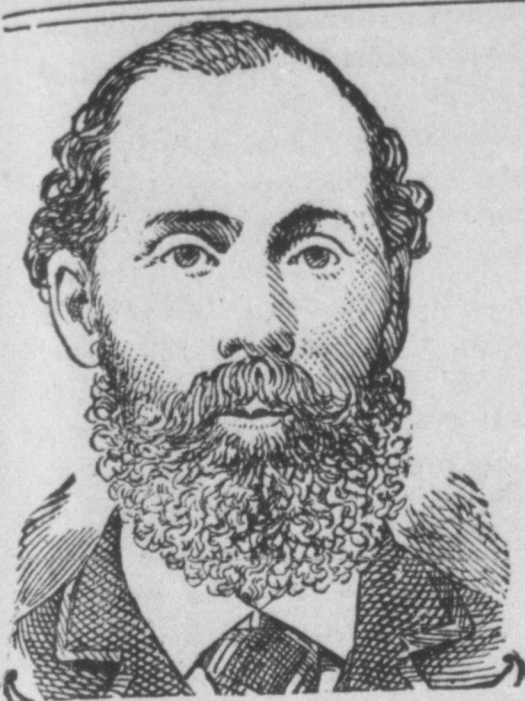


AUG. 14, 1895.

3



Purified Blood

Saved an operation in the following case. Hood's Sarsaparilla cures when all others fail. It makes pure blood.

"A year ago my father, William Thompson, was taken suddenly ill with inflammation of the bladder. He suffered a great deal and was very low for some time. At last the doctor said he would not get well unless an operation was performed. At this time we read about Hood's Sarsaparilla and decided to try it. Before he used half a bottle his appetite had come back to him, whereas before he could eat but little. When he had taken three bottles of the medicine he was as well as ever." FRANCIS J. THOMPSON, Peninsula Lake, Ontario.

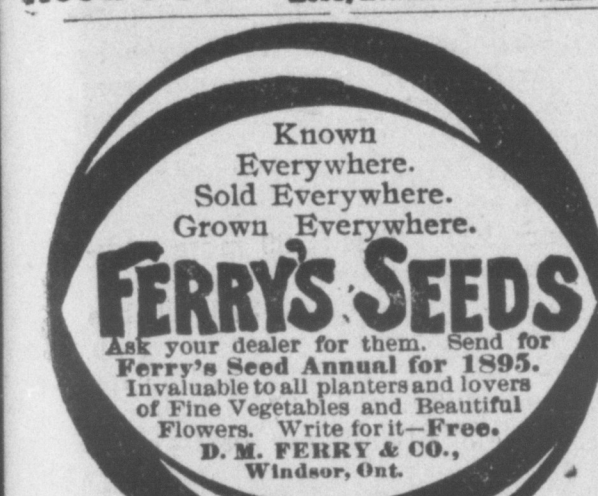
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Hood's Pills cure all liver ills, biliousness, headache, etc.



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"No eggs are needed to settle it."
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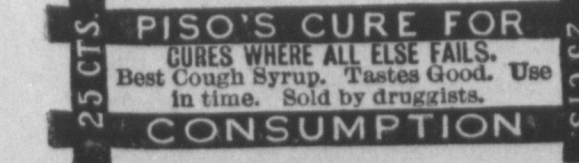
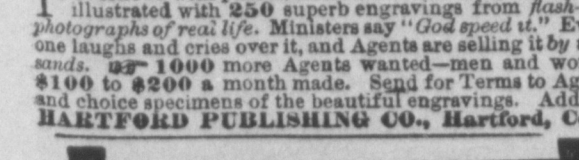
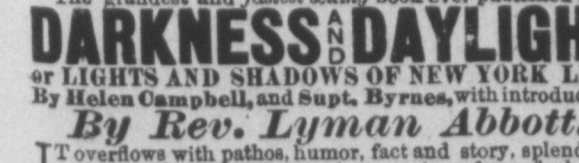
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The Sabbath-School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Third Quarter—Lesson VIII, Aug. 23.

CROSSING THE JORDAN.—

Joshua 3: 5-17.

GOLDEN TEXT.—When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee.—Isa. 43: 2.

I. THE NEW LEADER.—The mantle of Moses fell upon Joshua, the son of Nun, and he was appointed by God to be the leader of the people. His birthplace must have been in Goshen, Egypt, where he was a slave of Pharaoh. He was a descendant of Joseph, through Ephraim, and his age was about eighty-four at the time he became commander-in-chief. He died at the age of 110. His first appearance was as a commander of the Israelite forces in a battle with the Amalekites soon after the exodus (Ex. 17: 8-16). He was one of the explorers sent out to spy out the land, and, with Caleb, stood up with great courage and faith against public opinion, which was ready to stone them to death. In character, he was distinguished for courage, simple faith, deep piety, humility, and faithfulness. He was a great general, with keen observation, celerity of movement, skillful strategy.

