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JOHN HAYWARD Administrator Lincoln Sun. Co. Nov. 24th 1889.

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INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Fourth Quarter-Lesson XII.-Dec 22.

CLOSE OF SOLOMON'S REIGN.—1 Kings 11:26-43.

GOLDEN TEXT .- Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man .-Eccl. 12:13.

SOLOMON'S SIN; A REVIEW .-- In our last lesson we watched the progress of Solomon's fall before the temptations to which he was exposed. His heart was turned away from God; he disobeyed God, and married heathen princesses; he yielded to their influence and built altars to idols, he grew extravagant, and to support his extravagance, oppressed the people with heavy burdens. Though Solomon's sins were such as would hardly be noted in any heathen emperor of that day, they are black by contrast with his privil-

Consequences to Himself.—God was indignant. He could no longer bless any one who was openly diso-

bedient to his laws. Consequences to the Kingdom. -Vers. 26 35. The ground disgraced by the heathen altars was afterwards called "the Mount of the Destroyer (corruption)." Seldom is one word found to describe so truly the consequences of a king's policy. All the evil consequences which fell on Solomon fell also on his kingdom. His moral delinquencies affected unfavorably the morals of the kingdom. His kingdom was rent in twain. And Jeroboam the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite [i. e., Ephraimite]. Ephraim was the ancient rival of Judah, and by reason of its numbers, position, etc., might well aspire to the headship of the tribes. Of Zereda, a town of Ephraim, location unknown. Solomon's servant: rather, officer. Lift ed up his hand: rebelled. Solomon built Millo, and repaired (rather closed up) the breaches (or ravine, a part unbuilt) of the city. Probably the breach referred to was that caused by the ravine, which separated Zion from Moriah and Ophel, and the Millo was the bank or rampart which closed it along the line of the north wall. Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor. A man of unusual power, and ability, both in war and in peace. Made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph. Solomon, i. e., made Jeroboam superintendent of all the forced labor exacted from his tribethe tribe of Ephraim, the son of Joseph-during the time that he was building Millo and fortifying the city of Jerusalem. The tribe of Ephraim, with its constant envy of Judah, must have been mortified to find themselves employed on the fortifications of Jerusalem. Their murmurings revealed to Jeroboam the unpopularity of Solomon. When Jeroboam went out of Jerusalem: perhaps toward his own home in Ephraim. The prophet Ahijah; perhaps the one who made known to Solomon God's message on account of his sins. The Shilonite: belonging to Shiloh. And he (the prophet) had clad himself with a new garment: a large square piece of cloth, thrown over the shoulders and almost covering the whole person in daytime, and used at night for a coverlet. And Ahijah caught the new garment. A new garment is one that is whole and complete; the kingdom was hitherto without split or division. It indicates the newness, the still young and vigorous condition of the kingdom. And rent it in twelve pieces: each representing a tribe. Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel. Thus showing plainly to Jeroboam the source from which the gift came, and presenting strong motives for adhering to the service of God. I will rend the kingdom: as the prophet had rent his mantle. And will give ten tribes to thee: all except Judah and Benjamin. But

MERCY WITH JUDGMENT .- Vers. 34-39. I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand. Although Solomon had so grievously sinned, yet he had not gone wholly astray like Saul, and therefore his punishment was not like Saur's, the loss of the whole kingdom. But I will make him prince all the days of his life. The rending of the kingdom should not take place till Solomon had died, but in the reign of his son. For David my servant's sake. God had made a solemn covenant with David, and a promise which could not be broken. For David my servant may have a light alway before me. The idea is not that of a home but family, issue. We speak of the extinction of a family. In Jerusalem, he city which I have chosen me

he shall have one tribe. Neither

Benjamin nor Judah alone was

meant here, but both together. Be-

cause, etc. (See last lesson.)

to put my name there. David's family never was extinct, for it lives forever in "his greater Son" Jesus. Thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth We are not justified in concluding from these words that Jeroboam then had ambitious designs upon the throne. It was the putting before him of all the possibilities and hopes the most eager soul could desire, and showing him the one only way in which they could be realized. If thou wilt hearken unto all that I command thee. The new kingdom could be successful on the same conditions on which David and Solomon had succeeded. And build thee a sure house: secure perpetuity to his family in the kingdom. I will for this afflict the seed of David but not for ever. As he had promised to David, that "if his son should commit iniquity he would chasten him with the rod of men," a temporal and human punishment.

Solomon's Death.—Vers. 40-43.

