

# Barnes & Co.

STEAM  
JOB PRINTERS,

Booksellers,

—AND—

Blank-Book

Manufacturers.

BLANK

BOOKS

RULED, PRINTED & BOUND

TO ANY PATTERN

AND STYLE.

THEY HAVE FURNISHED THEIR

PRINTING OFFICE AND

BOOKBINDERY

WITH

New Types

—AND—

PRESSES

—AND—

FIRST-CLASS MACHINERY,

AND MATERIALS,

AND ARE PREPARED TO DO ALL

KINDS OF WORK IN THEIR

LINE OF BUSINESS.

THEY HAVE SPECIAL FACILITIES

FOR MANUFACTURING AND

PRINTING EVERY DES-

CRPTION OF

Railway

Tickets.

OLD BOOKS REBOUND.

BIBLES AND TESTAMENTS,

VARIOUS PRICES,

Sent by mail, prepaid, on receipt of price.

Address—

BARNES & CO.,

Prince Wm. Street, St. John, N.B.

## The Sabbath-School.

### INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

[FROM PELOUBET'S NOTES.]

FIRST QUARTER.—Lesson 7.—Feb. 14.

THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL.—DAN. v. 1-12, 25-28.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*Thou art weighed in the balances, and found wanting.*—DAN. v. 27.

I. THE CIRCUMSTANCES.—The Medo-Persian empire had for several years been coming into power, and under Cyrus (558-529) had been conquering the outlying provinces of the Babylonian empire.

About two years before the feast described, Cyrus had begun the siege of Babylon. He at once saw that its reduction would be no easy enterprise. The walls were of prodigious height and thickness; the number of men to defend them was very great; and, in ordinary circumstances, the only mode of reducing the place would have been by cutting off its communications with the country, and so starving it into surrender. But, in anticipation of this, Nabonidus had taken immense pains to store the town with provisions; and it was reckoned to contain enough to sustain the inhabitants for twenty years. Cyrus caused a line of circumvallation to be drawn around it, with a large and deep ditch; and upon the banks thrown up in excavating it, he built towers at regular intervals, as watch-towers and stations for the troops on guard.

II. THE GREAT FEAST.—Vers. 1-4. 1. *Belshazzar the King.* Now about 16 or 17 years old; son of Nabonidus; grandson of Nebuchadnezzar; associate king, but ruling alone in Babylon, his father being in Borsippa, a neighboring city, shut out from Babylon by the besieging forces. *Made a great feast.* Not improbably an annual festival in honor of some of the Babylonian deities.

*To a thousand of his lords.* This was not so large a number in oriental banquets as it may seem to us: 15,000 men fed daily at the king's cost in the Persian courts. Alexander the Great once invited 10,000 to a wedding feast.

2. *Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine.* The folly and wickedness that followed grew out of the wine-cup. *The golden and silver vessels . . . taken out of the temple . . . in Jerusalem.*

THE WICKEDNESS of this act consisted, (1) In robbing these sacred utensils to base uses. (2) Increasing the insult by doing it at a feast to an idol, thus implying that the idol was superior to the living God.

III. THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL.—Vers. 5-9. 5. *In the same hour.* While the profane revelry was going on. *Came forth fingers of a man's hand, i. e., so much of the hand as held the pen.* It was manifestly supernatural. *Over against the candlestick.* Which stood on the table at which the king sat, and which reflected its light perceptibly on the white wall opposite, so that the fingers writing could be distinctly seen. *Wrote . . . upon the plaster.* The poets represent the writing as traced in letters of fire, outdazzling the light of the banquet hall, as the sun outshines the stars. What the writing was is seen in ver. 25.

6. *Then the king's countenance was changed.* A deadly paleness came over him. *His thoughts troubled him.* He was conscience-smitten.

8. *Then came in all the king's wise men.* That is, after all had come in and attempted to read the writing. They did not all come at once. They could not read the writing, nor make known . . . the interpretation. The words of the writing are Aramaic, the language of which Chaldea, Syria, and Hebrew are different branches. The literal meaning of the words was therefore evident to the Babylonians as soon as they were pronounced. *Why, then, could not these wise men read them?* (1) Some have thought it was because the words were written in the Ancient Hebrew characters, as different from those used in Babylon, as Old English is from Modern. But these wise men would, of course, be able to read that language. (2) The word *read* is doubtless to be understood as *read so as to understand.* The wise men would not be able to know what the words on the wall meant as applied to Belshazzar, even if they could pronounce the words and know their separate meanings.

