Sunday School Lesson

December 22. Lesson XII—The Child in a Christian World (Christmas Lesson), Luke 2: 8-20. Golden Text —Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. —Matthew 19: 14.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE CHILD AND THE KINGDOM, Matt. 18: 1-6; Mark 9: 36, 37, 42; 10: 13-16.

II. THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM, Luke 2: 1-20.

INTRODUCTION—When all evil is banished from the world it will be a safe and happy place for little children. In the new and perfect city of the golden age that is to come, a prophet tells us that both old men and old women shall dwell happily, and that "the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof," Zech. 8: 4, 5. In the language of poetry another prophet tells of a coming age of peace in which fierce wild beasts will be led by a little child, and an infant child will play with safety on the deadly serpent's den, Isa. 11: 6-9.

The Gospels show clearly that there was a warm place in the heart of Jesus for little children. It will be remembered with what solicitous tenderness he responded to the request of a ruler to come and heal his little daughter. "Little girl," he said, "I am telling you to rise" (Moffatt's Translation). After the memorable experience in the mountain, when three disciples had a vision of his glory, his first act was again to have compassion upon, and to heal a sorely-afflicted child (Mark 5: 22-42; 9: 14-27). The care of his apostles in their ministry for children is apparent in their letters, 2 Cor. 12: 14; Eph. 6: 1-4; Col. 3: 20, 21; Titus 2: 4. Our remembrance of him at Christmas time, when we read again the story of the babe of Bethlehem, and the boy at Nazareth, is full of adoration and thanksgiving. In him all childhood becomes beautiful and sacred:

O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us today.
—Phillips Brooks.

I. THE CHILD AND THE KINGDOM, Matt. 18: 1-6; Mark 9: 36, 37, 42; 10: 13-16.

It was near the end of Jesus' ministry in Galilee. He was soon to turn his face again toward Jerusalem and the last tragic act in the brief drama of his earthly life. There had been much controversy and much hostility aroused by his rebuke of the insincerity and wickedness which he saw in the cities, and by his teaching of the infinite love of the heavenly Father as the central and all-important truth of religion, displacing the ancient law and custom which Pharisees had made central. Jesus finds relief for the distress of his own mind, and a lesson for his disciples in the simple faith of a little child. "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" his disciples ask, and he answers by calling to him a little child, who cares nothing for greatness, who is content just to trust and to love, compare Luke 22: 24-27. "The main purpose of Jesus is not to talk of the child's relation to the kingdom, but of the spirit that his disciples must have if they would enter that kingdom." "The disciples give the occasion for Jesus' word in their pride, their self-importance, their ambition,"—Rall, The Teachings of Jesus. It is the simplicity, frankness, and willingness to learn, together with the entire absence of self-conceit and pride, that is so admirable in a little child, and so worthy of imitation. To receive such an one is to share his spirit, to offend is to deserve severest condemnation, Matt. 18: 1-6. The incident of the blessing of little children (Mark 10: 13-16) occurred somewhat later. Of such, he said, is the kingdom of heaven.

II. THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM, Luke 2: 1-20.

It was in the reign of Augustus, the Roman emperor (B.C. 31 to A.D. 14), that Jesus was born. The exact date seems to have been about B.C. 6 when Herod the Great was king of Judea. It seems to have been the custom in the eastern provinces of the empire to require people to be enrolled in their original home. So Joseph and Mary had to return to Bethlehem, "the city of David," probably Joseph's birthplace; and there Jesu was born. His birth was royally heralded by an "angel of the Lord, and a multitude of the heavenly host praising God."

In all the world the most important person that night was the babe of Bethlehem. But only "shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks," saw the vision, and heard the song:

"How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!"

The announcement made by the angel to the shepherds declares the child to be "a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord," that is the long-promised Messiah, the son of David, whose coming had been foretold again and again through seven centuries of Israel's history (see for example Isaiah, chs. 9 and 11). Now the "good tidings of great joy" is to be not for Israel only, but "to all people," and it promises, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will to men."

Robin's Christmas

"What am I going to have for Christmas this year?" Robin Redbreast asked his mother.

"I'm afraid that you won't get anything, my bird," sighed his mother. "Father's been ill for so long that we have spent all our money and how I'm going to get you anything to eat on Christmas Day I don't know. As for presents——" she shruged her wings to show that they were out of the question.

Now when Robin heard this he made up his mind to do something to help his mother. "How could I earn some money?" he said to himself, and then he suddenly had a brilliant idea. He decided to go out carol singing.

