

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson I.—First Quarter, For Jan. 5, 1913.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Gen. i, 1, to ii, 3. Memory Verses 27, 28—Golden Text, Gen. i, 1—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

In our meditation upon this most wonderful portion of the most wonderful book ever written we will probably repeat many things, hoping that thus the precious truths may enter many hearts. More than ever do we desire to be fully under the control of Him who wrote it that He may say through us only that which is truly His own. The opening section assigned to us for today's lesson contains in the first verse the record of creation. In the second the result of a great catastrophe and in all the rest an account of a great six days' restoration or fashioning anew of the work which had by a judgment been brought into chaos.

It is not written that in six days God created, but in six days the Lord made (or fashioned) heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is (Ex. xx, ii), or, as it is in Gen. ii, 3, "all His work, which God created and made (margin, created to make). The first verse of just seven Hebrew words and twenty-eight letters tells all we know of creation and does not tell us anything as to when it was. It is a dateless statement and, for aught we know, may refer to what took place millions of years in the past. Other verses bearing upon this which should be most prayerfully considered are Ps. xxxiii, 6, 9, and Heb. xi, 3, which affirm that the creating word brought into existence that which did not exist before.

That the creation was by Him whom we know as the Son of God is most plainly stated in John i, 1, 3; Col. i, 12-17. Thus believing the first verse in the Bible, one can readily believe every miracle and wonderful record in the whole book, according to Jer. xxxii, 17, and find comfort in it as the prophets and apostles did (Isa. xl, 28-31; Acts iv, 24-31). The words "In the beginning God" have helped some whom I know, for they have said, I will not begin that which I cannot begin with God. We do well to pray that all our works may be begun, continued and ended in Him.

In the second verse the R. V. reads, "And the earth was (or became) waste and void." In Isa. xlv, 18, we read, "He created it not a waste." We know, therefore, that the second verse does not describe it as He created it. There are only two other places where the words translated "without form and void" are used together (Isa. xxxiv, 11; Jer. iv, 23), and in each there is a desolation because of a judgment, so we conclude that in Gen. i, 2, we are reading of a desolation caused by a judgment because of a great rebellion. The suggestion by Pember in "Earth's Earliest Ages" that possibly the devil before he fell was in control of this earth may be well worth considering, but we must wait.

Over this waste and void condition the spirit of God moved, and God said, "Let there be light, and there was light"—more literally, "Light be, and light was." Thus early in the book we are made acquainted with God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit and are shown that all things are accomplished by the Spirit through the word. In the first verse we have already noticed a four times seven of letters, and if we count we shall find in our lesson today the name "God" just five times seven, suggesting an abundant completeness (I. 20-23; ii, 1-3).

In this section God is seen working unaided by His Spirit and His word, and when He is allowed to work as unaided in us we shall be perfectly new creatures to His glory. Let those who desire to know God count the number of times that the different verbs are associated with His name and do not accept my figures unless you prove them correct: Said (10), saw (7), divided (5), called (5), created (5), blessed (3), made (6), rested (2), set, ended, finished, sanctified, given (4). It was so (6), let (14). More important, however, is it to notice that God alone is seen working, so it was in Christ when He was here as man, and so it should be in us (Phil. ii, 13).

Inasmuch as there are ages enough for all the geological periods between the first two verses, I am willing to accept the days as ordinary days, but let each one be fully persuaded for himself. Not only have we here the record of God working by His Spirit and His word in earth, air and sea, but we are taught by II Cor. iv, 6, to find an analogy in the work of God in man, whose life because of sin is all waste and void and dark.

By the spirit and the word light enters the dark soul, Christ is received, and there is a new birth. Thus becoming a child of light, there is a division between light and darkness, and waters from below do not satisfy, so the water that He gives is desired and enjoyed. There is the power of resurrection as on the third day, the reflection of the light of the sun in our lives as on the fourth day, then the abundance and fruitfulness of the fifth day, while the sixth day sees man, male and female, in the image of God, with dominion over all things. If we would enjoy the rest of the seventh day, while we wait for its full coming, let us wholly cease from ourselves.

TRAVERTON.
Looking forward into the New Year, we wish to all a happy, prosperous one.
Baby Falkingham has very much improved the last few days.
Many family re-unions took place on Christmas day. Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Greenwood had over a score, and a merry time resulted.
We regret to report Bessie Nelson, one of the brightest students of No. 5 school, to be quite unwell at present.

Mrs. Will Timmins has spent the holiday season with relatives at Warton.

Mr. James Bartly, Mrs. Alex. Ellison and son, of Elbow, Sask., arrived from the west last week and are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Ellison, Jr., at present.
Mrs. Herrington and her niece, Missy Eva Piercy, of Grand Rapids, Mich., are visitors at the old home of the former, Mr. Wm. McNally, of the 6th concession.

Miss Phoebe Metcalfe and her brother Britton, of Hanover suburbs, spent last week with their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Peart.

Mr. Wilfrid Hunt, of Owen Sound Collegiate Institute, is home for the holidays, and having an immense time.

Elmo Edwards returned to Toronto on Saturday. He has a good position with the American Laundry Machine Co. there.

It was with ease and rapidity that Mr. Aleck McVicar clipped the horns off sixteen head of young cattle for your scribe on Friday morning. He's a hustler, and an adept at dehorning.

At the annual school meeting of No. 5, held on Thursday last, Mr. J. J. Peart was elected trustee, and the initiation ceremony took place in the afternoon—taking down and cleaning the long string of stove-pipes. He went through the ordeal unscathed.

Miss Myrtle McClocklin attended the Greenwood—Geddes wedding down at Dromore last week, and reports a most enjoyable time. Kindred and many acquaintances hereabouts extend congratulations and best wishes.

