Sunday School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON NO. XII
MARCH 19TH, 1905

Healing of the Ean Born Blind—John 9: 1-11.
Study John 9: 1-41.

Commentary.—I. A man born blind (v. 1). 1. As Jesus passed by— Jesus still lingered at Jerusalem, and in one of His walks, perhaps to or from a synagague, He came to this blind mand. He saw. Jesus took notice of his affliction; looked upon him with concern. He anticipated his need. That look meant sight to the blind man. A man—He was a beggar; it was his trade; but among all his petitions he did not ask for sight. Yet Jesus gave it. An illustration of free free grace.—Spurgeon. This man was was hopeless, helpless, poor. Blind from his birth—Of the six miracles connected with blindness which are recorded in the gospels, this is the only case described as blindnes from birth. In this lies its special characteristic, for "since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born biind" (v. 32.)—Ellicott. Blind-Palestine. In this country there were in 1870 one blind in 1,900 population, in Europe. one in 1,094 population, in China one in 400, and according to Geikie, in Egypt one in 100. "Blindness is common in Palestine to a degree which we in western lands can scarcely realize. There is probably no country in the world, except Egypt where this affection is so prevalent. At Gaza, for instance, it is said that one-third of the population have lost one or both eyes, and from my own observation in that city I should unhesitatingly say that the statement is not exaggerated. But among these cases it is difficult to find any born blind. Congenital blindness is as rare in the east as in the west, and hence was certain to attract atention."—Tristram. "The reason lies in the sand dust, the intense glare of a cloudless sun, and great and sudden changes."—Peloubet.

II. Jesus explains the mystery of prodence (v. 2-5). 2. Disciples asked —The first question that arose in their minds was why this blindness existed. Who did sin. Scripture teaches that all disease and even death, is the fruit of sin. The Jewish error consisted in believing that all special afflictions were divine visitations for special sins. This error Jesus corrected.—Abbott. Mark the contrast between their thoughts and those of Jesus in reply. Repentance calls our own afflictions punishments; but love calls the afflictions of others trials. —Com. Com. This man—But how could the man sin before his birth? The doctrine of transmigration of souls, by which the same soul is supposed to inhabit different bodies, was quite general among the Greeks and Asiatics; "but there is no clear proof that this doctrine was prevalent among these Jews."—Whedon. On the popular supposition that special calamities are a punishment for special sins, the disciples desire to know whose sin caused this man's suffering. Was it his parents' sin or his own? If Jesus had replied. his own, they would have asked, How?

3. Neither—That is, so as to be the cause of the blindness. Our Lord does not deny the existence of sin, either in this man or in his parents.—Godet. The disciples looked to the origin of the suffering; our Lord looked to its removal. They asked, "Who is to blame?" Jesus asked, "Who is to save?" Instead of looking to the dark abyss, out of which sin and misery originated, the Lord's heart looks to the glory of God, who by redemption exalts fallen man to even higher blessedness than that of creature innocence.—Brodie. Works of God..... manifest—Not that this man was born blind for the sole purpose that a miracle might be wrought, but that his blindness furnished the occasion for Jesus to perform the divine work of healing him, and thus to show Himself to be God.—Binney. God is not responsible for sin and its consequences, but both afford Him an opportunity to show His power and grace. "Sufferings are like the shavings and saw-dust and general disorder of the carpenter's workshop, which are necessary in the making of a needed article. It is to the finished work we must look, and not to the shavings, if we would understand the actual state of things around us."—Exp. Bib. How were the works of God made manifest in this man? 1. In the restoration of his sight. 2. In the enlightenment of his mind. 3 In the salvation of his soul. (4) In shedding light upon others. Not only were this man's neighbors benefited, but all who have read this account during the last eighteen hundred years have had their attention turned toward Christ.

4. We must work (R. V.)—By the plural "we," as given in the R. V., Jesus associates His apostles with Him in the work. It is encouraging to think that "we," poor, weak men, can be "worker together with Christ." "To rid the world of evil, of wretchedness, lonely sorrow destitution and disease is the work of God. While it is day—The day represents opportunity, the night, opportunity past. The day of life's opportunty i rapidly passing; the night of death wil soon be here, and our work will be ended. What we do must be done quickly.

