

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON VI, FIRST QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, FEB. 5.

Text of the Lesson, John iv, 5-14. Memory Verses, 13, 14—Golden Text, Rev. xlii, 17—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

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The scene of today's lesson is Samaria, and the center is Jacob's well on a piece of ground which Jacob bought of Shechem, son of Hamor, which afterward became the inheritance of Joseph, where also the body of Joseph was buried (Josh. xxiv, 32; Gen. xxxiii, 19). We are always taught in connection with this lesson to think of Jacob's well, but I was recently reminded by a missionary home on furlough that there must be some reason for mentioning the parcel of ground belonging to Joseph. Two thoughts are suggested: Joseph was a fruitful sower by a well whose branches run over the wall, and here is the true Joseph reaching over the Jewish wall to the Samaritans and bearing much fruit (Gen. xlix, 22-24).

The topic in last week's lesson was the necessity of the new birth and the searching truth that even the most religious must be born again. Here we have the blessed assurance that the greatest sinner may be born again and greatly used to win others to Christ. The heart of the lesson is the Lord Jesus Himself and His seven sayings to the woman in verses 7, 10, 13-14, 16, 17-18, 21-24, 26. Weary and thirsty, we see in Him one who can truly sympathize with us, touched with a feeling of our infirmities, tempted in all points like as we are, yet without sin (Heb. iv, 15). According to John's method of counting time, it was either 6 a. m. or 6 p. m. when Jesus rested by the well. Compare chapter xix, 14. His first request of the woman, "Give me to drink," reminds us of one of His seven words from the cross, "I thirst" (xix, 28). He was literally weary, hungry and thirsty as He sat thus by the well, yet He was refreshed without actual food or drink (verses 32, 34).

His chief hunger and thirst was and is for the souls of sinners. Have you refreshed him, and are you doing it daily by winning others? His second word to the woman (verse 20) takes us back to Gen. i, 6, 7, waters above and waters below; also to Jer. ii, 13, the fountain and the broken cisterns, and onward to Rev. xxi, 6; xxii, 17, the water of life freely given. Isa. lv, 1; Ezek. xlvii, 9, might also be considered with much profit.

Thus only can we become wells of water springing up. In last lesson we saw the water to be the word, and the only way to receive Christ, who is Himself the living bread and the living water, is by believing His word, which is both spirit and life (chapter vi, 63). In the majority of believers the water in their well is very low, and it is difficult to obtain any from them because they do not let the word of Christ dwell in them richly according to Col. iii, 16. In our Lord's fourth and fifth words (verses 4-6) He laid bare to the woman her inner sinful life, for only those who realize that they are sinners and nothing but sinners before God can appreciate a Saviour. He came not to call the righteous, but sinners, and we must see ourselves as helpless as the bitten Israelites before we will care to look believably upon Him who was made sin for us. Being convicted of sin, she did as so many do—tried to escape by saying, "I do not belong to your church; you worship in Jerusalem, but we in this mountain." She did not say that she worshiped or professed to worship, but spoke of her people, "our fathers."

In His sixth word (verses 21-24) He turns her to God the Father as seeking not places, but hearts, of people and sincerity, for while man looketh on the outward appearance the Lord looketh on the heart, and "He is not a Jew which is one outwardly, neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh, but he is a Jew which is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, not in the letter, whose praise is not of men, but of God" (I Sam. xvi, 7; Rom. ii, 28, 29). How much there is in many a church which passes before men as worship, but which in the sight of God is only a mockery and an abomination and of which He says, "Vain oblations, . . . feasts my soul hateth!" (Isa. i, 13, 14). The Father is seeking for those who in prayer and praise and meditation hold heart communion with Him, that He may reveal Himself to such and show Himself strong on their behalf (II Chron. xvi, 9).

The woman's reference to Messiah, the Christ (see chapter i, 41), draws forth His last word, "I that speak unto thee am He" (verse 26). The work is done, her eyes behold her Saviour, her heart receives Him, her errand is forgotten, the waterpot is left by the well, she even seems to forget that she is a woman, and, hastening back to the city, she earnestly proclaims that she has seen the Christ. Her heart is occupied with Him; she forgets herself, and great are the results. Many believed on Him because of her testimony, they constrained Him to abide with them two days, and many more believed because of His own word

(verses 30-42).

Let all women consider this woman, and also that the first messenger after His resurrection was Mary Magdalene, and let no one hesitate to witness for Him because of what men may say. Let all consider that the disciples had just been in that city, but, as far as we know, uttered not a word about the Christ whom they had left sitting by the well, for they went to the city to buy meat (verse 8). Is your first thought preaching Christ or something to eat?

PEABODY RESTS HIS CASE.

Will Ask Committee to Recommend That He Be Seated.

