

Sunday School. "A Good Story"

INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. VI.
NOVEMBER 9, 1908.

David's Grief Over Absalom.—12 Sam. 18: 24-33

Commentary.—I. The battle array (vs. 1-8). 1. "The time was about three months after Absalom assumed the throne. 2. The place was the forest of Ephraim in Mount Gilead, not far from Mahanaim, where David was. This region is still covered with thick oaks and tangled bushes, and thorny creepers, growing over rugged rocks and various precipices. 3. The army of Absalom must have been very much larger than David's, for 20,000 men were slain, besides many that escaped. But they had no such discipline and organization as David's troops, and no 'Old Guard' like David's own. 4. The army of 600 heroes. 5. The army of David was divided into three divisions under three able generals. 'Gideon had his hand in the sword, that he might make a simultaneous impression on the three different parts of the Midianite,' and thus contribute the better to the defeat of the whole. So David divided his army into three, that, meeting Absalom's three different points, he might get a concentration of the enemy that would have swallowed up his whole force."

II. The defeat and flight of Absalom (vs. 9-17). "Absalom met the servants of David in battle, and was defeated. In his flight Absalom rode upon a mule. For him to ride upon a mule—a mark of royalty—was a mark of royalty. King 1, 33, 38. His head caught in the forked boughs of a tree, and he hung there, stunned and helpless. Perhaps his long, thick hair got entangled, but there is nothing to support the common idea that Absalom was suspended merely by his hair."—Cambridge Bible.

Josephus says that his hair was "entangled." Then Joab took three darts and thrust them through the heart of Absalom. He alone felt strong enough to disobey the king. He did the act for David's own sake. Joab beat back the people from further slaughter. Absalom's body was cast into a pit and a great heap of stones thrown upon it.

III. Things from the battle (vs. 19-32). Swift runners brought the news from the battlefield to the king. The two gates—The heavy fortifications had probably an outer and an inner gate at the base of a battlement tower, in which was a "chamber" (vs. 32), on the flat roof of this tower, but shaded from public view, David waited to hear tidings of the battle. Watchman—Every gate and outpost of the tower would be guarded by vigilant watchmen at such a time. Roof—The flat roof of the gateway on the side of the outer wall. "The picture of the anxious watcher at the gate of Mahanaim gives us a faint insight into the heart of the Father above."

23-28 If he be alone—David judged that if the man was running alone he was bringing news from the battle. If the army had been routed, many fugitives would have been coming together. Into the porter—stood on the top of the tower, and the other was below to attend to opening and closing the gate. A good man—David had had proof of his fidelity during the progress of the war, and was sure that such a man would not be chosen for the thankless work of bearing bad news. All is well—This in the Hebrew is one word, "peace." It was the usual word of greeting. Full down—An act of homage to the king. D livered up—Literally, "shut up," restrained and confined within bounds, instead of leaving them at large.

29. Is Absalom safe?—There is a tenderness in the words which reveals the yearning of the fatherly heart. He seems more anxious about the welfare of the young man than about the issue of the battle. Is the young man safe? This is a question every parent and every friend of young men should ask. Is the young man safe from intemperance, from bad companions, from bad books, from dishonest conduct, from bad habits? Is he safe in Jesus Christ? Is he safe in a good home and among good influences? Is he safe for this world? Is he safe for eternity? Ask yourself, also, what you are doing to make him and keep him safe.

30-32. Stand here. He has given

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his message, and is thus dismissed to rest after the tolls running. He is, however, allowed to place himself near, that he may hear what further tidings the Cushite brings. Cushi—an Ethiopian slave in the service of Joab. Hath avenged. Hath pronounced a favorable verdict in his cause, and delivered him out of the hand of his enemies. Enemies of my Lord. "The Lord hath done these things to thy enemies." "He avenged the question about Absalom indirectly, yet so as not only clearly to make known his death, but also to express condemnation upon his hostile attitude against his father and king."

