

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON I, SECOND QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, APRIL 1.

Text of the Lesson, Gen. xxiii, 9-12, 24-30. Memory Verses, 28-30—Golden Text, Gen. xxiii, 26—Commentary by the Rev. D. M. Stearns.

9. "And Jacob said, O God of my father Abraham, and God of my father Isaac, the Lord which saidst unto me, Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee." Jacob is now 29 years older than when God appeared to him in the vision at Bethel (xxi, 41), and having been instructed to return to his own home (xxi, 3, 18), he is now on his way thither. The angels of God have met him, and he has sent messengers to Esau to seek his favor. The messengers have returned, saying that Esau is coming with 400 men. Jacob is afraid, divides the people and flocks and herds into two bands, and then gives himself to prayer.

10. "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which Thou hast showed unto Thy servant, for with my staff I passed over this Jordan, and now I am become two bands." He calls upon God as the God of his fathers, thinking doubtless of His covenant with them. Then he pleads God's command to return and His promise of protection, and now he takes the place of utter unworthiness and thinks of the contrast between now and 20 years before and of God's marvelous kindness to him, notwithstanding his great sinfulness.

11. "Deliver me, I pray thee, from the hand of my brother, from the hand of Esau, for I fear him lest he will come and smite me and the mother with the children." Sin is not easily forgotten, and Jacob would think of his wrong done to Esau so long ago. A guilty conscience is always afraid, whether it be in Adam or Abraham (Gen. iii, 10; xx, 11) or any other saint or sinner. The perfect love of God to us casts out all fear (1 John iv, 18), and if we will only walk in the light with Him we may say, "Behold, God is my salvation (or deliverer), I will trust and not be afraid." Sure that He will deliver us from every evil work and preserve us unto His heavenly kingdom (Isa. xli, 2; II Tim. iv, 18).

12. "And Thou saidst, I will surely do thee good and make thy seed as the sand of the sea, which cannot be numbered for multitude." This is always safe pleading "and thou saidst," for by the spirit through whom we hear these words, "Hath He said and shall He not do it, or hath He spoken and shall He not make it good?" (Num. xxiii, 19). In Isa. lxiii, 6, 7, the people of God are called His remembrances. See margin and H. V. and note carefully what we are to plead for. If we would stand upon His promises and plead them for His glory, what would He not do?

13. "And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day." By comparing verse 30 and Hos. xii, 4, 5, we learn that it was the Lord himself who wrestled with Jacob, even the same who appeared or spoke to Hagar and Abraham (Gen. xvi, 13; xviii, 1); not the Father, but the Son (John i, 18), who afterward became man for us. The breaking of the day is in the margin "the ascending of the morning," elsewhere it is "the spring of the day" or "the day spring" (I Sam. ix, 30; Job xxxviii, 12), and is suggestive of the morning when God shall humble and then help Israel (Ps. xli, 5, margin).

14. "And when He saw that He prevailed not against him, He touched the hollow of his thigh, and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint as He wrestled with him." God can do little or nothing for us or with us till we are thoroughly humbled and broken down. Our wisdom and strength are always hindrances. "He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength" (Isa. xl, 29). When we are at our wits' end (all our wisdom being swallowed up), then He delivers and shows His strength on our behalf (Ps. cvii, 37 margin). The difficulty is to break us down.

15. "And He said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. A. d. he said, I will not let Thee go, except Thou bless me." Jacob could now resist no longer, but he could cling in his weakness, and cling he did. It is now helplessness clinging to almighty, and the blessing will surely come. Consider Israel in Egyptian bondage, at the Red sea, and in all their history see how in all their helplessness, relying upon God, He wrought for them. Consider the miracles of the New Testament and see how in every case it was the power of God on behalf of impotence.

16. "And He said unto him, What is thy name? and he said, Jacob." Jacob signifies supplanter, and his brother Esau thought that he was well named, for he said, "He hath supplanted me these two times, he took away my birthright, and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing" (Gen. xxvii, 36). Jacob virtually confesses himself a sinful, crooked man, and, as in verse 10, unworthy of any mercies. There is hope for the sinner when he sees and confesses his sins (Prov. xxviii, 14).

