

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Lesson V.—Fourth Quarter, For Oct. 31, 1915.

Text of the Lesson, II Kings xi, 4-12. Memory Verses, 11, 12—Golden Text, Prov. xiv, 11—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

Apart from the story of Ahab we have only considered the lives of Jeroboam, who made Israel to sin, and that of good King Asa. The story of the ten tribes and their kings was had all through, and, although Jehu destroyed Baal out of Israel, yet he took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart, but departed not from the sins of Jeroboam (II Kings x, 31). As to Judah, the two tribes, Jehoshaphat, who succeeded his father, Asa, was a good king on the whole, but his fellowship with the king of Israel was bad, and he was reproved for it in these words: "Shouldst thou help the ungodly and love them that hate the Lord?" (II Chron. xviii, 1; xix, 2.) See also II Chron. xx, 35. Jehoshaphat was succeeded by his son, Jehoram, who reigned only eight years, but made his mark decidedly for evil, for he married the daughter of that wicked pair, Ahab and Jezebel, and walked in the ways of the kings of Israel like the house of Ahab. He suffered terribly in his body and from his enemies, according to a message from the Lord by Elijah, and departed without being desired (II Chron. xxi, 5, 6; xii, 15; xviii, 20). All his sons were slain except the youngest, Ahaziah, and he became king at the age of forty-two and reigned only one year. He walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother, Athaliah, and others of the house of Ahab were his counselors to do wickedly (II Chron. xxii, 1-4). He was slain by Jehu, and when his mother saw that her son was dead she slew all the seed royal of the house of Judah, or thought she did. But the living God, who will let nothing of His word fall to the earth, was watching over the seed of the kingdom (II Kings x, 10; xi, 1, margin).

The sister of Ahaziah, who was the wife of Jehoiada the priest, somehow stole the baby Joash and hid him and his nurse in a bedchamber in the house of God for six years, during which time Athaliah reigned over the land, and what a reign it must have been! (II Kings xi, 2, 3; II Chron. xxii, 10-12.) But in due time deliverance always comes, and in the seventh year Jehoiada the priest arranged to have Joash proclaimed king, taking every precaution to have everything done in due order and to prevent any miscarriage of events. He gathered the Levites and the rulers and the captains by hundreds in the house of the Lord and showed them the king's son and said, "Behold, the king's son shall reign, as the Lord hath said of the sons of David," and all the congregation made a covenant with the king in the house of God (verse 4 and II Chron. xxiii, 1-3). As one day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day, one cannot help thinking of the seventh thousand years when the devil, whom Athaliah so well represented, shall be shut up in the pit and there shall be a fulfillment of the words "Yet have I set my King upon my holy hill of Zion" (Ps. ii, 6). All through the book there are so many foreshadowings of the coming kingdom upon which our hearts should be constantly set, for all the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us (Rom. viii, 18). Jehoiada arranged all in their places, with instructions to those with weapons to compass the king roundabout, and he brought forth the king's son and anointed him, crowned him, gave him the testimony and made him king, the people clapping their hands and saying, "God save the king" (verses 8, 11, 12). Jehoiada made a covenant between the Lord and the king and the people that they should be the Lord's people, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and the city was quiet.

Joash was seven years old when he began to reign (verses 17, 20, 21). They broke down the house of Baal and broke in pieces thoroughly his altars and his images and slew Athaliah, that wicked woman with the sword, and the priest appointed officers over the house of the Lord (verses 18, 20). It must have seemed like a change from hell to heaven for the people of Judah. What will it be for the whole world when a king shall reign in righteousness, and the work of righteousness shall be peace, and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever! (Isa. xxxii, 1, 17.) The readers of these lesson notes may think that I quote some passages very often, but it is because they mean so much to me. They are my meat and drink. May they all mean more to each of us! Joash is the youngest king of whom we read, but good King Josiah was but one year older when he began to reign (II Kings xxii, 1). Every good king was in some measure a type of Him who when He was but a babe was worshipped as King of the Jews (Matt. ii, 1, 2, 11), but who is still waiting for His kingdom. Joash was wonderfully preserved that the word of the Lord concerning David and his kingdom might not fail, and we may be quite certain that the other assurances to David which are not yet fulfilled shall be fulfilled to the letter in God's own good time and way. The promises of God are absolute certainties, and we may rest our whole weight upon them.

