

Text of the Lesson, 1 Kings xvii, 1-16. Memory Verses, 14-16—Golden Text, 1 Peter v, 7—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

We have had a sample of the kings bad and good and are not asked by the committee to consider the life of another king until the end of October. We have heard the Lord's message through several prophets, and now we are to have seven lessons on Elijah and Elisha, two of the greatest of the prophets, both of whom, as well as Jonah, are mentioned by name by the Lord Jesus (Luke iv, 25-27; Matt. xii, 39-41). He spoke of Daniel also by name and said of all the true prophets that it was foolish not to believe all they said (Matt. xxiv, 15; Luke xxiv, 25, 27, 44; Acts iii, 21). There were false prophets whom God never sent, as well as bad kings (Jer. xxiii, 18, 21, 25, 26), but a true prophet was the Lord's messenger with the Lord's message (Hag. i, 13). This is our first introduction to Elijah, whose name signifies "Jehovah is my God," and his watchword is "The Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand" (verse 1 and chapter xviii, 15). We are reminded of the angel's reply to Zachariah, "How shall I know?" in Luke i, 18, 19, "I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God," and also of Paul's words in Acts xxvii, 23, "There stood by me the angel of God, whose I am and whom I serve."

A true man of God, has to do only with God—take orders from Him only and look to Him alone for supplies. Our Lord mentions the three and a half years without rain, and James says that it was in answer to the earnest prayer of Elijah, although he was a man subject to like passions as we are (Luke iv, 25; Jas. v, 17, 18). The reason of his prayer is found in the fact that Israel had become desperately wicked, and as to Ahab it is written of him that he did evil in the sight of the Lord above all that were before him (1 Kings xvi, 30-33). Then in the law of Moses it was written that if Israel sinned God would, among other things, make the heaven as iron or brass (Lev. xxvi, 19; Deut. xxviii, 23). Elijah therefore, in his jealousy for the honor of Jehovah, asked God to fulfill His threat in this matter that Israel might be brought to repentance. That Elijah might be out of the way of the wrath of Ahab the Lord sent him for a time to hide himself by the brook Cherith. Contrast "Get thee hence and hide thyself" with "Go shew thyself" (xvii, 3; xviii, 1). The man of God has no say, no choice, but simply to obey.

If God is to be seen and glorified self must be out of sight. It must be "Not I, but Christ;" "Not I, but the grace of God" (Gal. ii, 20; 1 Cor. xv, 10). When the Lord sends us He will provide all that we need in His own way, and when He shall ask us at the end of the journey, "Lacked ye anything?" we shall, no doubt, be able to answer as did the disciples, "Nothing" (Luke xxii, 35). In this case Elijah's food was to be water from the brook and bread and flesh brought to him every morning and evening by ravens, real, literal blackbirds, such as the one Noah sent out of the ark. No other interpretation of ravens will stand. Notice that the Lord told Elijah where to go and then said, "I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there." To know the Lord's care we must be where the Lord wants us. "Strength and gladness are in His place" (1 Chron. xvi, 27), but if we are not in His place for us we may miss the strength and gladness. Both Elijah and the ravens were obedient to the word of the Lord, and this is all that is required of us. After awhile the brook dried up (verse 7), and some day Elijah may tell us if he had any anxiety as he saw the brook growing less and less—probably not.

If any who read this see their brook drying up, let them remember the Lord God of Elijah and Deut. xxxi, 8; Phil. iv, 19. By the word of the Lord he is now commanded to go to the home of a widow in Zarephath or Sarepta, who has been commanded to sustain him, and on his arrival there he finds the widow gathering sticks with which to prepare her last meal for her son and herself, for she assured Elijah that she had no provisions in the house, but a handful of meal and a little oil. Now make this as literally real as you can and say how you would feel with such a prospect. But Elijah had the word of the Lord to rest upon and he boldly assured her that there was no cause to fear, and that there would always be meal in the barrel and oil in the cruse, and so it came to pass according to the word of the Lord, which He spoke by Elijah, and she and her house did eat many days, or as in the margin, a full year (verses 13-16). It was simple and somewhat monotonous fare—meal and oil, oil and meal—but we do not hear of any one complaining. The story of the death and resurrection of the widow's son is the first of the kind in the Bible, and has many suggestive and practical lessons. Let us lay it to heart and note verse 24 and trust the Lord to use us to give life to many. Note a similar event in II Kings iv, 32-37, by the hands of Elisha, and consider the three resurrections by the Lord Jesus and see Phil. iii, 10.