17. "And He said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel, for as a prince hast thou power with God and with man, and hast prevailed." The name "Israel" is found about 2,500 times in the Bible, but this is the first time. It invariably means either the man so called or his descendants (the twelve or eleven tribes) and is misapplied when applied to the church. In the margin it is said to mean "A prince of God," but in this verse how suggestive are the words, "Power with God and with man!" And is not the secret of this power made plain by the incident of the lesson—the confession of character and helpless holding on to God?

18. "And Jacob asked him and said, Tell me, I pray thee, Thy name, and He said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after My name? And He blessed him there." When Manoah asked Him His name, He said it was secret or wonderful (Judg. xiii, 18, margin), reminding us of His name in Isa. ix, 6. The blessing of the Lord upon the land of Israel made it bring forth in one year fruit for three years (Lev. xxv, 3). The blessing of the Lord maketh rich, and toil addeth nothing thereto (Prov. x, 22). Consider the name of the Lord in Ex. xxxiii, 5-7, and how our Lord Jesus is His prayer: "I have manifested Thy name. I have declared unto them Thy name" (John xvii, 6, 30).

19. "And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, for he had seen God face to face, and his life was preserved." In Ex. xxiv, 18, 19, we read that the vision saw the God of Israel; they saw God and did not die. In Ex. xxxiii, 11, it is written that the Lord spoke unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend, and yet in verse 30 the Lord says, "I have met and seen thee face to face." How can we see and live? It is in prayer that the explanation of these seeming contradictions is to be found. In 18, where we learn that God has always manifested Himself to His Son.

HOW TO WEAR VEILS.

They Should Be Becoming First and Fashionable Afterward.

A veil must be bought with the idea of its becoming first and its fashion second. Try it before a glass when purchasing. A lightly dotted veil is more becoming than a plain net. When black is unbecoming, or all white, try the black and white solid colors. A golden brown, having cream chenille dots, is a very flattering veil. A fine net, having jet or iridescent beads, is another "face improver;" also a tiny mesh, having lace or applique figures and a border. Borders are very stylish, but must be worn correctly. Put the border below the chin.

Blond lace has been restored to favor and is thought to be the most elegant among the laces shown in veils. The edge of blond lace veils shows a deep scallop formed by the rose pattern. With large hats it is adjusted so as to bring the veil into a drooping effect all around the edge of the brim.

A yard and an eighth is not too much of the double width material for a large hat. The shaped veils are bought by the veil, and only a toque or walking hat will admit of a single width veiling, which is drawn on smoothly, but never tight. Veils are put over the hat and pinned at the back, just below the hat or half way to the nape of the neck. It should look smooth, but easy to fit. A border veil must be put on so that the border comes below the chin. A large veil over a big hat is put over the brim crosswise of the material, with a few soft folds at the top, and the rest of the width is caught under the chin in a loose drapery, which is all carried to the back and fastened in a puffy knot with a stickpin. No folds or wrinkles must appear over the face, yet it should be gracefully loose.

Fashionable women are wearing white veils, not only with dressy hats, but simple ones too. Some of these veils are in white lace, others in fancy net, others again in very fine white gauze.

How to Cook Pancakes.

In order to have light pancakes it is absolutely essential to have a quick fire and the griddle or pan smoking hot. For those who have many cakes to cook at a time a high, narrow tin pan, with a long spout and a handle at the back near the bottom, is convenient, but one can manage with a pitcher that has a good lip. It is not wise to try to mix the batter in the pitcher, for it cannot be done thoroughly.

How to Keep Lamps Clean.

The lamps should be wiped with cheesecloth. The wicks should be trimmed with the sharp edge of a visiting card or with a poker, heated red hot and passed over the wick. This last method is a little troublesome, but it removes the charred part evenly. Wicks used for a long time, even when they do not become very short, grow thick and are apt to give forth an unpleasant odor. They should be renewed once a month at least. In duplex burners one wick should be trimmed in the opposite direction from the other. Round wicks should be trimmed toward the center. Burners should be wiped free from bits of charred wick and drops of oil every day. Every now and then they should be boiled in strong soapuds to make them perfectly clean. When they have been used a long time, they need replacing.

To Clean Glass Decanters and Bottles. To clean coarse glass bottles and decanters throw half a cup of coarse sand into them and shake until they are clean. Too long a shaking will scratch the glass. For fine glass cut a raw potato into small cubes and use in the same way. The process will be longer, but there is no danger of breaking or scratching.

How Cigar Ashes Can Be Utilized.