All his past life was a preparation for the great work to which he was now called. He never could have done the work, had he not been faithful, active, ready to learn, and always doing his best. He that is faithful over a few things will be made ruler over many things. This is the only ladder upward. So it was with David. So it always has been, and always will be.

God endorsed him before all the people by working through him similar wonders to those by which he proved to the people that he had chosen Moses.

II. THE NEW MOVEMENT.—A new era was now to begin, toward which all their past history led them.

BEFORE THEM LAY THE PROMISED LAND, rich and beautiful in its spring glory. The territory was ample and lay in the very centre of the then civilized world. The records of Genesis II. show the condition of Palestine, and the adjacent countries in the age of Moses. The Egyptian king brought back from them, he tells us, gold, glass, gums, cattle, slaves, ivory, ebony, boats, horses, chariots inlaid with gold and silver, or painted iron, steel, dates, oil, wine, asses, cedar, suits of armour, fragrant wood, war galleys, incense, gold dishes with handles, ornaments of lapis lazuli, silver dishes, precious stones, honey, lead, spears of brass, colors,—the plunder, in fact, of a rich and civilized country. The meadows of Palestine, its fortresses, its groves, and its orchards are mentioned, showing that prosperity of every kind abounded.

Such a land was worth every effort to gain.

Before them also lay the GREAT DIFFICULTIES TO BE ENCOUNTERED. The list of nations who possessed the land is given in verse 3. Some of them were powerful. There were formidable leagues of chiefs and kings, organized armies, with giants among them, war-horses, and iron chariots, strong stone fortresses in a country possessed by those who knew every foot of it.

III. PREPARATION FOR CROSSING. V. 5. Two explorers were sent across the river, to investigate and report. Their story is told in chapter 2. They reported that terror had fallen on all the inhabitants of the land, their courage had melted away, and their hearts were faint; for they had heard what the Lord had done for the Israelites in Egypt.

And Joshua said unto the people, sanctify yourselves. They were to wash their persons and their garments, and to abstain from everything that might indispose their minds to a serious and devout attention to the miracle about to be wrought in their behalf. These were the outward signs of sanctification, the turning of the heart to God in faith and trust in his promise, and in willing obedience to his commands, that they might rightly take to heart the wonder of grace which the Lord would the next day perform among them.

The special manifestation of God's presence should be awaited by his people in a posture of deep humiliation, and penitence, and prayer, and by diligent efforts to cleanse themselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit.

This is the only appropriate way to approach a holy God who abhors all sin.

It sets forth the holy nature of God to others.

To-morrow the Lord will do wonders among you. By this miracle God inspired his people with faith and courage for their future work (v. 10); he put fear in the hearts of their enemies; he gave those enemies new proofs that he was the true God, and thus called on them to repent; this miracle being done through Joshua, endorsed him before the people as their divinely appointed leader.

THE ARK OF THE COVENANT LEADS THE WAY.—The priests, ministers of religion went before even the commander-in-chief. The ark of the covenant, the ark of the testimony, was a sacred chest containing the two tables of stone, inscribed with the Ten Commandments (and the pot of manna, and Aaron's rod, Heb. 9: 4). It was the symbol of Jehovah's presence, of his covenant promise, and of their covenant of obedience. Went before the people. There was to be a space of nearly three quarters of a mile between the ark and the people, so that all could see the sacred symbol of the divine presence (Josh. 3: 4), which could not be done if the ark was closely surrounded by a crowd.

THE LEADER TO BE PUBLICLY HONOURED BY GOD. And the Lord said unto Joshua, this day will I begin to magnify thee: make thee great, put honor upon thee, as the leader and commander of the people. Henceforth he would be accepted as the true successor of Moses.

The leaders of religion with the ark must take the most dangerous place. Ye shall stand still in Jordan. They were first required to pause on the brink of the stream, till the channel was laid dry, and then they seem to have advanced and taken their station in the midst of it, till all the people had passed over. If the waters, dammed up some miles above, should break through their barriers, they would be the first to be destroyed, and the people would have some warning. Thus they were an example of faith in God, an object lesson in plain sight of the people.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT. Said unto the children of Israel, Come... and hear. It seems that the Israelites had no intimation how they were to cross the river till shortly before the event.

