

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

INTERNATIONAL LESSON,
JAN. 15.

Lesson III.—Asa's Good Reign in Judah, 2 Chron. 15. 1-15. Golden Text, 2 Chron. 15. 7.

Verse 1. The Spirit of God came upon Azariah—Often spoken of as the method of prophetic equipment, the Spirit clothing the prophet as with a garment. Azariah is not mentioned elsewhere.

2. Went out to meet Asa—Upon his return from the successful contest with Zerah, the Ethiopian.

Jehovah is with you—This had just had illustration and confirmation in the decisive victory of Asa over the invading army of Zerah. It was a general truth which found support in all the history of both Judah and Israel, as did the opposite truth, If ye forsake him, he will forsake you.

3-6—This section has been variously interpreted as referring to the northern kingdom of Israel, to the entire previous history of the Hebrew people, and to the period of the Judges. The language fits in well with this last view. The lawless, lax times of the Judges is reflected in verse 3. The distress (4), and calling upon Jehovah, and consequent deliverance from their troubles, reminds one at once of that troubled epoch. The want of peace and the continued vexations (5), and the wrangling between different tribes and different cities (6), is characteristic of the Judges (compare chapters 5, 6, 8, 9, and 12 of the book of Judges).

3. Without a teaching priest and without law—The two things amount to the same thing, inasmuch as the giving of instruction in the law was one of the offices of the priesthood (Deut. 33. 10).

5. No peace to him that went out—It was unsafe to travel.

Lands—Districts of the country of Israel.

6. Nation against nation—One tribe against another is meant.

8. Oded the prophet—It is evident here that the words "Azariah, son of," which are found in the Vulgate, have accidentally dropped out in the Hebrew text from which we have our translation.

Abominations—All the detestable forms of idolatrous worship (compare 1 Kings 11. 5 and 2 Kings 23. 24).

Cities which he had taken—As no reference has previously been made to conquests of this kind on the part of Asa, it is supposed that this means the cities captured by his father, Abijah (2 Chron. 13. 19).

Renewed the altar of Jehovah—No record has been handed down of the implied desecration of this altar.

9. Them out of Ephraim and Manasse—Adjoining tribes, many of whose members lived in Judah after the disruption (2 Chron. 10. 17), and many more of whom came thither because of the belief that the pure worship of their God was in Jerusalem, a belief that was reinforced by the idolatrous practices of the northern kingdom and the marked successes of Judah's kings. Simeon—Although this small tribe was reckoned as one of the ten, it can only have been partially so, because it was, at the time of the separation, absorbed into Judah (1 Chron. 4. 24).

10. The third month—Corresponding to our June, and the appointed time for the feast of weeks, when the first fruits were offered.

11. The spoil—This was presumably taken from the Ethiopian king, and may have been considered as a kind of first fruits, or pledge of loyalty to Jehovah in the future.

12. The covenant to seek Jehovah—Following the prophecy of Azariah (verse 2). Asa's work, therefore, was both destructive and constructive. After casting out the disreputable reminders of his people's unfaithfulness, he proceeds to renew the neglected altar, and then to make provision for a nobler devotion to the Lord in the future. The covenant was made by the taking of a binding oath (2 Chron. 34. 31), which in this case was emphasized by the blowing of trumpets (14).

15. Jehovah was as good as his word. It was no doubt arduous business casting out the corrupting emblems of a false worship, but all were glad when it was finally accomplished and they had entered upon a new era, which, under the gracious guidance of the Lord, was a time of peace, until the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Asa.

THE LURE OF THE WILDS

HUNTING BEARS IN THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS.

The Baron Orbeck's Description of His Hunt After Big Game.

We are in the Carpathian Mountains—in the country of rushing streams, deep forests, big game, and primitive life.

After breakfast, my friend, with whom I was spending my holidays, took leave of everybody in a patriarchal way, and having said that we should be late for supper, we started.

One could see it was towards the end of September, for the beech trees showed red, although Summer was still in the air. The bright morning made us pleased with ourselves and the world.

The dogs, who did not leave us for a moment in the house, watching lest we might go without them, were now full of joy, scenting and searching; it was only young Zagray that rushed from bush to bush and stopped to bark at sparrows, while old Zbuby, a wise dog, full of experience, already wounded by boars several times, went in front of us, for he was aware that there was no game worthy of his attention so near.

HUMAN HABITATION.

He was followed by Fedor, my friend's trustworthy and experienced forester.

We left the River Lomnica, which flows in a valley not broader than one kilometer. On a narrow strip of land between the river and the mountains there were meadows; here and there was a field of oats, which the peasants were only now harvesting. From time to time we passed groups of people busy raking the hay or gathering the oats. My friend knew everybody, and would greet the people, "May God help you!" to which they would answer, "We thank you, my lord! May God grant you good health and happy life!"

We entered into the dreaming forests of Perekinsk—the property of the late Archduke Albert of Austria—where deer are numerous.

