

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson II.—First Quarter, For Jan. 14, 1917.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, John i, 19-34 Memory Verses, 32, 33—Golden Text John i, 29—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearna.

When John the Baptist was questioned as to who he was he said that he was not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the expected prophet, but simply a voice crying in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" (verses 19-23). His commission is found in Isa. xl, 3-8, where it is said that he was to prepare the way of the Lord and make straight in the desert a highway for our God and to cry, "All flesh grass, and all the goodness thereof as the flower of the field; * * * the grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the Word of our God shall stand forever." The Spirit through Malachi said of him, as well as of the real Elijah, yet to come, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord" (Mal. iv, 5, 6). The angel Gabriel said of him to his father Zacharias, "He shall be great in the sight of the Lord, * * * and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost even from his mother's womb; he shall go before the Lord in the spirit and power of Elijah * * * to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." His father Zacharias, being filled with the Holy Spirit, said of him, "And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest, for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways" (Luke i, 13-17, 67-79). The Lord Jesus said of him, "Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist" (Matt. xi, 11).

When questioned further by the Pharisees as to why he baptized if he was not some great one, he said that there was one standing among them whom they knew not, the latchet of whose shoes he was not worthy to unloose, and that while he (John) baptized with water the unknown one would baptize with the Holy Ghost (verses 24-27, 33). He is ever the same Jesus. Trust Him to baptize you with the Holy Spirit now and hear Him say, "He it unto thee, even as thou wilt." Whatever things ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye shall have them" (Mark xi, 24). The cry of John the next day as he saw Jesus coming unto him, "Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world," was one of the truest cries that one mortal could utter to another.

It would be worth while to go into all lands with that one cry and its associated truths. It takes us not only to the foundation of the world, but before that (Rev. xiii, 8; I Pet. i, 19, 20), for as the Lamb of God He was preordained before the foundation of the world. It takes us to Gen. iii, 21, where we see Him with His own hand, shedding the shedding of blood, providing redemption clothing for Adam and Eve; it takes us to Gen. xlii, where we see the lamb dying in the stead of Isaac; it takes us to Ex. xii and all that is said of the Passover Lamb; also to the lambs of the daily morning and evening sacrifice; to Isa. liii and to passages without number concerning His being a sacrifice for our sins; then on to the Revelation, where He is called the Lamb just twenty-eight times, redeeming by His precious blood, enabling us to overcome by the same, conquering all His enemies and ours and finally associated with the Father in the throne (Rev. v, 9, 10; vii, 14; xli, xlii, 14; xlii, 1, 3).

As His redeemed ones we are lambs in the midst of wolves, and when we think of all He has borne for us as the Lamb of God and all the glory that awaits us as His associates we might well be willing to be killed all the day long for His sake, if only He be glorified in us. John says that it was His commission to manifest Christ to Israel, and it is our commission to manifest Him to the world. Always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus may be made manifest in our mortal flesh (John xvii, 21, 23; I Cor. iv, 10, 11). It would seem that John did not know Him personally until the day of the baptism at Jordan, but he had been told, "Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending and remaining on Him the same is He who baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." John bare record saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it came upon Him, and I saw and bare record that this is the Son of God" (verses 31-34).

There must have been a knowing of Him in some sense before the baptism, for when He came to John to be baptized that day John said to Him, "I have need to be baptized of thee, and thou comest to me." So there must have been some increased revelation of Him to John after the baptism, when the heavens were opened, the Spirit descended like a dove and light upon Him, and the Father said upon Him, "This is my beloved Son, whom I am well pleased" (Matt. iii, 13-17). What a contrast between John who bare record "This is the Son of God" and the devil who said so on afterward "If thou be the Son of God" (Matt. iii, 17; iv, 3). When we are well pleased with Him in whom the Father is well pleased then the Father is pleased with us, but if we do not receive Him as Son of God we cannot be saved.

SMALL ADS.

