

MEASURING A MAN BY HIS TROUBLES

The International Sunday School Lesson For December 2nd is "Nehemiah Rebuilds the Walls of Jerusalem." Nehemiah 4.

By William T. Ellis.

If the visitor to Jerusalem just prior to the war could escape the clutches of the professional guide, and get into the hands of some one who really knew the city, and what archaeological investigation has done there, he naturally became interested in the question of the walls of Jerusalem. Many problems hinge on the location of the walls. Thus, the site of Calvary is partly determined thereby.

At several points about Jerusalem and in Jerusalem, the old walls may be seen, but they must be looked for under ground. Taken down into the cellar of a French Catholic school one day, I was shown a long stretch of wall. "This," said my friend, "is Nehemiah's wall. You notice how different it is from Herod's wall. The latter had well-dressed stones, whereas these, as you see, while square at the edges, are rough and unfinished on the sides. The reason is plain. Nehemiah was building in haste. He was limited in time, in labor and in tools, his work, while great and strong, bears this characteristic of poverty and haste wherever we find it."

The wonder of the wall to me was the immensity of the blocks. Nehemiah employed stones fully as large as those of the walls of Solomon's Temple. The blocks were from three to five feet long and two to three feet thick. The labor of preparing and placing them must have been immense. The best light I have had on this lesson is my recollection of the character of the wall that Nehemiah built. Naturally, as I stood beside this stonework, I had tender and admiring thoughts for the old Jews and their magnificent leader, who, in a period of distress and persecution,

yet wrought so nobly for the defence of their Holy City.

A Man As a Wall.

Great as was this work, still greater was the worker. We may marvel at the building of a new wall out of the rubbish heap of the old city, with the perilous work of quarrying out where enemies were most dangerous, and the slow, toilsome task of hauling the stones into position. Our greatest admiration, however, is reserved for Nehemiah, the master builder, who meant more to Jerusalem than all the stones that he had put into place. A city's best defence is not in brick and mortar and stone and timber, but in its men. A commander that possesses a Nehemiah has stouter walls than those of old Jerusalem. This Nehemiah had a heart, a head and a hand for building. His word caught a vision; his hands turned the vision into solid masonry.

It is easy to understand the devotion of a man who is building to protect his own family from death and disaster. Self-preservation is the law which then works. We must rise to higher levels, however, to find the explanation for such a man as Nehemiah, who deserted luxury and affluence in an Oriental court, where he stood in the presence of the great king, for the sake of casting in his lot with his own fellow-patriots in their poverty and danger. Nehemiah was greater in the act of renouncing the court of Persia than when he stood, taskmaster and general, upon the rising walls of Jerusalem. His patriotism was equal to self-renunciation. It was splendidly selfless. In the world's honor roll of the heroes

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of patriotism, Nehemiah's name stands high.

What Is Your Trouble?

After the news of the plight of Jerusalem had been borne to him by travellers from Palestine, Nehemiah went about the court of Shushan with a woebegone face. Anybody who saw him could read at once that he was in trouble. Now, everybody has trouble, but some are troubled by more troubles than others. One man wears a glum face because he lost a collar button when he was dressing in the morning; another is sour of visage because his breakfast was not well cooked; still another looks troubled because financial difficulties have overtaken him. The newspapers report entire communities as appearing dismal because their homes have been destroyed by fire. The kind of trouble that troubles a man is a fairly good index of his character. Nehemiah's sad countenance was because of his nation's pitiable plight. He was above moping among his race with a melancholy face on account of his own petty difficulties. His passion for his people was rooted so deeply in his soul that it bore the fruit of sorrow on his features. He did not think about it like all truly great men in a crisis he was free from self-consciousness—but the very sorrow of Nehemiah was proof of his greatness. A nation's woe rested heavily upon his heart. He wept of the same reason that a greater Son of Israel wept to weep a few centuries later. We should link Nehemiah's sorrow over Jerusalem's plight, with that other supreme Patriot, who also wept over the need of the same city.

Since everybody must have some sort of trouble, let us have the big troubles, troubles that come to men of full stature, the troubles that are index of the chivalry of spirit and Christliness of sympathy. If we weep, let it not be for our own petty trials, but for our nation's need and the world's woe.

When the Boss Notices.

