Sunday School Lesson

June 23. Lesson XII—A Psalm of Praise—Psalm 103: 1-13. Golden Text—Bless the Lord, O my soul.—Psalm 103. 1.

ANALYSI

I. PRAISE, INDIVIDUAL AND UNIVERSAL, vs. 1-5; 19-22.

II. THE JUSTICE, MERCY AND COMPASSIONATE LOVE OF GOD, vs. 6-18.

INTRODUCTION — "There are no clouds in the horizon, nor notes of sadness in the music, of this psalm. No purer outburst of thankfulness enriches the church. It is well that amid the many psalms which give voice to mingled pain and trust there should be one of unalloyed gladness, as untouched by sorrow as if sung by spirits in heaven." So writes a great preacher whose expositions of the Psalms are unsurpassed for their insight and beauty.—Maclaren in the Expositor's Bible.

The Psalm is attributed to David in its title, but there is much in it which bears the marks of a later age. It seems to be a companion to Psalm 104. They both begin and end with the high praises of God. The one dwells upon his goodness and his mercy manifested in his dealings with his people, the other upon his power, wisdom, and goodness revealed in nature and in providence. "There are no clear marks of division" in this psalm, Maclaren says, "but the river broadens as it runs, and personal benefits and individual praise open out into gifts which are seen to fill the universe, and thanksgiving which is heard from every extremity of his wide dominion of loving kindness."

I. PRAISE, INDIVIDUAL AND UNIVERSAL, vs. 1-5; 19-22.

The poet, with true feeling, blesses God first of all for forgiveness of sins, then for the healing of all diseases. By this latter we may believe he means diseases of mind and spirit as well as of body. The deeper need of the soul is the need of forgiveness. Jesus recognized this when the man sick of the palsy was brought into his presence. He first declared to the sick man that his sins were forgiven, then he healed his bodily affliction, Mark 2: 3-12. Compare Psalm 85: 1-3 and 147: 3.

It is true that health of mind and spirit ministers to health of body. It is also true in our human experience that there are diseases of the body which the mind, even though depending in strong faith upon God, cannot heal. Nevertheless, faith conquers the disability, rejoices in God's redeeming love, and in his forgiving grace, and endures in hope of immortality and eternal life. In the highest and truest sense the man of faith may, with the psalmist, say to his soul, He healeth all thy diseases; he redeemeth thy life from destruction. And he bears upon his uplifted brow as a wreath or crown the lovingkindness and tender mercies of God.

The meaning of v. 5 is not quite certain. The Hebrew word rendered "mouth" is rendered in the ancient Greek version "desire." So Moffatt translates, perhaps correctly:

"He gives you all your heart's desire,
Renewing your youth like an eagle's."

The second clause of v. 5 is possibly explained by the ancient fable which represents the eagle as from time to time renewing its youthful vigor by plunging into the sea.

The last verses of the psalm (19-22), lift us to the throne of God, whence his kingdom ruleth over all. There the hosts of the Lord, his angels, "strong spirits who obey his word" (Moffatt), ministers of his that do his pleasure, and all his vast creation, are called upon to join in a universal chorus of praise. In like manner Milton writes (Paradise Lost, Book V.):

Speak ye who best can tell, ye sons of light,
Angels: for ye behold him, and with songs
And choral symphonies, day without night,
Circle his throne rejoicing; ye in heaven,
On earth, join, all ye creatures, to extol
Him first, him last, him midst, and without end.

And so still, to the understanding and to the vision of faith, the order, might, and beauty of the world, both of the seen and of the unseen, unite to praise and magnify the Creator God. Compare Psalm 19: 1-2 and Psalm 148.

II. THE JUSTICE, MERCY AND COMPASSIONATE LOVE OF GOD, vs. 6-18.

This central part of the psalm begins with an assertion of God's justice, especially as revealed in his dealings with the people of Israel, vs. 6, 7. The Hebrew poets were not blind to the seeming inequities and injustices of the world. Again and again they tell us of doubt and questioning, and complaint and distress of mind, of the prosperity of wicked men, and the suffering of the righteous. See Psalm 73: 1-13; 89: 38-51; Job, ch. 9; and compare Jer. 12: 1-2; 15: 15-18; Heb., ch. 1; and Mal. 2: 17; 3: 13-15. Nevertheless, their faith in God, in his truth and justice, prevails over every doubt, perplexity, and fear. Compare chs. 73: 16-23; 89: 1-18. In him justice, mercy, and love are inseparably joined, ch. 85: 9-11.