IV. THE INTERPRETATION.—Vers. 10-12, 25-28. 10. *Now the Queen.* "This was the queen-mother, who was probably the daughter of Nebuchadnezzar. To her the former life of Daniel would be familiar." She was informed of Belshazzar's proclamation, and of the words of terror and anxiety spoken by the king.

11. *There is a man in thy kingdom.* Daniel had some official position in the kingdom (Dan. viii. 27), but it was probably removed from immediate connection with the king. Belshazzar may have heard of him, but as a young man of 17 he would

not have remembered much about him. Daniel is brought before the king. He faithfully refers to what God had done for his father, Nebuchadnezzar, and now he was punished for his pride. Then he shows the king his own sins, and declares that the handwriting on the wall expresses the punishment God sent upon him for his high-handed outrage.

25. *And this is the writing.* 26. *Mene, Mene, Mene means numbered, the count is finished.* So Daniel interprets its application to be, *God has numbered thy kingdom, and has finished it, i. e., its duration is so counted out that it now comes to an end.* 27. *Tekel.* In this lies the double sense of *weighed and found light.* The application is that Belshazzar has been weighed as to his moral character and actions and has been found wanting.

28. *Peres.* This is the singular form, of which *Upharsin* is the plural. It means *divided, broken into pieces.* *Thy kingdom is divided.* Broken into pieces, destroyed. *Given to the Medes and Persians.* Even while Belshazzar was puzzling over the handwriting, the Persians were swarming into the city. It must be understood that the river Euphrates flowed through the midst of Babylon; and its banks were lined with walls, pierced with many gates, which afforded access to the city. Cyrus for some time had been planning to draw away the water of the river, and enter the city through the bed of the river. The experiment was an extremely hazardous one; for if the heavy brazen gates had been properly watched and guarded, the Persians not only would not have been able to get into the city, but would have been caught in the bed of the river between two fires, and would have been slaughtered like sheep in a pen. But when the festival came all the leaders were revelling in the palace. Elsewhere the rest of the population were occupied in feasting and dancing. Drunken riot held possession of the town; the siege was forgotten; ordinary precautions, as the closing of the river gates, were neglected. Soon shadowy forms began to emerge from the obscurity of the river-bed, and on the landing-places opposite the river-gates scattered clusters of men grew into solid columns; the undefended gateways were seized; a war-shout was raised; the alarm was taken and spread, and swift runners started off to "show the king of Babylon that his city was taken and at an end" (Jer. li. 31). In the darkness and confusion ensued (Jer. li. 30; li. 4). The drunken revellers could make no resistance. The king, paralyzed with fear at the awful handwriting upon the wall, which too late had warned him of his peril (Jer. li. 43; Dan. v. 5-28) could do nothing even to check the progress of the assailants, who carried all before them everywhere. Bursting into the palace, a band of Persians made their way to the presence of the monarch, and slew him on the scene of his impious revelry. Other bands carried fire (Jer. li. 32; li. 30, 32, 58) and sword through the town. When morning came, Cyrus found himself undisputed master of the city, which, if it had not despised his efforts, might with the greatest ease have baffled them.

### THE ALPHABET.

Large volumes have been written about the alphabet, explaining its origin and history. We proceed to give the latest results of investigation. Dr. Isaac Taylor, (son of the late venerable Isaac Taylor the philosopher and essayist) has written largely on the subject; and Professor Sayce has recently turned his attention to it. The English alphabet is borrowed from the Romans; the Romans borrowed from the Greeks, and the Greeks from the Phoenicians. Thus our letter A can easily be traced to the Hebrew *Aleph*. It is agreed on all sides that the alphabet *grew*, and was not invented all at once. Men started with pictures, like the hieroglyphics of Egypt. Picture writing has been found among barbarous tribes and in the cities of South and Central America when the Spaniards conquered them. The next stage is called the ideographic stage—the pictures representing ideas; and the third is when the letters represent sounds. These three forms of writing are found on ancient Egyptian monuments. It is now generally admitted that Egypt is the source of the alphabet. For example the sound of *m* was in the hieratic Egyptian alphabet represented by the picture of the ears and wing of an owl, *mulay*. This form passed to the Phoenicians and has come down to us. The two ears of the owl (*mulay*) survive in every M we write. So with the other letters.

