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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

INTERNATIONAL LESSON,
FEB. 5.

Lesson VI.—Elijah the Prophet appears in Israel, I Kings 17.

Golden Text, Psa. 34. 10.

Verse 1. Elijah the Tishbite—He comes upon the scene, like Melchizedek, without parentage, and at once stands out as the mouthpiece of Jehovah, the God of Israel, in sharp contrast to Jezebel and the worship of Baal, introduced by her. The element of mystery surrounding his origin is preserved in the name given him. The implied name of a place, Tishbeh, or Tishbi, gives no clue, as no such place is known. If the word translated sojourners is regarded, as it may be properly, as a proper noun, the verse would read, "from Thesbon of Gilead," and this is in accord with Josephus. Somewhere, then, in the severe, but picturesque, district of Gilead, east of Jordan, bordering on the desert, the prophet had his origin. And the ruggedness of the hills from whence he came passed into his character.

Said unto Ahab—He was a short man, like Paul, and the unkempt hair of the Nazirite fell over his shoulders. He was clad in rough attire. He waited for none of the usual courtesies and honours of the court. With bold abruptness, he breaks in upon the royal presence and announces his startling message. Why should he fear on Ahab, so long as he was the messenger of the God of Israel before whom I stand?

Dew nor rain—This was a recognized form of punishment for apostasy. Compare Deut. 11. 17. For three years or more there followed a severe famine which afflicted all Israel. James represents the drought as an outcome of the prayer of Elijah, though that is not mentioned here. But the prophet does say that the curse shall be terminated only in accordance with his own word.

3. Hide thyself—He would of course be in immediate danger from the revengeful disposition of Jezebel. The king himself seems to have had a restraining reverence for the prophets of God.

The brook Cherith—As this was on the east side of the river Jordan, Elijah would be thoroughly familiar with its hiding places, for here he had had most of his training.

4. The ravens to feed thee—Attempts have been made to eliminate the supernatural element in these stories of Elijah. Here, for example, the word "ravens" has been translated "Arabs" and "merchants." But it is not probable the story would have been thought worth repeating and preserving except for this miraculous element.

9. Zarephath—Thither he was sent as soon as the drought had dried up the brook Cherith. It is the modern Sarafend. On a promontory, about eight miles south of Sidon, it would afford both shelter in an unexpected place, and would not be entirely given over to the drought because of the unfailing fountains of Lebanon. The haughty Jezebel would scarcely think to search in her own Baal-worshipping country for the prophet of the Lord. It was here that Jesus, centuries later, went on a mission of mercy. As it turned out, Elijah went on a mission of mercy also, as well as for the purpose of sustaining himself.

10. A little water . . . that I may drink—He had come a long journey, through a parched country, and must have been exhausted.

12. Jehovah thy God—His speech in his dress must have betrayed her. She herself was, of course,

only a heathen woman. Elijah was to learn that even in the heart of a despised worshipper of Baal there was a warm sympathy and a capacity for kindness which no doubt went a long way toward softening his own rough nature.

I have not a cake—The devastation of the famine had extended as far as Zarephath, and brought with it widespread misery.

13-16. One must not overlook the tremendous faith which was necessary on Elijah's part to speak these words, Fear not, and The jar of meal shall not waste. How long he remained here we do not know, but it seems safe to conjecture at least two years.

17. No breath left in him—It has been suggested that this language is not decisive as a description of death. But it is certain Elijah considered the lad dead. At any rate, whether he was actually so, or only on the borderland, it was through the prayer of the prophet that he was restored.

18. What have I to do with thee?—In her terror the poor widow wishes this man of God had never come. It was a common superstition that death accompanied the appearance of superhuman beings. His coming, she thought, called the divine attention to some sin of her past which she hoped had been overlooked. A slumbering conscience is often awakened in the presence of death.

19. The chamber where he abode—It is an unnecessary assumption that he kept under cover during this entire period. There were endless opportunities for him to satisfy his natural fondness for solitary places.

21. Stretched himself upon the child three times—In order to induce respiration and give warmth to the body. He combined with his earnest prayer such simple methods of restoration as he knew.

24. Now I know—She had called him a man of God previously, but this rescue from death of her boy, made her certain beyond all doubt. And it also elicited from her a confession of faith in the God whom Elijah served.

PAYMENT OF MEMBERS.

A statement has been circulated to the effect that the British Government proposes in its Payment of Members Bill to fix the salary at \$2,500 per annum. The idea at first was that \$1,500 should be the amount, but it has been urged since that that is altogether inadequate, inasmuch as no man can possibly meet the ordinary expenses of a Parliamentary session out of such an allowance. The House of Commons may be the best club in London; nevertheless it is, like all other things that come under the category of the best, an expensive place. It is suggested that the Laborists are likely to object to anything more than \$2,000.