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BEING LOT 53, CON. 3, E. G. R. District, containing 100 acres; on premises are new frame barn, brick house, sheds and outbuildings; running stream through property; about 10 acres hardwood bush, rest in good state of cultivation. Possession given on Nov. 1st, 1913. For further particulars, apply on premises to Mrs. John Staples, Rural Route No. 1, Durham, Ont. 944041

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THE PROPERTY OF THE LATE Philip Eva, in the town of Durham. For terms and particulars apply to J.P. Telford, Durham. 11,12,13f

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FROM 12 TO 14 MONTHS ONE roan and two reds, from good milking dams and got by Proud Ramsden, a full brother to the champion Shorthorn heir of Canada.—T. J. Morrison, R.R. 1, Durham. 214p2

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SPIRELLA CORSETS (NOT SOLD STORES). Made in Canada are boned with the indestructible Spirella stay, the most flexible and resilient corset oning the world; guaranteed not to break or rust in one year of breast wear. Appointment by mail or telephone given prompt attention.—Mrs. J. C. Nichol, Bo 107, Durham. Phone 70. 1026

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EAST HALF LOT 31 AND ALL 32, Con. 7, Bentinck, 139 acres; 600 acres cleared; well watered; good frame house and barn. Will give good terms if required. Duncan J. Clark, R. R. No. 4, Elmwood, or A. H. Jackson, Durham. 112n

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MAINSTAY OF FOES SMASHED AT SOMME

Cir Douglas Haig Reviews World's Greatest Battle—"War Can Be Won on Western Front"

The battle of the Somme is pictured as a sweeping triumph for allied arms in a detailed report by Gen. Sir Douglas Haig, which was issued last week and which covers operations from July 1 to Nov. 18. He concludes that while the enemy's power has not yet been broken, nor is it yet possible to form an estimate as to how long the war will last, the Somme battle has placed beyond doubt the result.

The following are the chief points made by Sir Douglas Haig in his despatch: (1) German western armies were only saved from complete collapse and decisive defeat by the protracted period of unfavorable weather of October and November. This prevented the allies from taking full advantage of a successful advance. (2) The battle of the Somme was a triumph, which proved beyond a doubt the ability of the allies to overthrow Germany when the time comes. (3) The allies will win the war on the western front. (4) The power of the enemy has not yet been broken, so it is not possible to form an estimate of the time the war may last before the attaining of their objects by the allies. (5) Fully half of the German army, the mainstay of the Central Powers, despite all its advantages of the defensive supported by the strongest fortifications, suffered defeat on the Somme this year.

Achieved All Objects
(6) "Our new armies entered the battle with determination to win, and confidence in their power to do so. They have proved to themselves, to the enemy and to the world that this confidence is justified." (7) Battle of the Somme was begun to relieve Verdun, to prevent the sending of German troops from France, and to wear down the strength of Germany. It has succeeded in all three of these objects. (8) Evidence has been obtained placing beyond doubt the fact that the losses of the enemy were heavier than the losses of the allies, in men, material and morale.

The Future Outlook
"The German army," says Sir Douglas, "is the mainstay of the Central powers, and a full half of that army, despite all advantages of the defensive, and supported by the strongest fortifications, suffered defeat on the Somme this year. Neither the victors nor the vanquished will forget this, and although bad weather has given the enemy a respite there are many thousands in his ranks who will begin the new campaign with little confidence in their ability to resist our assaults or overcome our defence." He adds high praise for the work of the Canadians and details their triumphs.

"The total number of prisoners taken in the Somme battle between July 1 and November 18 is just over 38,000, including over 800 officers," says the British Commander. "During the same period we captured twenty-two heavy guns, ninety-six field guns and field howitzers, 138 trench mortars and 614 machine guns."

WANTED
A Bookkeeper, and Stenographer, one quick and accurate at figures, competent to handle double entry books. Underwood operator preferred. Apply in own hand writing, stating qualifications and salary expected. Address, Mr. Business Man.
Could you fill the bill? If not, why not, when a course of business training will enable you to do so? Many such opportunities are going unutilized for the lack of qualified people to fill them. Why not prepare now. Business will be ready for you as soon as you are ready for business. Winter term opens Jan. 2. Call or write for information.
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W. W. CORY,
Deputy of the Minister of the Interior.
N. B.—Unauthorized publication of this advertisement will not be paid for. 4116m

CANADA'S SUBMARINES

Davidson Reports on Purchase and Small Arms Deal

Sir Charles Davidson's reports on the sale of small arms ammunition to the British Admiralty and the purchase of two submarines by the British Columbia Government, were completed last week. In the case of the submarine purchases, the finding is: "It is cause for congratulation to all Canadians that this much discussed and criticized enterprise was through-out of blameless character. The acquisition of these submarines probably saved, so it is believed my many, including high naval authorities, the cities of Victoria and Vancouver, or one or other of them, from attack and enormous tribute. What Sir Richard McBride did in those days of great anxiety and distress, and what he accomplished, deserves the commendation of his fellow-countrymen."

