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INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Fourth Quarter-Lesson VI.—Nov. 10.

SAUL CHOSEN KING.—1 Samuel 10 : 17-27.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice.*—Psa. 97 : 1.

THE ISRAELITES DESIRE A KING.—Chapter 8 : 1-5. We are now on the verge of a new era of government, a new development of the chosen people. When Samuel was about seventy years old, the leaders of Israel came to Samuel and asked that he would change the government to a kingdom, and aid them in finding a king.

Reasons for Desiring a King. 1. Samuel was growing old, and could not well lead their armies. They wanted some one of activity, and endurance, and military skill.

2. There was no one to take his place. Samuel had appointed his two sons as judges at Beersheba. But they were bad men, who disgraced their father by dishonest proceedings. It would not do for these men to usurp their father's place. Such leaders would ruin the country morally and turn away the favor of God.

3. The commonwealth was breaking up into fragments. And they wanted a leader. A monarchy seemed the only means of combining the tribes into one nation.

4. There was also a cloud gathering, which threatened to sweep the Hebrews from the land their fathers conquered. All saw it coming.

5. All the nations around them had their kings and courts. The mightiest and most victorious nations had kings; and this central power seemed to be the source of their greatness. The Israelites were in reality better off than the other nations, but, as is very common, they overestimated their own troubles, and underestimated the troubles of their neighbors. To a certain class of minds, "distance lends enchantment to the view," and other places, other times, other circumstances are better than their own.

6. It is quite probable that they were tired of having their prosperity depend on their good behavior. The leaders God chose for them could succeed only when the people turned to God. But a king might conquer by his skill and organizing power, and they imagined that they need not be so particular as to their duties toward God.

SAMUEL AND THE NEW ERA.—8 : 6-22. This proposal was a great trial to Samuel, and sent him to God in earnest prayer to know what he should do.

1. This request seemed ingratitude towards their aged leader, who had spent a whole lifetime in unselfish devotion to their interests. He had taught them; he had provided schools of the prophets for their education; he had led them back to God from idolatry; he had won victory for them over their enemies; he had brought them to large prosperity; he had never failed them in their hour of need; and now they were dissatisfied and wanted him to step out, and give place to some unknown man.

2. Their request was a rejection of God as their king. He had given them victory after victory, always victory and prosperity when they had obeyed him so that he could bestow these blessings, and now they could not trust him. It was a rejection of his conditions of prosperity. They laid to God's charge the misfortunes due to their own conduct. Like a national Esau, they profanely bartered their birthright for what they deemed a temporal benefit.

3. It was a disappointment to Samuel that the people refused the splendid possibilities before them. Since they would not have the best, God allowed them to have next best, and made the most possible for them out of that choice. So God is doing continually with his children. They so often refuse their highest privileges. And then all that God can do for them is to enable them to make the very most out of what they choose.

Samuel showed the people the evils they would suffer from their course. When these did not deter them, he yielded, and decided to see that they had a king.

PROVIDENCE GUIDING TO THE RIGHT MAN.—Chapter 9. The story of divine Providence in this chapter is interesting as showing the interweaving of many threads to produce one picture of life. Saul was guided to Samuel, and Samuel was guided to Saul. In this story we have an illustration of how God guides men and controls affairs without interfering in any way with the free will and choice of men. He guides by the free will of men, and not by overbearing it.

THE PREPARATION OF SAUL—10 : 1-16. 1. By birth Saul was a Benjamite. By selecting a king from this tribe, and nearly extinct, he did the wisest and designed to remove all grounds of jealousy among the other tribes. His rejection by some, even after his election (10:27) shows how great the danger was, especially from Ephraim or Judah, the rival tribes.

2. Saul was tall and commanding in person. This new ruler is conjectured to have been not less than seven feet high, reared in the country, in the prime of manly vigor, and in his massive strength looking every inch a king. The reason for choosing such a person was to make him acceptable to the people as their champion, before they had tried him and could know what he was able to do. Size and strength in those days were more important than in more civilized times.

3. Saul was set apart by Samuel's anointing him for his work. Many great men have done far more than they otherwise could because they felt that they were children of destiny.

4. Saul had the natural characteristics which made it possible for him to be a great and useful king. He was modest, not conceited. He had the military instinct, a capacity for generalship, a shrewd mind, patience that could wait. And he had the indescribable personal magnetism which made him a popular idol.

5. In addition to his natural qualifications, Saul was specially prepared to assume his kingdom by the Holy Spirit of God, who "turned him into another man," and "gave him another heart," a capacity for ruling and leading the people of which before he was destitute. The qualities he needed for his new and untried position were imparted to him. He was a different man from that hour.

THE ELECTION OF SAUL AS KING—Vs. 17-25. *Samuel called the people to Mizpeh*, the hill near Ramah, his home, where the great assemblies were often held. *And said.* See above, under Heading II. *By your tribes, and thousands*, as the people were organized. The choice was first made by lot, so that it would be shown to the people that the king was selected by God, and therefore they could safely accept him. *When they sought him, he could not be found.* Knowing that he had been divinely chosen, his bashful modesty led him to keep out of sight. It is good to be conscious of our unworthiness and insufficiency for the services to which we are called, and to avoid ostentation, and whatever may excite opposition and envy. But we should be careful not to run into the opposite extreme by refusing the employments to which the Lord calls us. *They inquired of the Lord.* Probably through the high priest. *Hid himself among the stuff.* The baggage. *He was higher than any of the people.* This fact impressed the people who looked at the outward appearance. *God save the king.* These acclamations were the people's acceptance of the divine selection. *Samuel told the people the manner of the kingdom.* He laid down the principles and limitations of the kingly power. He instituted a limited monarchy with a written constitution.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KINGDOM.—Vs. 26, 27; 11 : 1-15 *And Saul also went home to Gibeah.* In Benjamin, four miles north of Jerusalem, and about two miles from Ramah. He had much quiet work to do in preparing himself for his work. *With him a band of men whose hearts God had touched.* That they should accept him as king, and be willing to aid him. They were the nucleus of his army and his government. He was strong in his friends. *But.* There was opposition at first from certain sons of Belial—that is, lawless, worthless, wicked persons. *How shall this man save us....but he held his peace.* He patiently bided his time till he could prove himself worthy to be king. He did not have to wait long. Israel was attacked by an invading army of Ammonites from east of the Jordan. Saul summoned the warriors of the nation; and 330,000 men assembled around his standard. A great victory was gained, which established the confidence of the people in the new leader. He still had the advice and counsel of Samuel. He thus entered upon a career that might have ended in great usefulness and blessedness. Wonderful and beautiful possibilities were spread out before them.

