

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON X.—JUNE 6, 1909.

The Power of the Tongue.—Jas. 3: 1-12.

Commentary.—I. The importance of controlling the tongue (vs. 1, 2). I. Be not many masters.—Be not many of you teachers.—R. V. The office of a teacher was considered a very important one in the early Christian Church (Acts 13: 1; Eph. 4: 11). The caution of this verse is against those persons entering that office who were never called, and who knew nothing of the way of salvation themselves. There were such individuals in the days of the apostle (1 Tim. 1: 6, 7; 6: 3-5; Heb. 5: 12). Shall receive heavier judgment (R. V.)—Those teachers who abuse the office will receive greater condemnation than mere hearers. Those occupying a high position in the church are apt to be more severely criticized than those holding an inferior office. The purpose of James was to repress those who delighted in talking rather than acting. 2. We offend all.—We all transgress. The R. V. is much clearer. This does not mean that Christian teachers offend everybody, but that they are fallible and are often mistaken in their interpretations of certain truths and do not use correct words to express their thoughts. This is true of the holiest and wisest. Offend not in word.—This liability is very great in every one, but it is especially great in an office where the very business is public-speaking. The same is a perfect man.—A full-grown, symmetrical man. "One who has attained to a high degree of wisdom and grace." The man who advances no false doctrine, but is thoroughly instructed in divine things, is a perfect teacher, and worthy of the sacred calling. Thus applied to teaching, rather than to character, "the perfect man" here is distinguished from the one described in Jas. 1: 4; Eph. 4: 13; Col. 1: 28. To bridle the whole body.—The one who has the wisdom and moral power which enables him to control his tongue will be likely to be able to control all the other members of his body. "Control of speech is named, not as in itself constituting perfection, but as a crucial test indicating whether the man has or has not attained unto it. The 'whole body' is used to sum up the 'aggression' of all the temptations which come to us through the avenues of sense."—Cam. Bib.

II. The power of the tongue (vs. 3-5). James now gives two illustrations showing the power of the tongue. 3. We put bits.—A horse's bit is a small thing, yet by it the animal is controlled; the tongue is a small member, but the one who can control over it loses control of the whole.—The tongue is the ship's rudder. It determines the ship's course. 5. Even so.—The tongue is a "little member" which has a "large influence." It means of a small member governed, so the tongue, and should be under control. Boasteth.—The tongue is the power which it claims great claims for itself. See R. V. Lit. "Great forest." Great contentment caused by what in the tongue is a mere spark.

III. The damage caused by an uncontrolled tongue (vs. 6-8). Two illustrations are here used to show the effects of a tongue uncontrolled. 6. The tongue is a fire.—Like a fire it causes devastation and ruin; it is a destructive agent. "It is the instrument producing the most desperate contentions and insurrections."—Clarke. A world of iniquity.—A whole brood of sins lurks in the untamed tongue. "A little world of evil in itself. It is meant that all kinds of evil that are in the world are exhibited there in miniature; it seems to concentrate all sorts of iniquity that exist on the earth. And what evil is there which may not be originated or fomented by the tongue?"—Barnes. "The amount of iniquity is vast, the kinds of iniquity innumerable, as, for instance, blasphemy, lying, profanity, scandal, slander, scolding, backbiting, flattery, obscenity, anger, boasting, murmuring, dishonesty, cruelty, error, suspicion," defileth the whole body.—What the tongue talks about the body is very apt to engage in. Where there is a filthy tongue there will be a filthy body. "It utters evil thoughts and passions, and by uttering increases them and enlarges their power of evil." setteth on fire the course of nature.—Or "the wheel of nature."—R. V. There are a variety of opinions as to the meaning of these words. One is that they refer to the "cycle of creation," and are equivalent to our phrase "setting the whole world on fire." Another is that reference is made to "the whole of life from birth" that "from the beginning of life to its close, the tongue is an ever-present inflammatory element of evil." But better than these is the suggestion that James refers to our bodily and passionate appetites. The uncontrolled tongue that is "a word of iniquity," causing trouble among our members and defiling the whole body, "setteth on fire," inflames, all the natural functions of the body and leads to sensuality, drunkenness and every form of vice. It inflicts serious injury to man's entire being, is set on fire of hell.—The tongue is set on fire of Gehenna. The Greek word Gehenna primarily signified the Valley of Hinnom. This valley was situated south of Jerusalem and was the place where criminals were executed and burned, and where the filth of the city was consumed. Continual fires were kept burning. This place came to be a symbol of the place of torment as Jerusalem was a type of heaven. What James intends to say is that the very spirit that prevails in the regions of his lost inspires the evil tongue, leading to selfish, angry and vile words and to falsehoods, slanders, calumnies, etc.

7. Every kind.—is tamed.—Every species of wild beasts has been brought under man's power and dominion. 8. But the tongue can so man tame.—He cannot do this, though he can do all else. God's grace alone can do it. It is an unruly evil.—"A restless mischief."—Alford. "Socrates, when asked what was the most dangerous to man, answered, 'Of tame beasts, the flatterer; of wild

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Advertising?