5. In the world—He would not be long in the flesh, but He has never ceased to be the light of the world. Sin is darkness. He is in bold contrast to sin. I am the light—Like the sun, it is my business to dispense light and heat everywhere; to neglect no opportunity to enlighten and save the bodies and souls of was altogether beyond human means; but Jesus reminded His disciples that in Him were light and life. He still opens blind eyes and gives the ability to see, and also furnishes the light by which they see. "Christ guides us by the light (1) of His teaching, (2) of His example, (3) of His Holy Spirit, (4) of His providence, (5) by His personal presence in the soul, (6) by answers to prayer, (7) by implanting a new heart and right motives, which clarify the vision."

III. The blind man healed (vs. 6, 7). 6. Made clay * * * anointed—Jesus shows his power by proceeding, in his own way, to heal the man. Notice, "1. There is no connection between the means used and the effect produced. 2. Christ came into physical contact to attract attention and to stimulate faith; where faith was in lively exercise, he healed by his word, and at a distance. 3. Christ appeals to two of the man's sense, his hearing and feeling, thereby arousing faith."—Moorehead. Christ gave his personal attention to this case, even though his patient was a beggar. 7. Go —Would he now prove his faith in a stranger? Woud he hesitate because of his life-long teaching that he must not wash the eyes medicinally on the Sabbath; must less at a pool of water? Would he now do what he could? Here came the practical test, proving his faith and obedience. Siloam—"A fountain under the walls of Jerusalem towards the east, between the city and the brook Kidron. It is still to be seen, one of the few undisputed sites in Jerusalem." By interpretation, Sent—That is, "outlet of waters"; either because it was looked upon as a gift sent from God for the use of the city, or because its waters were directed or sent by canals or pipes into different quarters, for the same purpose. Some think there is an allusion to Gen. xlix., 10; that this fountain was a type of Shiloh, the Christ, the sent of God; and that it was to direct the man's mind to the accomplishment of that prophecy that Jesus sent him to the fountain.—Clarke. If the man know anything of prophecy, he might find encouragement of faith in this. The pool by its very name was a type of Christ. He went—He believed and obeyed. We frequently lose God's best gifts because we fail to act in time. Came seeing—The cure was instantaneous.

IV. Various discussions (vs. 8-11). 8. Is not this he—There was an immediate stir among the neighbors; they noticed the great change in the man. The same is true when Christ gives spiritual eye-He must have been well known. 9.—I sight. Begged—This is the first mention of the fact that he was a beggar am he—Jesus had met and healed the man on Friday night, at the beginning of the Sabbath (McFarland), and the neighbors had not seen him go to the pool, so that on the next morning they were hardly able to believe their senses. But the man himself gave a positive testimony. 10.—How.....opened — His neighbors gathered around him and asked for an explanation. Many are anxious to know how things are done, even though they have no faith. 11. He answered—He had never seen his neigubore before, but now, looking right at them, he delivers this wonderful testimony to the power of Christ. It is short, clear, positive. A man—First he knew him only as "the man" (R. V.. called Jesus, then as a prophet (v. 17), then as a man with whom God was (vs. 31-33), then he was the Son of God (vs. 35-38).—Penticost.

The neighbors finding the case involved in mystery took the man to the Pharisees, perhaps to the Sanhedrin, who proceeded to investigate the miracle by questioning the man and by calling his parents to testify. The hypocritical rulers hated Jesus, and were continually trying to find something against him. They pretended to take great offense because our Lord performed this act of mercy on the Sabbath day, and thus ignored their traditions. The parents feared the Jews and left the explanation of his healing with their son. The Jews then continued to question the man and he became very bold until finally he asked them to be Christ's disciples. This angered them greatly and they reviled him and spake harshly against Jesus. At this his courage arose still higher, and with great clearness he answered their false reasonings against "the man" who had healed him. They could stand no more, but cast him out of the synagogue. Jesus at once revealed himself to the man, who immediately became a true worshipper. Courage to do right, and to speak boldly in defense of the truth will always bring heaven's blessings upon us.

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FISCAL QUESTION.

Premier Balfour Would Keep It in the Background.

London, March 6.—The political situation is undergoing some rather interesting developments, and there are several indications of the intention of the Government to sidetrack the fiscal controversy. An attempt was made on the part of the Chamberlain section of the Unionist party to compel Lord Hugh Cecil to resign the Parliamentary seat for Greenwich, but Cecil politely declined to quit, and in that determination received unexpectedly strong support from Sir Alexander Ackland-Hood, chief Government whip, who, in a public letter declines to "act unfairly towards a man who has rendered most valuable assistance to the party of which he is a brilliant member," simply because he does not support the Government on the fiscal question.

