Sunday School Lesson

August 11. Lesson VI.—Daniel Among the Lions—Daniel 6: 10, 11, 16-23. Golden Text—The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.—Psalm 34: 7.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE JEALOUS NOBLES, vs. 1-15.

II. THE HARMLESS LIONS, vs. 16-28.

INTRODUCTION — Who was Darius the Median, ch. 5: 31? There is no satisfactory answer to this question. The book of Daniel assumes that it was he who conquered Babylon, and that he was succeeded by Cyrus the Persian (chs. 6: 28; 9: 1; 10: 1; 11: 1). But it will be remembered that in Isaiah, chs. 40 to 48, Cyrus is represented as having been chosen by God to overthrow Babylon, Isa. 44: 28 to 45: 1; 48: 14. In the story of the return of the Jews from exile there is no mention of a Darius who reigned before Cyrus, Ezra 1: 1; 5: 13. In the ancient inscriptions, and in the Greek historians it is Cyrus who conquers Babylon, and who adds it immediately to his kingdom.

We know, however, that there was a Median kingdom before that of the Persians, and that Cyrus united Medes and Persians in his kingdom, ch. 5: 28. It is altogether likely that the army of Cyrus contained soldiers of both nations. It has, therefore, been conjectured that an officer of high rank, a Mede named Darius, may have been made, temporarily, ruler over Babylon under Cyrus. But it must be admitted that the acts of Darius, as described in ch. 6: 1, 25, 26, are not those of a subordinate ruler.

In view of this and other equally serious historical difficulties it has been held by many modern scholars that the book of Daniel is not to be regarded as history, but rather as a well-told story, with prophetic visions added, written long after the period of Cyrus, in the time of the persecution of the Jews by the Syrian king, Antiochus Epiphanes (B.C. 175-164), and intended to encourage them to continue steadfastly loyal to their ancient faith and customs. This view seems to be supported by the fact that in two of the visions of Daniel, Antiochus appears as last of a series of kings, a "little horn" that "made war with the saints," chs. 7: 8, 20, 21; 8: 9, and that in ch. 11 there is, in suggestive language, a detailed description of the events of the Greek period to the death of this same king. The very great religious value of the book will surely not be impaired by this view.

I. THE JEALOUS NOBLES, vs. 1-15.

It was a fine testimony to the high character of Daniel that his enemies could find no occasion nor fault in him. They said "We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel except we find it against him concerning the law of his God." As one of the three presidents he had no doubt held the princes (or astraps) to strict account (v. 2), and so was hated by them. Jealous of his preferment, and rebuked by his integrity and faithfulness they sought to destroy him.

Moffatt renders the first part of v. 3 as follows: "This Daniel distinguished himself more than all the presidents and satraps because of his rare ability" The disaffected princes came surging in a tumultuous throng before the king (v. 6 margin). They flattered him by proposing that for thirty days he should be treated as a god no petition during that time to be offered to any other God, or to any man in a place of authority. The king showed both pride and foolish weakness in consenting to sign such an outrageous decree, discovering only when it was too late that the purpose tof the princes was to secure the condemnation of Daniel.

Honorable and faithful in all things concerning his duty to the king, Daniel, nevertheless, would not submit to this decree. His duty to God came first. There was no attempt at concealment, and no weak compromise. He went into his house and there offered his prayer to God three times a day . . . as he did aforetime. For the custom of turning toward Jerusalem in prayer see I Kings 8: 44, 48; Psalm 55: 16, 17. The ancient Greek and other versions render the fourth word in v. 11, "kept watch," or "spied upon," and that is probably correct.

II. THE HARMLESS LIONS, vs. 16-28.

The princes of the Medes evidently distrusted the king's friendship for Daniel, and their seal was added to his on the stone that was laid upon the mouth of the den . . that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel. The presence of such a den need not excite surprise, for we know from the ancient inscription that hunting lions was king's sport, and apparently some of the beasts were kept shut up for that purpose.