After about two hours' walk, during which we passed a number of large trees thrown across the streams in guise of bridges, we found ourselves in a glen, on which one could see numerous traces of deer, for here hay and salt mixed with clay is left for them during the winter.

The path became steeper, the blood began to circulate swiftly in my veins, and I strove to breathe as easily as my companion. Suddenly my friend stopped and said quietly;

"Bear!"

That word made a deep impression on me, and with a voice intending to express

JOYFUL CURIOSITY.

I asked, "Where?"

My friend pointed to the ground and said "A fresh trail, don't you think so, Fedor?"

Fedor answered shortly, "Yes, my lord," with that soft intonation of the voice peculiar to the Ruthenian language. Then both my friend and the forester assured themselves that the bear had traversed the road we were following.

After a few minutes' of close observation, I also distinguished the footprints, resembling very much those of a man.

We ascended higher and higher, still following the trail. My friend and Fedor wondered why the animal left the heights so early in the year.

The forester showed the young hound the trail; the dog, however, did not understand, but breathed deeply, barked, and kept near us, reluctant to go forward. The old hound had disappeared, which I did not regret, for he was capable of bringing us the bear! and I was then only about 21, and, naturally, fond of life.

We now reached a small plateau covered with low verdure and thick moss, and it was impossible to follow the trail without the old hound.

My friend whistled piercingly, while the forester's "tu, tu, tu, tu-u-u," melted into one lonely "u-u-u"; the forest caught the sound, and one could hear how it rushed through the deep valleys and dusky trees.

I LISTENED TO THE ECHOES;

I was full of sweet joy, and I thanked God for the pleasure of enjoying the quiet of the wilderness.

Suddenly the earth trembled under heavy steps. Zagray rushed forward, and at the same moment

Zbuby jumped madly across the plateau in the direction of the fir trees. I looked at my friend and Fedor; they were silent and solemn; at the same time there resounded the short, furious barking of the hounds.

I was not frightened, for I had already hunted big game several times, and not in the easy way of modern kings and emperors, but in the old straight fashion of huntsmen; nevertheless, for the moment my head swam and my instinct was self-preservation.

I could see the dogs nervously jumping backwards and forwards. We advanced about ten paces more, and suddenly stopped.

A bear, indeed!

We stood motionless and silent, deep dusk was already lying in the valleys; the stars looked down between trees; the forest wrapped itself in grey mist that had risen from the water; the boughs began to move drowsily . . . ; the forest slept . . . ; while the River Lomnica was rushing towards the Dniester.

KILLING BIG GAME.

Exciting Experience with a Herd of Elephants.

In his book of adventure, "From the Niger to the Nile," Lieut. Boyd Alexander tells of the killing of big game. His reflections upon the result of the hunt are deeper, if not greater, than the story of the hunt itself. The reader may be led to ask whether, upon the extinction of some of the nobler forms of life, the world may not on the whole be sorry for the loss. Of the specific incident which started his train of thoughts he writes as follows:

We could not see the elephants, but heard their low trumpeting and the cracking of tree branches. We paused, breathless, for a moment or two before we advanced, stooping to the edge of the tall grass. There, in a grove of small trees, we beheld a big male standing sentinel, while several females with their young were feeding among the trees away on our right. It was nearing sundown, and against the fading light their bodies were silhouetted big and black upon the green of grass and leaf.

I knew of no excitement equal to that of being confronted by such gigantic beasts in their wild state. Instinctively one grips the rifle tighter and holds one's breath.

Elephants have very poor sight, and that makes hunting them much less dangerous than it would otherwise be; but their sense of hearing is so extremely keen that one might almost say that they can see with their ears.

It is seldom that an elephant will deliberately charge the hunter. The commonest danger occurs from the whole herd stampeding in all directions, and rushing blindly upon one before there is time to get out of the way.

Using the cover of an old ant-hill, we crept up to within ten yards of the male, which was a huge beast. His ears had already gone forward to catch the noise of the approaching danger, but before he had located it, Gosling had fired at him twice behind the shoulder, but had missed the heart. Instantly, on the report of the rifle, the females with their young crashed away to the right, while the wounded elephant turned and dashed off in the opposite direction.

After an exciting chase of five hundred yards, we came up with him in an open glade, where he was standing among the rest of the herd, which now tore away in all directions.

Hearing the noise of our coming, he turned and faced the bullets. At each shot the great mass swayed like a forest giant beneath the axe, and at the fourth he tottered and fell with a crash to the ground.

At the sight of so harmless, so helpless, so noble a beast reduced

to a lump of dead flesh, to be brought to dissolution by the hands of man, one's heart went heavy as a stone, for the specter of death seemed suddenly magnified before one's eyes, and one turned away with the wish never to kill an elephant again.

FAT PASSENGERS.

Amusing Incidents of Travel in the Old Days in England.

