

WEEKLY SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

The International Uniform Sunday School Lesson for Nov. 28: "Gideon and the Three Hundred."—Judges 7:4-8, 19-21.

By William E. Ghroy, D.D., Editor of The Congregationalist.

In the lesson dealing with Caleb's faithfulness and reward it was said that "the land had rest from war." Such a happy condition did not last. Israel in the new home was surrounded with enemies, and, as we find in chapter six of Judges, Israel's worst enemy was in some measure herself. The evil and foolish courses of the children of Israel "delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years."

ing in dens and caves in the mountains so that they might escape from the ravages of the Midianites, with no safety for their crops, the cattle, or themselves.

Spirit of Gideon.

Gideon was engaged in the very practical business of threshing wheat by the winnowing to hide it from the Midianites when the divine call came to him to effect the deliverance of his people.

But with Gideon, as with Moses, there is the sense of his own weakness and unworthiness. "Oh, my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? Behold my family is the poorest in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

That spirit is noteworthy in this

age when we are so apt to think that leadership and effectiveness depend so much upon having a good opinion of one's self.

How often we say, "If you don't believe in yourself nobody else will believe in you." How much we urge young people to put on a bold front and to value themselves highly. But here we have, as in many other places in Scripture, an evidence of the place of true humility in preparation for leadership. How can one avail himself of the power of God if he feels an undue confidence in his own strength and abilities?

But Gideon was not simply a man of humility and devotion. "The spirit of the Lord came upon him," and he showed himself a man of action. He sent messengers to gather the people together and prepare them for the conflict. But the quality of his faith was shown in the way in which he yielded to divine guidance in selecting from the mass of the people an army of only three hundred men.

Man of Action.

Surely this is one of the most remarkable stories in all history; a leader going forth to battle and deliberately reducing enormously the number of his army. As late as last century Napoleon could make the boast that "God is on the side of the great battalions." But the writer of the book of Judges knew better. Gideon knew better.

So he divided his 300 men into three companies, putting in each man's hand a trumpet, an empty pitcher, and a lamp within the pitcher.

Picture the commotion, the appearances of an amazing host, as in the darkness of the night, outside of the camp of the Midianites. Gideon blew his trumpet and every man of the 300 scattered in the three companies at the same instant blew his trumpet, breaking his pitcher and revealing his lamp!

Enemy Fear-Stricken.

Every trumpet and every lamp must have suggested to the Midianites a company rather than an individual, and the smashing of the pitchers must have seemed like the commotion attendant on the movement of a great army. Was it any wonder that the hosts of Midian were fear-stricken and fled?

The whole thing reminds us of the fall of Jericho, and it again illustrates the power of a determined minority, resourceful and full of spiritual strategy. How often in the midst of the hosts of evil is there the need of recalling the courage and effectiveness of Gideon and his band! "The sword of the Lord and of Gideon" is a powerful rallying cry.

Three hundred determined men with that watch cry and a leader like Gideon could unquestionably accomplish quite as great things in our modern day as Gideon and his army accomplished long ago.

EPAULETS



With the same sports hat in felt, these large flat flowers, of the same felt which makes the hat, are shown:

FREE CITIZENSHIP.

The Subject of a Sermon at St. Andrew's, Picton.

Picton, Nov. 25.—A powerful and convincing address was delivered on Sunday morning at the Presbyterian Church, Picton, by the pastor, Rev. W. M. Fee, M.A. Speaking from the text "And Esau said I was free born," Mr. Fee told his congregation that the great issue in Ontario political and moral, must be decided by the electors. We have responsible

government, whereby the Legislature and Governments are responsible to the electors. Electors have this check upon the government on election day, but only Almighty God has any check upon the elector. Alone before God you mark your ballot. You hold a franchise secured at great cost, not to you but to former generations. "I urge upon you," he said, "your obligation to your country, before God. This is the duty of the church as I see it, and the church can go no further. A distinctly party issue belongs to the open forum, not to the pulpit. Not that politics which is the public business, and should be the greatest, highest, and finest business in the world, is unclean as some allege, but that all parties are represented in the church. You have

the same sources of information open to each one of you. Use them all. Have an open mind and a strong backbone then follow your reason and conscience. The church's business is to help men to be wise and strong, women to be good, pure and true and it is for the church to teach religion and good morals and create an inspiration that may enable men and women to stand true to their convictions now and ever. It is my business to urge that this obligation of citizenship is upon you, a responsibility high and sacred before God. Further I may not go. I speak only for myself and my church, as I understand it. Then gird your souls with strength; quit yourselves like men; be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, and the right will triumph, the good will

prevail, and peace will cover the earth.

A REGRETTED DEATH.