The king's displeasure and grief were sincere. Yet there was in his mind some faint hope that Daniel's God would deliver him (v. 16). His first word, when he visits the den in the early morning is the question, "Is thy God . . . able to deliver thee?" His wrath was now turned upon Daniel's accusers, who suffered the dreadful fate which they had intended for him. Then he issued another edict commanding men everywhere in his kingdom to tremble and fear before the God of Daniel:

For he is the living God,
And he abideth for ever;
And his kingdom is one that cannot be destroyed,
And his dominion is everlasting;
He delivereth and rescueth,
And worketh signs and wonders
In heaven and in earth,
Who hath delivered Daniel
From the power of the lions.
—Charles, in Century Bible.

It is the same note of confidence that is struck here as in ch. 3: 17, 28. One can imagine with what comfort and assurance such words would come to the suffering martyrs of the Maccabean period. It was then that Mattathias, priest of Modin, in spite of a king's decree, said, "Yet will I and my sons and my brethren walk in the covenant of our fathers. God forbid that we should forsake the law and the ordinances. We will not hearken to the king's words to go from our religion, either on the right hand or on the left." And he encouraged his sons, the famous Maccbean brothers, to persevere in the way they had chosen, by reminding them of the constancy and faithfulness of the heroes of old, including Daniel who "for his innocency was delivered from the mouth of the lions." "And thus," he said, "consider ye . . . that none that put their trust in him shall be overcome" (I Maccabees 2: 19-22 and 49-61).

Tell the World

London Daily Telegraph (Cons.): British manufacturers are losing trade in Canada and elsewhere not because their goods are inferior or because their prices are too high, but because they hide their light under a bushel. . .. Those manufacturers—and there are still too many of them in England—who think that, when they have made a good article and quoted a fair price for it, they can wait for buyers to come to them are laboring under a fatal delusion. Our potential customers in Canada and other Dominions cannot be expected to search out the British firms that might supply their eeds The mountain will not come to Mahomet, but Mahomet must go to the mountain. In other words, our would-be exporters need to make their goods widely known before they can sell them, and any lingehing belief that advertisement is a luxury instead of a necessary must be eradicated from the British business mind.

Talkie Talk

London Daily Chronicle (Lib.): Without the slightest wish to crab the much-talked-of Talkies, but rather with the intention of echoing the thoughts of most prudent people, we would suggest that the Talkies are being talked about a little too much and a little too loudly. The Talkies are a wonderful achievement, and all those patient and ingenious experimenters who have accomplished it are entitled to the warmest congratulations. But the assumption that the older "silent drama" has automatically become a back number should not be accepted without the soberest scrutiny.

He: Tom says you don't count at all with him.

She: No. He must have kissed me a hundred times, but I didn't count.

No. 965—Cunning Bloomer Dress. This style is designed in sizes 2, 4 and 6 years. Size 4 requires 2¼ yards of 36-inch material.

No. 287—New Flare. This style is designed in sizes 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust measure. Size 36 requires 3¾ yards of 40-inch material with ¼ yards of 27-inch contrasting and 1½ yards of binding.

No. 394—No Wonder! This style is designed in sizes 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust measure. Size 36 requires 3½ yards of 40-inch material with ⅜ yard of 36-inch contrasting.

No. 383—Flattering Lines. This style is designed in sizes 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust measure. Size 36 requires 3½ yards of 40-inch material with ⅜ yard of 27-inch extra material for panel facing.

No. 875—Novel Two-Piece Dress. This style is designed in sizes 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 years. Size 8 requires 1⅝ yards of 40-inch material with ⅜ yard of 36-inch contrasting and ⅝ yard of lining.

No. 188—Outstanding Smartness. This style is designed in sizes 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust measure. Size 36 requires 3 yards of 40-inch material with ⅜ yard of 40-inch contrasting.