ITALY DECLARS WAR UPON THE TURKS

FORTE HAVING FAILED TO GIVE SATISFACTION TO DEMANDS ITALY DECLARES WAR

London, Aug. 21—Marquis Di Gari, Italian ambassador to Turkey, today handed to the porte a note declaring Italy considered herself in a state of war with Turkey and demanded his passports, according to a dispatch from Constantinople to Amsterdam transmitted to the Central News.

The reasons given in the note for Italy's declaration of war were the support given by Turkey to the revolt in Libya and the prevention of the departure of Italian residents from Syria.

A Steffani News agency dispatch from Rome says Italy has declared war against Turkey.

Although Italy declared war on Austria May 24, there never has been any declaration of war between Italy and Germany nor, until now, between Italy and Turkey.

Friction between Turkey and Italy, however, has been in evidence since shortly after the latter's entry into the war. Early in June there were reports that Italian consuls gradually were leaving Turkey. Later charges were made that the Ottoman government was preventing consuls from leaving and that similar coercion was being exerted over Italian civilians who wished to quit Turkish soil.

On July 30 advices said Italy had addressed a note to the United States asking it to use its influence to protect Italian subjects in Turkey. The complaint that they were being prevented from leaving was reiterated.

On August 3 the Italian ambassador at Constantinople made another protest to Turkey relative to the attitude of Ottoman authorities towards Italian subjects. It was stated Italian consuls still were being detained in Turkey. At that time tension between Turkey and Italy was becoming more acute daily.

It was announced on August 4 that Italy had asked for categorical explanations concerning Turkey's alleged refusal to withdraw her troops from the Syrenia district in Tripoli and it was charged Turkey was pursuing what was described as her usual policy of procrastination.

In official circles in Rome the feeling was that Italy's last note to Turkey was almost an ultimatum. It was then reported that a declaration of war by Italy would be simultaneous with the sending of about 150,000 men to aid Franco-British troops on the Gallipoli peninsula.

It was announced on August 19 that a strong squadron of Italian cruisers was in readiness to sail from Taranto, Italy, at a moment's notice. It was stated the warships probably would be sent against Turkey if the latter declined to satisfy Italy's demands for release of Italian subjects held in the Ottoman empire.

At a meeting of the Italian cabinet Friday Baron Sonnino, the foreign minister, presented an exhaustive report on the Turkish situation. He declared Turkish provocations had become intolerable. The cabinet session was kept secret but later it was learned the Italian minister at Constantinople had been instructed to hand to the porte a note asking for a formal categorical statement as to the departure of Italians from Turkish possessions. It was unofficially stated that the note was in the nature of an ultimatum and that a reply was expected Saturday.

COTTON.

There has been a great increase in recent years in the production of linters and hull fiber. Linters are obtained at the oil mills by reginning the cottonseed, the object being to remove the short fibers so that the fine particles of the kernel will not be carried off with the hulls, making possible a greater yield of oil and meal. The total quantity of linters obtained from the crop of 1899 was 113,544 bales of 500 pounds each; about fifteen years later the output of this by-product of the cotton seed oil industry had increased by more than 600 per cent. the number of bales turned out from the crop of 1914 being 856,900.

Hull fiber is obtained by a treatment of the hulls which breaks up their structure and makes available the short fibers which have not been removed in the delinting process. Several establishments have been engaged in the production of hull fiber for a number of years, and additional ones are taking up this line of manufacture.

SUPREME COURT ALLOWS PROHIBITION

AFTER HEARING BOTH SIDES JUSTICES AND JUDGES DISMISS INJUNCTION

(Columbia Record)

In an unanimous order the Justices of the supreme court and the judges of the circuit courts, after devoting the morning to hearing the appeal of John Henry Chappell, of Newberry, for an injunction to issue against the prohibition referendum to be held on September 14, dismissed the appeal shortly after the session had adjourned sine die.

It is said here that anti-prohibitionists will not further try to stop the election, but should it carry, they will carry it to the federal supreme court in the endeavor to have the bill authorizing it adjudged unconstitutional in that it contravenes the federal instrument.

