

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON VII, FIRST QUARTER, INTER-NATIONAL SERIES, FEB. 12.

Text of the Lesson, John iv, 43-54. Memory Verses, 48-51—Golden Text, John v, 36—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

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Two days He abode in Samaria and was refreshed by seeing many receive Him as the Christ, the Saviour of the world, a foreshadowing of the time when from all nations His church should be gathered (the age in which we are now living, and of a later age, beyond the present, when through Israel all nations shall be won to Him, a fulfillment of the word, "His own received Him not, but as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become the sons of God" (John i, 11, 12). The first two verses of this lesson are a little perplexing because they seem to say that He went into His own country, for a prophet hath no honor in his own country. Yet the third verse says that the Galileans received him, having seen all the things that He did at Jerusalem, Nazareth, where He had been brought up, is called His own country (Luke iv, 16, 23, 24), and, though He went to Galilee, He did not at this time go to Nazareth, and these verses may signify that, though He went to Galilee, He did not go to Nazareth, because a prophet hath no honor in his own country.

Some say that He did not immediately go into Galilee from Jerusalem, but delayed two days in Samaria to allow time for those who witnessed His miracles at Jerusalem to return home and prepare the minds of the people for a favorable reception of Him. We learned in our last lesson that He counted it His duty to do the will of Him that sent Him, and in chapter v, 14, He says, "How can ye believe which receive honor one of another and seek not the honor that cometh from God only?" So these verses might imply that He went into Galilee and later even to Nazareth (as we know He did), because He sought honor only from God and not from man, and came to do the Father's will, whatever it might be and wherever it might lead.

If the nobleman (courier, messenger) who came to Him at Cana on behalf of his son was Chuza, Herod's steward, then Luke viii, 3, may be a sequel to verse 53 of our lesson, for we there read that Joanna, the wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna and many others ministered unto Him of their substance. At Cana He had at the marriage feast manifested forth His glory and increased the faith of His disciples (chapter ii, 11), and here that miracle of making water into wine is indorsed. I refer to it because so many today seek to set aside all the supernatural, but the Bible is supernatural or nothing. Jesus is God or else He is not good.

The boy for whom the father pleads is not only ill, but at the point of death, as was also Jairus' daughter (Mark v, 23), but nothing is too hard for our Lord. It matters not how ill or what the disease, or even if the person has died or been buried, the same word that said, "Let there be light," can give light or life or health in a moment. He says, "Believest thou that I am able to do this?" And then, "According to your faith be it unto you." The nobleman entreated Jesus to come down to Capernaum and heal his son, not knowing that His actual presence was not essential to the healing, but having faith that if Jesus would only come to him He could heal him. Jesus gently tested him, for He never tries any one above that they are able, but his faith seems only to strengthen, and he grows more importunate. Then our Lord says: "Go thy way. Thy son liveth."

This was not as the nobleman expected. It was different from what He had thought. It was in one sense more than he expected, but there was power in the word, and it grasped his heart, and the glorious word is written, "The man believed the word that Jesus had spoken unto him, and he went his way" (verse 50).

The next day as he was nearing home his servants met him with the joyful news, "Thy son liveth!" and on inquiring when his boy began to mend, he learned that it was at the very hour on the previous day when Jesus said "Thy son liveth." It must have thrilled him with joy to hear from his servants the very words that Jesus had said to him the day before. But what joy there was in that home which he had left in such gloom the day before! And all through the love and power of one who gave them life and breath and all things! But up to this time they had only heard of Him, but had not known Him. Now they knew Him and believed in Him. Even the whole household accepted Him as God their Saviour.

One has said that in this miracle we see His omnipotence, in that He healed the sick child; His omnipresence, in that He healed him at a distance of several miles; His omniscience, in that He knew that His word was effectual, as the words testified. When the disciples were sent to bring the ass' colt and to prepare the passover and to go forth without purse or scrip, assured

that they would be cared for, they always found it just as He said. Every promise and prophecy either has been fulfilled or will yet be fulfilled exactly as it is written. Blessed are all who believe, for these shall be a fulfillment of all things told them in the book. The Scripture cannot be broken. If sickness or any other affliction or trial shall bring us to this firm faith in God and in His word it will be a most blessed experience. But why not believe without the affliction?