The poet dwells upon the mercy and forgiving grace of God, vs. 8-12. With this memorable passage compare Exod. 34: 6, 7; Psalm 86: 15; Isa. 55: 7; and Jer. 3: 12. Not wrath, but love rules the world. His loving mercy reaches beyond our highest thought. Not only does God forgive, but he puts away, out of sight for ever, the sins of which we have been guilty. Compare Isa. 43: 25. And by the grace of his spirit given to those who love him, he delivers them from the power and dominion of sin into the freedom of the children of God.

The heart of God is touched with the weakness of his children, the brief period of their earthly life, the sorrows with which they are encompassed. It is a great comfort to know that he cares. Like as a father (vs. 13-16), and that his merciful kindness is unfailing, vs. 17, 18. Surely they who come under that loving care, who claim through obedience that everlasting mercy, may rest in hope of life eternal:

So when this earthly mist
Fades in the azure sky,
My soul shall still be close to thee,
And in thee cannot die.

IT'S MODERN.

A toast-tan silk crepe with new classic lines, achieved through clever designing. It's typically modern, smart and slender. The back of dress is straight, with circular flare at left side at front of skirt. Style No. 467 which comes in sizes 16, 18, 20 years, 36, 38, 40 and 42 inches bust, is very effective in printed silk crepe, particularly in grasshopper green with small white polka-dot. Featherweight woolen, canton-faille crepe, crepe de chine, crepe marocain, printed cotton foulard, georgette crepe, printed pique, printed handkerchief linen, and flowered chiffon, also chic. Pattern price 20c in stamps or coin (coin is preferred). Wrap coin carefully.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin prefered; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by an early mail.

Among those afflicted with the foot and mouth disease who should be isolated are those motorists who step on the gas and yell at the pedestrian to get out of the way.

The Trans-Canada

This is how the Trans-Canada appears as she leaves Montreal each evening. The all-steal equipment of this train, which was built at the Angue Shops of the Canadian Pacific Railway is epitomized in the Solarium car which is carried at the rear end. With a vita-glazed solarium, two shower baths, men's and ladies' smoking-room and a large observation-lounge, this car is the most luxurious to operate over Canadian lines and is open in its entirety to patrons of theTrans-Canada limited.

Farm Notes

HEMP FOR FIBRE.

Hemp, the fibre of which is used for making rope, binder twine and other cordage, is grown to a limited extent in Canada. In Western Ontario one firm grows upwards of 250 acres per year, while a cordage company in Manitoba grows two or three times this acreage. Both these growers use special hemp machinery which is too expensive for the grower who might devote a portion of his farm to this crop. The Fibre Division of the Experimental Farms has made tests of this crop, using the ordinary grain reaper and the horse-drawn hay rake for handling the crop. The hemp fibre being cut by the reaper requires to be spread by hand to give it a chance to ret properly. When the proper stage of retting has been reached the crop is gathered up by ordinary horse rake and tied in sheaves. The cost of the work done this way amounted to $1 an acre for the cutting, $5 per acre for the spreading by hand, and $3 for the lifting and tying. The crop handled in this way yielded from two to two and a half tons of retted straw to the acre. Commenting on this work in his report for 1927, Mr. R. J. Hutchinson, Chief of the Fibre Division, observes that while the cost of harvesting the crop in this manner is higher per acre than when the special hemp harvesting machinery is used, it has shown that it is possible for the average farmer to grow and handle a crop of hemp with such machinery as he may have for the ordinary farm harvesting operations.

Tests for growing hemp were made at several of the experimenta farms and stations. At Fredericton as high as 1,325 pounds of fibre were produced per acre. This was from seeding done on the 30th of May. At Lennoxville, 1,246 pounds were obtained from an acre seeded about the first of May. This crop reached a height of nine feet, eleven inches. A full account of the work of the Fibre Division, which devotes its attention to flax and hemp carried on at Ottawa and different Experimental Stations, is contained in the report of the Division, published by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa.

INCREASING THE COLONIES.