The Phoenicians had a colony in the Delta of Egypt and much trade with the country, and for trade purposes they learnt and used letters with sounds, as used by the Egypt-

ians. In the Egyptian language and alphabets there was no sound like that represented by the Hebrew or Phoenician *Ayin*; it is likely therefore that this letter was added by the Phoenicians. From other than Phoenician sources the Greeks got their phi, chi and psi, and their merchants became the great disseminators of phonetic writing. Each place modified the forms and names of the letters to suit themselves. Most of the alphabets of Europe are descended from the Latin which the power and civilization of Rome carried far and wide. Eastern alphabets gradually derived their existence from the Phoenician original,—just like the Western. Egypt then has been the source of the alphabet, and the Phoenicians have been its great disseminators.

### STEPPING STONES TO SUCCESS.

Learn your business thoroughly. Keep at one thing—in no wise change.

Observe system and order in all you do and undertake.

Never fail to keep your appointments, or to be punctual to the minute.

Be self-reliant; do not take too much advice, but rather depend on yourself.

Never be idle, but keep your hands or minds usefully employed except when sleeping.

Use charity with all; be generous in thought and deed; help others along life's thorny pathway.

Accustom yourself to think and act vigorously, and be prompt and decided for the right against the wrong.

Make no haste to be rich, remembering that small and steady gains give competency, with tranquility of mind.

Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day, and never trouble others to do what you can perform yourself.

Earn money before you spend it; never buy what you do not want; adopt the "pay as you go" principle, and never deviate from it.

Buy, subscribe to, and read all that is necessary to fully inform yourself on the doings, discoveries, and reforms of the age in which you live.

Finally, in all you do say, think and act out; so live that your daily growth of soul and body may be ever upward in the direction of perfection.

Make few promises. Always speak the truth and holding fast the truth; and in your business relations be guided by strict integrity and unflinching honesty.

Develop a wealth of character by personal courage. Possess the courage to speak your mind when it is necessary you should do so, and to hold your tongue when it is prudent you should do so; to acknowledge your ignorance rather than seek credit under false pretenses.—*Presbyterian.*

### A WISE CAPTAIN.

A Nantucket steamboat captain was once asked by a passenger on his boat how much ardent spirits he used. He replied:

"I never drank a teaspoonful of rum, brandy, gin, cider, wine, or beer. I never smoked nor took snuff, and I never drank tea nor coffee."

"But," said the passenger, "what do you drink with your breakfast?"

"Cold water," was the answer.

"And what with your dinner?"

"Cold water."

"And for your supper?"

"Cold water."

"Well," said the passenger, but what do you take when you are sick?"

"I never was sick in my life," was the ready and glad reply.

He was a wise captain. He was accustomed to exposure in all sorts of bad weather, wind, and storm, and never believed in the foolish notion that he must take a drop of spirits to "keep out the cold."

"Do you commend your minister, or criticize him, in the presence of your children? There are parents who very freely censure their ministers and the Church, who wonder that their children never join the Church to which they themselves belong. But is it strange that the young people refuse to come into a Church which is worthy of so much criticism? People sometimes prepare sorrows for themselves when they little dream that they are doing it." As a parent's counsel to other parents we send it out to our readers—to parents in the Church. There is a terrible amount of truth in it.—*Church Advocate.*

No spirit is wholly cast off from God if it longs after God. If thou canst be content without God, thou art indeed a lost one; but if there be in thee a wretched, rankling discontent at the very thought of being severed from thy God, then thou art his and he is thine, and no division shall come between thee and him.—*Spurgeon.*

## FAMILY GROCERIES!

W. H. VANWART,

QUEEN ST., FREDERICTON,  
KEEPS always on hand a large and well-selected stock of everything that should be found in a

FIRST CLASS GROCERY.  
He invites country trade, feeling sure that he can sell Groceries of as good quality and at

PRICES AS LOW  
as any establishment in the city.  
All kinds of Country Produce taken in trade.

