Sunday School Lesson

S. SCHOOL—Feb 29 .... GRAHAM

March 13. Lesson XI—Jesus Comforts His Disciples—John 14. 1-18. Golden Text—Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.—John 14: 27.

ANALYSIS.

I. OUR FATHER'S HOUSE, 14: 1-3.

II. THE WAY THITHER, 14: 4-11.

III. THE TRAVELLERS' TRIUMPH, 14: 12-14.

IV. THE TRAVELLERS' COMRADE, 14: 15-18.

INTRODUCTION—It is suggested that chapter 13-17 should be read in this order: 13: 1-32; 15, 16, 13: 33-38, 14, 17. This would seem to be nearer the original arrangement.

The eleven, in the Upper Room, are staggered by the disclosure that their dream of an earthly kingdom is shattered, their beloved leader going where they cannot follow, 13: 33. Peter's too confident declaration (13: 37), brings its desolating answer. Jesus follows with the most heartening words of the whole Gospel, chap. 14. One remembers Lockhart's story of Sir Walter Scott's last days, "Here he expressed a wish that I should read to him, and when I asked from what book, he said, 'Need you ask. There is but one.' I chose the fourteenth chapter of St. John's Gospel; he listened with mild devotion and said when I had done, 'Well, this is a great comfort'."

I. OUR FATHER'S HOUSE, 14: 1-3.

Forgetting himself, the Master turns to encourage his disciples. "Let not your heart be troubled"—"cadence of soothing tenderness, soft as a mother's hand." It is possible to face life calmly, steadily. Jesus, himself, in the "swelling of Jordan," can give his sustaining word. Christian, beginning to sink, cried to his friend Hopeful, "I sink in deep waters, the billows go over my head." Then Hopeful cried out, "Be of good cheer, my brother, I feel the bottom and it is sound." This steadiness comes through faith in God and in Christ, v. 1.

Their future is assured because he is going into his Father's presence. (a) There is room for all. (b) There is progress. "Mansion," (v. 2) means resting places on a road. Heaven is not a stationary perfection, but a reaching forward. There, our reach must always exceed our grasp, or, as Browning says, "What's a heaven for?" (c) The Father's presence is a spiritual presence—not a "place" above the bright blue sky. What is heaven to a reasonable soul? Says Luther, "Naught else, but Jesus."

II. THE WAY THITHER, 14: 4-11.

Thomas, still perplexed, asked the question of v. 5. The man with no definite aim in life wanders ineffectually. The Master replies with great declaration, v. 6. "You want to know the truth about God? Well, you see it in me, 'No man cometh to the Father but by me'."

Philip, earnest, loyal, but slow-witted, fastens upon Jesus' answer to Thomas (v. 7) and comes in with his request, v. 8. He wants some experience such as Moses had, Exod. 33: 18. This, after their long companionship together! With pained surprise Jesus answers, vs. 9-11. Here we reach the culminating point of the Gospel. Jesus is the revelation of the Father.

III. THE TRAVELLERS' TRIUMPH, 14: 12-14.

(a) *In Works.* Instead of his departure being the end of his activities for his disciples, it will be the beginning of a wider and a greater working. His followers will do greater things because, after his death, his Spirit will possess men more completely.

So has it happened. Having been lifted up, he has drawn toward him all who have looked upon him long enough. Peter's sermon at Pentecost had more converts, probably, than Jesus had during his whole ministry. His love for the unfortunate has touched not only the lone traveller on the Jericho Road, but, in hospitals, missions, rescue homes, has reclaimed millions of people. The brotherliness with which he tried to inspire his little group of followers has set whole races free from slavery.

(b) *In Prayer.* The responsibility for these greater works must have frightened these timid, confused men. Their Master, sensing it, assures them of help. He gives them that promise (v. 13) which has been so often misunderstood. To attach to the end of our petitions the formula "for Christ's sake" is no guarantee that our prayers will be answered. To pray "in Christ's name" is to pray according to his will. Only when our wills and desires are in harmony with God's, will our prayers be answered.

IV. THE TRAVELLERS' COMRADE, 14: 15-18.

All the Master's promises are conditioned upon obedience, but it is easy to obey the commands when one loves the commander.