Hereby ye shall know that the living God is among you. Jehovah would prove his existence and his presence by his works. By what God has done, we know what he can do, and will do. "They greatly needed this proof, for the difficulties of the Hebrews were immense. To the iron chariots, the horses, and the fortresses of the country, and its formidable leagues of chiefs and kings, they could oppose only a rude, half-armed militia, with inadequate military training." The Canaanites were, strictly speaking, the lowlanders, but this term is often used in a wider sense, including all the tribes descended from Canaan, including all the tribes here named. The Hittites, The Hivites, The Perizzites, The Girgashites, The Amorites, and The Jebusites.

Behold, the ark... of the Lord of all the earth: who, therefore, has the right and the power to give you the land. Passeth over before you: to lead you, to make the way for you, to prove that it is safe for you to follow, to show that the power and the victory are from God.

Now therefore take ye twelve men: to bring memorial stones from the river bed.

And it shall come to pass. This verse is the promise of what is described in verse 16, as fulfilled.

The Jordan crossed, and the people stand within the promised land.—Ys. 14: 17. For Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest: i. e., the barley harvest, which is during the latter part of March and first of April in this warm and sheltered region. There are two or three series of banks to the river. The river at this place is about one hundred feet wide, and the margin overflowed about four hundred feet more, making about five hundred feet in total width. Some represent the width as much greater. President Bartlett, when travelling in Palestine, found, on the 22nd of March, the Jordan "rushing along like a mill-race, and though it had fallen from its greatest height, the proper banks of the channel were invisible, and indicated only by lines of oleanders and other shrubs and trees."

The cause of this amount of water is found in the melting snows of Lebanon. At some other times the river can be easily forded.

WHY THIS SEASON WAS CHOSEN FOR CROSSING. This season of high water was wisely chosen; for (1) the miracle was the more stupendous and impressive to the Israelites. (2) It inspired their enemies with greater terror. (3) Those enemies, had the crossing been attempted when the water was low, would have appeared upon the present occasion? The answer is simple. They trusted to the swollen river, which they knew no army could cross.

The waters... rose up upon a heap very far from the city of Adam. The true meaning is expressed by the A. V., "rose up in one heap, a great way off, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan." That is in some way, by direct miraculous power, or by some means, the waters were dammed up there long enough for the people to pass over the Jordan.

The priests... stood firm on dry ground in the mid of Jordan, proving their faith in God's promise, and calling attention to the fact that it

was divine power alone that opened the way and preserved them in it. Thus the whole people crossed in safety, in a very few hours, and stood for the first time in their new home. They encamped at Gilgal. Then the river returned to its usual course. There was no retreat now. It was victory or death.

MEMORIAL STONES.—The twelve chosen men carried each one a large stone from the bottom of the river, and placed them in a conspicuous place as a memorial of the great thing God had done for them. They gave frequent occasion for repeating this story to children and children's children, as a training in faith, hope, and love to God. It was a perpetual object lesson and education.

The Sabbath, the Lord's Supper, Easter, Christmas, are Christian memorials. Thanksgiving Day, New Year's, Decoration Day, are patriotic memorials. Birthdays, marriage anniversaries, commencement days, etc., are personal memorials. Rightly kept, all these are a means of education and of perpetuating great truths.

LESSONS FOR TO-DAY.

1. We have a great and tried Leader, whom God has proved by many miracles and by marvels of transformed character to be the Leader whom he has appointed to guide us to Our Promised Land.

2. A Jordan flows between us and every best good of life—new life, usefulness, education, higher spheres enlarged lives.

3. Ministers and teachers are to lead, not follow. An officer cheers his men into action not from behind, but from the front.

For every special work there is need of special preparation.

The whole world has received its marching orders. Onward, forward, to Christ, to God, to goodness, to usefulness.

Every one needs to take a decided stand, a positive step that cannot be retraced, and commit himself to the side of right and of God. A decided stand is often more than half a victory.

W. C. T. Union.

OUR MOTTO.—If God be for us who can be against us.

"Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thy heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

The Fredericton Union has decided not to take any holidays this summer after the subject being discussed at several meetings. Though the members may not be doing aggressive work, they are in the spirit of waiting, which has been called "God's seed time of blessing," and so they are being fitted by patience and prayer for active service.

"Sin worketh, let me work too. Sin undoeth, let me do: As busy as sin, my work I'll ply Till I rest in the rest of eternity."

Our Press Superintendent is having a much needed rest on account of ill health, and so we have decided to give the readers of your columns what has been styled by Miss Willard a "White Ribbon Love Feast." We will publish first what our own Maritime President has to say in answer to questions sent by Miss Willard.

Mrs. Archibald has just returned from the World's Convention, taking in all the grand things arranged for by Dr. Dunn. Yes, and more, for she has come to us with fresh inspiration and renewed consecration in the Master's service.