It was a cold, snowy day, so he put on his check cap and muffler and his Wellington boots and off he fley.

He perched on a bough outside a nursery window where he could see some children and up he piped:

"Tweet, tweet, tweet, tweet, tweet, tweet——"

Whn they heard him the children rushed to the window.

"Look!" they cried, "a dear little robin singing in all this dreadful snow. Do let's throw him something." And they ran to the tea-table and collected handfuls of cake and bread-crumbs which they threw out to robin.

He tied them up carefully in a corner of his muffler and flew off to another house.

Everybody was so pleased to hear his cheerful singing that when at last it was time for him to go home, he could hardly fly, he had so much to carry.

I needn't tell you how glad his mother was to see al the tit-bits he had collected. She had good news for him, too, for Father Redbreast was ever so much better, and kind Mrs. Thrush had sent over a great big parcel of toys for Robin and his brothers and stisters.

So after all the Redbreasts had a happy Christmas.

Big Appetites

British Army and Navy to Eat 15 Tons of Christmas Pudding

London—While British soldiers and sailors in far corners of the empire may not be blessed with real "Christmassy" weather during the festive season they are assured of real English fare.

The Army, Navy and Air Force Institute (affectionately known as "Naffy", which looks after the canteens of British soldiers and sailors in all parts of the world, issues a few figures which give some idea of the fighting services' appetite.

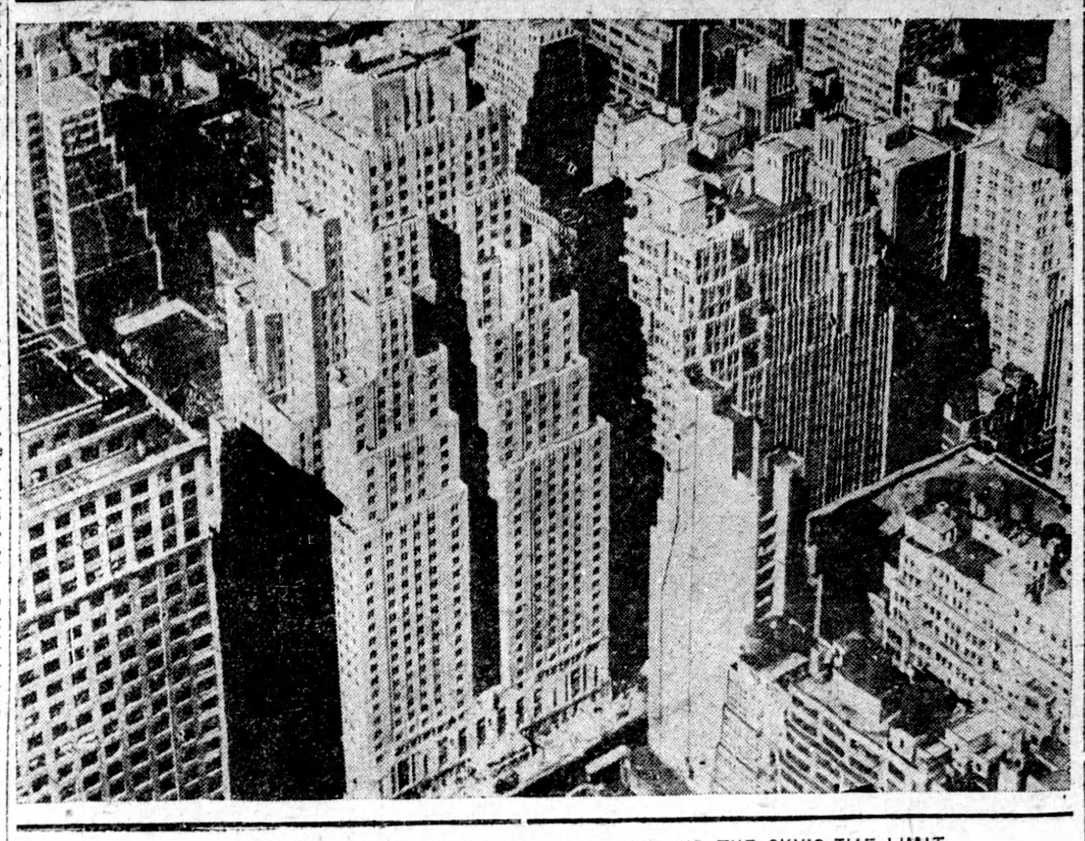
Fifteen tons of plum puddings are being made; the puddings, ranging from one to fourteen pounds apiece, will fill 30,000 pudding basins. Twenty-five hundred decorated Christmas cakes will be made, many of them adorned with regimental crests in icing.