Emb. No. 11117—Design for Bolster Cover and Curtains. Pattern provides motifs for one pair curtains and one bolster cover. Design for bolster cover measures 24 by 9 inches. Motifs for curtain measures 6 by 13 inches and 24 by 9 inches for valance (blue).

We suggest that when you send for this pattern, you enclose 10 cents additional for a copy of our Fashion Magazine. It's just filled with delightful styles, including smart ensembles, and cute designs for the kiddies.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such pattern as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by an early mail.

ALL PATTERNS 20 CENTS IN STAMPS OR COIN (COIN PREFERRED.) WRAP COIN CAREFULLY.

Conservatism and the Classes

Saturday Review (London): Shakespeare himself is the most effective of Tory agents. If English education consisted, like the Roman, almost exclusively of the study of the national poetry, our Socialists could shut up shop. The Englishman's political ideal, when he is not led astray to follow after strange gods, is the maximum of private liberty compatible with public order. That is also, in one of its aspects, the ideal of the Conservative Party; and it is what Shakespeare meant by that magical and most English phrase, "night's rest and neighborhood." . . . The tone of English literature is so incurably aristocratic that the Conservatives have no need to worry about propaganda. They have but to encourage the sale of cheap editions of the national classics.

Empire Free Trade

London Daily Express (Ind. Cons.): The time is approaching when Free Trade will be the fiscal law of the British Empire, and when behind a tariff imposed on foreign goods and produce trade between the vartous parts of the Empire will flow as unrestrictedly as between the various States in the American Union.

Scotland and the U.S. Quotas

Glasgow Herald (Cons.): (The new U.S. immigration law, which came into force eon July 2, reduces the Irish Free State quota by some 10,000 and increases appreciably the quotas from England and Scotland.) The new law, moreover, puts greater temptation than ever in the way of those inhabitants of Scotland who are inclined to emigrate either by natural wanderlust or economic pressure. Thousands who might have remained at home or gone to swell the population of our Dominions have now the opportunity of taking advantage of the easier means of access to Ellis Island which the new quota affords. Herein is a distinct danger both to Scotland and to the Empire. Thus we cannot utter paeans over this new American law. While admitting its usefulness to the States, we recognize all too painfully the obstacles it may place in the way of the continued well-being and progress of the Scottish race.

Vertical Aerial Photographs

Vertical aerial photographs taken in Canada during the season of 1928 by the Royal Canadin Air Force for the Topographical Survey, Department of the Interior, covered 31,400 square miles.

The Air Gun and the Birds

The question of the use of the air-gun and the air rifle has become such a serious one that parents, teachers, and boys who have come to years of understanding should consider very earnestly what their duty is in regard to the matter.

To the thoughtful man or woman it seems astonishing that any parent can allow his child the possession of a toy dangerous to the safety of the child and his companions, and demoralizing to the character through its encouragement to cruelty.

To kill for the mere sake of killing, to find pleasure in frightening, wounding or destroying any living creature, is a certain way to cultivate cruelty and the indifference to suffering which oftentimes leads to serious crimes.

Boys who have been met in the fields or woods carrying air-guns or air rifles, when questioned, have frequently replied that they are "only shooting English sparrows," and this is, they have been told, commendable sport.

There is a close enough resemblance between the English sparrow, the chipping sparrow and the tree sparrow to make it almost a certainty that boys at a shooting distance could not distinguish between them, and when a boy is out for the fun of shooting it is not at all likely he would try to do so. A boy of about twelve or fourteen years of age was met in a field carrying an air-gun and a bag. Upon being asked what he was doing, he answered that he was shooting English sparrows. The bag was examined and in it were found song-sparrows, chipping sparrows, larks and robins. The boy was enjoying killing birds and evidently cared very little about the kind of a bird he killed so long as his lust of killing was satisfied.