IV. David mourns for Absalom (vs. 33). Much moved, seized with grief, trembling and grief. The chamber. An apartment in the upper part of the tower of one of the gates; the nearest place where he could be seen. Wept—loudly lamented. O my son, Absalom! There is not in the whole of the Old Testament a passage of deeper pathos than this. So Moses (Ex. 32, 32) and so St. Paul (Rom. 9:3) would have sacrificed themselves, had it been possible, to save others. His wish to die in Absalom's stead was no mere extravagance of grief. David's own peace was made with God; he could die at any time. If Absalom was spared in life, he might yet repent.—Hanna.

PRACTICAL SURVEY.
With mingled feelings of hope and fear, David awaits tidings from the scene of conflict. He hopes that the rebellious people may be brought into subjection. But the king's greatest solicitude is lest in the battle he loved, though erring son should be killed.

Hope seems to be in the ascendency as the watchman announces the coming of Absalom. "He is a good man and cometh with good tidings," says David. "It was the deep and genuine sympathy of Absalom with what he knew were the most tender and sacred feelings of the king's heart that made him eager to go, and both gladden him with the news of God's deliverance, and at the same time break the news of his personal loss." How different is the messenger of Cushi. "He at once communicates the news to him in words that leave no doubt of his meaning."

The great question now is, "Is Absalom safe?" The enemy may be defeated, but how is it with Absalom? He father's love is too strong for him to find any comfort in the defeat and death of a rebel, when that rebel is his own son. The news of victory is entirely overshadowed by the news of Absalom's death; to David it is disaster, woeful and deep. Our hearts are touched as we read the pathetic lament of the grief-stricken father.

Many parents are asking the same question to-day, "Is the young man safe?" They know that many snares and dangers lurk for their unsuspecting feet, and of them all by far the most destructive is that omnipresent peril, the authorized and duly licensed saloon. It is a fearful question to those fathers who have by their ballot endorsed a saloon party or policy. Let us make the young, both sons and daughters, just as safe as we can so far as their environments are concerned; and even then, the only absolutely safe place is in being in possession of the grace of God, in having the heart changed and kept by divine power. "The inheritance of a rich nation, with fine sensibilities is not a pledge of safety. One of the greatest evils in the world is disobedience to parents."

"God's great love for us is seen in this, that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. v. 8). He actually did for us what David longed

to do for Absalom."
"It is so far from thee, Thou canst no longer see In the chamber of the gate That old man doleful? Weeping and wailing sore, For his son who is no more, O Absalom, my son!"

"There is no far nor near, There is neither there nor here, There is neither soon nor late, In that chamber of the gate; Nor any long ago, To that human cry of woe, O Absalom, my son!"
—Lansford H. Mulholland.

The Irishman's Stick.
In days gone by Englishmen were just as ready and as expert at stick play as an Irishman is still supposed to be. The play with the cudgel was one of the oldest of English rural sports—the word "cudgel" itself being one of the oldest words in the language. At the village sports, fairs and other occasions, the cudgels once played a prominent part, and at times broken crowns were the common accompaniment of village rejoicing as in any Irish hamlet. The play with the quarterstaff was a sport of the same class, though, of course, the quarterstaff was much longer than the cudgel and needed a peculiar kind of skill for its expert use. In 1717 Lady Mary Wortley Montagu wrote of something being as natural as "as cudgel playing or football to our British swains."

The Irishman's favorite stick was and is a blackthorn. In England oak or ash was the wood most in esteem. A provincial Englishman was as anxious to be expert with the cudgel as with his fist. In towns the "oaken towel," as it was facetiously called, was a favorite weapon with the bully and hired bravo with which to "wipe away" his victim. When the profligate Earl of Rochester wished to take revenge on Dryden for a supposed satire in which his lordship was very unflatteringly described he hired three bullocks to do his despicable work, and these heroes savagely cudgelled the poet one winter night in Rose street, Covent Garden, as he was going home from his favorite seat in the chimney corner of Will's coffee-house.—London Globe.

Worse Than Alcohol.
Cocaine-taking is certainly on the increase, and chemists are constantly being asked to supply the drug to victims of the habit. Most of them refuse to do so unless they are shown a doctor's prescription, but by some means it is obtained, large sums being paid in many cases for sufficient cocaine to last only a few days.