The main contention of the attorneys of Mr. Chappell was that the bill authorizing the referendum is unconstitutional in that the legislature attempts to delegate its duties to the people. Arguments for the appellate were made by former Governor Bleas and F. G. Tompkins, of Columbia, while the respondents named in the petition were represented by F. H. Dominick, assistant attorney general, and T. H. Peoples, attorney general. The prohibitionists were represented by D. W. Robinson, of Columbia, and W. B. DeLoach, of Camden.

The suit was brought against R. M. McCown, secretary of State; S. T. Carter, state treasurer; C. W. Sawyer, comptroller general, and C. T. Graydon, Warren Thomas and J. F. Howell, commissioners of election for Richland county.

The prohibitionists consider the dismissal of the suit a great victory.

"IF I HAD BEEN GIVEN TIME I COULD HAVE SAVED ALL"

Queenstown, Aug. 20.—United States Consul Thompson stated this morning that there were 21 American citizens among the cabin and steerage passengers aboard the Arabic. Sixteen have been accounted for here.

Capt. Finch gave the Associated Press a detailed account of the loss of the liner.

"We were 47 miles south of Galley Head, at 9:30 o'clock this morning," he said, "when I perceived the steamer Dunsley in difficulty. Going towards her, I observed a torpedo coming for my ship, but could not discern a submarine. The torpedo struck 100 feet from the stern, making terrible havoc of the hull. The vessel began to settle immediately and sank in about eight minutes.

"My order from the bridge about getting the boats launched was promptly obeyed. Two boats capsized. We had taken every precaution while in the danger zone. There were plenty of life belts on deck and the boats were ready for immediate launching. The officers and crew all behaved excellently and did everything possible in the circumstances, getting people into the boats and picking up those in the sea.

"I was the last to leave, taking the plunge into the sea as the ship was going down. After being in the water some time I got aboard a raft to which I also assisted two men and women."

Capt. Finch paid special tribute to the heroic conduct of several engineers and firemen who remained at their posts to the last and sacrificed their lives to execute orders from the bridge, thus insuring the safety of the passengers. Among those lost was the captain's nephew.

"If I had been given a little more time by the submarine," he said regretfully, "I am satisfied I could have saved everybody."

BLUE OF MARION.

Washington, Aug. 20.—Trustees of the American medicine gold medal award have unanimously selected Surgeon General Rupert Blue, of the public health service, as the American physician who did most for humanity in the domain of medicine during 1914.

The 1914 gold medal has been awarded to him for his work in national health and sanitation. Dr. Blue is a brother of Victor Blue, rear admiral in the United States navy, and both are sons of the late Capt. J. G. Blue of Marion, county, S. C., who was state senator in 1876.

Don't forget that ever-ready flashlight, you cannot well get along without it on your automobile trip. Speed's Drug Store.

'LAURIN AND HARRIS SPEAK HERE

(Continued from page 1.)

For less than this and make a reasonable profit. He stated that he had not planted cotton in thirty-five years himself. He depreciated the condition of the women on the farms in some places, stated he had seen white women with guano sacks around their necks, scattering fertilizer through a horn with babe at the end or the row in the shade of a tree. He thought that such things showed that something was wrong and he did not wonder at the high death rate of children raised under such conditions. Under the cotton raising plan he stated that he knew people who were not able to go to Church for the reason that they did not have sufficient clothes. He thought the time had come for these things to be remedied and that the farmer should realize that he must remedy it himself; the remedy being, in his judgment, through the warehouse system and co-operation. He thought that the farmer should not demand anything but what is right and that they should profit from the lesson of the big corporations and organization. He stated that the farmers of this State had been losing \$300,000.00 per year for the last ten years for the reason they have not co-operated and organized in disposing of the cotton crop as could be done through the warehouse system. He advised the farmers to fortify their homes with meat and bread raised on the farms so that it would not be necessary to throw the cotton on the market all at once in the fall, and so that the same might be marketed gradually and the farmer might be able to hold the same until he could get the price he asked. He stated the Bankers had been good to the farmers, as had the Doctors and everyone else, and that it was the fault of the farmers, themselves, that they found themselves in the condition in which they were in. He had little sympathy for the man who prayed for a drought in Texas in order to cut crops in that State so that we might get better prices here.

