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### ENGLAND PIANO.

John G. Meagher,

#### LOT'S CHOICE.

NOTES ON THE INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON.

For Sunday, Feb. 6-Lesson Text, Gen. xiii, 1-13; Golden Text, Matt. vi, 33. Critical and Practical Notes by Samuel Ives Curtiss, Ph. D., D. D., of Chicago.

Introduction.—Abram went to Egypt on account of a famine in Canaan. We learn from other sources that the race of Shemites frequently went thither, and that many of them were dwelling in Egypt in the time of the patriarch. The narrative told of Abram's visit there is said by Egyptian scholars to be true to life down to the minutest details. It was no idle fear that Abram entertained that his wife might be taken from him, for in Egyptian story we read of a similar case. The conduct of the patriarch in resorting to falsehood to protect himself is indeed a dark stain on his character; but we must remember that he had come out from a heathen country, where the standard of morality was very low. He had no helps whatever in his surroundings. Moreover, Scripture does not present the Old Testament patriarchs as model saints. It exhibits them as they are-Noah in his drunkenness (Gen. ix, 21) and Abram in his deception (Gen. xii, 13)—and it shows how through God's grace they and men like them, who by nature are sinners, are pardoned and made heirs of his promises. THE LESSON.

Seeking first the kingdom of God-Abram recognizes the cailing of God. He does not remain in Egypt any longer than is necessary. He went there on account of the famine. As soon as it is over he leaves the country. He is under God's direction. All his journeyings are ordered by him. Under such leadership, although he did not go to Egypt to get wealth, he secures it. From a New Testament point of view, he had sought first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and the things which he did not seek, but which men most earnestly desire, in the shape of worldly prosperity, were added. It would be well if every one beginning life would determine to seek first the kingdom of God, to settle first the question as to his Christian hope. If God sees that a man is likely to be a good steward, after this question has been settled, he can make him rich.

Abram journeyed "unto the south" after he went up from Egypt; not that he took a southerly course, but that he went to the lower part of Canaan, which was called the south.

The House of God First (vs. 3, 4).—To what point do his eyes turn in his homeward journey to his adopted country! To an altar, to the house of God. His first thought was not how he might increase his possessions or find the most pleasant spot in the land, but it was the desire to worship God in a consecrated place which attracted his footsteps. He was like David in his love of the place where God was worshiped.

"There Abram called on the name of the Lord." That will be a happy life that is begun in true religion. That will be a prosperous home that is set up in prayer. We may all well say to the Lord at the beginning of any new undertaking: "If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence."

The First Peacemaker (v. 5), -Not only are God's servants often blessed in the acqusition of property, but also those who are with them, for their sakes. Lot appears to have been blessed on Abram's account. Laban was blessed on account of Jacob (Gen. xxx, 27); Potiphar on account of Joseph (Gen. xxxix,

Vs. 6, 7. It was almost impossible to avoid contention between the berdmen. In a country like that of Canaan, where there is no rain for many weeks, and where wells are scarce and very valuable, there were special reasons for annoyance, and these were aggravated by the presence of the Canaanite and Perrizite in the land, who would require their share of pasture and water.

Vs. 8, 9. The quarrel which began with the herdmen was likely to embitter the relations between Abram and his nephew. He therefore proposes that they should separate, and is a model to all who have a dispute. As older, Abram had the right to choose the better part of the land for himself. As more powerful, he could have easily enforced that right; but he is determined to have no quarrel. Because in the Semitic sense of the term he and Lot are brethren, that is, near relatives, he is ready to yield what is rightfully his. In this he is the first great peacemaker, and an example of Christian meekness and forbearance to people in this grasping age.