Denver, Feb. 1.—With the testimony of Chairman Fred A. Williams of the Republican city committee given before the legislative gubernatorial contest committee, attorneys for former Governor Peabody rested their case and today Governor Adams will begin giving evidence in his own behalf. From a statement by Williams on the stand, in response to a question by Attorney Ward, who has conducted the examination for Governor Peabody, it is inferred that the latter will ask the committee to throw out the entire vote in 109 Denver precincts, counting only the ballots cast in the remaining ninety-five precincts. According to Chairman Williams' statement, this would give Peabody a plurality of 6,410 in Denver. Deducting Adams' plurality of 5,673 outside of Denver, Peabody would have a total of 783 more votes than Adams. While not authoritatively stated, it is generally understood that Peabody will ask the committee to recommend that he be seated upon the showing made in the above figures.

VOTE ON STATEHOOD BILL FEB. 7

Senate Agrees to Take Final Action on Measure Next Tuesday.

Washington Jan. 31.—The senate agreed to vote on the joint statehood bill before adjourning on Tuesday, Feb. 7, the amendments to be considered on that date under the ten minutes rule. Teller spoke during the day in opposition to the bill and several minor bills were passed.

It is by no means certain how many states will be admitted to the union under the agreement reported to vote on the joint statehood bill and its numerous amendments on Feb. 7. There are prospects, however, that Oklahoma and Indian Territory will come in as one state and that New Mexico and Arizona will come in as another, leaving Arizona as a territory. Senator Beveridge, chairman of the committee on territories, who has charge of the bill, concedes that in its present form there is no hope for its passage. He says that his desire now is to give statehood to the million and a half people of Oklahoma and Indian Territory at this time and that later Arizona and New Mexico will be admitted as one state.

Senator Bard Springs a Sensation. Washington, Feb. 1.—Sensational disclosures in relation to the alleged use of Indian trust funds for the support of sectarian schools were made by Senator Bard in a statement to the senate committee on Indian affairs. In addition to the charge that Roman Catholic schools have received 98 per cent of the money expended under contracts made by the Indian commissioner, the senator said that he had been approached by a representative of a Catholic association with a promise of carrying a certain stated number of districts in California for him in return for his influence in bringing about a continuance of such favorable contracts.

Volcano of Colima Again Active. Mexico, Jan. 31.—Reports from Colima state that the volcano of Colima is again active. Streams of dark smoke are issuing from the volcano daily, apparently from openings considerably below the crater. The danger, it is believed, lies in the formation of a new crater at an altitude which would permit of the discharge of lava. While many of the inhabitants in the vicinity of the volcano are uneasy as a result of the renewed activity, there has been no exodus such as had characterized previous indications of activity in the crater.

More German Miners Out. Essen, Jan. 31.—The official report of the coal miners' strike was awaited with great interest, owing to the promised revision of the law and the decision of the strikers to stay out until the promise is redeemed. The report actually shows an increase of strikers, the number out being 195,014, against 194,286 on Saturday.

W. C. Potter Safe in Mexico. Chicago, Jan. 30.—Fears that Yaqui Indians had harmed William C. Potter, a son-in-law of Secretary Morton, have been allayed. A telegram announcing Mr. Potter's safety has been received by Mrs. John K. MacKenzie, whose husband was slain by the savages. The telegram came from Minaco, Chihuahua, Mexico.

Irish-Americans Oppose Treaty. Zanesville, O., Jan. 30.—The Irish-American National society was or-

ganized here at a meeting of leading Irish-Americans from various parts of the state. The movement, which is to be a national one, has for its object the defeat of the pending arbitration treaty between the United States and Great Britain.

Prince Gurielly Assassinated. Batoum, Jan. 30.—Prince Gurielly, an officer of the police guard, while driving past the iron works, was shot and killed by an unknown man. No arrests have been made.

Twelfth Ballot, No Choice. Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 1.—The twelfth ballot in the contest for senator to succeed Senator Francis M. Cockrell was taken in joint session, but no choice resulted, and the session dissolved for the day. The ballot resulted: Cockrell, 68; Niedringhaus, 66; Kerens, 12; Speaker Hill, 1. The total vote cast was 147, of which seventy-four were necessary for a choice.

Kansas City Live Stock. Kansas City, Jan. 31.—Cattle—Receipts, 10,500; best strong, others weak to 10c lower; choice export and dressed beef steers, \$5.00 to 5.75; fair to good, \$3.50 to 4.75; western fed steers, \$3.50 to 4.00; stockers and feeders, \$2.75 to 4.25; cows, \$1.75 to 4.00; heifers, \$2.50 to 4.25; bulls, \$2.25 to 3.75; calves, \$3.00 to 4.75. Hogs—Receipts, 14,500; 50 to 100 higher; top, \$4.90; bulk of sales, \$4.50 to 4.85; heavy, \$4.80 to 4.90; packers, \$4.70 to 4.85; pigs and light, \$3.90 to 4.70. Sheep—Receipts, 9,700; steady to 10c higher; lambs, \$6.00 to 7.50; wethers, \$4.75 to 5.40; fed ewes, \$4.25 to 5.00.