Six tons of mincemeat will go into jars, while 1,250,000 mince pies will be ready for consumption. Doughnuts and Eccles cakes are being made in thousands. One hundred and fifty tons of currants will be utilized in various ways.

Fruit takes a prominent place on this gargantuan menu. The figures for fresh fruits have soared beyond calculation, while evaporated fruit salad is so popular that more than seven tons have to be provided during the Christmas period.

If, as is said, every day's weather is the same on the moon, what does the man in the moon have to talk about?

A Splendid View of New York Architecture



A NEW HOTEL BUILT WHERE LAND IS DEAR AND THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Aerial view of New York's newest hotel, 45 storeys high and containing 2,500 rooms, which opens shortly.

Lighting the Fiery Cross of Empire Trade

A Tour of the Dominions by Lord Beaverbrook Suggested for the Future

WILL NEED STUDY

London is asking, Will Lord Beaverbrook carry in person to the Dominions before the next Imperial Conference the fiery cross of his Empire Crusade, and free trade within the Empire, when it will not interfere with the proper protection of key infant industries?

Some members of Parliament in the old country are advising the Canadian peer to make an extended tour of the Dominions in order to convince the industrialists and politicians that his suggestions for promoting Empire unity are sound.

And certain politicians in the old country who are skeptical of sudden enthusiams to re-organize the Empire are asking:

Has Lord Beaverbrook made inquiries from responsible leaders of all parties in the Dominions and, if so, what are their views on the subject?

It is current political gossip that a representative of the Beaverbrook papers sought to draw out expressions of opinions from Canadian politicians high up in the councils of their party. The aforementioned politicians said that they would like to know a lot more about some of the obscure points of the Beaverbrook Empire policy before venturing to express an opinion.

Particular Questions

Some of Lord Beaverbrook's answers to questions of particular interest to Canada are so involved that it is felt that a face-to-face explanation of his views will be necessary to carry conviction and make converts to his projects.

His principal paper, the London Express, is making a great play of how agriculurists in Britain would benefit from a duty on wheat coming from without the Empire. The question here is how can his Empire free trade scheme bring important benefits to the British farmer and at the same time carry substantial benefits to the Canadian grain growers.

Can Lord Beaverbrook have his Empire cake and eat it too?

Lord Beaverbrook has limited his campaign for free trade within the Empire by the statement that it is not proposed or desired to subject infant or key industries in the Dominions to unrestricted competition from the Mother Country's industries.

Obviously there will be a serious difficulty defining what constitutes key and infant industries.

What principle can be invoked to govern decisions here?

Lord Beaverbrook is vague on that point.

Any industry that has a key to profits under tariff protection is probably prepared to argue that it is a key industry.

Every industry in Canada, except fox breeding, is probably ready to argue that it is an infant compared with British industries.

There are some other points of interest which will not be readily cleared up unless Lord Beaverbrook by a personal tour of the Dominions is able to do so at first hand.

Throws New Light

One good thing the Beaverbrook campaign appears to be doing in the old country—it is bringing to the light of day a lot of interesting information about British industry and British trade calculated to bring the old policy of "laissez faire" into disrepute; a lot of information which ordinarily escapes the vigilance of even trade and technical journals.

It will not be surprising if Beaverbrook makes a tour of the Empire shortly, carrying his fiery cross of Empire Unity. He might do a lot of good at that, although he would probably not convert the Dominions to any extensive program of free trade within the Empire. But he might stimulate Empire efforts to meet the intensified competition in the world market all British countries will have to face from the United States in the near future. When President Hoover gets his domestic plans designed to ward off a business depression in full working order, he will undoubtedly turn his attention to the job of organizing American business for the expansion of its export trade—for an assault upon the world markets of a magnitude and intensity surpassing even the pre-war effort of Imperial Germany.

"Money talks."

"Yes, but 'farewell' is the only thing it ever says to me."

Air Designers Seek to Muffle Noise of Flight

Efforts to Curb Roar of Motors Held to be only Partially Successful

Efforts to eliminate the noise nuisance in flying have been only partially successful, according to the aeronautics branch of the Department of Commerce, but the noise has been considerably reduced in some cabin planes by the use of sound-proof material in the walls and the rearrangement of engines and mufflers.