We trust that the answers to these questions may inspire many with courage to say "Here I am to do His bidding."

QUESTIONS.

1. What has the white ribbon done for you: In respect to your personal and religious experience, in respect to your perception of the sacredness of law?

2. How has it elevated your sense of personal relationships?

3. How has it helped you to help others?

4. How has it improved your patriotism?

5. Give incidents that have come under your knowledge of the good that has been done to individual homes, communities, or in anywise, specifically, by the wearing of the white ribbon as a badge.

"I TOOK UP A CROSS AND IT WAS CHANGED INTO A BLESSING."

The tiny knot of white ribbon is seemingly one of the trivialities of this life, and yet to those who have come under the spell of its silent but potent influence, it has proved one of the mightiest forces in the Providence which moulds and shapes our ends, rough hew them how we will.

This special Crusade number, some of us who have felt its power, are asked to hold, as it were, a kind of experience meeting, to bear public testimony to the blessing and uplift which has come into our daily

life since first the constraining force of the love of Christ, shed abroad in our hearts, was the means which led to our wearing this little badge of service in the King's name.

For myself, I have to admit that very sorrowfully, very reluctantly, and with great inward misgivings did I "sign away my liberty" and join the ranks of the W. C. T. U. I could have wished to "choose and see my path" of Christian service, and mentally drew the line at temperance work in connection with any temperance organization, although for some months before I had seen the necessity and reasonableness of personal total abstinence if I would help those who had fallen under the power of strong drink.

All the instincts of early training, education and home influence were directly antagonistic to so aggressive and "conspicuous" an organization as the W. C. T. U., and it seemed to me that my path at that moment led over mountains of prejudice and hereditary conservatism. Yet through it all, although for months I resisted the command, which was the motto of my circle of the King's Daughters, "Whatsoever He saith unto you, do it," at the last, almost in despair, I took up what to me was a real cross, and lo! it was changed for me into a blessing!

Those months and weeks of wrestling had worn out my strength and subdued my proud spirit, and now I could but cast my weakness on the eternal might of the loving heart of Christ. And so it was, that, first of all, there came to me through the wearing of that little white ribbon "In His Name," the realization of the passage "My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in thy weakness."

And, too, that which I had feared as a bondage, led out and upward into freedom and liberty. No one can long remain in the white ribbon sisterhood and still retain the bondage of restrictions and conventionalities, which before then were regarded with the superstitious reverence of fetish worship. Conferring together in weekly council concerning the things belonging to the peace and safety of the home, the proper training of the children, the rationale of their education and bound together, through their mother-love, by the sense of a common danger, and alas! a too common evil threatening the souls and bodies of those dearer than life itself, the realities of life stand out in bold relief, and that which is fictitious, external, meretricious, fades into insignificance.

More than any other force in the world, to day, has the magic of the white ribbon seemed to develop the comradeship of women and their loyalty to each other. It has helped them, too, and that in a deep moral sense, to a perception of the sacredness of law: first, of God's eternal law written in the minds and in the bodies of His children, and alas! so infinitely and wofully broken by them; next, they have been led to consider, in their struggle against wellnigh hopeless social evils, the laws of their country, and too often to mourn over their injustice and futility, although sometimes by patient and persistent effort they have succeeded in modifying or improving them.

But apart from these considerations, and yet closely allied to them, is the power of helpfulness enjoyed by those who wear the white ribbon. The poor drunkard, even while he jeers at it, knows that it means for him loving, prayerful sympathy, and the outstretched hands of Christian love. The tempted boy, struggling to escape the snares set for him on every side, sees, it may be, the gleam of that silent Comforter, on some woman passing him on the crowded street, and a thought of home and mother flashes like a divine message across the electric current of his brain, and he turns away resolutely, saved for that time.

That which serves to elevate and purify the home cannot, does not, end there. It must go out as a mighty force meeting and swelling the current of the good and true which makes for righteousness in the nation. No white-ribbon woman can be found who is not in the highest sense of the word a Christian patriot. For the forces of the W. C. T. U., beginning at home, concentrating on the individual, are centrifugal, not centripetal. They flow out in a mighty river of love, to the sons and daughters of other homes, just because of the intensity of their love for their own special home circle. And this "organized mother-love" yearns over its native land and longs to see the triumph of good over evil, nationally as well as individually. And in the onward march of a day which is surely coming, the symbolism of the white ribbon shall have its place among those things which, under the guiding hand of our covenant Jehovah, have worked together for good, for "God and Home and Every Land."

EDITH J. ARCHIBALD,
Maritime W. C. T. U. Pres.

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Yours truly MRS. ALFRED P. SAUNDERS

HARMONY, Kings Co., N. S. Feb. 1894.

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