This letter, which virtually accords to all Conservative candidates complete freedom of action in fiscal affairs, is resented keenly by the Chamberlain group, whose irritation is increased by a letter from Premier Balfour to the Conservative candidate in Buteshire, in which, with reference to changes in fiscal policy, the Premier says: "Important as are the issues thus raised, we must not let them obscure the fundamental principle of the Unionist party. If I rightly read the signs of the times, the policy of Home Rule only awaits the advent of the Radical party to power to become active, militant and perilous."

This letter is interpreted as showing Mr. Balfour's resolve to thrust fiscal reform into the background as an election cry, and keen curiosity is excited as to how the move will be met by Mr. Chamberlain.

FORMULA VALUED AT $25,000.

Toronto Man Charged in Montreal With Having Stolen It.

Montreal, March 6.—James Howard Cummings, of Toronto, who was arrested here yesterday, was arraigned in court to-day, where he pleaded not guilty to a charge of having stolen goods in his possession. The case was adjourned for a week, and Cummings was released on bail.

The accused came from Toronto about a month ago to work for Pine, Dawson & Company. It is alleged that he took with him a formula valued at $25,000, and which the Henry K. Wampole Medicine Co., of Philadelphia, through their Toronto branch, claim is their property, for their exclusive use.

Goods shipped from the warehouse of Pine, Dawson & Company seem to have been produced acording to the formula in question, but this company claim that the formula belongs to them, and that they intend to protect it.

CANADA LIFE
Assurance Company
Financial Statement
58th Annual Report

ASSETS

Government, Municipal, and other Bonds, Stocks, and Debentures	$17,249,744.96
Mortgages on Real Estate	4,506,711.29
Loans on Bonds, Stocks, Etc.	368,093.66
Loans on Policies	3,504,421.18
Real Estate owned (including Company's Buildings in Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal, Winnipeg, St. John, N.B., and London, Eng.)	1,762,633.99
Premiums in Transit and deferred (net) and interest accrued	989,898.30
Other Assets	402,996.00
Cash on hand and in Banks	290,099.62
	$29,074,599.00

LIABILITIES

Reserve Fund Company's Standard (Hm 3% and 3½%)	$26,408,650.00
Death Claims in Course of Settlement, and Instalment Fund	237,445.23
Dividends to Policy-holders in Course of Payment	16,126.80
Reserve for Policies which may be revived	33,670.00
Other Liabilities	2,280.98
Total Surplus on Policy-holders' Account, Company's Standard	2,376,425.99
	$29,074,599.00

RECEIPTS

Premium and Annuity Income (net)	$3,043,178.15
Interest, etc	1,204,851.50
Profits on sale of Securities	52,361.63
	$4,300,391.28

PAYMENTS

Death Claims (net)	$1,221,815.60
Matured Endowments (net)	218,857.00
Dividends paid Policy-holders (including Bonus Addition paid with Death Claims and with Matured Endowments)	207,781.12
Surrender Values paid Policy-holders	76,500.95
Paid Annuitants	23,597.01
Total paid to Policy-holders	$1,748,551.68
Commission, Salaries, etc.	681,292.71
Taxes, Dividends, etc.	320,126.80
Excess of Receipts over Payments	1,550,420.09
	$4,300,391.28

Net Surplus over all Liabilities (Company's Standard) .. $1,376,000
Net Surplus over all Liabilities (Government Standard) .. $4,326,000

GAINS IN 1904

	1904	1903	Increase
Number of applications received	7,221	6,863	358
Amount of Assurances applied for	$ 14,571,153	$13,881,960	$ 689,193
Policies issued	13,043,503	12,635,032	408,471
Policies paid for	11,211,721	10,122,139	1,089,582
Total business in force	101,805,944	95,531,110	6,274,834

The new business paid for in 1904 was greater in amount than that of any previous year in the Company's history.

A full report of the annual meeting will appear in the Company's paper, "Life Echoes."

Market Reports —OF— The Week.

Toronto Farmers' Market.

The receipts of grain on the street today were smaller. Wheat is lower, there being sales of 200 bushels of white and red at $1.05 to $1.06. Barley unchanged, 300 bushels selling at 52c. Oats easier, with sales of 400 bushels at 44½c to 45c.

Hay in good supply, with prices firm; 40 loads sold at $10 to $12 a ton for timothy, and at $8 to $9 for mixed. Straw is unchanged ,a load selling at $11 a ton.