Following a Hunt R. H. Smith, Wagarville, Passes. Wagarville, Nov. 24.—The cheese factory has closed after a very successful season under the management of Simon Jackson. The hunters have returned and report deer plentiful. Rev. Mr. Harper, of the Standard church, will hold service at Wagarville every Wednesday eve-

ning at 7.30 o'clock. Gordon Raymond will move on the farm formerly occupied by Thomas Buckley, Victor E. Kirkland, Perth; called on friends here last week. The death of R. H. Smith, a highly respected resident is regretted. Deceased was taken ill when on a hunting trip in the north country. He was brought home for treatment and passed away at his late residence, Wagarville, on Saturday 20. He will be much missed as he was known as a good neighbor and well respected.



Gwendolyn Rose, left, in tigerskin and beaver. Mrs. Theodore Grosvenor wears a fur-lined coat.

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This is the sale you have been waiting for—this is the great annual event that women welcome so eagerly. It offers great savings on smart, fashionable, dependable merchandise of the Jackson-Metivier quality. All gifts are boxed ready for sending at this sale.

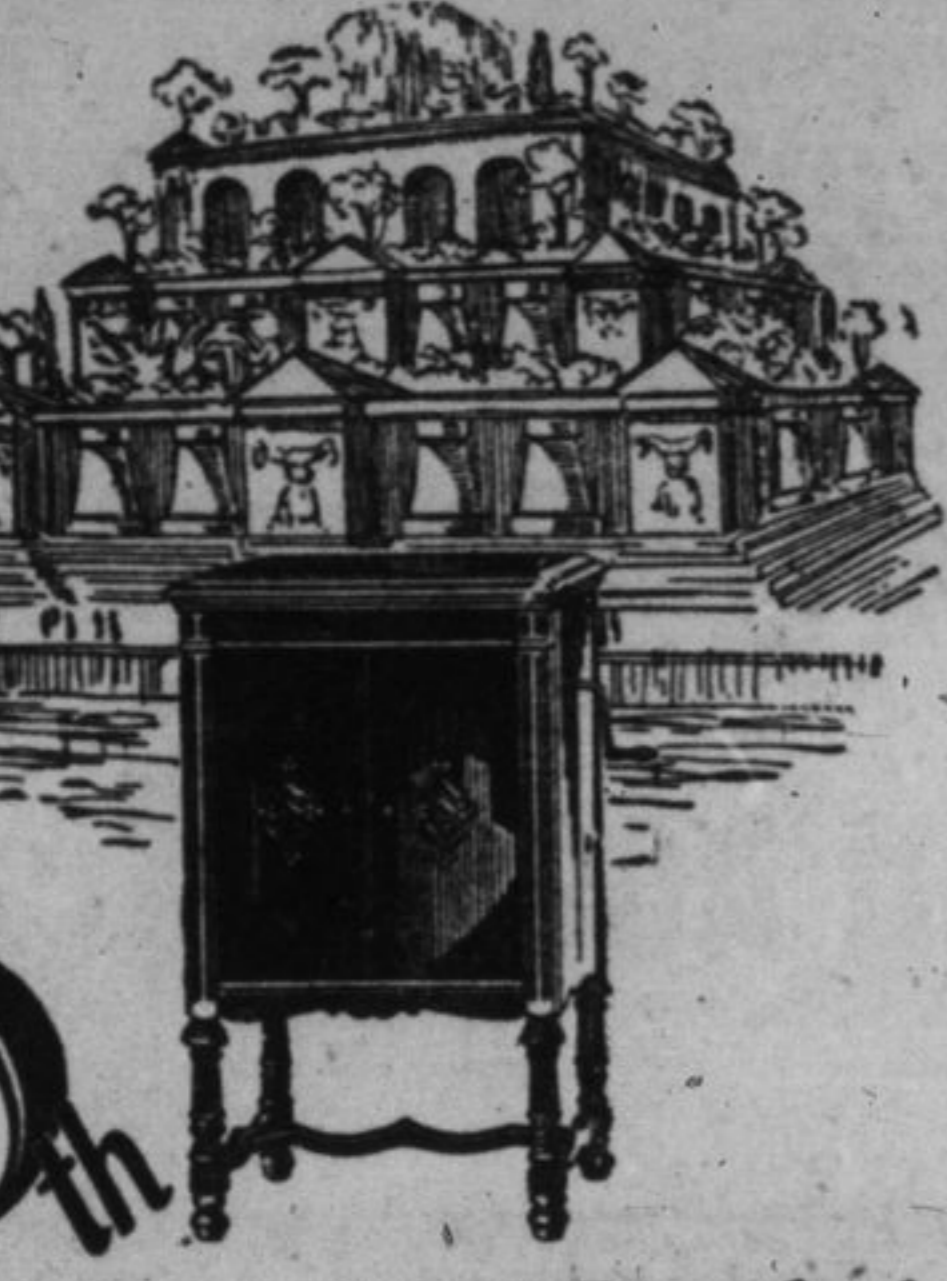
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