The daily dose averages from five grains to fifty, so that if Winter-ton's story is to be believed, and he took 120 grains a day, he must have been taking the poison for a considerable period, and continually increasing the dose, until a large quantity would have proved fatal. A specialist said yesterday that the largest daily dose he had known to be taken was fifty grains. The first effects of the drug are immediate relief from mental and physical suffering, a sense of increased mental power and vigor being felt by the victim. Collapse soon follows, however, and as the drug is taken more frequently, sleeplessness and acute depression succeed any failure to obtain the regular dose, while melancholia and suicidal tendencies increase as the months pass.—London Mail.

THE CALIFORNIA

The great prosperity of this land of opportunity has recently been marked by a distinguished visitor, Hon. Hamilton Fish, Assistant United States Treasurer. Mr. Fish "saw nothing that impressed him more than the LARGE BUSINESS being done on the Pacific Coast, the apparent PERMANENCY of its prosperity, and the NEED of more WORKERS."

The basis of this prosperity is first of all CLIMATE, then ELECTRICAL ENERGY and FUEL OIL for manufacturers, and finally IRRIGATION. Given WATER to turn on at will, in a country so full of SUN-SHINE, and growth is continuous. Something is growing EVERY MONTH, but put on the table to fatten stock, or carry to market. ONE ACRE of alfalfa will support one cow as pasture, and for hay can be cut five times a year. Larger than England and Scotland combined, California has ROOM for a MILLION MORE people, and this makes LAND CHEAP, and OPPORTUNITY GREAT. A SELF-SUSTAINING HOME, the VALUE of which will RAPIDLY INCREASE, can EASILY be secured where life means COMFORT as well as COIN.

Thus, Glenn County farms average 1,595 acres each, and there are 200 children to the square mile. Yet Glenn County has plenty of room, and can support as dense a population as the valley of the Po in Italy. Forty families can be provided for on one now lives. The great ranches are being broken up, and this makes land cheap. Books about California will be sent free to any address. The San Joaquin valley is 250 miles long by 60 miles wide, and the book describing it has 100 pages, well illustrated. An easy and comfortable living can be made on 40 acres by keeping cows or raising alfalfa for market. Water is plenty and cheap for land raising. COLONIST RATES now make it easy to see how it is yourself. They are based on a rate of \$33 from Chicago, or \$25 from Missouri River points, via Southern Pacific. California books can be had of any agent. Write to F. B. Choate, Gen. Agent, Detroit, Mich.

Dowie and the Press.
Kansas City Journal.

An impostor, whether in politics or religion, hates to have the truth told about him, but he hates a great deal worse to have nothing told about him at all. Good and sincere men are seldom misrepresented by the press, and if they are they do not retort with bitterness, but leave it to the goodness of their actions and the rectitude of their characters to give the lie to their traducers. Whenever a man goes about howling that the whole press is persistently lying about him, it is always safe to set him down as an impostor or a rascal who is not getting a lick amiss. The whole press of a city, a state or a nation never persistently misrepresents anybody. It could have no object in doing so, and it could not afford to do so if it had.

AT THREE SCORE most of us are reminded that the things of this world are not of this world. The things of this world are of this world, and the things of the next world are of the next world. The things of this world are of this world, and the things of the next world are of the next world. The things of this world are of this world, and the things of the next world are of the next world.

A Society Note.
Towns—Bighd had a single article in the paper yesterday; printed as he wrote it.

Brown—I suppose he's very pleased. Towns—Not exactly. The article reads: "Dear Editor, John Bighd is one of the handsomest and most popular young men in uptown society. I have the pleasure to inform you that he is engaged to be married to Miss Bighd, and will be wedded on the 15th inst. Yours truly, John Bighd."