Dressed hogs are firmer, with light quoted at $7.85 and heavy at $7.35.

Wheat, new, bushel	$ 1 05	to	$ 1 06
Do., red, bushel	1 05	to	1 06
Do., spring, bushel	1 02	to	1 03
Do., goose, bushel	0 90	to	0 92
Oats, bushel	44½	to	0 45
Rye, bushel	0 70	to	0 73
Buckwheat, bushel	0 55	to	0 60
Barley, bushel	0 51	to	0 52
Peas, bushel	0 00	to	0 70
Hay, timothy, ton	11 00	to	12 00
Do., mixed, ton	8 00	to	9 00
Straw, per ton	11 00	to	0 00
Seeds—			
Alsike, No. 1, bushel	5 00	to	5 50
Do., No. 2, bushel	4 00	to	4 50
Do., No. 3, bushel	3 50	to	4 00
Red clover	6 50	to	7 25
Timothy	1 00	to	1 20
Dressed hogs	7 35	to	7 85
Apples, per bbl.	2 00	to	3 00
Eggs, new laid, dozen	0 27	to	0 30
Butter, dairy	0 24	to	0 28
Do., creamery	0 28	to	0 30
Chickens, spring	0 12	to	0 14
Ducks, per lb.	0 13	to	0 14
Turkeys, per lb.	0 17	to	0 18
Cabbage, per dozen	0 35	to	0 50
Potatoes, per bag	0 80	to	0 90
Cauliflower, per dozen	0 75	to	1 50
Celery, per dozen	0 30	to	0 40
Onions, per bag	2 00	to	0 00
Beef, hindquarters	7 50	to	8 50
Do., forequarters	5 00	to	5 50
Do., choice, carcase	7 00	to	7 25
Do., medium, carcase	6 00	to	6 25
Mutton, per cwt.	6 50	to	7 50
Veal, per cwt.	8 00	to	9 00
Lamb, per cwt.	10 00	to	11 00

Leading Wheat Markets.

	May.	July.
New York	$ 1.14½	$ 1.05
Detroit	1.20	1.02
St. Louis	1.12½	0.94¼
Toledo	1.14½	0.99¾
Duluth	1.11⅛	1.10¾
Minneapolis	1.12¾	1.10⅝

British Cattle Markets.

London.—Live cattle are quoted at 10½c to 11¼c per lb.; refrigerator beef, 7⅝c to 7½c per lb.; sheep, 12c to 13c per lb.

Bradstreet's on Trade.

Montreal reports to Bradstreet's say: Wholesale business generally at this centre continues very dull. All through the country the roads are snow-blocked, and it has been only very recently that weather has been anything like mild. All departments of trade have suffered on this account. The interruption to country trade has affected remittances. In the meantime, receipts of country produce here are light and prices are high in all such lines as butter, eggs, etc. There is a fair city trade being done and preparations for the spring trade among the wholesalers are exceedingly active. Prospects in this regard are bright.

Toronto reports to Bradstreet's say: Trade in all lines has suffered during the past week from the impassable condition of the country roads. As a result wholesale business has been quiet in groceries, hardware and general lines. The dry goods men and the millinery houses have had all they can do preparing for the spring openings. At the present moment the outlook is for exceedingly heavy business. Orders for all lines of dry goods have been very large, and values generally are firm. It is said here new cotton list prices will soon be issued showing some reductions. Butter is scarce and very dear. Deliveries of grain are light. Wheat brings $1.08 to $1.09 and oats 46c to 47c.

At Quebec fine weather has had an effect on business in general, which shows improvement, although the country roads are reported pretty heavy. City retail trade shows more activity.

Advices from Winnipeg say: "Bonspiel" week has filled the city with retail merchants from the country, and, although while here they will place good orders with the wholesale houses, business is bound to be more or less interrupted, as travellers are recalled from the road. Collections are still slow and not much improvement is expected for the present week.

Victoria and Vancouver advices say: Trade here is rapidly assuming a better aspect. There has been immense improvement in the lumber business. Groceries, dry goods and supplies for the lumber camps especially are moving well.

Bradstreet's reports from Hamilton say while wholesale trade there is quiet on account of climatic conditions, business generally has an active and healthy tone. The spring trade has not yet opened out to any great extent, but the prospects are for a very active business when it once begins. Spring orders for dry goods are heavy, and there is a fairly good movement in hardware. Groceries are a little quiet. Collections are fair.