Cigar ashes are used for medical purposes—as a cure for ringworm, epidemic scarlatina, etc. They are useful on account of the lime and alcoholic properties they contain, for which reason the ash is used in France as a manure. Cigar ashes have been sold under the pretentious name of "diamond dust from the sun," and the purposes to which they are chiefly put are cleaning plate, brightening and sharpening razors, lancets and doctors' other delicate instruments, as an insecticide for plants, etc., and as a tooth powder. It has been stated that a London firm offered a guinea per ounce for them for the purpose of compounding with other articles as a valuable dentifrice. The ash is, however, so light that it requires a very large quantity indeed to weigh one ounce.

How the Custom of Shaking Hands Originated.

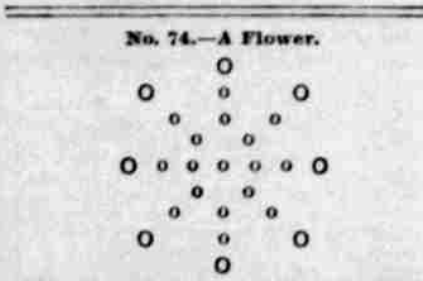
This custom can be traced to the days of the ancient Israelites and was intended to signify peace, to swear friendship, promise alliance or give security. Jehu said to Jehonadab: "Is thy heart right as my heart is with thy heart? If it be, give me thine hand."

How to Use Oil as a Face Cleanser.

Oil cleans the skin better than water. Accessories, to get their makeup off, once used cocoa butter; now they use cocoa oil, which is a better preparation of the same thing. Drug stores keep it sometimes fresh, and some keep it rancid. In cocoa oil you will have the most delightful of all emollients for the oil bath. After a railway journey on a hot day take the most vigorous bath you can devise or endure; then spread some cocoa oil on your face and wipe it off. The blackened towel will tell the tale of failure for the bath and triumph for the oil.

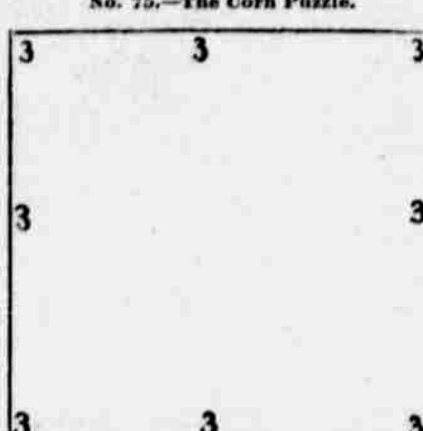
How to Make a Hanging Garden.

Put a white sponge in a shallow dish, sew it with rice, hemp, canary and grass seeds, and keep it constantly wet. When the seeds have sprouted well, hang the sponge with cords in a window where it may get a little sun, keeping it refreshed with water every day.



The large circles name a plant called the "clove tree" because of its peculiar spicy fragrance. Its name signifies the "Flower of Jove." We often call it the pink. The words all read toward the center, which is a vowel; the first, of four, a tropical tree of many species; the second, of three, a climbing vine; the third, of four, sometimes called the century plant; the fourth three, the fruit of certain trees; the fifth, of four, the most majestic part of vegetable creation; the sixth, of three, a vine whose flower is used in medicine and in bread; the seventh, of three, a Mexican tree, whose milky juice yields caoutchouc; the eighth, of three, nourishes the fifth.

No. 75.—The Corn Puzzle.



Ohio Farmer propounds this puzzle: In the above diagram the figures 3, 3, etc., represent grains of corn, 3 in each corner, and 3 in the middle between the corners—24 grains in all. You see they count 9 each way, up and down and sideways. The puzzle is to remove 4 grains from the board and still have them count 9 each way.

No. 76.—Diamonds.

A letter. To drive with violence. Childs. Sarcastic. To deserve. To rest. A letter. An animal. An ancient order of priesthood. A manufactory of iron goods. Light and gay. Parched from heat. A letter.

No. 77.—Word Building.

A vowel. A verb. To garrison. Staple. Pertaining to the morning. One of the occupants of an asylum. Painted with vermilion. Familiar. Hinted. To threaten.

No. 78.—Numerical Enigma.

