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The Sabbath-School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Third Quarter-Lesson III—August 11

SAMUEL'S FAREWELL ADDRESS.—
1 Sam. 12: 1-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*Only fear the Lord, and serve him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things he hath done for you.*—1 Sam. 12: 24.

THE INAUGURATION FESTIVAL.—
11: 14, 15. When the 330,000 Israelites were returning from Saul's great victory, and, as victors, drove the defeated Ammonites down the Jordan toward their home, they naturally came to the fords of the Jordan opposite Jericho, where their fathers first crossed into the promised land. Here they forded the river and came to Gilgal, where their fathers had their first camp, and which was now a famous sanctuary and centre of religious life. Here Samuel proposed that they hold a sacrificial feast, and renew the kingdom. Amid sacrifices and peace offerings, Saul was acknowledged to be king over all Israel. At the same time, Samuel formally laid down his office of judge. And this is called Samuel's farewell address. Thus the old era of the Judges, lasting about four centuries, had passed away, and the new era of the kingdom had dawned.

SAMUEL REVIEWS HIS PUBLIC LIFE.—Vers. 1-5. *And Samuel said unto all Israel.* Of course he must have made this address to the leaders only, and they made it known to the others. *Behold, I have hearkened unto thy voice,* etc. He yielded to their demand, after he had learned God's will, and, gracefully gave up his office and rank. He not only retired to private life, but he aided the new king with his counsel, and did all he could to make a success of the new kingdom. *And now behold the king walketh before you.* The term "walketh before you", implied generally that the kingly office included the guiding and governing the people; henceforth they must accept his authority on all occasions. *And I am old:* probably about 70 years old. Perhaps he was more worn and feeble than many of the same years, on account of the burdens of care and anxiety which had pressed upon him. *And behold my sons are with you.* These, too, had of course to give up their authority as judges in Beersheba. *And I have walked before you from my childhood.* From the time he entered the temple service as a little boy at Shiloh. *Behold, here I am.* Samuel puts himself on his trial. *And before his anointed:* Saul, who had been designated as king by God. *Whose ox... whose ass, have I taken?* away from the people for my own use. At this time there was little of silver or gold among his people, and the ox or ass were the most valuable property. *Whom have I defrauded?* He had never used his position to gain anything for himself unjustly. *Of whose hand have I received any bribe?* alludes to that practice unhappily so common in the East of giving the judge a gift to buy his favor. *And they said,* etc. The people were unanimous in their testimony. *The Lord is witness against you:* that you have acknowledged the purity of my life. The Lord knows that what I say is true. *And his anointed.* King Saul, witnessed to the people's public confession.

Samuel did not live his noble and upright life by being sheltered from temptation, difficulty and danger; he was assailed by the same temptations which overthrew his own sons and the sons of Eli. The source of his strength and goodness was in his religious life. He lived near to God. Samuel's life was an example and inspiration to the whole nation. A REVIEW OF THE PAST HISTORY OF ISRAEL, SHOWING THE ONLY SOURCE AND CONDITION OF PROSPERITY.—Vers. 6-11. *And Samuel said unto the people, It is the Lord,* etc. The elders of Israel (ver. 5) had with one consent cried out (in reply to Samuel's solemn calling of God and the king to witness) He is witness. *Advanced Moses and Aaron.* Appointed them to office. All their power and glory came from God, through obedience to him. *That brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt.* They could not have escaped from Egypt, nor crossed the Red Sea, nor passed safely through the wilderness, nor have organized into a nation, except by the direct and manifest help of God. *Now therefore stand still:* Listen, be attentive. *That I may reason with you.* That I may show clearly to you what is your way of wisdom and safety. *All the righteous acts of the Lord.* Punishments for sin and deliverances from distress, alike prove the righteousness of Jehovah. *When Jacob,* etc. God was ever ready to help his people.