Solomon sought therefore. This is a continuation of ver. 26, the intervening verses being an explanation of the statement that Jeroboam lifted his hand against Solomon. To kill Jeroboam. It would appear that the announcement of Ahijah was followed within a little while by something like overtacts of rebellion on the part of Jeroboam. He should have waited, like David in the time of Saul, till Solomon's end had come. And Jeroboam arose, and fled into Egypt. The most natural place of refuge. Probably there was a new dynasty since Solomon married Pharaoh's daughter, and the Egyptians, perceiving the weakening of the kingdom in Solomon's later days, and longing for the immense wealth gathered in his kingdom. were quite willing to welcome any enemy of Solomon. Shishak king of Egypt. Shishak is, beyond doubt, the Sheshonk I. of the monuments, and is the first of the Pharaohs who can be identified with certainty. Solomon reigned forty years. He must have died when about 60 years old. He forfeited the promise of long life by not fulfilling the conditions.

PRACTICAL HINTS.

God has made this world so that in against him contains in itself the elements of evil to the sinner, as the seed contains the plant.

No one can sin without injuring others as well as himself.

Those who show talent, skill, and faithfulness in lesser things are soon wanted for greater things, and find soen doors to a wider sphere

But what shall be the results in the end will depend on whether they obey God and keep his command-

God always fulfils his promises just as fully as those to whom they are made will render possible by fulfilling the necessary conditions.

To hasten the fulfilment of God's promises by criminal methods of our own brings not only guilt but fail-

In all sinthere is exceeding danger of going beyond the line of rereturn. pentance

REWARDS OF INVENTORS.

Fortunes Realized from the Barbed Wire

and Grain Binder Patents. The ups and downs of inventors are remarkable, especially the ups, says W. H. Osmer in the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. While acting as a patent solicitor several instances came to my notice. The barbed wire patents, which have netted fortunes to their owners, have an interesting history. The first patents were issued to a man named Kelly, living down East. About two years later a farmer at De Kalb, Ill., conceived the idea of keeping his unruly cattle in the pasture by putting short barbs of wire and then twisting it with a plain wire. This is known in the market as Glidden wire, being named after its inventor, Joseph H. Glidden. One day while he was experimenting with it a neighbor going by shouted: "Joe, you better be out harrerin, in your oats instead of foolin' away your time with patents." Glidden thought otherwise, and in less than two years received a bonus of \$60,000, with the guarantes of a royalty on all made under his patents. For the year 1881 his royalties exceeded \$174,000. The Appleby grainbinder, which, in being perfected, bankrupted the owners, Appleby, Parker, Stone and Bishop, by a loss of \$32,000, eventually came to the surface with \$150,000 for each of the owners, while its present owners have realized over (1,000,00). In this reccrd, however, the fact should not be lost sight of that hundreds of inventors in this and other lines have wasted the best years of their lives, and as many capitalists have witnessed the fading of their last doilar in schemes that never "panned."

Queen Victoria's Rings.

It is said that the three rings which Queen Victoria prizes the most highly are: First of all her wedding ring, which she has never taken off, then a small emerald ring, with a tiny diamond in the center, which the Prince Consort gave her at the age of sixteen; and an emerald serpent, which he gave her as an engagement ring. For many years after the Prince Consort's death her Majesty slept with these rings on her fingers, only taking them off to wash her hands, as the water would, of course, spoil

FLOWERS AS EMBLEMS.

A Form of Heraldry Whose Mysteries Are Past Finding Out.

Love, Historical and Romantic, Regarding the Various Floral Badges Told of in Ancient and Modern Myths, Traditions and Theories.

"A good symbol," it was the opinion of Emerson, "is the best argument, and is a missionary to persuade thousands. There is no more welcome gift to men than a new symbol." This, says the London Standard, may possibly account for the rise, popularity and persistence of floral symbols.