Piles cured in 3 to 6 nights, as applied to the rectum. Dr. Agnew's Ointment is a boon for itching Piles, or Hemorrhoids. It relieves quickly and permanently. In skin eruptions it stands without a rival. Thousands of testimonials if you want evidence. 35 cents.—23

Woman and Revenge.
There is always something especially diverting about a woman's idea of revenge. I know one man who says that a woman's way of getting even is like the way of a stick. He sticks his thumb in your soup to avenge a slight. You never know the thumb has been in your soup, but he knows it and it gives him a great deal of satisfaction to think of it, even if the soup was blistering hot. However, what I started in to tell was the story of how one Washington woman got even with a hotel-keeper up in the Pennsylvania hills. She was staying there for the summer, and she found it necessary to go to Philadelphia for a week to see a dentist. She is a thrifty soul, so before she went to the city she spoke to the hotel man, and asked him if he would deduct something from her bill because of her week's absence. He said that he'd make it all right and upon that hint she went. Nothing was deducted from her bill, however, and the hotel man maintained that he had never promised any deduction. "I told him what I thought of him," says the lady when she tells of it. "I told him I thought he was just as mean as he could be, and I'd get even with him. I took both kinds of meat and two pieces of pie every day at dinner all the rest of the time I was there. I guess I made him wish he hadn't been so stingy about that bill!"—Washington Post.

Murder of the Innocents.
The suggestion by a New York clergyman that incurables should be put to a painless death is bound to strike a popular chord. Then there are the incurable liars, the incurable braggarts, and a whole host of other incurables. If these could be removed the world might be sparsely populated, but it would be a paradise it would seem to the three or four of us who would be left!

The real estate owned by the late Alexander Manning, of Toronto, was very close to \$1,000,000, of which two-thirds was on land.

The Markets.

Toronto Farmers' Market.
Grain receipts were rather smaller to-day, and changes in prices unimportant. Wheat is firm, 300 bushels of white selling at 82 1-2c, 200 bushels of red winter at 82 1-2c, 200 bushels of red spring at 74 1-2c, and one load of poor Spring at 75c. Barley is firm, with sales of 500 bushels at 46 to 50 1-2c. Oats easier, 700 bushels selling at 33 1-2 to 34 1-2c. Rye is easier, one load selling at 55 1-2c a bushel.

Dairy produce in fair supply, with prices firm. Choice dairy butter brought 20 to 23c, and strictly fresh eggs 30c per dozen.
Hay in limited supply, and prices steady, about 20 loads old at \$10 to \$11.50 a ton for timothy, and at \$8 to \$9 for mixed. Straw easier, one load selling at \$10 a ton.
Dressed hogs are easier, with sales of heavy at \$7 to \$7.25, and light at \$7.50. Wheat, white, bushel, 82 1-2c; do, goose, 74 to 74 1-2c; do, red, 82 to 82 1-2c; do, spring, 75 to 80c; peas, bushel, 69 to 70c; oats, bushel, 33 1-2c to 34 1-2c; barley, bushel, 46 to 50 1-2c; hay, timothy, per ton, \$10 to \$11.50; hay, clover, \$8 to \$9; straw, per ton, \$10; seeds, alfalfa, bushel, \$2.25 to \$6.00; do, red clover, \$5.50 to \$6.00; do, timothy, \$1 to \$1.50; apples, per bushel, 75c to \$1.25; dressed hogs, \$7.00 to \$7.50; eggs, per dozen, 25 to 30c; butter, dairy, 19 to 23c; do, creamery, 22 to 25c; chickens, per lb., 9 to 11c; ducks, per lb., 9 to 11c; geese, per lb., 8c; turkeys, per lb., 12 to 14c; potatoes, per bag, 65 to 70c; cabbage, per dozen, 40 to 50c; cauliflower, per dozen, 70 to \$1.00; celery, per dozen, 35 to 40c; beef, forequarters, \$7.50 to \$8.00; beef, hindquarters, \$7.50 to \$8.50; beef, choice, carcass, \$6.00 to \$6.25; beef, medium, carcass, \$6.50 to \$7.00; lamb, yearling, \$6.00 to \$7.50; mutton, per cwt., \$4.50 to \$5.50; real, per cwt., \$7 to \$9.