My first is a grain, my second a grain and my whole a measure. 2, 7, 3, 5, a town in Syria besieged by an Egyptian king. 1, 2, 3, 7, 5, 4, 8, 10, 2, a strong fort in Spain. 7, 8, 3, 2, 4, a beautiful substance made by a very small creature. 6, 2, 9, 10, a sailor's story and a substance from which warm clothing is made. 1, 5, 2, 9, a savage animal.

No. 79.—Double Acrostic.

My primals and finals each name a famous poet. Crosswords (of equal length): 1. The wooden lining or panels on the sides of an apartment. 2. A popular oration. 3. A cut. 4. A million millions. 5. Having the top too heavy for the lower part. 6. Examiners. 7. A fabulous region in the interior of South America, supposed to abound in gold and precious stones. 8. The name given to the three days which immediately precede Ascension day.

No. 80.—Curtailments.

A man's name and leave a girl's name. A fruit and leave a vegetable. A small vessel and leave a tipplet. A beverage and leave an insect. A backbone and leave a part of the face. Gone and leave a fleshy tumor.

Puniana.

While the spoon is an insignificant article to look at, it has probably caused more stir in the world than any other one thing. A secret like an oyster cannot be kept too close, for the moment it is opened it ceases to exist. One feature of a cyclone is worthy of general imitation. It always does its level best. The amateur photographer has a habit of taking almost anything except a hat. The crawfish is not very good to eat, but it will do at a pinch.

Seesaw in Rhyme.

He was a sawyer—blind was he, That was his only flaw, And though none ever saw him so Many have seen him saw.

Key to the Puzzler.

No. 63.—Charade: Oxford. No. 64.—Diamond Cross: S A P T A I N T I N D N E K A R M Y O U A S P D R A I N O I S E S S A Y M I D U S E P A Y N E Y I T S E T I T H I C S I T C

No. 65.—Geographical Acrostic: 1. Alps. 2. Florence. 3. Rhine. 4. Inverness. 5. Canada. 6. Albion. Whole, Africa.

No. 66.—A Beheading: P-rose.

No. 67.—West Building: R, re, era, rent, stems, aster, garnet, garments, streaming, stammering.

No. 68.—Illustrated Rebus: You ought to be above the conceit I see in you with half an eye.

No. 69.—Crossword Enigma: Lancing.

No. 70.—Numerical Enigma: "Heaven never helps the man who will not act."

No. 71.—A Square, Diamond, and Square: P H I E Y T A S E R R A S E F A R K A B L E I E I S P A R K S L A P E S T F E N D K E E P T E

No. 72.—Poet's Authors Wanted: Tennyson, Shakespeare, Milton, Wordsworth.

No. 73.—Hidden Presidents: 1. Pierce. 2. Grant. 3. Johnson. 4. Taylor. 5. Hayes. 6. Adams.

LITTLE LAUGHGRAPHS.

Mother—It didn't take you long to say your prayers. Tilly—No, I said one-half and Daisy said the rest.

A servant girl, writing home to her parents, said: "I am sorry I have no stamp to put on this letter; I will put two on the next."

She—This is so sudden. He—How firm you women are in your convictions. That's just what you said when I proposed two years ago.

Uncle George—I trust, Henry, that you are out of debt? Henry—No, I haven't got quite so far as that; but I'm out of everything else.

He—I'm afraid you don't like to have me dropping in on you for these little chats. She, earnestly—Indeed, I'm sure your short calls are perfectly delightful.

"Glorious! Old fellow, so her father said yes, when you asked him?" "Yes." "How did you put the question?" "Asked him if he had any objection to me."

"I wish I could make my collections as easily as you do," said the merchant to the street-car conductor. "Mine may seem good, but they are only fare," was the reply.

"Miss Higginspike seems to be singularly unimpressible." "Unimpressible? She's adamant. That woman could sit with a barrel of sliced onions under her nose and hear Clara Morris play for a whole evening and not shed a tear."

Inquirer—What are all these pages of closely written manuscript about? Statistician—Those are the records of the murders committed last year. "Is it possible? And what are those three or four lonesome-looking lines in the middle of that long page?" "The records of the hangings."

She, at the ticket office—When does the train for Baltimore leave? Ticket Agent—In fifteen minutes. She—When does it get to Baltimore? Ticket Agent—To-morrow night. She—Can I get a sleeper? Ticket Agent—Yes, ma'am. She—Dining car? Ticket Agent—Yes, ma'am. She—What is the cost of a sleeper? Ticket Agent—\$2. She—Well, where's the station where trains leave for Milwaukee? I'm thinking of going there.