AS GOOD AS HAVING A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE

That is what thousands of mothers say of Baby's Own Tablets. These Tablets promptly and surely cure all the minor ills of babyhood and childhood, and what is more they are absolutely safe—they have never been known to harm the youngest baby—they never will harm anyone—they are good for babies of all ages. Concerning them Mrs. Wm. Higgins, Karn, Ont., writes:—"I shall never be without Baby's Own Tablets in the house as long as my children are small. They are a wonderful medicine and are as good as having a doctor in the house. I gave them to my little boy for colic and they quickly cured him. I am always glad to recommend them to other mothers." The Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

A LITTLE MAORI DEAL.

The Maoris of New Zealand and, whilst holding their annual gatherings, do not believe in going hungry, as a glance through the following list of food consumed during a recent gathering will show. There were nine bullocks, twenty sheep, seventeen bags of shellfish, eight tons of potatoes, thirteen 56lb. bags of sugar, 200lb. of cake, 1,100 2lb. loaves, 220 gallons of milk, 4cwt. of flour, eight 50lb. boxes of butter, six large tins of fancy biscuits, four cases of jam, two tons of coals, one ton of pumpkins, besides condiments and sundries. Fourteen tons of firewood were used for cooking. The number of Maoris present was 1,300.

ON THE VERGE OF A BREAKDOWN

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills the Only Hope for Weakened Nervous People

This warning will be read by thousands of people who only just succeed in getting through the day's work without a breakdown. If you feel always tired out, have but little appetite, and a poor digestion, cannot sleep well, suffer from headaches, backaches and nervousness, it may mean that you are on the verge of a serious breakdown.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills cure weak, nervous, troubled men and women because of their direct action on the blood. Every dose of these Pills helps to make new, rich blood, which tones the vital organs, strengthens the nerves and brings renewed health and strength. Mr. Geo. Johnson, of Lequille, N. S., suffered for some years as a result of overwork and strain, but found no help for his condition until he began the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. Mr. Johnson says:—"While working on a railway handling heavy ties I hurt my back and had to give up work. Later I was able to do light work, but for about six years I suffered from dreadful pains in the back and down my legs. This condition became aggravated by indigestion and chronic constipation, and my life was one of constant misery. During those years I was treated by different doctors, but did not get any help. One day a friend urged me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and proved his faith in them by presenting me with a box. It was more to please him than from any belief that they would be of service to me that I began taking the Pills. Before the box was finished, however, they seemed to be helping me; the pains in my back and legs grew less intense and the bloating in my stomach, caused by the indigestion, disappeared. I continued taking the Pills until I had used over a dozen boxes, when I found myself fully restored to my former health. I am now able to do heavy farm work, and for the past year have not lost a day, or had the least symptom of my former troubles, and I attribute it entirely to the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills."

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are sold by all medicine dealers or may be had by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

BONUS FOR TEMPERANCE.

Speaking of present conditions in Scotland recently, the Laird of Skibo told of distilleries lying idle. "Not a man on our estate," Mr. Carnegie declared, "not a butler, a gamekeeper or a chauffeur, even to the captain of our yacht, but he is a total abstainer. On the first of January each year, a bonus of 10 per cent. is paid to every employe of the estate who can truthfully say that he has not tasted liquor in the past twelve months except by order of his doctor. That is the most eloquent sermon for temperance that has ever been preached in Scotland."

Bibbs—"That was a remarkable escape of Boreleigh's. It is a wonder he is alive to tell the tale." Gibbs—"Yes; and such a pity, too!"

"I know he isn't handsome, Caroline," urged the mother; "but he is a worthy man, and I wish you could look upon his suit with a little more favor, for your father's sake and mine. Joshua Thornbuckle once saved your father from bankruptcy, and a friend in need is a friend indeed." "Yes, mamma," answered Miss Caroline, listlessly. "But he isn't in-kneed—he's bow-legged."

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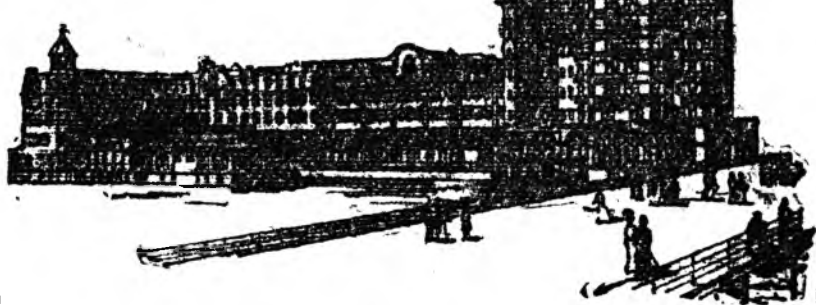
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TRAYMORE HOTEL COMPANY, D. S. WHITE, President.