Leading Wheat Markets.
Following are the closing quotations at important wheat centres to-day:

New York	Cash	Dec.
Chicago	86 5-8
Toledo	86 7-8
Duluth, No. 1 North	76 3-4
Northern	76 3-4

British Apple Markets.
Messrs. Woodall and Co., of Liverpool, called Eben James; 20,000 bbls. sold. Market continues very firm, with good demand at last quotations. Greenings, 15s 6d to 17s 6d; Baldwins, 15s 6d to 17s 6d; Spys, 15s 6d to 18s 6d; Russets, 17s 6d to 21s; Kings, 20s to 22s 6d; seconds, 4s less.

Manchester Fruit Brokers, Limited, called: Market closed strong. Greenings, 15s to 16s; Baldwins, 15s 6d to 17s; Russets, 15s 6d to 18s; Kings, 18s to 20s.

The Cheese Markets.
Belleville, Oct. 31.—To-day 2,900 boxes white cheese were registered. Watkin got 325, Hodgson 150, and Cook 120 at 10 1-2c; same offer for balance.

Covansville, Oct. 31.—Allen bought 600 boxes at 10 7-16c, and 105 for 10 3-8c; McPherson 393 boxes for 10 7-16c; Grant, 332 for 10 5-16c, and 129 for 10 1-2c; Miller, 162 for 10 1-2c, 32 for 10 7-16c, and 14 for 10 1-2c; 140 boxes unsold. Greening bought 243 boxes butter for 21c, and 115 for 21 1-2c; Dalrymple, 258 for 21c, and 40 for 21 1-2c; Allen, 40 for 21 1-8c; Grant, 60 for 21 1-8c, and 25 for 20 3-4c, all sold. Watertown, Oct. 31.—To-day the cheese sales were 5,000 at 10 3-4c for large and twins; 11c for small single.

London, Oct. 31.—To-day 15 cases of butter, 3,423 boxes, 15 lot of 165 sold at 10 1-2c; bids, 10 5-8 to 10 5-8c.

Bradstreet's on Trade.
Cooler weather has created a better demand at Toronto this week for staple goods, especially the flour sorts usually in demand for the late fall and winter. The firm tone of domestic manufactures, too, is still having a good effect on purchasers. The railways are busy, but the snow of winter has not yet begun to complain this year about shortage. There is a good demand for winter wheat to fill orders by mills for flour for export, but little offering. There is also a demand for that of small Africa.

The conditions of wholesale trade at Montreal are satisfactory. Sales so far this season are ahead of last year at this time in most departments. The values of staple goods are very firm, and deliveries of some lines of staple goods are not as prompt as might be desired.

At Quebec during the week there has been a fair general movement. The snow of the early part of the week caused a demand for seasonable goods.

Trade at the Pacific coast is satisfactory in most lines and collections are better than for a long time. Trade with the northern mining country has been heavy the past season. There is some anxiety as to how the large amount of freight accumulated at White Horse will get through to the Yukon. Building activity at Vancouver is active. The lumber industry is active.

Mercantile business in Winnipeg has been good the past week. The quality of the grain is disappointing. A good deal of wheat bought as No. 1 Northern grades only No. 2 Northern. There is very little No. 1 hard and a great deal of No. 2 Northern. The outlook for business is promising.

The Poor Man.
Kingston Whig.

He had a seat in a pew which did not permit of him altering his location. Before him sat a lady with her new fall hat. It had an immense rim and projection. Beyond it he could see nothing. He craned his neck occasionally in the hope of seeing the preacher, but in vain, so he settled down to be a hearer of the word and a viewer of the hat.

No one can afford to sacrifice, needlessly, the good opinion of good people. Every true character that touches our lives is a part of our moral heritage.

RAILS AMID GLACIERS.

Opening of the Third Section of the Jungfrau Railway.

The construction of the railway up to the summit of the Jungfrau, in the Swiss Alps, to a height of 14,164 feet, has attracted the greatest attention ever since work on this interesting line was started. A short time ago all eyes were again turned to the Jungfrau railway, on the completion and opening of the third section of the line, which terminates at Elgerwald station.

The Elgerwald station is situated at a height of nearly 10,000 feet above the level of the sea.