THE PARANDRA BORER.

Attacks Orchards in Which the Trees Have Previously Been Injured.

The parandra borer is an insect which can do very little harm to fruit and other trees as long as they are sound and vigorous, but which is quick to take advantage of any injury to complete the work of destruction. Orchardists are therefore recommended to keep their trees free from all exposed dead surfaces. For example, the not uncommon practice, when pruning out large branches, of leaving stubs of six inches or more is quite likely to result in ultimate injury from this insect. The stubs are practically sure to die back to the trunk, and the decayed spot or cavity thus formed attracts the beetle as a place in which to lay her eggs. Instead of leaving such stubs, therefore, the cut should be made nearer the trunk, where the natural swell at the base of the branch will insure rapid healing. The cut surface should then be covered with a heavy coat of white lead or some similar paint.

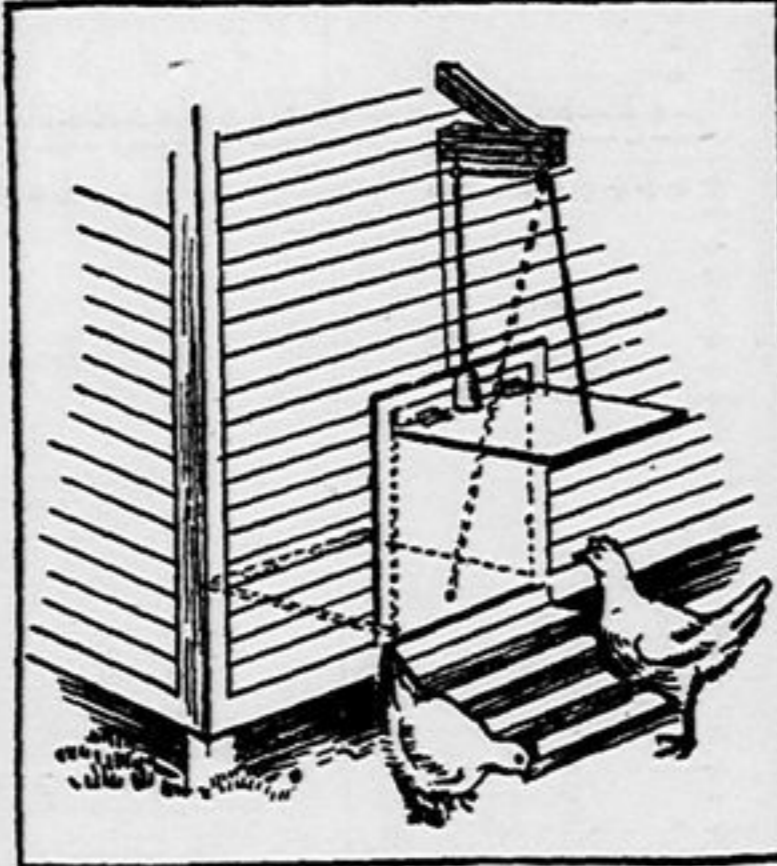
It frequently happens also that the parandra borer takes advantage of injury caused by the entrance of the common round headed apple tree borer into a tree. For this reason whenever round headed borers are found they should be removed at once while the wounds made by them are still sufficiently small to heal quickly. Accidental injuries to a tree should be remedied by cleaning off the torn and splintered bark and wood and painting the surface thoroughly.

Precautions such as these, if carefully carried out, will probably protect orchards from this borer. Many trees, however, which have passed their prime have their lives much shortened by the insect. The larvae hatching from the eggs burrow within the wood, probably for three years, before they emerge as adult beetles. In this respect they are very similar to the round headed apple tree borer.

Automatic Door for a Coop.

To obviate the unpleasant necessity of arising too early to open the door of the chicken coop and let the poultry into the yard an automatically opening door can be easily made, according to the design suggested in the accompanying sketch, writes E. L. Bradshaw in the World's Advance.

