

Sunday School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. 1. JULY 3, 1904.

The Kingdom Divided—1 Kings 12: 12-20.

Commentary.—I. A demand by the people.—vs. 1, 2. When Rehoboam found himself the successor to the throne, he met the leaders of the nation at Shechem. While this assembly was called ostensibly for the purpose of confirming Rehoboam in his kingdom, yet the people had determined to exact certain reforms as the condition of their allegiance. They had many grievances. The northern tribes rebelled against this oppression and asked Rehoboam to relieve them of their heavy burdens, promising if he would to acknowledge him as king.

II. Rehoboam's decision.—vs. 12-15. All the people, this probably has reference to the ten tribes; Judah and Benjamin clung to Rehoboam. The third day, Rehoboam had asked the people to wait three days for his decision (vs. 10). "This seemed reasonable on the face of it, and yet this was one of the questions which a right heart would have decided instantly." Roughly, he was harsh and insolent. Forsook counsel, Rehoboam first consulted with the old men (vs. 6). They were the men of wisdom and ability whom Solomon in his wisdom had chosen for his advisers. (See Prov. 11, 14; 12, 22.) But their counsel did not suit the young king. They advised Rehoboam to grant the request of the people and "speak good words to them" (vs. 7). But he was proud, haughty and conceited and forsook their counsel.

14. Young men. Rehoboam next consulted the young men, his associates (vs. 8, 9). "The surest mark of a fool is that he chooses other fools for his advisers." The king made a fatal omission in seeking advice. I will add. This was the language of a tyrant. With whips. It is probable that the expression "I will add" is quite possible that the levies of Amorrhites, Hittites, etc. (chap. 9, 20, 21), had been kept at their tolls by the lash. —Spear. With scorpions. As the scorpion—an instrument of torture with many lashes like the legs of the animal of this name, and each lash armed with sharp points to lacerate the flesh—is a more terrible scourge than the common whip, so will my severity exceed my mercy. —The Rev. J. H. Stowell.

III. The revolt of the ten tribes (vs. 16-20). —All leaders representing the ten tribes. What portion.... In David, etc.—Just as a king inherits the nation he governs, so a monarch inherits its king. But the ten tribes had not thus received David, nor probably Solomon either. Seven years after David had been recognized as king of Judah the chiefs of the ten tribes made a special treaty with him by which he should govern them. The terms of this treaty we do not know, but it was probably renewed on the accession of Solomon, and it is evident that the ten tribes now regarded it as broken by Rehoboam. Their loyalty to him was annulled by the rupture of the treaty. "The son of Jesse" is a name, like "carpenter's son," in Matt. xiii, 55.—Hurlbut. To your tents—This was probably a popular war cry, dating from the days of the exodus, when the whole nation lived in tents. But we are to remember also that a great multitude was now crowded about a town, and doubtless many were at the time dwelling in tents. Now see, etc.—Let David's descendants look after his dynasty; we sever our connection, which dwelt—The Israelites who were members of the northern tribes but who had homes in the cities of Judah, did not go with their tribes, but remained and quietly submitted to the reign of Rehoboam.

18. Sent Adoram—The chief tax collector and therefore one of the most obnoxious men in the nation. He was probably sent to make concessions, but it was too late. "The fatal word had been spoken, the rent in the nation had been made never to be healed until they shall be united in Christ, the son of David, in the latter days." Ezek. xxvii, 15-28. Whittell. Stoned him—The people in their blind rage rose up in a mob. With this one exception this was a bloodless revolution, Rehoboam made speed. Strengthened himself. Margin, "Made use of every effort;" exerted himself much, since danger was threatening him as well as his messenger. 19. Israel rebelled—Where prince and people fear God there will be no rebellion; but where no covenant with God is, in all human considerations fall in pieces.

20. All Israel heard—When the main body of the people learned what the few assembled at Shechem knew. Called him, etc.—After the congregation at Shechem was broken up and the people had returned to their homes, another assembly was convened by the leaders of the ten tribes, at which time Jeroboam was made their king. Judah only—Although Benjamin adhered to Rehoboam (vs. 21) and also many Israelites of other tribes (vs. 17), yet they are all looked upon as being absorbed in the tribe of Judah.

21. A heritage of trouble. It does not take long to prostitute the best of gifts, to degrade the purest character, or to throw a shadow on the noblest life. The Solomon years given wisdom, wealth and long life, and he should have left to his son, Rehoboam, for imitation, the example of a virtuous and illustrious life. His should have been a kingdom ruled with moderation and justice. But his life, as he advanced in years was characterized by a folly that wrought demoralization in every point of his realm. A haughty spirit goeth before a fall. It would seem that Rehoboam should have found it a very easy matter to come to the right decision