During the summer of the year 1898 the Elgerwald station, which lies at a height of 8,100 feet, was opened for public traffic. Up to that point the road has been built in open cuts. The section from Elgerwald station to the next stop, Roifstock station, is 3,000 feet in length, of which 2,400 feet are in a tunnel. The opening of the Roifstock station occurred on Aug. 2, 1899. The latter is situated at a height of 8,600 feet, and when the train comes out of the tunnel one reaches a terrace of rocks, from which one enjoys such a superb view of the eternal glaciers of the Alps as can scarcely be imagined. It was expected that the section to Elgerwald station would be completed as far back as 1900, but such immense engineering difficulties were encountered that this idea had soon to be given up. The magnitude of the work to be carried out is well attested by the fact that the tunnel, when completed, will have a total length of 6 1-2 miles, its width being 12 1-2 feet and its height nearly 15 feet.

From the stop at Elgerwald a footpath has been cut along the rocks to the summit of Roifstock Peak, 9,240 feet, whence one enjoys a wonderful view of the Jungfrau mountains and the many little mountain lakes.

Elgerwald Station, which was opened with great ceremonies and in the presence of representatives of the federal government and a number of invited guests, is, like a number of other stations on the Jungfrau Railway, entirely excavated in the rock, its ceiling as well as its walls being bare rocks. To one side several rather large holes have been cut through rock, which serve as windows, and which has a splendid view of the surrounding panorama. In good weather and clear air one can see the far-off Vosges mountains. One of these galleries leads to a terrace, on one side closed by an iron railing, a pass which also affords the most magnificent and greatest views.

All the work on the road is practically done from the Elgerwald station, where quite a colony has been established. At that point there are extensive repair shops, a large restaurant and spacious rooms, where provisions and foodstuffs are kept; four large dwellings for engineers and workmen, a locomotive shed, a transformer plant for the electric current and a powder magazine. It is here where the engineers and men building the tunnel live, summer and winter. The dwellings provided for them have been erected with special consideration of the climatic conditions prevailing at such elevated regions. All the buildings are lighted and heated by electricity. The buildings for the storage of provisions contain foodstuffs for about 200 men for from seven to eight months. A bakery has also been established, which furnishes fresh bread every morning. Water is obtained during the winter months by melting ice and snow by means of electricity.

That the railway is a paying enterprise may be seen from the fact that already, during the first few years, when only a portion of it had been opened for traffic, nearly 26,000 tourists were carried to the Roifstock station.

It is to be noted that the entire line will be completed in the latter part of 1905, when it is expected that trains will run to the summit of the Jungfrau, where the Ebnener (Ice Sea) station will be erected at a height of 14,164 feet above the level.

The Going of the Birds.

And now comes the time for birds of migratory habit to give way to them. Some kinds assemble in flocks and journey away together, while others go singly or in pairs. Some make their flight in a sure fashion, but by the way and apparently having a good time of it, while others push the passage in the shortest possible time their wonderfully winged powers will admit. Some make the journey by day and others by night. There is conclusive evidence to show that in one unbroken nocturnal flight the European bird known as the northern bluestart leaves from Central Africa to the German Sea, a distance of 1,000 miles, making the journey in nine hours. From its winter home in Africa observations have determined that it starts after sunset, arriving at its far northern summer haunts before dawn on the next morning. That means a speed of 175 miles an hour—enough to shame the Empire State Express. In a very brief time now, barring that excite, the English sparrow, the crow, the partridge, and the owl, ours will be practically a birdless zone. Six months hence a long wait—we shall be on the lookout for the "first robin."

Provisions From Trees.

There is a tree which grows in Sumatra, Algeria and China which is known as the baobab. The fruit of this tree is gathered in November or December. Before him sat a lady with her new fall hat. It had an immense rim and projection. Beyond it he could see nothing. He craned his neck occasionally in the hope of seeing the preacher, but in vain, so he settled down to be a hearer of the word and a viewer of the hat.

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Croup—Whooping
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Dysentery—Typhoid

Dandruff—Droopy
Dyspepsia
Eczema—Rheumatism
Fever—Gallstones
Gout
Goiter—Croup
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