The first step in the work is to provide a hinged platform inside the chicken coop, under which is placed a spiral spring of just enough



strength to give way under the weight of a hen. A door is next made and hinged at the top as shown. To this door is fastened a rope leading to a weight that is heavy enough to lift the door. A small strip of wood is nailed across the front of the hinged platform, completing the work. The details are clearly shown in the sketch and require no further explanation.

The action of the automatic doors is quite simple. As a hen steps on the platform the strip at the front end is pressed downward, releasing the door, which flies open because of the weight attached to it.

WORK FOR THE FALL.

Gardens are often not rich enough to produce satisfactory results, and fall is rather the best time to apply the requisite stable manure. A good covering of this is to be supplied and plowed or dug under, going as deep as may be convenient. The ensuing six months will put the manure in good condition for next season's crops. Plowing again in spring will be beneficial in making the soil loose.

Fall plowing of land infested with white grubs, wire worms, and cut-worms is urged by experts as a control for these pests and as a protection for next summer's crops. Thorough disking or harrowing, in addition to plowing, disturbs and crushes the cells of these pests in the soil and exposes them to their enemies and the severe winter weather. It is especially urged that all cornfields in which the corn ear worm appeared last summer be plowed and thoroughly harrowed to kill the larvae which hibernate two or three inches deep in the soil. Proper crop rotation is undoubtedly one of the greatest factors in the control of many field crop pests which cannot be well controlled by remedies applied after the insects' appearance in harmful numbers.

Clover Seed Scarce.

Prospective supplies of red clover seed are very much reduced, and at best Canadian farmers next year will face an extreme shortage with high prices. Farmers should endeavor yet this autumn to save every bit of the red clover crop that promises to yield good seed.—Seed Branch, Ottawa.

Must Sort Fruit.

Owing to the continued development of scab in Canada, attention is again called to the necessity of exercising the greatest care in sorting the fruit. There will be a demand for all grades, number one's and number two's, and number three's if of good size.

My Convict

By JOHN Y. LARNED

I was running my auto leisurely along a road in the country and slowed up even from that pace to turn a sharp bend in the road when suddenly a heavy weight dropped from an overhanging branch into my car directly behind me. Turning, I saw a man in convict stripes rising to his feet.

"Put on full speed," he said in a tone to indicate that he would be obeyed.

I did not see that he possessed any weapon with which to enforce his demands, but it was evident that he was an escaped jailbird and as such was likely to be desperate. As soon as I had turned the bend I obeyed his order, my speed gauge registering forty miles an hour. The man climbed over the back of the seat and sat down beside me. The road before me needed all my attention, but I took time to glance aside at him. Now that he was fleeing at so rapid a gait his whole expression was changed. Despite his stripes, I saw in him a man of refinement. He met my gaze with an honest look and said:

"My friend, if you knew that instead of defeating justice you are trying to undo a frightful act of injustice you would be better satisfied. I have been the victim of a conspiracy to defraud a bank of which I was cashier and was sent to the penitentiary for ten years. My noble wife sent me surreptitiously saws, with which I effected my escape. My object is to get out of the country, send for her and our children and begin life anew."

While he was making this brief statement I kept one eye on the road and the other on him. I doubt if any man can lie to me and impress me that he is speaking the truth. I did not know that the man was sincere, but I felt his sincerity. Knowledge may be defective; intuition, at least with me, is perfect.

"There is nothing," I replied, "that would give me greater satisfaction than to enable you to carry out your purpose. Where shall I take you?"

"First you must throw my pursuers off my track. They are not far behind."

"Get back there and cover yourself up to the chin with the wraps."

He did so, and his stripes were concealed, but he was bareheaded. I gave him my cap. Seeing a man ahead of me wearing a common woolen hat, I stopped long enough to buy it, giving him three times its value. Then, entering upon a long stretch of comparatively straight and level road, I put on the balance of my power, making fifty miles an hour.

"Do you know anything of the pursuit?" I asked.

"Only that my flight must have been discovered long ago."

"We must have another suit of clothes," was my next remark. "We shall have to stop and buy one."