General business at London has been a little quieter during the past week, and there has been little doing in the surrounding country. Collections are a little slow as a natural result of interruption to trade.

Ottawa reports to Bradstreet's say: Taken as a whole, trade here is in a fairly satisfactory condition. Collections are only fair.

Weekly Review of Trade.

Better weater has greatly improved trade in many sections of the country, spring merchandise being distributed freely by jobbers, while retail business and merchantile collections are more normal. Interior buyers are placing liberal orders in the large cities, and preparations for structural work are hurrid. Manufacturing lines have made splendid progress since the opening of the year especially the various divisions of the steel industry and textile mills are well engaged. Shoe snops have ample spring business but orders for fall delivery are delayed by the recent advance in prices that were necessitated by higher cost of production—particularly as to the raw material. In almost every branch of business there is confidence in active trade with the appearance of settled weather. Winter wheat is in good condition, but cotton planting will average much later than last year. Prices of commodities are still firw.—Dun's Review.

"Ankylostomiasis."

A case of ankylostomiasis was reported to an English Councll a few days ago. The chairman of the Health Committee explained that the miner with the disease had been offere £1 a week if he would remain in the hospital. Elsewhere he had been offered considerably more to undergo treatment. He refused, however, his mother declaring that 'if her son was suffering from such a valuable disease he had better keep it."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tiflis.—Serious disturbances have broken out at Kutais, and troops have been called out to suppress them.

Moscow—The strike area in the city and suburbs is extending. There are now 60,000 men out.

Paris.—The Government has commissioned the famous explorer, De Braza, to proceed to the Congo, March 15, to conduct an inquiry into the colonial scandals.

New Orleans, La.—The Weckerling brewery, part of the New Orleans association brewing plant, was destroyed by fire last night. The loss is $200,000.

Windsor.—A. W. Keith, assistant science master of the Collegiate Institute, has accepted a position as assistant science master in the London Collegiate Institute.

Tokio.—It is reported that the German steamer Romolus, which was recently seized while en route to Vladivostock with a cargo of Caraiff coal, has been beached in Aomori Bay.

St. Petersburg.—Prince Sviatopolk-Mirsky, former Minister of the Interior, is seriously ill at Kharkoff.

Lugansk, Poland.—The situation here is becoming worse. Four thousand men have struck at the Hartmann works. A general strike of 2,000 miners in the Donetz coal fields is expected on March 6th.

St. Louis—Edward L. Proctorius, editor of the Westliche Post, has declined the decoration of Chevalier of the Royal Order of the Red Eagle, formally tendered last week by Imperial World's Fair German Commissioner. Dr. Theodore Lewald, on behalf of Emperor William. No explanation is offered.

Berlin,—The Government instead of re-arming the artillery during a period of several years as to the army appropriation bill indicated, is proceeding to re-arm it as fast as guns can be manufactured. The army establishment requires 3,498 guns with at least 2,000 reserve pieces. The type is a combination of the Krupp's improved guns with Ehrhardt's model.

Quincy, Mass.—The 1,200 granite cutters of this city began a strike to-day for a readjustment of hours and wages, practically tying up the granite manufacturing industry of the city. The new schedule demand is $3 a day for eight hours work, as the lowest rate. Unless a settlement is reached, from 2,000 to 2,500 men will be thrown out of work. It is expected the contest will be a protracted one.

STREET CAR IN A STORE.

Entirely New Kind of Accident on the Toronto Street Railway.

Toronto, March 6.—An entirely new kind of street car accident was developed yesterday morning, when about 7 o'clock a west-bound double-truck Queen and Dundas car, No. 742, jumped the tracks at the McCaul street points, and, racing across the street, went crashing in the gents' furnishing store on the northwest corner of Queen and McCaul streets. Mr. Allan Graham is the tenant of the store and he sleeps in the rear room. The car crashed through the store, bumped through the dividing wall with such force that Mr. Graham, bed and all, were thrown across the room and severely shaken.

The top flat of the building is occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Davey and their baby. Mr. Davey, who is an employee of the King Edward, had left for his business, and Mrs. Davey, though naturally very much alarmed, escaped unhurt, as did the baby.

Edward Lee, the motorman, and Archibald Rankin, conductor, stuck to their posts and escaped. Of the dozen or fifteen passengers in the car only one, Ernest Howe, of Shuter street, was seriously injured, he being cut and bruised in several places.

OF COURSE.

Doctor—Now what did your parents die of?

Patient—I can't remember exactly, but it wasn't anything serious.

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