, evidently aroused by the boiling lava.

The volcanic ashes which have settled on the southern rim of the craters are packed by daily rains, which have washed gullies in the sofe mass resembling the topography of the surrounding mountainous and broken countryside.

"Does your wife object to your smoking?"

"Yes; she says we both can't afford to."

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

Mutt Feels a Little More Sleep Won't Hurt.