As Generation Ages Death Rate Mounts

Good times for undertakers are promised by the League of Nations as soon as the present abnormal condition of world population caused by better sanitation has been rebalanced by everybody getting older. In past centuries, a recent study of the League's Health Section points out, the majority of people born into the world died young, thus establishing such a balance of births and deaths that the average age of the population in most countries was in the twenties or even younger. Old people were relatively rare. Recently this has been altered by improved sanitation and medical science so that a much larger fraction of the world's population now lives to be middle-aged or old. The change is shown in world statistics by marked falls in average death rates and rapid increases of total poulation, the latter being slowed up in some degree by considerable decreases of the birth rates. The chief change in the structure of poulation is a relatively great increase of older people. The present low death rates, the League points out, must be temporary. Within a few years present middle-aged people who have been kept alive by medical science will get so old that they must die, for modern science has not increased in the least the maximum length of life which man can expect. Accordingly the present low death rates all over the world soon must give place to greatly increased ones as these older people begin to die. World population then must adjust itself to a new equilibrium based on longer average lives but with birth rates and death rates again approximately equal.

Loose-Leaf Attire?

The Christian Science Monitor.—The "spare parts" idea has wonderful possibilities, it has been urged, if applied to clothes. You do not throw your new motorcar away or give it to the "old iron" man because a doodad in the machinery gets loose. You buy a new grimcrack to take the place of the old. Similarly, one might do with the family's clothes.

If Johnny puts a hole in the trousers of his new Sunday suit, mother need not bother. She would merely look in her files. There she would find the number of the perforated part and, stepping to the telephone, would ask the store to send out "No. X715492K." A few stitches the next day, and Johnny's best suit would be a little better than it was.

If the back of father's coat grew shiny, just look in his replacement book. If Mother's sleeves split, telephone for a new set. The scheme sounds simple and economical. However, it obviously would require a rebuilding of clothes. Suits and shirts and socks would have to be made on the detachable, loose-leaf system. But why not? it is asked.

Yet, great standardization would also be needed to carry through the spare parts system. And there comes in the problem of the new models of hats, dresses, and so forth—to say nothing of the little matters of matching colors and of making the armholes fit. So, altogether it is likely to be quite a little while before spare coats are sold in slot machines.

The Imperial Conference

Le Devoir, Montreal (Ind.).—One thing is certain, and the British authorities have loyally made this clear to us: at Ottawa nothing is going to be given for nothing. We are not going to sit in at a meeting of lovers, but at a real conference of business men. This is natural and proper, and it will be much better for everybody, for the cordiality of our future relations, that this is clearly understood by us before we start.

High and Dry!

A fishing smack weighted down with a good haul of sardines ran into a gale off Pidgeon Point, Calif., and was left stranded on the rocks when the tide went out.

Fresh Grapes Year Round

Budapest. — Some months ago a grape grower in Kecskemet announced that he had perfected a method by whchi grapes could be kept fresh for many months, writes a correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor. His statement was received rather skeptically by the general public, but he appears to have justified his contention. Experts who in January examined the result of his experiment were presented with clusters of grapes which had been picked during October, 1931, and had lost none of their juice or flavor, after three months' preservation. M. Bernhardt, the grape grower, claims that preservation by his method costs 20 filler—4 cents—per kilo of grapes.

Should further investigations prove the value of this new preservation, it will prove a boon to grape growers throughout Hungary, who are now compelled to sell their produce at the very low prices obtaining during the vintage, or suffer heavy losses later. It will also mean that the Hungarian consumer, instead of paying 4 pengoe per kilo for imported Spanish grapes during the winter and spring, will now be able to buy home-grown grapes for about 50 filler—10 cents—a kilo.

The Beginning

All in a moment, years ago.
The boy I was became a man.
Suddenly my life began,
I saw the world before me—So
That plowman by his horses stand
Sweating on the first hill's brow,
Having left the riverlands
Furrowed in the vale below,
And sees a mountainside to plow,
Barren rock to blunt his share,
Thunder hanging in the air,
And the black peak above him bare,
Waiting now.
Let him plow it if he dare!

—Edward Davison, in the Week-End Review.

Bug—"Wot are you doin' with two knots?"

Worm—"Two things to remember for the wife."

Table Etiquette

(Relative to Flowers)

Six La France beauties
Smiled across at me,
Their slender bodies
In attractive poses.