Economics and the Empire

Winnipeg Free Press (Ind. Cons.): Into force on July 2, reduces the Irish Empire trade solidarity is an inevitable thing, although the basis on which it is to be worked out is still to be found. It is not aided greatly by what Mr. Snowden calls the reckless enthusiasm of Lork Beaverbrook for free trade within the Empire and tariffs against all the world. It is not aided either by the South African treaty with Germany, nor again by Mr .Snowden's academic opposition to protection of any description. Economic pressure is welding the Empire more closely together, and thoughtful study of the whole question will have better results than the off-hand expression of theories which may or may not be supportable in view of the actual condition.

Home Sweet Home!

Coristine Jope-Slade in the Woman's Journal: Home is still there, but no one is living in it permanently but the bary. The other occupants wander cheerfully in and out and just leave it there till they come back. It isn't clamped over them like a closhe over lettuce for them to mature in any more. Let us be starkly honest about this home business. It is the exile's eyes that dim over "Home, Sweet Home," not the eyes of the daughter of the house sitting in the middle of the scene listening to the touching words over the wireless because it's the maid's night out.

Speeding and Accidents

Quebec Soleil (Lib.): Speeding is the cause of most of our accidents, and it is remarkable that they are more frequent in flat countries like Manitoba than they are in more or less undulating countries like our own. Evidently the temptation to burn up the miles is very great, and far too many fall victims to it. But it is inconceivable that practically ten per cent. of accidents can be attributed to drunkenness. This species of culprit is severely punished in this Province, when he is arrested. But is he arrested often enough?

MISS IS DIPPY

Having plunged to the cold Mississippi,
She was rescued repentant and drippy;
And when asked why she jumped,
"Just a psychical slump,"
She replied: "In a word, I was dippy."

Slenderization Through Dress

Rules issued to movie stars in Hollywood recently by Director Al Santell will be of interest to women the world over, for he is a genius in slenderization and making women look from 10 to 15 pounds lighter in weight than they really are.

Square neck lines, he points out, as well as those that bring a scarf or similar detail high across the throat line from shoulder to shoulder, shorten the apparent length of the face and increase its apparent width. This neckline, then is suitable only for the very thin type.

The round neckline, having the effect of connecting the eyes and the sides of the neck also tends to increase the apparent width of the face. So it is the woman with a narrow face and long, thin neck who finds the high, close, round line most becoming. The round and square neckliness are decidedly not for the woman with the round face.

The long, narrow V-line tends to make the face and throat appear longer and more slender. This, therefore, should be the choice of the round-faced type. The narrow oval neckline is generally becoming, adding length and slenderness to the broad face and lending an appearance of roundness to the thin-faced woman.

A neckline that places emphasis on one side sometimes emphasizes an irregularity in the features. In other cases, it proves flattering in the manner it breaks up long lines in the figure. So it is well before adopting it to study the effect on both the face and figure of the asymmetrical neckline.

Others recommendations that Mr. Santell makes to the woman who wants an effect of slenderness are:

"Wear long, tight sleeves and hide bare upper arms.

"Wear black dresses and avoid designs in the materials.

"Wear skirts well below the knees to avoid awkwardness.

"Wear tailored suits when possible; have gowns cut on long, plain lines without trimming.

"Wear dark hose at all times.

"Wear plain shoes without contrasting leathers.

"Don't wrap furs closely about the neck; you need long, prependicular lines.

"Wear soft-brimmed hats and avoid small hats."

Montreal's Prosperity

Le Canada (Lib.): Two factors are present to establish without contradiction that Montreal is brimfull with prosperity. We have, on one side, a substantial increase in the population, and, on the other hand, an appreciable reduction in the number of unemployed. This instantly leads us to the suppositio nthat there is an improvement not only in construction, but also in all the branches of human activity. . . . . It appear that our industries are growing steadily, much faster, in fact, than we imagine.

Our Coastal Fisheries

The inshore or coastal fishery of Canada is carried on in small boats usually motor driven, with crews of two or three men, and in a class of small vessels with crews of from four to seven men. The means of capture employed by boat fishermen are gill nets and hooks and lines, both hand lines and trawls; whilst from the shore are operated trap nets, haul seines and weirs.