TRADE REVIEW FOR THE WEEK

Business Progresses Steadily With Outlook Very Promising.

New York, Feb. 4.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade says: Business progresses steadily, all speculative excesses having been avoided thus far and the numerous negotiations now indicating that the maximum of activity is yet to come. Some irregularity in reports for the first month were undoubtedly due to exceptionally severe weather. Taken as a whole, results for January were very much better than in the same month last year, particularly as to failures. Distribution of merchandise is once more on a liberal scale, traffic blockades having disappeared, and in many cases large clearance sales having disposed of burdensome stocks. Collections are still somewhat irregular, but on the whole there is little cause for complaint. Few labor disputes are interrupting work, although several new controversies are threatened. Manufacturing plants are making the best returns. Iron furnaces and steel mills operate close to their full capacity and the quarterly report of the leading concern showed an enormous tonnage of business on the books at the end of the year despite the fact that the closing months of 1904 made very good exhibits. Woolen mills maintain records of activity, but there is still much to be desired at cotton plants, and shoe factories have only a moderate amount of business in sight. Railway earnings for January were 1.1 per cent larger than last year, and foreign commerce at this port for last week showed an increase of \$939,169 in exports and a gain of \$528,968 in imports. Commercial failures this week are 258, against 305 last week.

KNOX ADVISED THE COURSE.

Decided that Indian Bureau Could Contract With Religious Schools. Washington, Feb. 4.—President Roosevelt's connection with the diversion of Indian trust funds to the support of Catholic mission schools is explained and justified in a communication addressed to the president by Attorney General Moody, which was filed with the senate committee on Indian affairs by William H. Ketcham, director of the bureau of Catholic Indian missions. Father Ketcham appeared before the committee to defend his bureau against the charges that it has been using undue and political influences to secure the use of trust funds for Catholic schools.

Mr. Moody's communication, dated Feb. 2, 1905, sets forth the record of a cabinet meeting held in January, 1904, when the question of the use of Indian funds for sectarian schools was discussed, and the president asked for an opinion as to his authority to direct that contracts be made for the use of such funds by denominational educational institutions. Senator Knox, then attorney general, decided that the action of congress in declaring it to be the policy of the government not to permit the use of the public moneys of the American people for sectarian purposes did not repeal previous laws giving to the secretary of the interior discretion to use the Indian funds in any manner he saw fit.

Frosted Wheat Must Pay Duty.

St. Paul, Feb. 8.—A case of importance to farmers of western wheat-growing states was decided by United States District Judge Lochren, who handed down an order reversing the decision of the board of appraisers at Minneapolis and declaring that frosted wheat imported from Canada must pay the regular tariff rate of 25 cents per bushel. Evidence was taken to show that large proportions of the wheat was capable of germinating and on this evidence Judge Lochren's decision is based.

Mrs. Duke Set Free.

New York, Feb. 8.—Mrs. Alice Webb-Duke was discharged from custody when arraigned in police court after having been held a prisoner at the request of the authorities of Nacogdoches, county, Texas, who had notified the local authorities that they had an indictment against her. An assistant district attorney told the court that the Texas authorities did not insist that Mrs. Duke be held for extradition.

Usual Result in Missouri.

Jefferson City, Mo., Feb. 8.—The seventeenth ballot of the joint session of the Missouri legislature, to elect a successor to United States Senator Coekrell, failed to break the deadlock and the relative standing of the candidates was practically unchanged. Representative Wamsley again changed his complimentary

vote, casting it for Senator E. H. Frisby of Harrison county.

Hunt Held Without Bail.