Woman's Visual Angle. "Have you eyes in the back of your head?" asked a country magistrate of a woman, and the woman promptly replied that she had. She was perfectly right. Take any average man and any average woman, question them as to the dress and deportment of the people in any assembly where they were together, and you will find that the woman has seen more than the man, for woman has been compelled to enlarge the angle of her vision and to see all around her hat without shifting an eye.

From an early age instinct tells the girl, and convention seals the instinct, that she must not look directly at the man in the street, therefore the honest woman walks through London looking straight ahead. The direct look at the stranger is forbidden, yet human curiosity compels, so develops and enlarges that angle of vision, for no woman will deliberately blind herself, and therefore by continual exercise those calm conventional eyes that look to the horizon and the infinite have trained themselves to see the world out of the corners—obliquely.—London Chronicle.

Be Ready For the Opportunity. People are apt to think that, though their actual lives are poor and self centered and such as they are half ashamed of, if some great crisis arose they would be able to gather up their halting will and raise themselves to its height. Yes, no doubt. Only life's sternest calls never come in any such fashion. Things don't arrange themselves for us to gather up our feeble will and settle with our souls that we will be heroes. They come hard and sharply, testing not what we have resolved to be, but simply what we are. We have a sort of feeling that it is the opportunity that makes the man. Not so. The opportunity only shows him for what he is, and the spirit of prompt duty, of quick, instinctive loyalty to right under whatever temptation may ever come, may be cultivated and grow to the very capacity for heroism even in life's lowliest place and poorest work.

Better Than a Shoehorn. "Here is something I learned from an Englishman I met while at a friend's house," said a lawyer. "The house was in the suburbs, and we were occupying the same room. I found I had forgotten to bring a shoehorn and asked the Englishman if he had one. 'No, I haven't,' he said. 'Why don't you use a towel?' 'A towel?' I replied. 'Yes, a towel. Here, let me show you. Take a corner of the towel, so; lay the point in the heel of your shoe, so; put your foot in as far as it will go, right on top of the towel. Now, grab the towel and pull up on it. See how easy your foot slides in? It's better than a shoehorn.'"

Pairing in Parliament. The custom of pairing is quite unknown to the forms of parliament itself. Any mention of it within either chamber would be altogether out of order, but there is a pleasant fiction that it is a purely private arrangement to be made at the discretion of those concerned. This is true enough to a limited extent and for a short time, but pairing on any great party division cannot be lightly carried out, and a member who desires to pair at such a time will find that this can only be done safely through the whips and not at all unless some really good reason can be given for absence.—London Times.

English Superstitions. At Dawlish, in Devonshire, England, they ring the church bell during a thunderstorm to scare away the lightning. Lancashire agricultural laborers credit certain of their fellows with power to cast good and evil spells. At Dunstable men carry a live snail in a

pill box to ward off toothache, eat stewed earthworms as a cure for jaundice and fried mouse for whooping cough and cherish all the old superstitions as to the dead which made Merrie England sad.

Do Your Share. A little thought will show you how vastly your own happiness depends on the way other people bear themselves toward you. Turn the idea around and remember that just so much are you adding to the pleasure or the misery of other people's days. And this is the half of the matter which you can control.—George S. Merriam.

Disquieting Suspicion. "Do you enjoy your wife's teas and receptions?" "No," answered Mr. Cumrox, "to be candid, I do not. I can't help harboring a suspicion that if I didn't happen to be her husband Mrs. Cumrox wouldn't consider me of sufficient social consequence to be invited."—Washington Star.

Tact. George (nervously)—I'd like ever so much to marry you, Kitty, but I don't know how to propose. Kitty (promptly and practically)—That's all right, George. You've finished with me; now go to papa.

Expected. Landlady—The coffee, I am sorry to say, is exhausted. Mr. Smith. Mr. Smith—Ah, yes, poor thing, I was expecting that. I've noticed that for some time it hasn't been strong.

Arms and the Man. Winkle—Count Duello is a daring swordsman. Twinkle—Yes; he ran through a cool million without any trouble.

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Morton L. Hill, of Lebanon Ind., says: "My wife had inflammatory rheumatism in every muscle and joint; her suffering was terrible and her body and face were swollen almost beyond recognition; had been in bed six weeks and had eight physicians, but received no benefit until she tried the Mystic Cure for Rheumatism. It gave immediate relief and she was able to walk about in three days. I am sure it saved her life." Sold by H. E. Grice, Druggist, Red Cloud.

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