Old Artaxerxes must have been a good king to work under. When his cup-bearer appeared sad of countenance, the king was not so engrossed in affairs of state that he had no time for kindly interest in the welfare of his retainers. He inquired solicitously for the cause of Nehemiah's sorrow. That is the kind of employer to serve, one who cares for the personal welfare of those under him. Anybody can work well for a man who has this spirit. The labor problem would be half solved if the boss would but notice their men as men, with a care for their personal needs and sufferings. There is not usually a servant question in the kitchen of the mistress who is solicitous about the welfare of her helper, and who looks upon her assistant first of all as a fellow woman rather than as a servant.

Artaxerxes got at the bottom of Nehemiah's trouble and asked how he could help. Instantly the cup-bearer shot a prayer to the King of kings in behalf of the petitioner, his petition to this king upon his earthly throne. It is good statesmanship to bear in mind ever that over all rules God, and that He is still a very present help in trouble.

Wanted—A Hard Job.

In that atmosphere of sycophancy, it must have been a surprise to Artaxerxes to find that his cup-bearer's petition was not for a promotion or for a larger income, or for some increased honor, but rather for a hard job that meant first of all renunciation. Nehemiah told him how Judah, the capital of his heart, was laid waste. Then he asked that he himself be sent to rebuild it. He could have petitioned for a royal commission to investigate and to issue necessary commands; however, ever, was not that sort of man. Had he been, the Sunday schools of the world would not to-day be studying about him. He was a "send me" man, and that is why his place in history is fixed.

With Oriental reverence for the memory and graves of his ancestors, he portrayed the plight of the city of his fathers' sepulchres, and the king's answer was sympathetic. All the necessary letters and privileges were given to Nehemiah, and he went forth upon his long journey by the Tigris-Euphrates valley until he could come again to Jerusalem, the city of Zion.

This was a man who did not deplore his work. He was not afraid to attempt things for himself. He wanted personal knowledge of conditions.

Mother and Children Had Awful Coughs

Were Cured by DR. WOOD'S NORWAY PINE SYRUP

Mrs. Arthur Appleyard, Novar, Ont., writes: "This past winter my children and I had awful colds and coughs which we got by being in drafts. I tried a number of different remedies for us, but got no relief. I thought I would try Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup, and I found it a most excellent and sure cure. It gave relief to the tickling in the throat and stopped the cough and with a few bottles we were all cured."

Dr. Wood's Norway Pine Syrup is a remedy that has been on the market for over twenty-five years, and we can recommend it as being, without doubt, the best cure for coughs and colds that you can possibly procure.

There are a lot of imitations on the market, so when you ask for "Dr. Wood's" see that you get it. Put up in a yellow wrapper, three pine trees the trade mark; price 25c and 50c; manufactured only by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

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before he went ahead. He was no heedless agitator; to enter into denunciations and appeals without first being sure of his facts. Slipping as unostentatiously as possible into the city, making known his purposes to nobody, Nehemiah himself went out in the midnight darkness to traverse the heaps of rubbish which had once been the walls of Jerusalem. He was a commander-in-chief who first inspected the battlefield in person. What thoughts must have thrilled him as he gazed about that city now in ruins, so eloquent with the deeds of his fathers!

Man Who Can Work With Men.

The psychological explanation of successful achievement in a common cause is what is known as the athletic field as "team work." To solidify the sentiment of many until it becomes the sentiment of one is to insure success. Nehemiah said, "Come, let us build." He identified himself with the least of the returned exiles. The plenipotentiary from Persia's court made common cause with the poorest and humblest carrier of stone. He heartened the people with a vision of what might be, and fired their hearts with a resolution to do a common work in unison.

It has been proved many times that the first step in a successful building enterprise is not a raising of money, but the welding into unity of the purposes of all who are interested. A common mind in the people is the first requisite. Nehemiah did this. He interested all the people, and even the project of the railings and tamings of enemies to solidify the city's sentiment.

Good work angers bad men. That is why the enemies of Nehemiah, about whom we shall hear more later, did their utmost to destroy the project of Nehemiah. Yet despite discouragement and fear and real hardships, the people stood together with their great leader. Happy is the man who can inspire with a vision his fellow-workers that they may stand fast to their original purpose. Harry Koopman has said:

"When I am dead May this with truth be said, On the rude stone that marks my lowly head That spite of doubt and indecision, In spite of weakness, lameness, blindness, Heart's treachery and fate's unkindness, Neglect of friends and score of foes Stark poverty and all its woes, The body's ills that cloud the mind, Still through my earthly course I went, Not disobedient Unto the heavenly vision."