ABSTRACT AND CONCRETE.

The Pacific coast is fast increasing in the out-put of codfish. An explosion at the Abercorn colliery in 1878 killed 269 persons.

The savings banks of New York and Brooklyn contain at the present time \$455,000,000.

A Barnmouth, North Wales, fisherman caught 50,000 herring in one night recently.

Chicago has 626 churches of all denominations, one-sixth of which are of the Methodist faith.

One tree recently cut down in Tulare county, Cal., was thirty-three feet in diameter at the base.

A Boston business man displays a sign on his office door which reads: "Office hours 12 to 1 every other Tuesday."

Redwood trees have remarkable vitality. In a forest that has been cut over the young trees start by millions.

A library of 8,000 volumes devoted solely to the theater, collected by Baron Taylor, has been dispersed in Paris.

In 1893 no less than 1,051 periodicals devoted mainly or solely to literature were published in the United States.

Next to the United States, France has the distinction of having the largest number of savings bank depositors, who have \$559,000,000 in bank.

The new tactics adopted for the army contemplate the giving of commands by whistles under certain circumstances instead of by word of mouth.

Eighty-five per cent of New England farms are cultivated by their owners and three-quarters of such farms are wholly free of mortgage indebtedness.

Electricity is gaining a strong foothold in Japan. Telephone exchanges have been started in several of the principal cities and there is a project of constructing an electric railway in Tokio.

OVER THE SEA.

Germany is to adopt American grain elevators. Out of every 1,000 births in England twelve are twins.

France gathers a window tax on more than 2,000,000 houses. The French navy is to be strengthened by 101 swift torpedo boats.

The catacombs of Rome contain the remains of about 6,000,000 people. Russia pays no salary to the czar, but he has about a million square miles of farms, mines and other property, with an income of \$1,000,000 a month.

The prolific Italian composers produced ninety-two operas last year, of which only two are considered of the first grade—Verdi's "Falstaff" and Puccini's "Manon Lescaut."

George Rea, the famous breeder of Cheviot sheep in Northumberland, Eng., who died recently, was the largest tenant farmer in the kingdom, having in his hands no less than 17,000 acres.

Orders for 250 locomotives and several thousand railway carriages have been given by the Russian government to Austrian and Belgian firms, presumably required for the Trans-Siberian railway.

The alleged bullet-proof cloth invented by a German tailor, which was much talked of some time ago, has been rejected by the German military authorities. It is three times as heavy as ordinary cloth; is difficult to manufacture into tunics; is clumsy when made up, and finally not bullet proof at all, as it is easily pierced by the projectile of the Lefel rifle.

HAVE YOU FIVE OR MORE COWS?

Advertisement for THE DE LAVAL SEPARATOR CO., featuring an image of a separator and text describing its benefits for dairy farmers.

Advertisement for Allen Root & Company, LIVE STOCK COMMISSION MERCHANTS, located at Room 220, Exchange Building, South Omaha, Neb.

Advertisement for Farmers Mutual Insurance Co. OF NEBRASKA, Organized in 1891, with a capital of \$2,000,000.

Advertisement for Celebrated Des Moines Equalizers, featuring an image of a horse-drawn implement and text describing its use in agriculture.

Advertisement for FOR SALE! OR WILL TRADE FOR SOME GOOD FARM LANDS, featuring an image of a horse and text describing the quality of the land.

Large advertisement for FRANK IAMS, IMPORTER AND BREEDER of 100 Black Percheron, French Draft, Clydes, Shires and Coachers, located in St. Paul, Neb.

Advertisement for L. BANKS WILSON, Creston, Iowa, featuring an image of a horse and text describing the quality of his Percheron, English Shire, Belgian and Coach Horses.

Advertisement for W. J. WROUGHTON, Hastings, Neb., featuring an image of a horse and text describing his services as an importer and dealer.

Advertisement for W. J. WROUGHTON, Hastings, Neb., featuring an image of a horse and text describing his services as an importer and dealer.

Advertisement for PIG FORCEPS, FARMERS ALL NEED THEM, J. M. REIDERS, A BOOK FREE, DAVENPORT, IOWA.

Advertisement for HELLO and SYPHILIS, featuring images of a person and text describing the symptoms and treatment of these conditions.