On the subject of fertilizers he said that the best he knew is brains, that every man should think for himself and plan for himself, and improve his land according to scientific ideas, which he could do. He stated he was in Abbeville in 1905 and that farmers had been plowing on and hoeing on, but that he found them in worse condition now than when he was here before. He thought the man who advised the farmer to raise cattle, hogs, grain, corn and no cotton was not giving good advice, but that all these things should be raised in quantities sufficient to supply the farmer, himself, and the surplus put in cotton. He thought the trouble in this country was not over-production but under-consumption, due to the fact that farmers are not making money and haven't sufficient money with which to buy the necessary cotton goods for the home.

Honorable Jno. L. McLaurin said that the price of cotton was regulated by the law or supply and demand, if left to itself, but that in the last thirty of forty years the speculators had so manipulated things that the price of cotton was no longer so regulated. This was brought about by the fact that the money and credit of the country, under the old banking and currency system, was in the hands of a few men who could contract or expand credits as they pleased, and that this caused a loss to the farmers in marking their cotton, and in that there was no demand for the cotton.

He stated that for the last thirty years if a man had bought May cotton in October and sold October in May, that he would have been by this time, enormously rich, due to the fact that cotton is always low when it is forced on the market in October and generally reaches the high water mark in the month of May after it has passed out of the hands of the farmer. He stated that the warehouse system was adopted by the State in order to correct this evil.

He stated that last fall the South was confronted by a panic, that everything went down and everybody said there was no money with which to handle the cotton crop. The people of the South were the only people in the United States who had suffered by reason of the panic, the people in other sections getting rich on account of war orders for their products. He stated that the balance of trade in favor of this country was so large that it would only be a short time until we held the whole available gold supply in the United States, paid for by the products of our soil. He thought the question was not that there was no market for cotton, because the records show there have been the same amount of exports during the past year as in any other year. Cotton has been selling in European coun-

tries at fabulous prices, 14c per pound in England; 15c to 25c per pound in Germany, and 30c per pound in Russia. He stated that cotton was sold in Bennettsville last fall at 5c and 6c which was sent abroad and sold at 22c per pound. The situation is not that the cotton has not paid a profit, the profit is there, money was made on it last year on a larger scale than for thirty or forty years, but that it had been rushed on the market in the United States, bought up speculators and sold by them at enormous profits, and that everybody, except the farmer, had gotten rich and that instead of making a profit on the product of his farm, the farmer slips back a little every year.

Talk he said is cheap and there is no use to talk unless you have a plan, as in every calling, and can exercise some self-control as do the men in other callings. He agreed with the first speaker that the farmer must help himself as do other men. Whatever plan is adopted must be business-like and must be fair to every legitimate business, other than the business of cotton growing. He stated that the cotton crop of the South was the basis of credit and that good prices help bankers, lawyers and every body else as well as the farmers, therefore, it was a mistake for the farmer to think these professions were opposed to him. He thought little relief was to come by a few politicians going around with nostrums. The curse of this country is poverty, "the grinding heel of poverty is holding us down." We have a monopoly prepared by nature. He stated that England was declaring cotton contraband because no other country can get along without it, that all depend upon it, and no other country can raise it. All countries had tried to break the monopoly, that England in trying to raise cotton had undertaken to select its ground and climate and soil as near like that of the South as possible. That Russia had tried it in South Africa, but that all had made a failure in raising cotton and that the South retained its monopoly. He asked the question, what should we do with this monopoly? He advised the farmers to fix a minimum price, which price would show a profit over and above the cost of production and that the crop be carried where it is needed and dealt out to them as demanded. We must have something safe, sound and business like. We have a monopoly not dependent on Legislature, but guaranteed by our climate and soil.

The speaker paid a tribute to the new financial system of this country inaugurated under the administration of President Wilson and predicted that it meant a new era in finance. Under this system he stated that the time had passed when capital can control money and labor, and when money can be handled only for the interests of a few. In order to carry out the plan which he advocated and take advantage of it, he stated we must have cheap storage for cotton, and cheap money. He advocated the farmers getting together and building warehouses of their own. He stated that a standard warehouse built in this country cost so much money that it was necessary to make very large charges for storing cotton in order to pay a dividend upon the money invested, but that cheaper warehouses might be built by the farmers themselves, which he would take over and put in charge of a Manager under the State Warehouse law.