Warring and Working. Every real man must work, every real man must fight. The danger is that he will let the fighting interfere with the work. Nehemiah was too canny for this. He prepared his people for fighting. He divided the labor among the watchers and the workers. Every man who bore a trowel bore also a sword. The fear of a foe was not permitted to drive the workers from the wall. While they watched, they worked. The work's the thing. No war is good war, no fighting is good fighting, that deters a man from carrying out his first life purposes.

Like a good general, with such a battle-cry as the Texans have in "Remember the Alamo," Nehemiah fired his followers with the war cry, "Remember the Lord, who is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons and your daughters, your wives, and your houses." He made men of them by rallying them to the great allegiances. He let the men fight over against their own households, so that anxiety would not distract them from their work. All the strong human considerations were brought to bear in carrying out this great patriotic and religious enterprise. Always the leader set an example of fidelity, toiling through long weeks without once removing his clothes.

Thus it came to pass that as the wall was rising layer by layer there was being builded in the community a still greater defence in the hearts of the people, who were being stoutheaded and fired with renewed patriotism and religious devotion. The bulwarks of a city are in the souls of its citizens. That was the great wall that Nehemiah built.

Soldiers in Canada desiring to purchase a Victory Bond of \$50 may have until the 2nd September for repayment.

George Montleth, sixty years of age, was burned to death in a house, where he lived alone, at Erie Rest, Nova Scotia.

SAFE-BLOWERS' HAUL; SUBDUING WATCHMEN

Cleveland Store Robbed of Between \$15,000 and 20,000 in Goods and Money

Cleveland, O., Nov. 28.—Three night watchmen were found bound and gagged in the vault at the Higbee company store, where they had been locked by four safe blowers, who had broken into the strong box and escaped with a rich haul.

Officials of the company said the safe blowers got between \$5,000 and \$10,000 in cash and stole \$10,000 worth of merchandise, including jewelry and furs.

The watchmen, when released, were almost suffocated, but were revived. They said the cracksmen gained entrance to the building by posing as United States secret service men looking for German spies who were reported to have plotted to set fire to the building.

A CARDINAL'S WARNING.

Ireland's Hopes Being Blasted When Brightening.

Dublin, Nov. 28.—Cardinal Logue ordered prayers for peace in the Armagh Church, and said:

"Whether due to the demoralization of the world by war or to a fate hanging over unhappy Ireland, blasting the hopes which they seem to brighten, an agitation is spreading here which is ill-considered and Utopian and cannot fail to entail suffering, disorganization and danger to the end of disaster, defeat, and collapse, and all in pursuit of a dream no sober man can hope to see realized, namely, the establishment of an Irish republic either by an appeal to the potentates of Europe at the Peace Conference or by hurling an unarmed people against an empire of five millions under arms, a thing which would be ridiculous if it were not so mischievous and fraught with such danger to an ardent, generous and patriotic people."

The body of Sir Leander Starr Jameson, associate of Cecil Rhodes, will be sent to Bulawayo, British South Africa, for interment beside the body of Mr. Rhodes. The C.P.R. is to rename certain stations in commemoration of famous battles where Canadian troops have won renown. Toronto has subscribed for \$47,317,950 worth of Victory Bonds.

Hair Coming Out?

Dandruff causes a feverish irritation of the scalp, the hair-roots shrink, loosen and then the hair comes out fast. To stop falling hair at once and rid the scalp of every particle of dandruff, get a small bottle of Danderine at any drug store for a few cents, pour a little in your hand and rub it into the scalp. After several applications the hair stops coming out and you can't find any dandruff.

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The two little children of John Plombert, a Finnish farmer in Combe township, near Port Arthur, perished in the flames which destroyed their home in the absence of the parents. At Halesbury Chief Justice Fulconbridge pronounced sentence of twenty-five years' imprisonment on Telephore Lacarte, a farmer from Charifon. The prisoner's fourteen-year-old daughter was complainant.

The First seven jewel thin bridge model watch to sell at anywhere near its price was the Ingersoll Reliance shown above. It's a stylish watch and an accurate watch and it's guaranteed. Screw case for \$4.50 and gold filled case for \$7.50. At the dealers'. The finest watch made by Ingersoll and fine enough for any man. ROBT. H. INGERSOLL & BRO. 128 Bleury Street Montreal, Canada Ingersoll Watches