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D. A. McLachlan, President.
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SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson IV.—First Quarter, For Jan. 24, 1915.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Judg. vii, 1-8, 16-23—Memory Verse, 7—Golden Text, Zech. iv, 6—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

The call of Gideon to be the Lord's representative in the deliverance of Israel at this time was made very plain in our last lesson. Today's lesson and the chapter following tell of the actual deliverance and that under Gideon the country was in quietness forty years (chapter viii, 28). In these three chapters Gideon's name is mentioned thirty-nine times, but some of them are used sixty times. In all things he must be pre-eminent. It is God who worketh; we are only instruments. Interesting references to this great deliverance, with an onward look to a greater deliverance by a greater Deliverer, are found in Isa. ix, 4-7; x, 26, 27; Ps. lxxxiii, 9.

When the Spirit of the Lord clothed Himself with Gideon and he blew the trumpet 32,000 from several of the tribes were gathered unto him, which seemed a very small number to go against an army which was without number and as grasshoppers for multitude (chapter vi, 5, 33-35). According to Deut. xxxii, 30, they would, however, be equal to 32,000,000 of the enemy or even 100,000,000, but the Lord said to Gideon, "The people that are with thee are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel vaunt themselves against Me," and so all the fearful and afraid ones were requested to return home (verses 2, 3). This was according to the law in Deut. xx, 8, and reduced Gideon's army to 10,000.

I am interested to know what Gideon thought when the Lord said "The people are yet too many" or if he made any remarks when he saw the 10,000 dwindle down to only 300, but I shall have to wait. The lesson of II Chron. xiv, 11, is strongly impressed upon me—"Lord, it is nothing with Thee to help, whether with many or with them that have no power." As then, so now, God is seeking the whole hearted ones whom He can use. He is ready to save all who will come to Him and not willing that any should perish (John vi, 37; II Pet. iii, 9), but for service it is still true that of the many who are called few are willing to be His choice ones. The cost of discipleship seems too great (Luke xiv, 33). If all the fearful ones and the ease loving ones in our churches were turned down would there be only one in a hundred ready to deny self utterly?

An interesting incident of encouragement for Gideon is found in verses 9-14, for, though listeners are not supposed to hear any good of themselves, this was certainly an exception, for it was of the Lord, both the dream and the interpretation and the time of telling it. Now, try to imagine Gideon's advance—three companies of 100 each and each man with a trumpet in one hand and a conch shell in the other. Was there ever anything so seemingly ridiculous in the annals of warfare? But He did it who uses things that are not to bring to naught things that are. He filled with food thousands of hungry people by means of a few loaves and fishes which a little boy had. He overthrew an army of 185,000 by one angel. His name is "Wonderful." "Look on Me and do likewise. As I do so shall ye do" (verse 17). These are the Captain's orders, and to us today the word is "Follow Thou Me!"

Not worldly ways nor schemes of any kind to draw or hold the people, young or old, but just the clear note of the gospel trumpet and the lamp of a consistent Christian life, for the life is the light. When the 300 lights shone forth, and the trumpets sounded, and the cry arose of the midnight air "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon," and every man stood in his place round about the camp, then the host of the enemy ran and cried and fled and slew each other, and the Lord wrought the victory (verses 19-23). It is still true that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds (II Cor. x, 4).

There will always be faultfinders like the men of Ephraim, and we are apt to forget that a soft answer turneth away wrath (chapter viii, 1-3; Prov. xv, 1). There are often ungrateful scoffers who need to be taught by thorns and briars (chapter viii, 6-9, 16, 17), and there is rarely an Abigail to plead for the fools who act thus foolishly (I Sam. xxv, 10, 11, 23-31). The wisdom of Gideon is seen in his saying to those who desired him to rule over them, "I will not rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you" (viii, 22, 23). The folly of Gideon is seen in his leading Israel to worship an ephod instead of the Living God, who had spoken to Israel by the Urim and Thummim in the breastplate on the ephod (viii, 24-27; Ex. xxviii, 6-15, 30).

Oh, the weakness and sinfulness of our poor humanity, and how necessary the admonition, "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall!" (I Cor. x, 12). So we learn again that there is no perfection of human nature but in Christ Jesus, no perfect deliverer or ruler but Himself, no perfect rest for Israel or the nations till He shall reign in righteousness, and then, and not till then, shall the work of righteousness be peace and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever (Isa. xxxii, 1, 17).