in regard to the demands of his people, but princes unless trained from their youth are ordinarily unqualified to appreciate the needs of their subjects. The greatest blessing is he who is easily approachable, who plans for the best interests of his people, who regards himself as the servant and not lord of his subjects. Such a ruler will guide his affairs with discretion, and will be able to meet the crises which so often arise in the management of political affairs with an intelligent appreciation of right and will easily accommodate himself to the exigencies which may call for moderation in his jurisdiction. But a haughty prince is blind to all these conditions. The folly of rash advisers, Rehoboam did not lack for counselors. He took three days to ascertain the opinions of the leading men of his court. Now the burdens of statecraft naturally make a man conservative in his ideas and cautious in his counsels. Such indeed was the attitude assumed by the elder men, who had gained wisdom by long experience. They advised him to use caution and moderation in his answer. No such considerations affected the minds of the younger counselors to whom Rehoboam next turned for advice. They had little interest in aught except the luxurious splendor of Solomon. What considerations led the young king to adopt the advice of the younger men are not stated in the scriptural account; but this decision has always been regarded as one actuated by inexcusable folly. By his unwillingness to alleviate the troubles of the people he alienated their affections and brought about a final disruption of the nation.

Consequences of seemingly unimportant decisions. It is possible that Rehoboam and his inexperienced advisers thought and hoped that the people would still continue loyal to his father's house, but the wish was in vain and the results were in every way disastrous. Israel could no longer present an unbroken front to the foe. Divided in counsel, in interest, in armed force, she no longer sent forth her armies to conquer the foes of Jehovah. Internal and domestic war soon reduced her strength and weakened her prowess. Foreign foes found her a ready prey. One by one her possessions fell into the hands of her enemies. The city of Shechem after city was taken and destroyed. As the result of two invasions the whole nation was carried away into captivity and Jerusalem, the joy of the whole earth was made a laughing stock and a reproach. Will may a nation party to be delivered from a ruler who does not possess sound wisdom and discretion. Albert H. Stilwell.

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Wilson's Fly Pads will clear your house of flies.

A FIGHTING PARSON. Engages in Pistoleers and Preaches on Piety.

Pittsburg, Pa., June 27.—Jefferson township, ten miles from the border line of Pennsylvania, is again excited by a religious uproar. The Rev. S. P. Montgomery, pastor of the Jefferson United Presbyterian Church, who is at present out under \$500 bail for whipping Elder Edmond P. Heath in church two weeks ago, engaged in another fight Saturday evening with Harry Snee, a 200 pound Heath sympathizer. The Rev. Mr. Montgomery knocked Snee down twice, but was finally felled himself with a blow in the face, which caused blood to flow from his eyes.

Wilson's Fly Pads are the best fly killers made.

Prompt Action Saved an Explosion of Gasoline.

WOMAN BADLY BURNED.

DIAMOND DIGGERS' RUSH.

Practical Survey.

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA

Proceedings of the Twenty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders, Held at the Banking House of the Institution in Toronto, on Wednesday, 15th June, 1904.

The Twenty-ninth Annual Meeting of the Imperial Bank of Canada was held in pursuance of the terms of the Charter at the Banking House of the Institution, 15th June, 1904. There were present: T. R. Merritt (St. Catharines), D. R. Wilkie, William Hendrie (Hamilton), Wm. Ramsay, of Bowland, Stow, Scotland, Elias Rogers, James Kerr Osborne, Charles Cockshutt, J. L. Blake, Archibald Foulds, R. H. Temple, W. W. Vickers, Lyndhurst Ogden, David Smith, David Kidd (Hamilton), C. A. Pipon, Anson Jones, Alfred Hoskin, Miss H. M. Robinson, Harry Vigon, Edward Archer, Alexander Nairn, Rev. T. W. Paterson, James Bicknell, A. W. Austin, R. N. Gooch, Robert Thompson, Albert Thompson, W. Gibson Cassels, J. W. Bealy, Peleg Howland, W. C. Crowther, V. H. E. Hutcheson, Edward Hay, J. J. Foy, K. C. W. T. Jennings, O. F. Rice, C. Holland, Clarkson Jones, David Spry, Alexander Laird, Harry Sintel, C. C. Dalton, Ralph K. Burgess, J. Gordon Jones, Ira Standish, H. M. Pellatt, F. W. Rolph, F. W. Mickle, W. H. Cawthra, C. H. Stanley Clarke, A. A. McFall (Bolton), Prof. Andrew Smith, F. R. C. V. S., J. H. Eddis, R. G. O. Thomson, etc.

THE REPORT. The Directors beg to submit to the shareholders their Twenty-ninth Annual Report and Balance Sheet of the affairs of the Bank as on 31st May, 1904, together with a statement giving the result of the operations for the year which ended that day. Out of the Net Profits of the year and balance of Profit and Loss Account carried forward and after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts, and for the authorized contributions to the Pension and Guarantee Funds: (a) Dividends have been paid at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, amounting to \$299,194.04. (b) Bank Premises Account has been credited with \$25,000. (c) Rest Account has been increased by \$200,000. (d) Carried forward to Profit and Loss Account, \$140,656.58.

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT. Balance at credit of account 31st May, 1903, brought forward \$160,336 77. Premium received on New Capital Stock 15,083 00. Balance at credit of account 31st May, 1904, after deducting charges of management and interest due on deposits and after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts and for rebate on bills under discount \$504,414 23. Balance at credit of account 31st May, 1903 \$2,634,312 00. Transfer from Profit and Loss Account 213,683 00. Premium on New Capital Stock 200,000 00. From Profits of the year 2,851,000 00. \$3,047,995 00.