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BECAUSE Oshawa Steel Shingles (Guaranteed) are made of extra heavy (28-gauge) semi-hardened sheet steel, evenly and heavily galvanized on both sides and all edges. Therefore Oshawa shingled roofs are proof against rust and will need no painting.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

LIVE STOCK. The railways reported 130 car loads of live stock for Wednesday and Thursday, consisting of 2,560 cattle, 2,593 hogs, 921 sheep and lambs, 549 calves and 4 horses. The quality of fat cattle was generally good.

Ontario Crop Report May, 1909

The following information regarding agricultural conditions in the Province about the middle of May has been issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

FOR CAMP.

Strength of the Units in No. 2 Military District.

Ottawa, Ont., May 31.—For No. 2 district, in which the rural corps, contiguous to Toronto and Hamilton are placed, the following training strength for each unit is authorized.

Roosevelt's Bag

Has Secured 86 Specimens and 22 Varieties of Game.

Nairobi, British East Africa, May 31.—Theodore Roosevelt, who is at present the guest of Governor Jackson, of Nairobi, has accepted an invitation to a public banquet to be given here in his honor on Aug. 3. The results of the expedition's hunting trips have been assembled. Mr. Roosevelt has secured 86 specimens of game of 22 different varieties; with the exception of six specimens they are all for the National Museum at Washington. The naturalists of the party have obtained about 1,000 specimens of birds and snakes.

MOVING TO WINNIPEG.

Executive Offices of the Grand Trunk Pacific.

Montreal, May 31.—It is officially announced to-night that Mr. E. J. Chamberlain, General Manager and Vice-President of the Grand Trunk Pacific, will make Winnipeg his headquarters after June 1.

BRADSTREET'S TRADE REVIEW

Montreal.—While the volume of general business there is not heavy there has, during the past week, been some gain in improvement. Better weather has increased business in spring dry goods, etc., and wholesalers report rather better sorting orders. Travellers out with fall lines are sending in good orders and they report a much better feeling throughout the country regarding the future.

Even Exchange.

Angry Patron.—That's the third time you've given me the wrong number. You must have what they call the telephone ear.

Girl in Central Office.—I beg your pardon, sir, but that isn't the trouble. You have what we call the common-sense vein.

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"Well," said the marching sharply, "it doesn't matter stores; but if there is to I don't care to be mixed have been used as sponsors and I am going to know in I wonder if Aubrey is her "I inquire," said the "If he is, bring him to me Romley. "It will be useless have any words with him matter. He can't abuse me won't be a party to any s Erna would have been if she could have known brey's bounty to her v struted by the woman who old in the ways of the wick marquis, on his part, me his shoulders, and went to Roseboro. "Are you expecting Au he asked. "He's here. I saw him tles ago. There he is no down now? The Romley—ch? Romley remembered that a marriageable daughter, assented; that he shruged as he picked his way where Lord Aubrey stood by an admiring group of rons. "What a power there is tion for wickedness!" "They are afraid to trust ters with him, but any would thank heaven with if he would ask for the chud." Aubrey looked up and He courteously edged aw about him and extended Lord Romley. "I am delighted to see he said, cordially. He marquis had always be friend in the days when making him his mark, tending to hunt you what "Glad to see you back said the marquis, stud kinsman's face wonder had put it off much lo have begun looking for bent of Aubrey. Come o marchioness. She wish you about that ward of "Ward of mine" rep with a surprised air. "I recollection: "Oh, you Has she been up to son "New prank? Because child, you mean," said quizzically. "Yes, hoidenish sort of prey, though, and you of promise. I take you paper "No doubt," said the Time 1880 here is the marc mistle. "I leaved to discuss Here is the earl, I delighted to see you the earl. "What quis tells me about? The marchioness retu cordially, for she wa yet to admire him for his wickedness, even posed to stand before commission of any mor him with a smile. "Have I ever seen her come sufficiently into send for you to tell your interest in her. "I have given me the rig use of our name to pu of Lady Romley's mis made no pretense of flushed for a moment curled with a sort of "Yes, you have the "I was solicited by the "I was to provide for Er that she was a Cecil her not knowing any anything about her met her one day. I h conversation with he to be a hidden, with thing better if she from the care of her I removed her by s some school—I don't school—and have nev "May I ask what for her when she con I thought I saw in required the marchio "It depends entire etances. If she lives or to provide for her able to a member of an interested in her. "Will you kindly Aubrey," said the in the direction of th sat, surrounded by men. "What do you "A crowd of men woman, eager for a "It is a beautiful wo "You are good at said the marchioness to see the face of t mise you there is i in the realm. Step can see. Can you s "Erna March?" seemed to the obs marchioness that h "Yes, Erna March "A Cecil, Lord Au one I have a right t CHAMP Lord Aubrey st for several seasons Lady Romley that Cecil she had a righ Presently he turned ioness and said, slow "I suppose it is n lege, but the duty o over another. For not merely exercise done my duty tow Cecil. "I understand y Romley, quickly. that since we hav bet in times past, interfere now. Th