They forgot... he sold them. Gave up to these enemies what he himself owned. *Into the hand of Sisera:* the general of the Canaanites. This oppression was very severe and lasted 20 years. It was from this oppression that God, by Deborah and Barak, delivered Israel. *And into the hand of the Philistines.* A warlike and commercial race along the shores of the Mediterranean. They were frequent oppressors of Israel. *Into the hand of the king of Moab.* The oppression of the Moabites under Eglon, from which they were delivered by Ehud. This oppression lasted 18 years. *And they cried unto the Lord.* They repented, turned from their sins, promised to live better lives. *Baalim and Ashtoreth.* (See Lesson III. of this quarter.) *And the Lord sent,* etc. Four typical deliverers of the nation are mentioned. Jerubbaal, who brought the Midianite oppression to an end. His original name Gideon was changed to Jerubbaal for his bold act of piety in destroying the altar of Baal. Bedan. This name is not found in the book of Judges. Probably Bedan is a copyist's error for Barak. In this case the reference will be to the deliverance from the Canaanite oppression. Jephthah the Gileadite, who routed the Ammonites. Samuel. His judgeship had supplied a remarkable instance of God's deliverances, the last as well as one of the greatest.

THE CONDITIONS OF PROSPERITY THE SAME UNDER THE NEW ORDER. Vers. 12-15. *And when ye saw that Nahash.* The threatening attitude of Nahash and the Ammonites was one of the reasons why the Israelites were so anxious for a king. *Now therefore* etc. You have attained your wish, the kingdom established. But do not imagine that any different principles will prevail in the future from those in your past history. *If ye will fear the Lord,* etc. Samuel here mentions five conditions of well-being for the people and the king in their new relation: (1) Fear the Lord; (2) serve him; (3) obey his voice; (4) not rebel against the commandment of the Lord; (5) continue following the Lord. *Then shall both ye.* All this is part of the conditions, the "if." The conclusion is not given, but is understood. Then shall it be well with you, as it was with your fathers under the same circumstances. *But if you will not obey.* * * * *Then shall the hand of the Lord be against you.* Their only hope was in obedience to God. If they obeyed, God would be a wall of defence; if they disobeyed, he would deliver them into the power of their enemies.

Samuel's words were confirmed by a miracle, and he continued for some time to impress upon the Israelites the importance of the truth he was enforcing.

PRACTICAL HINTS.

It is a blessed thing for the people when their rulers are pure, noble-minded, and religious.

We should all be like Samuel,—patriotic, unselfish, just, and honorable.

Teachers should themselves be an example of the principles they teach.

The past is the teacher of the present.

Open the book of God's providence, and read therein his own illustrations of his Word.

God cannot bless the disobedient without injury to them and to the world.

As soon as any one repents and turns to him, he sends deliverance and blessing.

A hope of our nation is in righteousness and religion.

A change of rulers or of forms of government will accomplish but little, unless there is improvement in the character of the people.



SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed "Tender for Coal, Public Buildings" will be received until FRIDAY, 2nd August next, for Coal supply, for all or any of the Dominion Public Buildings. Specification, form of tender and all necessary information can be obtained at this Department on and after Tuesday, 9th July. Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed forms supplied, and signed with their actual signatures. Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque made payable to the order of the Honourable the Minister of Public Works equal to five per cent. of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party declines to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned. The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,
A. GOBEIL,
Secretary.
Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, July 3rd, 1889.

A WONDERFUL CLOCK.

The Astonishingly Ingenious Production of a Village Watchmaker.

In the village of Pittenween, in Scotland, about fifty years ago, there was made and exhibited by Mr. Smith, a clock and watchmaker of that place, an automatical clock, which, from the description given of it at that time, appears to have equalled anything of the kind ever produced. It comprehended a very striking illustration of the musical and religious character of the people of Scotland.

The case, which was of the finest mahogany, was seven feet high, with fluted columns on each side. The upper part of the clock was ornamented with carving, fret work and gilding, with a golden bird having its wings extended standing in the centre.

The case contained a large eight-day musical clock, with three dial plates and a chime of sixteen bells.

The whole clock was divided into five different parts, each of which had its own particular weight.

The first was the going part; the second kept a small musical band in motion. The band played a favorite tune over once before striking the hour.

