

THIS SPRING

'Tis Spring along the country lane
Where earth is rich and brown;
Where soon you'll see green grass and leaves
As you go into town.

The Sunday School Lesson

SUNDAY, APRIL 22nd

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A ROCK-LIKE CHARACTER

Golden Text.—We must obey God rather than men. Ac. 5: 29.

Lesson Text.—Jno. 1: 42; Mk. 8: 27-29; Luke 22: 54-57, 61, 62; Jno. 21: 15-17; Ac. 5: 29. (In this order).

Exposition.—I Peter brought to Jesus, Jno. 1: 42.

No sooner had Andrew really found Jesus, but he started right off and got his own brother and brought him to Jesus. The clear implication of the text is that John did the same. This was just as it should be; as soon as we find Jesus we should go right off and bring someone else, and the best one to begin with is our own brother. Andrew did a great work in bringing his brother to Jesus, for it was this brother who preached the great sermon on the day of the Pentecost. Andrew's testimony was right to the point. "We have found the Messiah," he said. "It was his personal conversation with Jesus that had settled his mind on this point. A season of personal communion with Jesus is worth tons of apologetic literature. Andrew did not stop with giving his testimony, "he brought him to Jesus." Jesus looked Peter through and through. He saw what he now was and said "Thou art Simon the son of Jona." He saw what he was to become and said "Thou shalt be called Cephas (rock-man). It was faith in the Rock that was to transfer ordinary Simon into extraordinary Rock-man (1 Cor. 10: 4; Matt. 16: 18; 1 Jno. 5: 5).

II. Peter Confesses Christ, Mk. 8: 27-29.

"But whom say ye that I am?" That was a critical question. There might be error on other points and still there be hope, but error here would absolutely be fatal. To see in Him only "one of the prophets," even though the first and greatest, but not to see in Him "The Christ of God," and not to believe in Him as such, would be to empty His life of its meaning, and faith in Him of its power, and to utterly unfit them to be "the foundation" of which "Christ Jesus Himself" is the "chief corner stone" (Eph. 2: 20) Peter's confession is very positive. There is no uncertainty, not one shadow of doubt. A similar confession has been made before (Jno. 1: 41-49), Peter himself had made it upon a former occasion (Jno. 6: 69), but it was under changed circumstances now: enthusiasm for Jesus was fast dying out. His glory was already becoming enveloped in the shadows of the cross, yet even now the apostles, and prominently Peter, recognized His as "The Christ of God."

III. Peter Denies Christ, Luke 22: 54-57, 61, 62.

One of the twelve had sold his Lord and betrayed Him with a kiss. Now we see another denying Him. On the preceding evening Peter had been told that he could not follow the Lord Jesus at this time, though he should later (Jno. 13: 36); a hint they were to go away and keep out of unnecessary temptation (Jno. 18: 8); but Peter turned a deaf ear to all this and now undertakes to make good his boast and to prove his Master's mistake in His estimate of him. We all have to learn that our Lord knows us far better than we know ourselves. We first see Peter following the Lord afar off. If he was to follow Him at all, he should have followed Him, close up.

Jesus had warned Peter of his weakness and his coming fall (v. 34; Jno. 13: 38). To all this admonition and warning Peter had been oblivious. He relies upon his own strength, but will soon find that it does not offer him support in his time of need. We now see Peter standing with Christ's enemies, and warming himself at the enemies' fire. The end was now sure and close at hand. Of course, Peter does not sympathize with what these men

are saying about the Master, and what they give utterance to grieves his soul, but he is not protesting, he preserves a craven silence. He should not have been standing near the fire. He ought to have stood separate from the enemies and persecutors of Christ (Pa. 1: 1; 26: 4-10; 2 Cor. 6: 4-17).

IV. Peter Restored and Empowered, Jno. 21: 15-17; Ac. 5: 29.

Peter had boasted that though all the rest were offended, he would not be, that he would stand by his Lord even unto death (Matt. 26: 33-35). So Jesus says "Lovest thou me more than THESE?" Peter had thought that his love overtopped that of all the rest of the disciples. Jesus asked him if he still thinks so after his denial. There may be a reference to the instruments of his old business to which Peter had been so devoted, and Jesus asked if Peter was ready to put him before these—Jesus demands the supreme affection of His disciples, everyone and everything must be put after Him (Matt. 10: 37). With all the memory of his fall before Him, Peter did not hesitate to reaffirm his love. He does not use as strong a word for love as Jesus did, but a more tender one (see R. V. Margin). Peter did not say he loved Jesus more than the others did. He had learned humility. But of his love he has no doubt and is willing to appeal to Jesus' own knowledge of him. Are we so confident of our love for Jesus? Can we say to Jesus "Thou knowest that I love thee?" True love to Christ is shown by obedience (Jno. 14: 15, 21: 22).