I kissed not one
But gave collectively
The casual sniff
Thought proper unto roses.

Donald Page.

Norway Sets Coast Guard Against Fishing Outlaws

Hammerfest, Norway. — Following the example of the French government in rounding up Corsican bandits, the Norwegian government intends to drive out the fishing bandits, who are raiding the banks off northern Norway with dynamite and destroying thousands of tons of valuable food every season.

The Coast Guard and police forces are in charge of the campaign for protection of the industry on which more than 90 per cent. of the northern folk are dependent.

Since 1911 it as been illegal to kill fish by dynamite, but the practice always has been carried on. The extraordinary increase of the last few months, due to the money shortage, however, has caused the government alarm. For every kilogram of fish which are caught after dynamiting 15,000 are destroyed, it is estimated. The gocernment also is out to end the smuggling of dynamite, which has flourished on the demands of the fish bandits. Almost daily there are thefts of the explosive.

The outlaw fishermen do not always escape the danger of their trade, even if they elude the police, for almost daily there are accidents in handling the dynamite on a choppy sea.

Scientists Prepare to View Eclipse August 31st

Montreal.—According to a recent announcement made by Dean A. S. Eve, director of McGill Physics Building, two expeditions of British scientists, one of which will set up its apparatus on the roof of the Physics Building at McGill University, are coming to Canada to make observations during the total solar eclipse on August 31 next.

McGill scientists will co-operate with the members of both these expeditions as well as carry out independent research work, mainly in the realm of radio and astronomical observations. Anticipation of the coming opportunity for observation of a total solar eclipse has been heightened by the fact that Montrealers will not have such an opportunity again for more than 200 years.

All meteorological observations in connection with the total eclipse and with the polar year, which consits of national expeditions in the Arctic regions, are in the hands of John Patterson of the meteorological office at Toronto.

This Winter

Day by day the snow is making a dispirited attempt to establish itself on this section of Mother Earth; and the hockey player's reflection will be that whover invented artificial ice did a good day's work.—Toronto Globe.

A Winter Day in '65

"Come, my boy, it is time to get up," called the voice of my father, one biting cold winter morning. For a few moments I remained warm and comfortable where I was, listening to the frost as it started the nails in the clapboards of the house, with the noise of pistol shots.

The twentieth century boy, living in a steam-heated house, has little idea of what a cold winter was in a house warmed by stoves. It is quite a different matter to sleep in a room in midwinter with the windows open, and step into a warm bathroom in the morning, from dressing in the frigid atmosphere and traversing the halls that have the sullen chill of an ice-house, and hover over a stove slowly recovering from a long night's sleep. In those days a boy's misery began with his waking. In a circle around the stove, according to the number of boys in a family, stood the boys' boots of tough sole and stiff leg, reaching nearly to the knee; some copper-toed, and all having a square red label on the upper face, marked with the name and address of the maker. In the absence of rubbers, as worn today, the boots have been "greased" the night before by a liberal application of tallow.

Kerosene oil was comparatively unknown; whale oil, fluid lamps and candles made the darkness visible fifty years ago. When the lard was tried out, housewives reserved a portion for running or dipping candles. We used a mould in my early boyhood, but Mrs. Carleton, where I sometimes went for extra milk in butter-making time, dipped hers, having a tub of fat in the back hall with lengths of wicking hanging on rods over it. Whenever she passed the tub and could spare the time she dipped a candle of two, thus inperceptibly increasing their size. Whenever I went to her back door, in candle-making time, she asked me in, and, going and coming through the hall, incidentally tipped a dozen candles, talking amiably to me all the while.

The fluid and oil lamps with their small round double wicks furnished half a candle-power of light, and ten candle-power of smoke. Their only redeeming quality was that sometimes the brass polished ones were of a shape pleasing to the eye, and are prized now by lovers and collectors of antiques.—From "Old Bradford School Days," by Arthur Howard Hall.

Ontario Leads Provinces In Population Increase

Ottawa.—Final figures of the population of Canada by provinces as shown by the 1931 census have now been made public by the Dominion Statistician.

The Dominion population is 10,374,196, compared with 8,788,483 in 1921, an increase of 1,585,713, or 18.04 per cent.

Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and the Northwest Territories decreased in population, and the other provinces increased.