BANK INSPECTION.

Traders Bank at Annual Meeting Favor Government Inspection.

At the 26th annual meeting of the Traders Bank in Toronto, January 24th, the following resolution was passed:—

It was moved by E. F. B. Johnston, K.C., director, seconded by Mr. J. S. Williamson, shareholder, and resolved:

"That the shareholders and directors of the Traders Bank of Canada place on record their hearty approval of any legislation of the Dominion Parliament whereby an independent examination and audit under the direction of the Government of all Canadian Banks shall be made from time to time;

Resolved, also, that whilst the system of auditing should be determined by the Government, it is hoped that in the public interest, the method to be devised will be thorough and efficient, and of a practical character, as the result of a defective system would create injustice and tend to injure those who might be induced to rely on reports having the sanction of a Government or other official auditor.

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Hon. the Minister of Finance."

If, as the Traders Bank shareholders and directors suggest, the Government does inaugurate a scheme of inspection, it will be the most radical improvement in Canadian Banking procedure in recent years. The Management of the Traders Bank must be credited upon their stand upon this question. Government inspection of Banks is needed in Canada to make our system beyond question the most solid and efficient in the world and those banks which, like the Traders, throw their influence in this direction deserve the commendation of the Public.

Other outstanding features of the 1910 business brought out in the meeting are given below, and they will make very interesting reading to depositors, shareholders and those interested in the success and growth of the Traders Bank.

Deposits increased over \$6,000,000. Total deposits are now over \$36,000,000. To keep up with the growth of the country, eleven new branches were opened, scattered from Porcupine to British Columbia. \$348,360 was distributed in dividends and \$100,000 added to reserve fund, which now amounts to \$2,300,000. Total assets now amount to \$47,152,736. There are now 1,813 people holding shares in the Traders Bank and the number is constantly increasing. The Management has handled the affairs of the Bank in an able manner, so that the development of the Traders Bank is fully in accord with that of the country. The report for 1910 is one that will further increase the great asset which the Traders possess, the confidence of Canadians. Mr. C. D. Warren was re-elected President and Honorable

J. R. Stratton Vice-President.

The complete report for the year 1910 is being issued in handsome booklet form and will be gladly sent on request to any one anywhere. Apart from special information concerning the Traders Bank, it contains a large amount of valuable Canadian information of a general kind and will be found very useful as a work of reference. Send your enquiry to the Head Office, Toronto.

A CLOSE CALL.

The unfortunate rather mentioned in this story from the London Telegraph will have many sympathizers. Everybody who has visited a region much affected by sportsmen has had occasion to observe with regret how easy it is for perfect incompetents to procure guns and ammunition, and how dangerous the neighborhood immediately becomes.

A near-sighted sportsman strolled into a little hotel on the shores of Loch Carron, and complainingly said:

"Just seen a seal, shot at it three times, and missed it each time."

At dinner, an hour later, he sat next to a tourist who had a bandage round his head.

"Had an accident?" asked the sportsman.

"Accident?" growled the other. "Attempted murder, you mean. I was having a bath about an hour ago, when some lunatic with a gun fired at me three times from the shore and shot part of my ear off. I don't know why such animals are allowed out without a license."

Then silence reigned supreme.

BURNS CAUSED OPEN SORE.

Zam-Buk Worked a Wonderful Cure

Mr. J. Nixon, of 901 William Ave., Winnipeg, a blacksmith at the C.P.R. shops, had his foot badly burned by some molten metal falling upon it. He says: "The burn was a very bad one, and after the first few days it left an open sore, which showed marked signs of blood-poisoning. It discharged freely and caused me terrible agony. For three weeks I suffered acutely and could get no ease. At last I obtained a preparation from the doctor, which seemed to stop the discharging and made me quite hopeful, but finally the wound became as bad as ever.

"I was then advised to use Zam-Buk, and from the first application the balm gave me relief. The inflammation was thoroughly checked, and the poisonous matter cleared away in a very short time after beginning with Zam-Buk. Healing then began, and in less than two weeks the wound was healed.

Zam-Buk is equally good for piles, blood-poisoning, festering wounds, chaps, cold sores, children's eruptions, scalp sores, varicose ulcers, chilblains, etc. All druggists and stores sell at 50c box or post free from Zam-Buk Co., Toronto, upon receipt of price. You are warned against harmful substitutes and inferior preparations.