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EDY CURE FOR THE TROUBLE AT ... T DISCOVERED—THE PARTICULARS ... THE CURE OF A LITTLE GIRL WHO ... S A SEVERE SUFFERER.

the Ottawa Journal.

a handsome brick residence on ... 0th line of Goulborn township, ... ton Co., lives Mr. Thomas ... ey, one of Goulborn's most suc... l farmers. In Mr. Bradley's ... is a bright little daughter, 8 ... of age, who had been a severe ... er from St. Vitus dance, and ... had been treated by physicians ... ut any beneficial results. Having ... d that the little one had been ... restored to health by the use of ... Williams' Pink Pills, a corres... nt of the Journal called at the ...

... mother, mother, if you'd only a told me—if you hadn't scolded me so! Mis' Wilkinson, you'd ought to go and see Mary Ann, said a neighbor to her one day; they're afraid she's goin' to die!

Catch me a-goin' to see her, said her mother snappishly; as she's made her bed let her lie in—catch me goin' to see her! and she shut her lips closely and looked hard and cold.

But Mary Ann didn't die; a strong constitution triumphed, and before long she was feeding chickens again and milking cows for Joseph Jones. And she sang at her work, for Joseph was pleasant, and it was easier than doing the same work for a scolding mother. Time went on. Things were tolerably prosperous at the Smith farm, for Joe was reasonably industrious and Mary Ann contented.

Two or three more children came, and it was noticed that Mary Ann had begun to talk to them in something like the same high, rasping key and aggravating manner which her mother had used toward her. By and by she addressed Joe in the same way. What's bred in the bone, you know. Then it was noticed that Joseph was drinking—not very much, but still drinking. The farm began to run down. The fences weren't kept up, and the Canada thistles were spreading in the fields. The children were big enough to go to school, but they did not go because they had no shoes good enough to wear. Mary Ann began to look anxious and careworn. The fire had begun to burn worse than the frying-pan.

One day Mrs. Wilkinson was stricken with paralysis. She was helpless in her bed, but she could talk. Oh, if Mary Ann would only come home! she said. It is so long—so long since she went away. I did love her, though I didn't say so—I did love her!

An' I did love my mother, said Mary Ann to the neighbor who told her what her mother said, though I thought she didn't love me. I'll go.

Have you come? said the mother, feebly, and she tried to raise her arms and put them about her daughter's neck, but she couldn't do it, and she looked into Mary Ann's pale face and cried like a baby.

Mother, my dear mother, said the daughter, and she hid her own tears in the pillow that supported the gray head of the dying woman.

Where's Joseph? at length her mother asked.

He's—he's drunk, mother, replied Mary Ann, with a fresh burst of grief. Oh, mother, I think you loved me better, after all, than Joe did—and now—

Yes, now, Mary Ann, I must die and leave you just as we have learned how we loved each other. God forgive us!

Yes, God forgive us! said Mary Ann.

—*Ann Arbor, Mich.*

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Gentlemen,—Last spring I had a very heavy cold and was threatened with pneumonia. I used two bottles of Norway Pine Syrup and it completely cured me. It is the best preparation for coughs I have ever used.

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Such a preparation is Scott's Emulsion of Cod-liver Oil with Hypophosphites of Lime and Soda.

[J. J. B...

AKERLEY.—At Johnston, Q. C... 17th, of apoplexy, Isabella, below... of Deacon James L. Akerley, ... years. Sister A. was a member of ... Free Baptist church, Johnston, i... she lived a faithful christian. It ... said of her that a good woman h... taken from our midst. A husban... daughters and three sons, with ma... tives and friends mourn their loss.

O. N. ...

BARKER.—At East Bridgewater, ... on the 10th Oct, 1895 of heart failu... beloved wife of Mr. Ziba Barker, a... years and 6 months. Sister Barker ... maiden name was Hoyt, was b... Oromocto Sunbury Co. In 18... married Ziba Barker and moved to ... C. Co., where for 14 years they mad... home. While living at Bath she pro... religion, 25 years ago, under the labo... Rev. Joseph Noble was baptized ... joined the F. C. B. church of that ... After living a few years at Pembroke ... moved to Bridgewater, where sister B... united with the East Bridgewater ch... ch she remained a member ti...

Her sufferings were long ... she having been for about five ... helpless. A sorrowing hus... ons, one daughter, five sister... others survive her. Though ... been expected, it came sud... with a shock to the afflicted fa... ar sister was prepared to go. ... she lived a faithful christia... ways bright and her faith str... ed forward and "desired a b... , that is, an heavenly." He ... were buried at East Bridgew... funeral service was conducte... ter, assisted by Elders E. B. ... E. Erb.

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