My passenger gave me some idea of the sizes he had worn before his incarceration, and at the first opportunity I bought him the necessary outfit. He spoke of paying me for them some day, but I told him what I would require would be his vindication or, at least, a surety that he was what he purported to be. He managed to change his clothes under the wraps and, crossing a bridge, threw his stripes into water flowing rapidly. After this I decreased my speed somewhat, for I believed that with the start and advantage we possessed my man would not be retaken, at least for some time.

Passing through a town where I had business acquaintances, I procured funds and supplied him with what he would require. Then, stopping at a railway station, I secured a time table showing trains for New York and, by taking a longer route than the rails, put him on a train without his being obliged to wait at a station.

Meanwhile he had given me the address of his wife and asked me to call upon her to receive confirmation of his story. When he parted from me his efforts to express his gratitude overcame him, and he could say nothing. All he could do was to look it.

As soon as he had left me I began to realize my position in having aided a convict to make good his escape, and it was then that doubts began to trouble me. I did not go to see his wife for a considerable time after he and I parted, fearing that she might be watched and my visit would put the authorities on to my infringement of the law. I saw in the newspapers notices of the escape from prison of a bank embezzler, and after the stir had quieted down I made the call.

Some time after my call I received a letter written with great caution from the convict, mailed at an inland city of South America. He was paying the way to send for his wife and children, which would be a difficult matter without putting the authorities on his track.

His plan was never carried out, for one of the conspirators who had ruined him was brought to trial for certain irregularities, and the facts of the other matter came out. The convict's wife applied for a new trial for her husband, but by this time the whole matter was patent. Instead of a new trial it was decided to apply for a pardon. This, after much delay, was granted, and the pardoned man returned to his home.

I had the satisfaction of giving the reunited family a ride in the very auto that had made good the father's escape.

PRICEVILLE.

Fine weather during the past week; heavy frosts for some nights. The general work is now threshing, plowing and taking up roots. The woods are all bare, an indication that winter is fast approaching.

Mrs. Chas. McDonald, south Glenelg, had the misfortune to break her arm one day last week by falling. The broken limb was set by Dr. Lane, and the patient is doing as well as could be expected.

Little Earl McLeod, son of W. McLeod, Jr., was operated on for growth in the nostrils by a doctor from Toronto. The little fellow is doing very well. He is attended by Dr. Lane.

The sacrament held in the Presbyterian church here last Sunday was largely attended. A few new members joining. Voting on church union will take place next Sunday and the following Sunday.

A number of men and teams were at work for a couple of days last week levelling off the new cemetery grounds presented by Mr. Hugh McNeil of Chicago.

Mr. Alex. McMillan, who has been ailing for a long time, is not improving much yet.

Mr. Robt. Shortreed, mail courier, was called away last week to attend the funeral of his brother-in-law at Cargill. The remains were taken to Galt for interment. Dr. and Mrs. Lane and family motored to Port Elgin one evening lately and visited Mrs. Lane's friends there.

The Rev. Bowes of the Methodist church preached preparatory services in the Presbyterian church here on Thursday. Mr. Bowes is a good speaker.

Mr. Thos. Ferguson, east of this place, sold his farm to Mr. Louis Froom of Proton for a good figure, and we hear that Mr. Donald McLachlan sold his 50 acre lot down the gravel road to Mr. John Nichol, who lives on the opposite side of the road.

Our town is doing a good share of business, considering the busy times just at present.

Grain is turning out well. David Hincks threshed from three bags sowed 175 bushels of barley and oats turned out accordingly.

Mr. W. L. Dixon, teacher at Top Cliff school for the last five years in succession, and for eight years all told, tendered his resignation. Mr. Dixon was one of the good old faithful teachers, who also paid particular attention to the duties belonging to the profession. He was always on time, and spared no pains in the advancement of his pupils. It is questionable if the school can be supplied with a teacher to equal the qualifications of Mr. Dixon at the salary paid, and we take the liberty of vouching the sentiments of the ratepayers of the section in giving a certificate to that effect.