When the cotton is stored it becomes the one agricultural crop which is the basis of credit in this country, that it is practically indestructible, and may at any moment be converted into gold. He stated that a bale of cotton must be converted into a negotiable security just like a share in the steel company or a State bond, and when this was done, all the credit of the south could be marshalled and the people of the south would have paper which would pass for money. He thought anything which tended to build up credit in the country was the best thing that could come to us. He stated there was as much money in the country last year as ever, but the trouble was that credit was gone. He said that cotton being a monopoly which the world demanded, the south could demand gold therefore and thus enable the people who control it to dictate the finances of the world.

He stated that we need a State warehouse receipt that will guarantee title, weights and grade of cotton; that at the last session of the Legislature he attempted to have a plan adopted which would set things moving along this line, but that he failed because certain members of the Legislature did not take kindly to his scheme. His idea is that cotton should be weighed and graded by State officers, and that it should be sold upon these grades and not be graded by the purchaser. He stated that he had not accused the cotton

buyers of being dishonest, but that they transacted business as other men and bought as cheaply as possible.

He explained the system by which he proposed to have money borrowed in the North upon negotiable warehouse receipts when his plan is finally adopted. He believed this money should be obtained through the local banks. He says the money can be borrowed in New York at 4 percent and that the local banks should charge an additional 2 percent for handling the matter for the farmers. This would be a benefit, not only to the farmer, who wishes to borrow upon his cotton, but to the Southern banks themselves, in that their debts would be paid and deposits increased. He stated that he had arranged last year to raise money with which to finance the cotton crop, if the Legislature had adopted his recommendations in his annual report, but it was prevented by the Legislature.

He went into an intricate discussion of the manner by which this money could be obtained and explained the system at some length. The plan will likely be outlined more definitely and thoroughly than we can do here and for that reason we do not undertake to give his plan in detail.

He spoke also on the insurance rate on cotton and stated that he had succeeded in having the rate lowered whenever the farmers would build warehouses, according to specifications prepared by him, and have same placed under a Manager named by the State Warehouse Commissioner, which Manager the farmers themselves might designate.

Speaking again of the interest rate upon money borrowed on cotton, he said that it was necessary for the Southern bankers to charge large rates of interest because they were forced to pay high rates of interest in the North on account of the class of security held by the Southern banks, consisting of mortgages on old mules, automobiles, buggies, etc. This condition could be remedied according to his plan of having negotiable warehouse receipts issued for every bale of cotton in the South, thereby creating a more stable security and one easily convertible into money.

Commissioner McLaurin is one of the ablest men of the State. He has nothing of the demagogue about his speeches and his plans promise to be of benefit to the people, if they can be matured. His plan of financing the cotton crop of the South deserves the study and careful consideration of every thoughtful business man. Whether it can be worked out as he thinks or not, we can not say, but it has much of promise in it deserving of attention.

ARABIC TORPEDOED BY SUBMARINE BEHIND DENSLY

London, Aug. 23—The British admiralty today made the following announcement: The Arabic was unarmed passenger ship, outward bound to a neutral port. It was thus impossible for her to have been carrying contraband to this country.

"She was sunk by a German submarine without warning and she neither attempted to attack the submarine nor to escape from it.

Submarine Lay in Wait

London, Aug. 23—Survivors of the Densley said yesterday that she was torpedoed just before the Arabic was sunk and that the German submarine hid behind the Densley to wait for the Arabic.

Densley Was Unarmed

London, Aug. 23—The admiralty today authorized a denial of the report that the steamer Densley, torpedoed shortly before the Arabic was sunk, was an armed patrol. The admiralty stated the Densley was a peaceful and unarmed trader.

Washington Goes Quietly.

Washington, Aug. 23—Secretary Lansing today cabled Ambassador Gerard at Berlin, asking if the German government had received an official report on the sinking of the Arabic. The ambassador, however, was not instructed to ask for one. It was officially stated that the American government is not yet at all sure of the facts and considers its information very fragmentary.

The point now in doubt is as to whether Germany will claim that the change of course of the liner just before she was attacked let the submarine commander to believe that she was attempting a hostile act against him.

The administration is maintaining an open mind and no statement as to the course to be pursued will be issued.

Discussion continued today as to the possibility of the United States breaking off diplomatic relations with Germany in the event it is decided that the sinking of the Arabic was a deliberately unfriendly act.

Secretary Lansing said no steps had been taken other than to get accurate information as to what had occurred.