Lot's Selfish Choice (vs. 10, 11). - Lot is a good example of the people who are always crowding for the best places, and who have no regard for the rights of others in carrying out their selfish plans. Lot saw the beautiful plain of the Jordan, which lay before him like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt, which they had just left, possibly in all the loveliness of early spring. He was not even courteous enough to suggest that his uncle should take it. He was not grateful enough to think that his uncle, who had been his guardian, deserved it, and that every consideration of honor and gratitude should have led him to insist that Abram should choose first. Thoroughly selfish, he was evidently afraid to trust him to make the choice, and therefore, like a far-sighted man of the world, he takes the best for himself.

Vs. 12, 13. Lot desired to be rich. He therefore fell into a snare. Like so many others, he does not seem to have inquired about the character of the people to whom he was going. At that time he probably had young children-daughters. He did not raise the question as to the influences under which they might be thrown. A New Testament writer, on the contrary, tells us that Abram and the other patriarchs sought a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. They were content to dwell in tents; but Lot dwelt in one city of the plain after another, removing his tent from place to place, until he reached Sodom. According to the revised version, he pitched his tent as far as Sodom. The sacred writer casts a dark shadow on his choice-"Now the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners against the Lord exceedingly." Lot, therefore, in choosing wealth as the most important thing, in his selfishness and his greediness to obtain it had finally pitched his tent under the very walls of one of the most wicked cities of antiquity. We need not be surprised to read in the next account of him that he was in Sodom itself (Gen. xiv. 12).

POINTS TO BE REMEMBERED. Scripture does not present the Old Testament patriarchs as model saints.

2. "Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

3. That will be a happy life that is begun in true religion.

4. Christians are often the source of temporal blessings to their neighbors and friends. 5. It is infinitely better to suffer wrong than to do wrong (compare I Cor. vi. 7).

6. A man seeks to be rich through meanness and an utter disregard of the rights of others, sells himself to do evil (compare I

Kings xxi, 25). 7. The man who pitches his tent near Sodom will spon pitch it in Sodom.-Sunday Schoo! World.

PHYSIOLOGY AND HYGIENE.

Facts, Theories and Experiences in Every Day Life.

Dr. Arthur V. Meigs, in a paper read before the Philadelphia County Medical society. takes the ground that scarlet fever is very much less contagious than is commonly supposed; much less, in fact than either measles or whooping cough. In proof of his opinions he cites the fact that while it is a usual thing for measles and whooping cough to affect all the children of a household, scarlet fever, as a rule, limits its attacks to one or two, even though there may be others who have never had the disease, and are therefore presumably susceptible.

It is just possible, suggests another authority, in considering the above, that if parents took the same precautions regarding measles and whooping cough as they do with scarlet fever, Dr. Meig's opinions would be erroneous. Generally speaking, when measles or whooping cough appear, parents permit their children to expose themselves on the ground that they must have these diseases some time; while scarlet fever, being especially dreaded, inaffected children are isolated from the affected ones. Neither measles or whooping cough are trivial diseases, and the sooner parents and guardians realize the fact the better it will be.

How to Live to Old Age.

In order to live to a good old age, says Dr. H. C. Wood, of Philadelpsia, the several vital organs must be approximately equal in strength. A man of ordinary physique, claims the authority quoted in Popular Science Monthly, who possesses this fortunate balance of power, will in all probability outlive an athlete whose development has been unequal. Excessive strength in one part is, in fact, a source of danger. An over developed muscular system invites dissolution, because it is a constant strain upon the less powerful organs, and finally wears them out Death, in the majority of cases, is the result of local weakness. It often happens that a vital organ has been endowed with an original longevity less than that of the rest of the organism, and its failure to act brings death to other portions of the system, which in themselves possessed the capabilities of long life.

The fact of having succeeded in life, with the satisfaction and comfort it brings, contributes to the prolongation of existence, while failure, with its resultant regrets, tends to shorten it. In old age the organs possess less elasticity to meet and overcome such strains as can be invited with impunity in youth. Hence the old should be spared the strains. It is also desirable that, as their years advance, they should make their personal habits the subject of careful study, and, with the help of some wise counselor, regulate their daily life in accordance with the changed conditions of their animal economy. This is particularly the case with reference to

Preserving Ice in the Sick Room.