In regard to the sale by the Militia Department to the Admiralty, through the medium of Sir Trevor Dawson, standing J. Wesley Allison of some 3,000,000 rounds of small arm ammunition, at \$20 per thousand, the commissioner finds that the price of \$20 was not an under-valuation as was alleged; that while there is evidence that \$25 was to be the ultimate price, the account is still open, that there is no evidence of Allison benefiting from the transaction other than by commission, and that General Sir Sam Hughes, on the evidence of anything deducible from the evidence stands free of anything that would affect his personal honor. At the same time, the commissioner believes that the transaction should have been authorized by order-in-council.

LLOYD-GEORGE TO ROME
Entente War Chiefs Gather—Berlin Tries to Explain
Premier Briand, Minister of War Lytautey, and M. Thomas, Minister of National Manufactures, including gunitions, representing the French Cabinet; Premier Lloyd-George and Viscount Milner of the British Cabinet, and Gen. Pallatin, representing the Russian staff, arrived in Rome last Friday for a war council with the Italian officials. The coming of the British and French Cabinet Ministers is creating a most favorable opinion in the Italian newspapers, which regard the forthcoming conferences as a sign of a closer union of the allies, and as marking the beginning of more vast and formidable efforts. The Corriere d'Italia says the meeting demonstrated that the Entente instead of being weakened by threats of peace, is resolved firmly to continue the war until the objects of the allies are attained. The Berliner Tageblatt points out that a great war council has been assembled in Rome, probably in order to obtain the necessary Italian co-operation in the Balkans.

Heading Blocks Wanted
5000 Cords of Heading Blocks, basswood, not split, 20 inches long, 5 inches and upwards in diameter. \$2.25 per cord, delivered at Grand Trunk stations, Durham and Holstein.—J. N. Murdock. 122816tf

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Logs Wanted
WE are prepared to pay the highest market price for any quantity of logs, consisting of ELM, BEECH, BIRCH, MAPLE and BASSWOOD delivered at our yards. Prices made known on application.
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Italy Finds Traitors
Two Battleships, Many Lives Destroyed by Conspirators, Now Caught
More than forty persons are now imprisoned as a result of the investigations into the destruction in September, 1915, and August, 1916, respectively of the Italian battleships Benedetto Brin and Leonardo da Vinci. The latter was blown up in Taranto harbor and 248 men perished. The affair has become a political one from the introduction into the case of the name of one of the officials of the Vatican. An Italian named Ambrogetti, who was among those charged with being implicated in the destruction of the warships, claims to be the financial agent of Monsignor Gerlach, Pope Benedict's Austrian private chamberlain.

Reaching Hun Third Line
Keeping the Allied superiority continually before the Germans, Sir Douglas Haig's troops have carried out another successful daylight raid southeast of Arras. The British entered the German trenches over a wide front, and penetrated to the enemy's third line. Many dug-outs were destroyed and extensive damage done to the defenses. A similar raid was attempted by the Germans south of Wytschaete, but the attackers were driven off in disorder. The British captured two hostile posts with their occupants.

Still Plundering Belgium
The Maastricht newspaper Les Nouvelles, was authority last week for the statement that the Governor-General of Belgium has issued a decree ordering the seizure of all household goods made of brass, copper, tin, nickel or bronze, including kitchen utensils, door plates and door knockers. The communes have been ordered to assist in the collection.
More Canadians For France
In connection with the coming out process now proceeding at the Canadian two Labor Battalions, two Railway Construction Battalions and two Forestry Battalions have already been formed from men graded for permanent base duty.

Shoe Prices Are Still Going Up
We cannot guarantee present prices any length of time. In fact, some lines we cannot get at all; others cost more than present selling price. With Kid leathers costing more than \$6.00 per pound and sole stock 80c., what will kid shoes cost?
We have still some lines at old prices: some hosiery at tempting prices. Headquarters for Trunks, Suit Cases, Valises, Etc.; also Mitts, Gauntlets and Gloves. REPAIRING AS USUAL.
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We have still some lines at old prices: some hosiery at tempting prices. Headquarters for Trunks, Suit Cases, Valises, Etc.; also Mitts, Gauntlets and Gloves. REPAIRING AS USUAL.
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