It Rained Stars.
In "North Africa and the Desert" the author tells of a wondrous spectacle he witnessed while traversing the desert toward Toucourt. He says: "Then in the last half hour I witnessed a strange phenomenon. The whole sky was powdered with stars; I had never seen such a myriad glimmer and glow, thickening, filling the heavenly spaces, innumerable, and all at once they seemed to interlink, great and small, with rays passing between them, and while they shone in their places, infinite in multitude, light fell from them in long lines like falling rain down the whole concave of night from the zenith to the horizon on every side. It was a Niagara of stars. The celestial dome without a break was sheeted with the starry rain, pouring down the hollow sphere of darkness, from the apex to the desert rims. No words can describe that sight as a mere vision; still less can they tell its mystical effect at the moment. It was like beholding a miracle. And it was not momentary; for half an hour, as we drove over the dark level, obscure, silent, lonely, I was arched in and shadowed by that ceaseless, starry rain on all sides round, and as we passed the great twin lights of the gates and entered Toucourt and drew up in the dim and solitary square it was still falling."

Coal and Smoke.
Smoke is caused by failure to burn the combustible gases that arise when fuel is exposed to the flame. The editor of Power describes these gases as "a complex mixture of various hydrocarbons, from some of which carbon separates on cooling in the form of lampblack or soot. The smokier fuels also give off tarry vapors, which condense and help to gather the carbon particles into flakes or smuts."

"For the burning of these gases as they are evolved from the coal three conditions must exist: Air must be supplied above the fuel bed, the temperature must be high enough to insure ignition and there must be time or space for combustion before the mixing currents of gas and air are cooled by flowing into or among the tubes of the boiler."

Firing coal in large quantities produces so much gas that neither air supply nor combustion space is great enough for its burning. Therefore coal should be put on in small quantities at frequent intervals.

Secret Writing.
The ordinary solver of a letter or document in secret writing should remember that success in this direction, as regards almost every kind of cryptogram, depends to a great extent upon the knowledge of how often each individual letter of the alphabet is used in ordinary speech or correspondence. D, h, o, c and n are in third place as regards ordinary use; t, s, a, l and r are in second place, being used a very little oftener; i and m are in fourth place, with f, g, y, v, p and b close afterward; j and k are not common as compared with the rest, while z, q and x are used least of all.

The letter e is in first place, being used far oftener than any other letter in the English language, and once the "e" is found and the letters that hold second place discovered in their proper order, the solution is certain.—London Answers.

The Headsman's Ax.
In days gone by the London public were always made aware by the manner in which the "headsman of the Tower" carried the ax whether the prisoner, who marched immediately following him in the procession to and from the place of trial, had been sentenced to death or not, for as long as the prisoner had not been convicted or condemned to lose his life the ax pointed forward as it was borne before him by the headsman. But from the very moment that capital punishment had been decreed against him the edge of the ax pointed ominously his way.

St. Helena.
One of the rocks of the island of St. Helena bears a distinct resemblance to the great Napoleon, so distinct, indeed, that in the old pre-Suez days passengers on ships bound from India to England were wont to crowd the decks at sunset in the hope of catching a glimpse of the marvelous likeness of the emperor whose facial contour used to appear every evening clear cut in the last rays of the sun.

Time's Changes.
"You don't seem to hold me in the same regard that you did when you married me," said the sentimental woman.

"You must remember," replied her tactless spouse, "that you don't look the same as you did then. Fashions change so remarkably that I don't see how any man and woman can feel really well acquainted."—Variety.

Another Meanest Man.
Burton—Mean man, isn't he? Robinson—Mean? He's capable of going into a barber shop for a shave and then getting his hair cut just to keep other people waiting.—Boston Globe.

Best Kind of One.
"Why do you call Rowley a philanthropist? He never does anything."
"Oh, yes, he does. He abstains from meddling with other people's affairs."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

What Ailed Him.
Beet—What's the matter with old Bean? Turnip—The cook broke him all to pieces, and then he found out she was only stringing him.—Chicago Post.

An acre of performance is worth a whole world of promise.—Howell.

THE ADROIT STATESMAN.

Probably the Lady Still Believes Sir Charles Kaew Her.