A convenient and efficient method of keeping ice in small quantity in a sick room for a considerable time is as follows: Cut a piece of flannel about nine inches square, and secure it by a ligature around the mouth of an ordinary tumbler, so as to leave a cup shaped depression of flannel within the tumbler to about half its depth. In the flannel cup so constructed pieces of ice may be preserved many hours, all the longer if a piece of flannel from four to five inches square be used as a loose cover to the ice cups. Cheap flannel, with comparatively open meshes, is preferable, as the water easily drains through it, and the ice is thus kept quite dry. When good flannel with close texture is employed, a small hole must be made in the bettom of the flannel cup, otherwise it holds the water and facilitates the melting of the ice.

Fish as a Food for Invalids.

Dr. J. S. Nairne, of the Glasgow Samaritan hospital, has recorded several instances in his practice in which the use of fish, boiled or fried, as food by patients, even when considerably advanced in convalescence, was followed by evil consequences; and he had begun to believe that, under any circumstances of debility, fish was a dangerous diet, and forbade its use. Further observation taught him that the fault was not in the fish itself. but in the method of cooking it; and that when steamed, instead of being boiled or fried, it was much more easily digestible and perfectly harmless.

A Single Trial.

Is all that is needed to prove that Poison's Nerviline is the most rapid and certain remedy in the world for pain. It only costs 10c. for a trial bottle. A single trial bottle will prove Nerviline to be equally efficacious as an external or internal remedy, and for pain of every description it has no equal. Try a 10c. sample bottle. Sold by druggists. Large bottles 25c. Avoid substitutes.

Wonderful is the effect of West's World's Wonder or Family Liniment. One bottle will effect more cures than four times the number of any other liniment. 25 and 50c. All druggists.

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"I was subject to ague for two or three seasons, which nothing would eradicate until I tried Burdock Blood Bitters, since which time, four years, I have had no return of the disease." W. J. Jordan, Strange,

Shiloh's cure will immediately relieve cronp, whooping cough and bronchitis. W. J. Wilson, wholesale and retail agent, King-

An eminent scientist claims that a sober man can become intoxicated by passing half an hour with a drunken man. He can if the latter's money holds out.

Why will you suffer with a bad cold when a few doses of West's Cough Syrup will cure you. Invaluable for all throat and lung troubles. Consumptives, try it. Small size 25... large bottles \$1.00. All druggists.

German songs are in fashion in society and musical reporters are having a hard time to determine the difference in sound between murdered English and eliminated German. To ladies. The great beautifier for the complexion: One of West's sugar coated Liver Pills taken nightly. 50 pills 15c. All druggists.

A commercial traveller's society has been organized, but, strangely enough, every member is perfectly familiar with the grip before he joins.

West's Cough Syrup stops tickling in the throat, stops that hacking cough and gives perfect relief; it is certainly worth a trial. All druggista.

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Pillow Cottons, all widths, at Lowest Prices. White Twill Sheetings, all widths, at Lowest Prices. White Plain Sheetings at the Very Lowest Prices. Unbleached Sheetings, Cheapest in the City.

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Jan. 31.

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Jan. 28.

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Our Big Sale of Dry Goods which commenced Dec. 13th and will end this month has been drawing Immense Crowds of Buyers. The Very Low Prices at which we are selling New and Stylish Goods has surprised all purchasers.

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ALL SALES FOR CASH!!

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Jan. 31.

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Horrock's White Twill Sheetings, 2, 24, 24 yards. Horrock's Plain and White Sheetings, 2, 21, 21 yards. Finley's Royal Household Sheetings 14, 2, 21, 21 yards. Grey Twill Sheetings, 2 yards wide, Extra Heavy, 25 cents. Finley's Pillow Cotton 36, 38, 40, 45, 54 inch. Best American Pillow Cotton, 38, 40, 44 inch. Extra Good Linen, Sheetings and Pillow Linens, all widths. All Winter Dresses and Tweeds at Reduced Prices.

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Jan. 27.