Had he lived in our day of steam, electricity and motor-cars, Daniel Lambert, most famous of fat men, would not have been driven, as he was in his own day, to having a special vehicle constructed for his conveyance. Other stout men, somewhat less fat and less prosperous, who had to make use of ordinary coaches built for human beings of standard size, experienced and made a vast amount of trouble, as Mr. J. B. Walkenside, writing recently of coaching days in England, has amusingly shown.

Mr. Benning of Bath having been refused a place in the coach because of his corpulence, on the excuse that the places were all engaged, made no demur, but coming early to the starting-place, simply got in, pulled down the blinds, settled himself comfortably, and fell asleep.

Other passengers arriving and peeping in at his enormous bulk, protested to the hostler that it was impossible to travel with such a giant. The argument awakened Mr. Benning, who lifted the blind, drowsily declared that he should not get out, but if anybody chose to pull him out he would offer no resistance, and went to sleep again. When he again waked up, at nearly an hour past midnight, he looked out to see at what town the coach was stopping—and found himself still in the inn yard at Bath. The horses had been quietly taken out during his nap and put to another coach which chanced to be in the stable awaiting minor repairs, and he had been left behind.

An immensely fat Quaker of Huddersfield, having been first refused transit unless he would go as lumber at ninepence per stone, although even then he was assured he would be an inconvenient variety, since he could not be split for

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better packing, as was usual, was finally told that he would be accepted as a passenger, but he must pay for two places.

"I will not dispute thy decision, friend. I shall need them both," he assented, good-humoredly, and paid the money down.

The next morning he made an early appearance, accompanied by a sister as fat as himself, and the two climbed into their places, from which it was impossible to dislodge them. Neither could the other intending passengers squeeze in with such an elephantine pair, and the proprietor had at last to consent to send them on by post-chaise.

"I applaud thy decision, friend," commented the huge Quaker, placidly. "Rachel and I are not unsocial, and doubtless we should have enjoyed the gentlemen's company had no mishap occurred. But had we chanced to lurch upon them in descending a hill, I fear the conversation so interrupted would never have been resumed. Rachel is tender-hearted, but she weighs three hundred pounds, and I myself am four and forty pounds heavier. It is best that our fleshy burden should afflict ourselves alone."

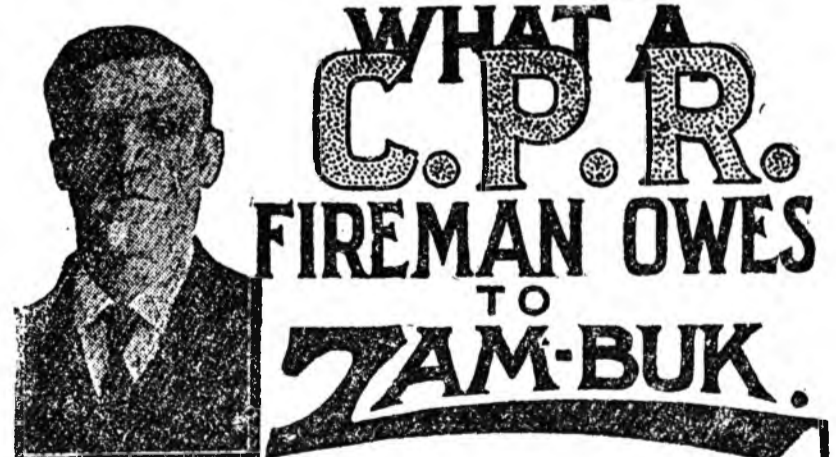
ROMAN LADY'S TOILET TABLE.

Supplied With Ivory Combs, Hair Pins and Hair Net of Gold.

The Roman lady's toilet table was well supplied. Ivory combs, bottle of perfume, buttons, hair pins, and even a hair net of gold wire figure in the National Museum at Naples.

Bronze thimbles and spindles are to be seen among the relics. The Roman lady even had her safety pin, for there is a specimen of this little convenience which, before the one in the Naples museum was found, was believed to be a strictly modern invention.

The Roman lady, however, apparently lacked one essential. She had no hair brush. Neither had she a glass mirror. All the mirrors of the museum, with one exception, are of silver or of some other white metal. The exception is a dark purple piece of glass let into the wall of a bedroom at the house of Specchio in Pompeii.



George H. Duffus of Robertson St., Fort William, a C. P. R. fireman, says: "The water gauge of my locomotive burst and scalded the whole left side of my face terribly. I had a box of Zam-Buk in my pocket, which I was using for a sore on my lip, and when I had recovered from the first shock of the accident, I produced the balm and had it applied freely to the scalded parts. I was suffering acute agony, but within a wonderful short time Zam-Buk gave me ease. I was able to continue my journey and upon reaching home, I obtained more Zam-Buk and continued the treatment. Zam-Buk acted wonderfully well, and in a few days had the wound nicely healing. I don't know anything so fine as Zam-Buk as a healer of burns, scalds, cuts, and similar injuries, which workers are so liable to, and, in my opinion, a box of Zam-Buk should be kept handy in every worker's home."

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