REST ACCOUNT. Balance at credit of account 31st May, 1903 \$2,634,312 00. Transfer from Profit and Loss Account 213,683 00. Premium on New Capital Stock 200,000 00. From Profits of the year 2,851,000 00. \$3,047,995 00.

Twenty-ninth Annual Balance Sheet, 31st May, 1904

Table with columns for LIABILITIES and ASSETS. LIABILITIES: Notes of the Bank in circulation \$2,667,745 00; Deposits not banked \$4,247,572 11; Deposits bearing interest \$17,596,919 33; Deposits by other banks in Canada \$10,841 99; Total liabilities to the public \$24,523,147 43; Capital stock paid up \$2,850,000 00; Rest Account \$140,656 58; Balance on bills discounted \$62,573 02; Loss Account carried forward \$140,656 58. ASSETS: Gold and Silver Coin \$79,039 30; Dominion Government securities \$2,867,338 00; Deposits with Dominion Government for security of note circulation \$450,000 00; Notes of and cheques on other banks \$1,031,091 20; Balance due from other banks in Canada and after making full provision for all bad and doubtful debts and for rebate on bills under discount \$78,540 24; Dominion and Provincial Government securities other than Canadian \$1,057,361 82; Canadian Municipal securities \$1,640,303 84; Railway and other Bonds, Debentures and Stocks \$2,612,750 03; Call and Short Loans on Stocks and Bonds in Canada \$13,567,328 80; Other Current Loans, Discounts and Advances \$16,452,102 09; Overdue debts (less provision for doubtful debts) \$23,861 10; Bank premises, including land, vaults and office furniture, at Head Office and Branches \$630,638 79; Other assets not included under foregoing heads \$14,412 23. Total \$30,790,097 09.

The usual motions were submitted and carried unanimously. The Scrutineers appointed at the Meeting reported the following gentlemen duly elected Directors for the ensuing year, viz. T. R. Merritt, D. R. Wilkie, Wm. Ramsay, Robt. Jaffray, Elias Rogers, Wm. Hendrie, James Kerr Osborne, Charles Cockshutt. At a subsequent Meeting of the Directors, Mr. T. R. Merritt was elected President, and Mr. D. R. Wilkie, Vice-President for the ensuing year. By order of the Board. D. R. WILKIE, General Manager.

LEVI LEITER'S WILL. Lady Carzon, His Daughter, Well Provided for.

Washington, June 27.—The Will of Levi Z. Leiter, the Chicago millionaire, who died at Bay Harbor, Me., last week, was filed to-day. It leaves one-third of the estate, outside of specific reservations of coal lands in Illinois, to the widow, Mary T. Leiter, and the rest is left for equal distribution per stirpes among the children, including Joseph, Nancy L. C. and Marguerite H. Leiter. There is nothing in the will which indicates the total value of Mr. Leiter's estate.

DIAMOND DIGGERS' RUSH. Sydney, June 27.—Two prospectors have made a discovery of diamonds in the matrix at Oakley Creek, near Inverell, New South Wales. The matrix is in dolomite, and the formation is similar to that usual in South Africa.

The Markets

Toronto Farmers' Markets. The receipts of grain on the street today were again small. Wheat is firm, 100 bushels of white selling at 92c, and 100 bushels of red winter at 92c. Oats firmer, 400 bushels selling at 36 1/2 to 37c.

British Cattle Markets. London, June 25.—Canadian cattle are steady at 10 3/4 to 12 1/4 c per lb.; refrigerated beef, 12 1/2 to 14 c per lb.; sheep, 8 to 10 c; hogs, 8 1/2 to 9 c; yearlings, 15c.

FARMERS AND FRUIT MEN. Present Their Grievances to the Railway Commission.

Mombasa, British East Africa Protectorate, June 27.—Sir Charles N. E. Elliot, British Commissioner and Commander-in-Chief for the East African Protectorate, has resigned the commissionership because he is opposed to the proposed Jewish settlement in the protectorate. Sir Charles has called to Premier Balfour demanding a public inquiry of the circumstances of his resignation, and adding: "Lord Lansdowne ordered me to refuse grants of land to private individuals while giving enormous tracts in East Africa to a syndicate. I have refused to execute these instructions, which I consider unjust and impolitic."

FIGHT WITH POLAR BEAR. Lighthouse Men Have an Exciting Incident at Belle Isle.

MILLIONAIRES ASK MORE PAY. Ten Dollars a Meeting Too Little for William Rockefeller.

Ontario Archives. Toronto. The Ontario Archives are now open to the public. The collection consists of a large number of documents, including the records of the various departments of the government, and the papers of the various ministers of the crown.

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Advertisement for various medicines and products, including 'Syrup should Children Teething', 'Hip', 'Eyelets', 'Meteors', 'Phoid Germs', 'Acres', 'Excursion', 'Diphtheria', 'Schools, and yet'.

Advertisement for 'Ontario Archives' located in Toronto.