THE WAR AT YOUR DOOR

The war in Europe increases in intensity and the end is not yet. The big metropolitan newspaper has never been in such universal demand as it is to-day and The Toronto Mail and Empire leads all its contemporaries in supplying the most accurate news from the vast scene of world conflict.

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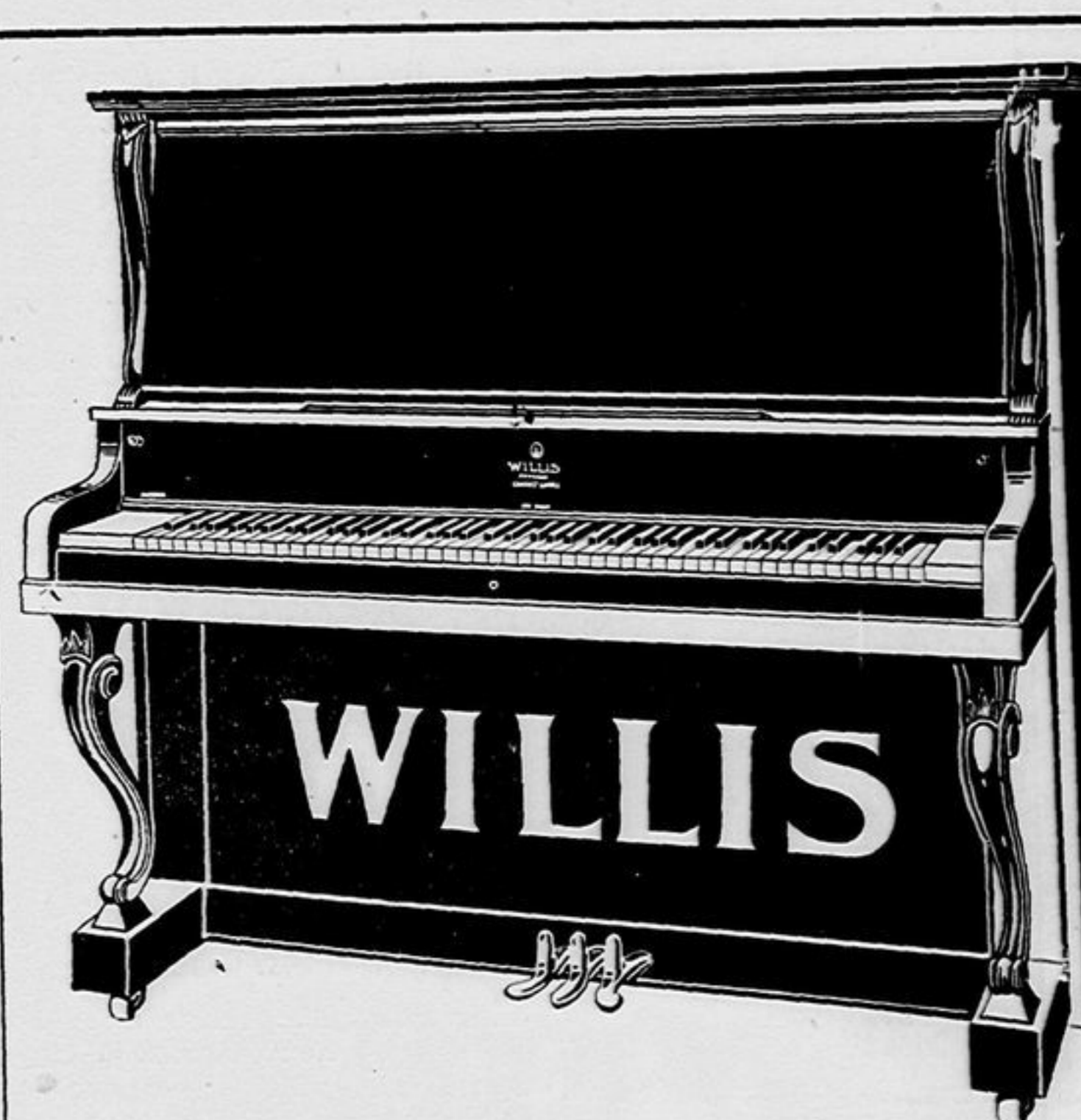
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