In Acts 5: 29 we see Peter speaking out boldly before the Sanhedrin. He is a different man to what he had been on the night of betrayal. He had learned the secret we must all learn (Phil. 4: 13).

PRISONERS STRAY FARMER CAUTIONED

ST. JOHN'S, Que. (CP) Residents of this town some 20 miles south-east of Montreal were more than surprised recently to see two fully uniformed German soldiers strolling unaccompanied through the streets.

It turned out, however, that the two men, prisoners of war, had been employed by a Ste. Blaise, Que., farmer a short time previously. The farmer, who brought the prisoners to town and left them to their own devices, was cautioned to stick more closely to conditions under which the two men were placed under his care.

Proud Aristocrats Problem in Poland

Refuse to Mingle with Peasants Despise Poverty

BIALYSTOK, Poland (CP)—In far-flung Bialystok Province near the Polish-Russian frontier, tens of thousands of Poland's peasants live in the primitive fashion of hundreds of years ago, and impoverished aristocrats stand proudly aloof and insist they are "farmers" and not peasants.

Here one finds a hardy race to whom the simplest conveniences mean luxury, living under conditions welfare workers probably would term appalling. The peasants, never having had much, don't expect much. Their attitude seems to be "It always has been this way and always it shall be."

Many of the aristocracy, who once had much, now have little. Thousands have only 14 to 30 acres a family left, but they consider that their aristocratic ducal, and, rather than take in peasant blood, have intermarried to the point, says Provincial Governor Stefan Dyobowski, where whole villages of families all have the same name.

Polish land reform has split up many great estates and given the land to peasants, but in Bialystok Province Dyobowski says opposition of an "exclusive aristocracy" had made it hard to find room for 45,000 homeless.

Further, Dyobowski reports he has governmental difficulties with these people, because they will not accept the appointment of any village mayor whose name does not end in -ski, indicating an aristocratic background. Many nobles can be found in Bialystok working as waitresses.

Peasant villages follow a pattern now after rows of one or two rooms, but like houses of wood, clay or, rarely, brick, with straw-thatched or moss-padded roofs and six unwashed windows each.

Outbuildings for horses, cattle, pigs and the like are so close that nearly every home smells like a stable. Usually the floor is the cold, hard, bare ground, bumpy from the tramp of feet.

CHICKENS BURNED

BURQUILLAM, B.C. (CP) Fire which swept through M. Klenc's poultry farm buildings here destroyed valuable incubators and brooders and 3,000 chickens.

DIAMOND AUGURS BRIGHT FUTURE

Diamond, the symbol of light, is the most important of the precious stones. The standard of perfection in color for this gem is pure white, but extremely minute quantities of iron oxide present will alter the color to a more common variety of pale yellow. Several crystals, both cut or in their natural state can be seen in the gem cases at the Royal Ontario Museum. The Diamond, the April birthstone, is believed to bring good fortune to the wearer, but only when received as a gift pledging love or friendship.

TOURIST REVENUE

The tourist industry offers our country its greatest and easiest opportunity to increase the amount of foreign currency available to carry on international trade. It is an opportunity to bring added revenue into each of our communities, to the benefit of all who live there. (Ont.) Gazette.

CROPPED CHILDREN BARBERS' VICTIMS

YORKTON, Sask. (CP)—As S. L. Kreen sees it, almost everything has changed in the barber business except the razor—he's still using the same one he used as a barber's apprentice in Vienna 50 years ago.

In those days, he recalls, a man had to be shaved. There were no cups for the shaving soap and the barber used a lather dish which fitted around the customer's face. When the shave was complete another dish was fitted around the neck containing water to remove the soap.

In those days, too, barbers used a feather powder puff and for lotions, a spray like a perfume atomizer. Barbers came up the hard way then, Kreen says he remembers bringing his "kids off the streets to practice on." And if "you made a mess of their hair, you just cut it off altogether and let it go at that."