The third part struck the hour; the fourth moved a large musical band, containing eight celebrated Scotch tunes, one of which played every three hours with great exactness.

The front dial plate or face, which was about eighteen inches in diameter, had an arch which showed the hours, minutes and seconds, with the name and date of the month, without variation during the entire year, even on the 28th of February. The clock turned out all the odd days in one night and brought out the first of March on the following morning.

In the plate there were also two small hands, one of which discovered the day of the week.

When Sunday came there appeared the words: "Remember Sunday," and at 12 o'clock the music stopped playing until 12 o'clock on Sunday night. The music then began again and continued until the next Saturday night.

On the right hand was another dial plate eight inches wide, with an arch. It contained a hand that pointed to the name of the tune that the clock played.

The dial plate on the left was of the same size as the one on the right. It represented the front of a house with a door in the middle.

At each side of the door stood a sentinel, with his arms, in the livery of the city guard of Edinburgh, painted on brass. In the inside of the centre of the door was seen the macer or clerk of the lords of the council, dressed in his robes with his mace in his right hand.

As soon as the clock began to play he took off his hat with his right hand and walked past the door, followed by fifteen lords in procession. The figures were painted on thin brass and very much resembled life.

All this was but a part of this wonderful eight-day clock.

Municipal Bull-Fights.

In order to purchase a town clock Paso del Norte, Mex., has inaugurated a series of Sunday bull-fights.

The Kentuckian's Plea.

A few years after the war Ed. Collins, a shiftless fellow of Mercer county, was indicted for stealing cattle.

The case came up before Judge J. C. Wickliffe, now United States Attorney here, then Circuit Judge. The trial was in the court-house at Harrodsburg. P. Thompson was prosecuting attorney, and Phil Thompson Sr. and Colonel Thomas C. Bell, now assistant United States Attorney here, appeared for the defense. Ed. Butts was circuit clerk.

Collins had been a soldier in the Federal Army, while every man on the jury, the prosecuting attorney, circuit clerk and the judge himself had fought for the Confederacy.

The witnesses were brought forward and a plain case of theft was made out against Collins. The only dependence of the defense was the testimony of Collins's daughter, Rose, who was to prove an alibi.

She was a beautiful woman, with a well rounded figure, deep black eyes, a complexion in which the hues of health sat beautifully enthroned, and black hair that swept unconfined almost to the floor in long waves.

She was made to tell her story for all it was worth, and Colonel Bell made a touching plea, appealing to the sympathies of the jury for a beautiful woman in distress with all the power of language he could summon. But the veterans of Donelson and Shiloh were unmoved.

Then old Phil Thompson laid himself out to mystify them, and raise a doubt of the prisoner's guilt, and he, too, finally began to appeal to their gallantry. In the midst of a glowing sentence, however, he found the jury yawning, looking out of the window and wholly inattentive.

Breaking off his pathos, the old lawyer leaned back on the table a moment, eyed the jury quizzically with a humorous twinkle in his eye, and said:

"Look here, gentlemen, this stealing was done during the war, and you can't do anything with a man for that. You, 'Tom Mandyl,' he continued, turning and pointing to the foreman of the jury, a strapping big Kentuckian; "don't you remember that sheep you stole in Powell's Valley? You can't convict Ed. Collins."

There was a general waking up of the jury, and a smile went round.

"And you, Dan Bond; you know that horse you stole from Lord Alexander in the spring of 1862? You can't send a man to prison for stealing cattle."

The smile broke into an open guffaw in one or two places, and half a dozen men on the back seats stood up.

As the old man took up the jury one by one and recalled his shortcomings the laughter became general and continuous. Finally he said:

"And there's my Phil. Wasn't he one of Morgan's worst horse-thieves? What can he say against Collins? And you, Ed. Butts; you remember that raid on that old Yankee sympathizer in East Tennessee? And you can raise your voice against him? And his Honor on the bench, if the truth were known—"

But the rest of the sentence was drowned in a shout of laughter and uproar of applause that shook the building.

The jury was out ten minutes and they brought in a verdict of acquittal.—
[Louisville Times.]

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