Zion's concert on Christmas Eve surpassed the anticipations of all. The church was crowded full with a happy and most orderly crowd. Outsiders say that both the programme and the decorations surpassed anything held heretofore. Messrs. George and Thos. Ritchie, Misses Irene and Emma Ritchie, made a musical combination that won rounds of applause, while Master Stewart McArthur added to his laurels by his choice selections. The dialogues were short, spicy and most naturally acted. Misses Jennie Cook, Ena McNally, Bessie Smith, Clara Nelson, Myrtle McClocklin and Mina Edwards taking part, assisted by Lorne, Stewart and Arthur McNally and Thos. Cook. The singing by the school and young people was well received. Mrs. John O. Greenwood gave a very sweet solo, and she and Mrs. T. Glencross received warm applause for their duet. Rev. Mr. Prudham most entertainingly handled the program. Two big trees carried a wealth of presents and Lorne McNally made an ideal Santa Claus. Proceeds \$32.45.

Miss Mary McNally arrived home from Toronto just in time for the concert. She had forwarded a big box of decorations beforehand, which helped greatly to brighten up the church.

Christmas Day 1912 was an ideal day for a wedding—bright sunshine ruling the day, moonlight, sublime at night. A most happy event took place at five o'clock at "Fairview Farm," the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Hunt, when their eldest daughter, Mabel Evelyn, and Mr. Ira B. Walker, of Antler, Sask., were united in holy wedlock by the bride's pastor, Rev. W. W. Prudham, B.A., in the presence of about sixty kindred and near neighbors. Promptly to the minute, to the strains of a sweet wedding march played by Mrs. Wilbert Artley, of Blantyre, the groom took his place under an arch of artificial apple blossoms, and a minute later was joined by the fair young bride, who entered the parlor leaning on the arm of her father, who gave her away. She was assisted by her sister, Miss Flo. E., while Mr. Wes. Napper, of Cargill, ably filled the post of best man. The bride, gifted naturally with grace and beauty, looked lovely in her wedding gown of Duchess satin, with overdress of ninon, caught with roses and pearls. She carried a shower bouquet of white roses and maiden-hair fern. The bridesmaid wore a charming dress of pale blue silk, and a pearl necklace and sunburst, the gift of the groom. She carried a bouquet of pink roses. After the ceremony, hearty good wishes and congratulations were aptly expressed, after which the company repaired to the dining-room, where a most elegant, sumptuous and well-served supper was partaken of. The tables were beautifully festooned with bridal ribbon, and silver tinsel and decorated with holly from the Pacific coast and enhanced in color by huge clusters of holly berries and sprigs of lilies of the valley. It was a fairy scene. The bride cake was a sight to behold and delicious to taste and was a four-storied one. After the rich repast, a night of mirth, music, song and recital followed, over a score taking part. The groom's gift to the bride was a handsome cheque, and to the best man gold cuff links. The high respect and esteem in which the bride was held was manifested by the numerous, costly and most appropriate presents she received. The happy young husband is a most successful farmer in the suburbs of Antler, and has had a most prosperous year, His genial manner, thoughtfulness of others, and manliness, won the admiration of all. Among the outside kindred and friends present were, Mr. Alf. Smith and his daughter, Lily, of Antler; Mr. Wes. Napper, Mr.

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RIVERDALE.
Mr. Robt. W. Aljoe, of Fielding, Sask., is visiting with his father, brother and sisters, for the winter. Misses Annie and Agnes McGirr, of Erin and Shelburne, spent the vacation at their home here.

Miss Annie Lawrence, teacher, spent the vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lawrence. Miss Minnie Andrews spent the holidays at her home here. The telephones have all been installed on this line and are giving good satisfaction. They are quite a novelty as yet.

Thursday last was school meeting. The usual amount of business was transacted. Mr. Jos. Atkinson was the retiring trustee, and Mr. Robt. McFadden was elected in his place. The new furnace Water-stalled by the Waterman Water-bury Co. seems to be a very good one, though not working just as well as it should.

Miss Lizzie Weir is visiting with friends at Greenoch. Mr. Willie Buchanan, of Berkeley, spent the holidays with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A. Scott. Misses May and Millie Hopkins, of Toronto, spent the vacation at their home here. Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Coutts, of Vickers, spent a week ago Sunday with her uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Atkinson. Mr. Wm. Atkinson has purchased the livery and dray business of Mr. John Manary, of Holstein, and will move down there right away. The municipal nominations will be held to-day, Monday, Mr. Weir is in the field for a deputy. The township will have a deputy. Weir is mentioned as a possible candidate. We presume

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Furs, Ladies' and Gent's sweater coats, Children's sweater coats, Children's clouds, Ladies' Misses and Children's cashmere hose, plain, fine and heavy ribbed.

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Trains arrive at Durham at 10.30 a.m., 1.50 p.m., and 8.50 p.m.
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J. TOWNER Depot Agent
JAMES R. GUN, Town Agent

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY TIME TABLE

Trains will arrive and depart as follows, until further notice:—
P.M. A.M. P.M. P.M.
3.15 6.25 Lv. Walkerton Ar. 12.40 1
3.28 6.38 " Maple Hill " 12.25
3.37 6.47 " Hanover " 12.17
3.45 6.55 " Allan Park " 12.05

4.00 7.10 " Durham " 11.54
4.11 7.21 " McWilliams " 11.44
4.14 7.24 " Glen " 11.41
4.24 7.34 " Priceville " 11.31
4.40 7.50 " Saugeen J. " 11.18
5.15 7.50 " Toronto " 11.15

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GREETINGS

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If your children are subject to attacks of croup, watch for the first symptom, hoarseness. Give them Dr. Williams' Cough Remedy at once. It will stop the cough and prevent the attack from becoming serious.