The name of Sir Charles Tupper came up while a group of members of the Montreal Press and Advertising Club were chatting one evening. "I often think of an interview I had with Sir Charles at the Windsor about twenty years ago," said one of the party, a reformed reporter. "Sir Charles received me in a alcove of the corridor, just outside his room. While he was talking, and I making careful notes, a pretty girl, passing along the corridor, caught sight of Sir Charles, hesitated, and looked at him half-expectantly. Sir Charles, always the gallant, arose and bowed with courtly grace, and the girl came forward more confidently, with outstretched hand.

"I was afraid you might not remember me, Sir Charles," she said. "My dear young lady," said Sir Charles, grasping her hand in his right and patting it paternally with his left, "I am so glad, indeed, that you spoke. Of course, I remember you, remember you very well. And Lady Tupepr, too. Why, it was only last week, on the steamer coming over, that Lady Tupper was speaking of you and wondering when we should see you again."

"The girl blushed with pleasure and murmured her appreciation. After a few further civilities, she said good-bye, and I looked at my notes. "You were saying, Sir Charles," I prompted, "that the interests of the Dominion and the Empire demanded—"

"Yes, yes," said the old statesman, absently, his eyes still following the girl down the long corridor. "I wonder who that young lady is. You don't happen to know her name, do you?"

A Hasty Wedding.
A young Canadian private, Victor Albert Baker, engine driver on the C.P.R., returned to Salisbury a few days ago, after one of his military matches on record. Seven weeks ago another Canadian soldier introduced him to his cousin, a Belgian refugee, Bertha Venden Bosch, who was being cared for in a hostel attached to the Congregational Church, Nunhead.

Bertha, twenty years of age, comes from Antwerp, where she was cashier in a hotel. It was a case of love at first sight. The language difficulty was a serious one, but was overcome, and at the second meeting after the introduction, Baker proposed marriage. He saw her twice more after that and was married within six weeks.

The bride's mother and father are stranded on the continent, but hearty approval came from the girl's uncle and aunt, also refugees from Belgium. The bridegroom wore khaki, as did also his father, who is training with him, and the honeymoon was limited to one day. The Mayores of Camberwell attended the wedding breakfast, at which one of the guests offered the bridegroom the advice: "If you don't learn each other's language, you will be the happiest man and wife in the world."

The bride is coming to the home of her husband's parents in Canada to await his return from the war.

Selling Souvenir Bags.
The distribution of empty sacks which had contained the Canadian gift flour has begun in London. The sacks are being sold as souvenirs at five shillings apiece, the proceeds being divided between the National Relief and the Belgian Relief Funds.

The original enthusiasm which greeted the scheme has rather faded owing to the lengthy wait before the sacks were available, but up to date about 1,500 applications have been received, which means that the two funds will divide nearly \$1,900. Some applicants expected to get a full sack of flour for their five shillings, and the money was returned to them, but most of them remitted again.

Various uses will be made of the sacks. Several teachers propose to use them in giving their pupils object lessons in patriotism and geography, others will make cushions and pillow covers of them for home or hospital use, and still others will use them as Christmas pudding cloths. The Canadian applications were not numerous.

The German Method.
A young man in a prominent home in Toronto has heard from his old home in the British Isles to the effect that a brother who was a professor in a German university had been arrested soon after the war broke out and had ever since been detained in that country. His wife and children were allowed to return to England under hardship. But the husband has been kept there for months and cannot get away. He had been guilty of no overtact by word or deed, but on general principles he was arrested and then forbidden to leave.

Canadian Governess in Germany.
It is probably not generally known that a Canadian girl is governess in the family of the Duchess of Brunswick, daughter of Emperor William. She is Miss Alice Pearce, a sister of Miss Adelaide Pearce, of the Margaret Cox Home for Girls, Peterboro. Miss Pearce has been in Germany since April. On Nov. 11, and after the war broke out, her sister in Peterboro received a letter, which came by way of the Netherlands, and was unsealed. In this Miss Pearce stated that she was being kindly treated, but made little mention of the war.

Special Sale of Rubbers and Underwear

We are over stocked with Men's and Ladies' Rubbers, also Men's Underwear. In order to reduce them we are prepared to sell them less than cost, and give the customers the benefit of it. Be sure and call before buying elsewhere and save money for your own interest.

Men's overshoe rubbers, first quality, reg. \$1.00 for 69c
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10 Pairs Misses' High Cut Blucher, a fine boot for winter, all sizes, were \$2.50, now \$2.00

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