New York, Feb. 4.—William H. Hunt, president of the Pan-American Banking company of Chicago, who has been under arrest here charged with embezzlement from that institution, was held without bail for thirty days to await extradition papers from Illinois. Counsel for Hunt announced that efforts will be made to secure the prisoner's release through habeas corpus proceedings.

Arraignment of Santa Fe Road.

Washington, Feb. 4.—"Flagrant, willful and continuous violation of the law during the last five years," is the way the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe is arraigned in a decision by the interstate commerce committee on the "alleged unlawful rates and practices" of that road in the transportation of coal and mine supplies, involving also the Colorado Fuel and Iron company.

McGreevey Again Behind Bars.

O'Neill, Neb., Feb. 7.—After enjoying his freedom for one week, Bernard McGreevey, defaulting president of the Elkhorn Valley bank, is again behind prison bars. He was rearrested upon two complaints sworn out, charging him with having received deposits as an officer of the bank when he knew the same to be insolvent. One complaint was sworn to by Margaret Bissey, who alleges he received \$50 from her March 30, 1904. The other is sworn to by J. A. Cowperthwaite, who alleges McGreevey received \$612 from him on Nov. 15, ten days before the bank closed. He will probably be arraigned upon these counts this week.

Catch Fugitive From Nebraska.

Sioux Falls, S. D., Feb. 6.—Deputy United States Marshal Lamb has arrived here with L. Fred Talbot, whom he arrested at Springfield, S. D., on instructions from the United States authorities of Nebraska. Talbot was indicted by a federal grand jury at Omaha on the charge of selling liquor at Niobrara, Neb., without having paid the special tax. In an effort to evade the indictment he crossed to the South Dakota side of the Missouri river, where he was located and arrested by the United States authorities of this place. Deputy Marshals Carleton and Lamb have departed with the prisoner for Omaha, where he will be surrendered to the federal authorities of Nebraska.

A New Brand.

A prominent missionary bishop of the Episcopal church, according to the Washington Star, was in the habit of introducing among the Eskimos who were his special charges many things to amuse or interest them in order that he might gain their attention to his preaching. It happened, however, that in spite of the various ingenious inventions which he placed before them these sons of the arctic regions continued to be impressed by the white man's canned food more than by anything else he brought with him. Being unwilling to eat the blubber and drink the oil of the Eskimos, the white man always came with many cans of meat and vegetables.

One day the bishop above referred to decided to spring a genuine surprise on the natives. He had with him on this trip a talking machine, with records in the Eskimo tongue. He gathered his charges all around him in the little meeting house and started the machine a-going. Everybody was certainly puzzled. At last a smile broke in upon the face of one.

"Canned white man," he said in glee.

The African Hyena.

"One of the great pests of Africa," said a traveler, "is the hyena. Lions and leopards do a lot of damage, but their skins, if they are shot or trapped, are some compensation for the loss they cause. The average settler, be he farmer, trader or official, rather welcomes their presence near his camp for the sake of the excitement which they afford, and very few men would hesitate to sacrifice a bullock or several head of goats or sheep for the sake of bagging a lion. But the skin of the hyena is worthless, and there is no credit whatever in shooting him, as he is an unrighteous coward. He makes the night hideous with his howls, and in the dark he is very daring and will enter compounds and huts and carry off almost anything. Nothing is too old or tough for him. Horns, skins, old boots—anything is grist to his mill."

Noah's Ark.

It was on Nov. 16, B. C. 2348, that Noah and the animals came out of the ark, according to Archbishop Ussher's chronology. Several experts have calculated that they had enjoyed ample accommodation in the ark. Sir Walter Raleigh computed that there were eighty-nine distinct species of beasts to be provided for, "or, lest any should be omitted, a hundred several kinds." He allowed that one elephant would want as much space as four beeves and one lion as two wolves, and found that there was room for 91, or, say, 120 beeves, 80 sheep and 64 wolves, which sufficed. One story or room would hold these, another their meat, a third the birds and their food, and still there was space for Noah and his family.

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Often The Kidneys Are Weakened by Over-Work.

Unhealthy Kidneys Make Impure Blood.

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