Landsman: Hey, you sailorman, what makes you think you'd be a good baseball player?

Sailor: Oh, I've pitched and tossed on the ocean for ten years.

Community Living

Pleven, Bulgaria—The village of Petarnitsa, whose name signifies that it is built on the rocks, presents many striking examples of the working of the communal spirit that has long characterized the Slavs and especially the Bulgarians.

In this little town, which is strung along the steep banks of a narrow creek, there are 500 houses and an equal number of barns, almost all of which are new. They are solid structures of modern design made out of sun-dried or kiln-dried bricks, plastered over both inside and out. The dwellings have two stories and a basement, are roofed with excellent rectangular tiles and often have flowers in the windows and in the yard; while the barns, fashioned after models supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture, have brick floors, large haymows and cement reservoirs for manure. All of these structures have been built since the World War, in spite of hard times and political turmoil.

This has been possible because the people help each other. When the young people marry, the neighbors give them bounteous and useful gifts. Nowadays the young couples want to set up housekeeping for themselves. This is a new departure in Bulgarian customs. Formerly the households consisted of the parents, the sons their wives and their children. The absolute master of the household was the grandfather and everything was held in common.

All property belonged to the group. All worked for the community, as the grandfather directed, and all gains went into the common treasury, also held by the grandfather. Fathers, 45 or 50 years old, had to ask this chief for money to buy shoes for the children or slates or lead pencils, or anything else. Naturally, such a state of affairs seemed undesirable to the latest "younger generation" and they have insisted on having their own homes and enterprises. This has required much division of land and animals and machinery, and would have been very difficult if the whole community had not co-operated to help the young folks.

At a wedding in Petarnitsa wheat and corn and other products are given by the wago nload. No special invitations are sent out as everyone in the village knows that he or she will be a welcome guest. They come with full sacks and often supply the newly wedded with enough food to last them for more than a year. And as a general rule the poorer the bride and groom are, the greater is the liberality of the neighbors. It has become a proverb that Petarnitsa is a good place to be married in.

This village, as most others, possesses a large common grazing ground, public woods, a co-operative dairy and creamery, a credit co-operative, a co-operative bank, an gricultural bank, communal property for the support of the school, communal property for the support of the village library, a practical agricultural school, a communal stable for stock improvement and a communal nursery for supplying mulberry shoots, necessary for the feeding of silkworms which every family raises. Perhaps it is because they all help each other in this way that the peasants of "The Village on the Rocks" are so happy and so proud of their home town.

Large Electric Power Systems

It has become the custom to rate as lare electric power systems those inter-connected plants under one financial control and management with an annual output of 100,000,000 kilowatt-hours or more. The latest figures available show that Canada has 17 such systems, of which each of the first four averages nearly two and a half billion kilowatt hours per annum. The interconnection of electric power plants into large systems has been proved to give great advantages in economy, efficiency, and reliability of service, and these 17 systems represent over 90 per cent. of the total central station output in the Dominion.

Bituminous Sand in Canada

There is no established production of bituminous sand in Canada as yet. Prior to 1927 approximately 2,000 tons had been shipped from the Alberta deposits for use in connection with laboratory investigations and for demonstration purposes. During 1927 shipments agregating upwards of 3,000tons were used for demonstration purposes at Edmonton and Jasper, Alberta, chiefly for surfacing roads and walks.

Minerals in Canadian Arctic

Exploration has indicated that the rocks of the Canadian Arctic mainland and archipelgo are similar to those that chancterize the southern and better known parts of the Dominion. A number of economic minerals are known to exist at different points, although the extent and value of these deposits, which include coal of Carboniferous and Tertiary age, and graphite, mica, and native copper of Precambrian age, have not yet been determined.

Our International Boundary

The International Boundary between Canada and the United States, including Alaska, is 5,500 miles in length.

MUTT AND JEFF—

It's A Tough Life These Days.

ONTARIO ARCHIVES
TORONTO