Sound-proof walls have not been found to be entirely satisfactory by aeronautical enginers of the Bureau of Standards, because to be really efficient they must be so heavy as to add materially to the weight of the plane. Airplane designers have found, however, that the engine noise can be made less objectionable if the muffler is placed behind the cabin.

Noise of the propeller cannot be lessened by any such device—the only remedy so far discovered being the heavy sound-proof walls. In the case of multi-motored planes the noise sometimes is increased by the overlapping of slip streams, causing the "beat" that common when sound waves collide.

This "beat" can be eliminated by an arrangement of the engines which does not permit the slip streams to overlap, or by a change in the lines of the plane's fuselage.

The possible elimination of the noise of flying is of particular interest to air transport operators who carry passengers, as they must make flying comfortable and convenient. The transport operators also are interested in the work of engineers looking to the reduction of vibration in the cabin caused by the vibration of the engines.

The best suggestion for combating vibration is that the engine should be placed on rubber mountings that would absorb the shock before it could be transmitted to the fuselage. Engine manufacturers are making the motors run more smoothly.

London Traffic Signals

London—This big town's lack of automatic traffic signals gets many a laugh from visiting motorists, especially Americans accustomed to the traffic-control towers of New York.

Few of them know that London tried automatic traffic signals sixty-one years ago, when New York was just getting back to normality after the Civil War.

Largest Fossil Found by Chance

Tricks of Fate Lead Hunter to Fifty-Ton Dinosaur

The warning whirr of a rattlesnake led to the discovery of the largest prehistoric creature ever found; the accidental stroke of geologist's pick into a slab of sandstone disclosed remains of the daddy of all sea serpents. How these luckly finds took place, related by Charles H. Sternberg, noted hunter of fossil monsters, who, in sixty-years of searching, has uncovered more than three hundred specimens of prehistoric life.

"Once I was walking along the rim of a cliff in the Bad Lands of Wyoming," he writes in the December issue of Popular Science Monthly, "when I heard, seemingly at my feet, the deadly warning of a rattlesnake. I leaped to one side, slipped, fell, slid over the edge of the crag and came to a sudden stop sitting down on what apparently was a brown boulder ten feet from the top. The 'boulder' was the shoulder bone of the largest dinosaur ever unearthed. It was nearly eigthly feet long, sixteen feet high at the shoulders, and probably weighed fifty tons or more. Had it not been for the snake on the edge of the cliff, that monster reptile, probably five million years old, would have remained undiscovered.

"Such twists of fate make fossil hunting one of the most fascinating games in the world. Searching for prehistoric shells and other marine life on the one-time shore of a great ocean in Kansas, I dropped the geologist's pick I was carrying and the sharp point accidentally struck a slab of sandstone, flaking off a chip a foot long and half as wide. Beneath, dark brown against the pale yellow sandstone, was the tooth-filled snout of a huge fish. Careful excavation revealed it to be a Portheus molossus, a prehistoric fish fourteen feet long, probably able to destroy any shark alive to-day.

"Sometimes, the specimen a hunter seeks is found right at the door of his tent, as was the case in one of my expeditions to Canada. Walled in by rain in the valley of a river in Alberta, I bemoaned the fate that prevented me from searching for fossil duck-bills, belonging to the family of huge herbivorous dinosaurs.

Yet, later the rain had passed and I stepped from my tent, I saw on the face of a near-by cliff, clear cut as with a knife, the complete and almost perfect skeleton of the great and terrible Tyrannosaurns rex, king of all carnivorous dinosours. The rain had washed earth and some stone from the face of this wall, revealing the fifty-foot lizard, the terror of the jungles in its day on earth."

Blind Pensioners

Notice of Great Importance to Blind Persons

Mr. P. E. Layton, President of the Canadian Federation of the Blind, is desirous of obtaining information about all blind persons in the Dominion who are in need of pensions. In sending in name and address the reason why the pension is required should be mentioned, with full particulars as to number of people dependent, present salary, and any other information that may appear valuable. It will greatly help to obtain the pension if reasons are given why blind people should receive this aid from the Government.

The Canadian Federation of the Blind has been working hard for a long time to obtain pensions, and to this end is endeavoring to have a bill introduced at the next session of the Dominion Parliament.

All blind persons and those interested in this movement are requested to write to their local member of Parliament asking him to give such a bill his full support.

As there will be a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Federation in Ottawa, early in January, full information should be sent at once to the headquarters, Canadian Federation of the Blind, 6980 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

Jeff Taps a Gusher at 30 Cents a Gallon.