I can help put a broken world right if I start by breaking with wrong.

Twenty Years Ago

From the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 25th, 1926

Lots of gardens will be dug on Friday and Saturday—for fish worms.

Dr. Joseph Johnston has decided to remove to Waterloo where he will practice his profession.

When Harold Reid, Main Street, left the works of the Acton Shoe Factory to take a position in Toronto he was presented with a fountain pen by his fellow employees.

Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Holmes of Windsor made the Free Press a pleasant call on Tuesday while motoring through to Toronto. It is fourteen years since they left Acton and this was their first return visit.

The members of the Young People's League of the United Church were very hospitably entertained by the members of Knox Church Young People's Guild on Monday evening.

DEED NEAR At his home, Young Street, Acton, on Friday evening, April 23rd, 1926, William K. Near, in his 76th year.

SCOTT In Erin Township on Saturday, April 24th, 1926, James Scott, in his 73rd year.

DO YOU NEED MONEY FOR INCOME TAX?

If you are short of cash to pay your income or other taxes, a \$1000 personal loan may be the answer to your need.

For every useful purpose, Mr. W. I. Clayton, manager of the Bank of Montreal, is lending money to people in every walk of life at the low cost of 27 cents a month for a \$1000 loan, repayable in 12 monthly instalments which is equal to 6 per cent. interest per annum.

You can borrow more or less, for longer or shorter periods, the cost is proportionately the same.

YOUTH TROUBLES

Boys and girls are often told that they are living through their happiest years, and they should realize the joy of youth. Many will say they have their own troubles.

One thing that troubles some youngsters of a shy and reticent nature is the difficulty they have in taking part in athletic sports. Some of them feel a real interest in these sports, and a desire to participate in them, but they feel a certain shyness about doing these things.

They may be afraid of making themselves ridiculous by some blunder. So some boys will stand on the side lines and watch their mates play baseball, wishing they could do it, but fearful they would drop the ball or make some mistake if they did so.

Youth organizations and leaders tell such boys to take hold and play themselves, and not mind it if they do make mistakes. Thus many youngsters conquer this trouble of youth.

Light is Cheap—but YOU CAN'T BUY Eyes. Plenty of good light can do much to protect eyes. Good light means lots of light, diffused so as to avoid glare. You can't be too careful of eyes—especially young eyes. HYDRO 1500 HOUR LAMPS GIVE LONGER SERVICE AND COST NO MORE.

Keep a supply on hand—get them AT YOUR HYDRO OFFICE

Changing Money Conditions. The prevailing low interest rates are producing many problems for investors. Many complete issues of securities are being called for redemption prior to maturity, while in other cases partial redemptions are taking place. We have prepared a list of such securities, which may be of value to you. Disappointment and loss of interest may be avoided by knowing which of your securities are being retired. Write for the list, with which will be forwarded our current Investment Suggestions. HARRISON & COMPANY LIMITED 64 KING STREET WEST, TORONTO 1, CANADA Telephone: WAverley 1891

YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN... ONTARIO FARMERS ARE CALLING YOU NOW! SO desperate is Europe's need for food... so urgent our farmers' need for help... that this Province is facing the most serious farm-labour shortage in its history. 1946 is a crucial year—and every one who can should help. Young Ontario citizens are urged to pitch-in and play a worthy part in feeding the starving nations of the world. "LEND A HAND" You—and thousands of others like you—are needed on every type of farm. The peak season runs from April 12th to October 15th. Pay is good. Clean supervised accommodation. Good food. Here is your opportunity—among pleasant companions—to enjoy a profitable, healthy summer. Join the Ontario Farm Service Force—today! Fill in the coupon marked out below. A Registration Form, plus all particulars, will be sent to you without delay. DOMINION-PROVINCIAL COMMITTEE ON FARM LABOUR AGRICULTURE - LABOUR - EDUCATION

Director, Ontario Farm Service Force, 113 College Street, Toronto, Ontario. Dear Sir: Please send me a Registration Form and all particulars, as I wish to join the Ontario Farm Service Force and "lend a hand". Name (Please Print) Age Post Office Address Town or City Tel. No. I would be available from (Date) 1946 to (Date) 1946 I would like to be placed On a private farm In a "Y" supervised Camp