Yet it seems difficult to explain why Wales should have chosen the leek for its cognizance, though the Cymric poets have a good deal to say about the broom. The Scottish thistle is more to the point. Yet the northern botanists are by no means at one in assigning that heraldic plant to any known species, or even in agreeing that it is a Carduus at all. . The plant with which Holyrood is decked on festive days is usually the cotton thistle, which is certainly not a wild plant in North Britain. The rose has, of course, a romantic tale to explain its choice as the emblem of old England, though, like the majority of such tales, this legend may belong to the myths of the post hoc, propter hoe order. The fleur-de-lis of France is still less easy of explanation. For, though it is conventionally regarded as a lily, the heraldic painters have so effectually disguised it that it is now a mere matter of choice to say what it is. As early as the year 1611 Givillin (who was in those days considered a cunning finder out of hidden things) regarded the device on the Bourbon flag as "three toads," and it is affirmed that it was in allusion to these supposed symbols of their country that the popular nickname of "Jean Crapauds" was bestowed on the French people. Still more recently, owing to certain ornaments resembling bees having been found in the tomb of Childeric, father of Clovis, it has been thought that perhaps these insects, and not lilies or toads, are represented on the white flag.

It would certainly be difficult for any one to explain why Florence adopted the "giglio blanco," Prussia the lime, Saxony the mignonette, or Ireland the shamrock, unless, indeed, we are to accept without question the legend of St. Patrick and his demonstration through it of the mystery of the Trinity. Nor is it much easier for any one who is critical anent popular myths to account for the white lily being the badge of the Ghibellines, and the red of the Gueiphs, any more than it is explicable why the Yorkists took the white rose and the Lancastrians the red, or why the heartsease was the emblem of the "violet-crowned" city of Athens.

Again, why was Apollo supposed to love the laurel and the cornel cherry, Pluto the cypress and the maiden hair-a moistureloving fern, which we may take for granted could not be very plentiful in his chosen realm-Luna the dittany, Ceres the daffodil, Jupiter the oak, Minerva the olive, Bacchus the vine, and Venus the myrtle

Why, again, is the Canterbury-bell the flower of St. Augustine? Why is the crocus the emblem of St. Valentine—unless it happens to appear about his festival timethe cardamine of the Virgin Mary, or the St. John's-wort of the beloved apostle? Mr. Gomme may, perhaps, hint at these flowers having been "totems," and possibly the flowers were actually favorites with those whose cognizance they became after their death or were borne on their shields as heraldic emblems during life. But still. the endless floral badges of the highland clans are left in the regions of airy myth, like the betony which was apportioned to St. Ffraed as a symbol of the double share of grace with which he was endowed, or the lily of St. Thomas A'Beckett, or the convallaria, which, according to a hagiological myth, sprang up from the blood of the dragon which St. Leonard slew in a wood standing on the site now occupied by the suburb of Hastings bearing his name.

It is scarcely less puzzling to give a reasonable explanation of why certain flowers are assigned to, or have been appropriated by, certain individuals.

The Napoleonic violet is a case in point. The modest plant which once made all Paris fragrant on the Bonapartist fete day was never an object of concern to the "Little Corporal," and only very credulous people now swallow the romantic legend of his telling his adherents, when banished to Elba, that he would "come back with the violets." The story was an invention of after times.

Nor has any one to our knowledge gone into the origin of the scarlet carnation as the chosen flower of the Stuarts. Jacobitism-the Jacobitism of the Pretender and of the gallant gentlemen who mounted the white cockade and lost their heads for their pains-is now a vanished faith. Yet to this day mysterious hands yearly deposit wreaths of carnations on the tombs of Cardinal York and other members of the hapless line of James II.

Later floral emblems are less difficult to explain. In truth, except for the problem which individual tastes must always remain, there is no great puzzle in the matter. The old Kaiser Wilhelm, of Germany, who in spite of his military reputation and general drill sergeantry, was wonderfully suffused with the Teutonic sentimentality which pervaded Germany in his boyhead, was fond of the corn-flower, and wherever he went, in his later days at least, the whole country side blossomed forth in blue in his honor. The old Emperor's devotion to the memory of his mother amounted to a "cult," and one of his earliest recollections of her was that when she and her boys were fugitives from Berlin on the occasion of one of Napoleon's invasions, she rested for a moment by a corn-field, and amused them by plucking the blue cornflowers and making them wreaths and nose-

The present Kaiser is said to affect the violet, a fancy which may clash with that of the Bonapartists, should the adherents of the "democratic empire" again come to the front in France. A flower was, of course, necessary to the Boulangists, and, with characteristic instinct for effect, the partisans of the "national and honest republic" have chosen the carnation. Nevertheless, the origin of the symbol does not matter, except from a historical point of view. The mysteries of this form of heraldry are generally beyond finding out, and not infrequently are better left unexplered, if the result of antiquarian search is as depressing as that which affirms that the word shamrock is derived from the Arabic shamrockh, a club or shillelah, and that this weapon is, in truth, the true badge of the Hibernian race.

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