Prince Edward Island dropped from 88,615 to 38,038, a decline of 65 per cent.; Nova Scotia from 528,837 to 512,846, a decline of 2.09 per cent.; Northwest Territories from 7,983 to 7,133, a decline of 10.7 per cent.

New Brunswick increased from 387,376 to 408,219, a growth of 5.25 per cent.; Quebec from 2,361,188 to 2,874,255, an increase of 21.72 per cent.; Ontario from 2,933,662 to 3,431,683, an increase of 16.98 per cent.; Manitoba, from 610,118 to 700,139, an increase of 14.75 per cent.; Saskatchewan from 757,510 to 921,785, an increase of 21.68 per cent.; Alberta from 588,454 to 731,605, an increase of 24.35 per cent.; British Columbia from 524,580 to 94,263, an increase of 32.34 per cent.; Yukon from 4,157 to 4,230, an increase of 1.76 per cent.

British Columbia during the last decade has increased in population at a greater rate than any other province.

Sugar and Water Mixture To Be Used As Lubricant?

Paris.—A mixture of sugar and water is making a name for itself as a substitute for lubricating oil. A Belgian representative at a meeting of the International Sugar Council recently held in Paris stated that a solution of sixty per cent. sugar and forty per cent. water had been used experimentally for a week at one of the factories of the Raffinerie Airlemontoise, in Belgium, and had proved adaptable as a lubricant. A research bureau in Berlin is making extensive studies of the use of sugar for industrial purposes. New means of employing sugar would be especially welcome at this time. World consumption of that commodity has greatly declined and there is a surplus of more than 2,000,000 tons. The council meeting was attended by delegates from Cuba, Java, Germany, Czecho-slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Belgium, Peru and Yugoslavia.

"You say Blank owes everything he has to you?"

"Worse! He owes much more than he has to me."

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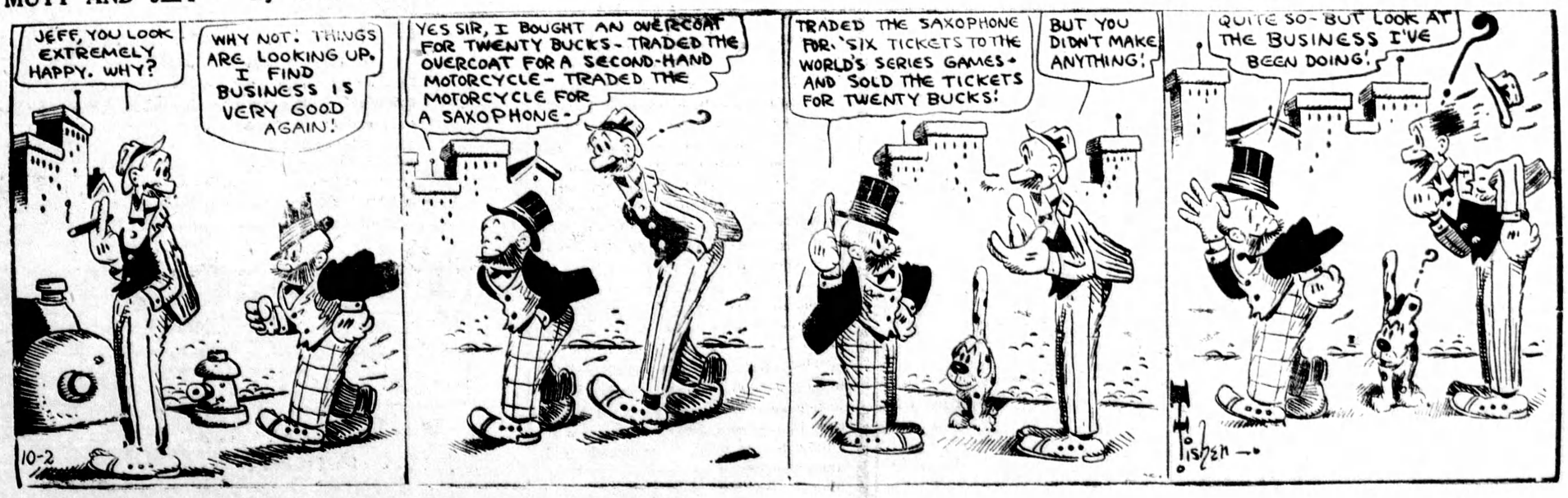
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