QUEEN STREET, (WEST END)  
FREDERICTON.

J. G. McNALLY

Has just received several large instalments of Goods.

\$850 worth Silver-plated Ware,

Now open, and several lots to arrive.

TORONTO SILVER PLATE CO.'S  
ELEGANT NEW GOODS.

All stamped. No doubt about the quality. Every article guaranteed as represented.

Also—35 Cases of Fancy Goods

From the best markets, and another lot of those handsome PARLOR LAMPS at \$1.00. So marvelously cheap. Do not fail to call. I have determined to make inducements to you by offering fine

GOODS AT VERY LOW PRICES.

J. G. McNALLY,

Opposite City Hall, Fredericton.

Tennant,

Davies & Co.

Directly opposite Normal School,

Fredericton, - N. B.,

Importers and Dealers in

DRY GOODS,

House-Furnishing Goods,

—IN—

CARPETS,

—IN—

Brussels, Tapestry,

Wool-Union

AND HEMP.

Cocoa Mattings,

Floor Oil-cloths

and Linoleums,

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

Agents for the Celebrated M. R. & A.

Unlaundried

Dollar Shirt,

AND THE POPULAR

PERFECT FITTING NEW YORK

DOMESTIC PAPER PATTERNS.

Inspection invited.

Tennant,

Davies & Co.

An Immense Stock

—OF—

BOOTS & SHOES

NOW ON EXHIBITION AT

Lottimer's

Shoe Store.

Winter Stock about Complete.

THE SUBSCRIBER begs leave to in-

form his friends and the public gen-

erally that he is now showing the largest

stock of

BOOTS,

SHOES,

OVERBOOTS,

MOCCASINS,

LARGAINS, &c.,

to be found in the City of Fredericton.

Don't fail to give him a Call.

A. LOTTIMER,

QUEEN STREET,

FREDERICTON.

J. A. & W. VANWART,

BARRISTERS-AT-LAW,

Queen Street, Fredericton.

Accounts collected and loans ne-

gotiated on good securities.

mar 31—1y

W. FENWICK,

COMMISSION MERCHANT.

Agent for the Sale of all kinds of

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE,

BUTTER,

CHEESE,

EGGS,

OATS,

BUCKWHEAT,

FLOUR,

POTATOES,

TURNIPS,

CARROTS,

PORK,

POULTRY, &c.

NORTH MARKET STREET,

SAINT JOHN, N. B.

## COTTONS.

WHOLESALE.

J. VASSIE & CO.,

Cor. King and Canterbury Sts.

—HAVE RECEIVED—

GREY COTTONS, in 30 qualities;

GREY SHEETINGS, 8-4, 9-4, 3 qualities

Canadian and American;

WHITE COTTONS, in 24 qualities,

from 28 to 36 inches wide;

PILLOW COTTONS, 42, 43, 46 and 54

inch widths;

WHITE SHEETINGS, 8-4, 9-4, and 10-4,

various makes;

SPRING PRINTS, newest designs, up-

wards of 100,000 yards, 53 cts., and up;

PATCHWORK COTTONS;

WHITE STRIPED PIQUES, new pat-

terns;

TWILLED POCKETINGS;

CASBANS, SILESIAES, Black, Colored

and Fancy;

CHECKED GINGHAMS, newest pat-

terns and several qualities, at lowest

prices;

CRETONNES AND FURNITURE

PRINTS, from 10 cts. up;

SWISS EMBROIDERIES, new pat-

terns;

DOWN DUCKS, QUILTS;

CHECKED DUCKS;

WHITE DUCKS;

CHECKED SHIRTINGS, 500 pieces at

Mill Prices;

ENGLISH AND AMERICAN JEANS;

COTTON TOWELS;

TURKEY RED COTTONS;

ROLLED LINING COTTONS;

WINDOW HOLLANDAES, Green, Buff,