Beekeepers multiply their colonies by either of two systems. The bees may be allowed to swarm or the colonies may be divided by the beekeeper and queens added when necessary. At the Scott, Saskatchewan, Experimental Station, swarming is not permitted, as it is considered at better way to increase by division. In the report of the Station for last year the Superintendent explains two systems that are followed, one of dequeening and requeening an dthe other separation of queen and brood. In the first of these methods the queen is removed and all queen cells are destroyed. The colony is left queenless for ten days when all queen cells are again destroyed and a young laying queen introduced. Where this system was followed in the Scott Station no further signs of swarming were evident during the season. The other system is to separate the quzen and brood. This plan is preferred by many beekeepers on the grounds that it is more easily done and is very effective. The rpocedure is to destroy all queen cells and move all brood to an empty super above the honey super, leaving only one frame of stores in the lower chamber with the old queen. The remainder of the brood chamber is filled with drawn comb or foundation. At the end of a week all queen cells are again destroyed. These, the Superintendent points out, are to be found in the old brood chamber above. As soon as the larvae hatch in the old brood chamber the combs are cleaned by the bees and used for the storage of honey. Swarming was overcome in all the colonies treated in this way at the Scott Station last year. The Scott Station carried no other work in apiary management described in this report available at the Publications Branch of the Depart. of Agriculture at Ottawa.

NEW EGG GRADING STATION

Co-operation among farmer producers in the matter of the sale of eggs has been advocated and assisted by the Federal Dept. of Agriculture for many years. Last year the Trenton Egg Circle did a business amounting to over $18,000, and the members of the circle received an average price of 31.8 cents a dozen.

Farmer poultry producers in Trenton and vicinity are taking steps to extend their operations, with the ultimate object of forming a Poultry Improvement Association that will embrace every phase of the poultry work ni the district. In this the co-operation of the business men has been sought by the farmers, and at an Egg Banquet, which the Egg Circle members gave to the merchants, one of the latter remarked, "In supporting you, we realize that we are really supporting ourselves. . . Any proposition which is of interest to the farmer will receive the hearty support of the Trenton merchant body, as a unit."

As a result of this trade and producer co-operation a grading station was opened May 29th at Trenton, and this, together with the large up-to-date hatchery doing custom hatching and distributing blood-tested stock, and the splendidly organized fall poultry fair, will eventually form the basis of the Trenton Poultry Improvement Association.

The merchants of Trenton buy their eggs from the Grading Station, and as one of them said, they can offer them for sale without fear of a Government Inspector. Previously the grocer was inclined to hide the eggs he was offering for sale if he knew the Inspector was in town.

Reggie: "I have a cold in my head, Miss Sharpe."

Miss S.: "That's better than nothing in your head, Mr. Sapp."

Tasty Recipes

CREAMED CRAB MEAT.

One slice of onion chopped, 1 small can of crab meat. Fry together in 2 tablespoons of butter five minutes, being careful not to burn. Add 2 tablespoons of flour and cook 1 minute. Add 1 cup of milk and 1 beaten egg yolk. Stir constantly until thickened. Serve on squares of toast.

CASSERQLE OF PORK.

Two cups of roast pork, 1 large carrot, 1 teaspoon salt, 1 green pepper, sprigs of sweet herbs, 1 apple, salt, 1 slice onion, ½ cup fat, 5 tablespoons flour, 6 small onions, 2 cups of water, 1½ cups cooked macaroni, pepper, 1 teaspoon mustard. Brown chops in fat, place in casserole, add onions, macaroni, carrot, pepper and apples cut in pieces. To fat in pan add sliced onions and cook until brown. Add flour, brown, add stock or water, salt, pepper, mustard. Stir sauce until it boils, pour over meat and vegetables and bake; cover for 1½ hours.

DATE PIE.

Two heaping cups of stoned dates stewed in a little water until soft, and put through ricer. Add ¼ cup sugar, butter size of a walnut (melted), ¾ teaspoon salt, well beaten egg and a scant cup and a half of milk.

Put into pastry-lined pie plate (small size if it's deep) and bake in a quick oven for 1 minutes, reducing heat for remaining 45 minutes.

DOUGHNUTS.

Cream ¾ cup sugar with 2 tablespoons shortening and mix in 2 well-beatn eggs; add ¾ cup milk and then stir in 3½ cups of flour with 3 teaspoons baking powder sifted in, ½ teaspoon salt and ½ teaspoon nutmeg. Roll dough on well-floured board and cut witl doughnut cutter. Test fat with a cube of bread; if it browns in one minute fat is of right temperature—365 degrees F. is right. Fry doughnuts until delicately brown and drain on brown paper. Sprinkle with powdered sugar while still warm.

Dog-in-the-Manger

Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph (Ind.): The farmer—and particularly the western farmer—is not interested in schemes of immigration, however scientific, being resolutely opposed to any artificial increase in our population. . . . The home market is always the best market and if there were enough people in Canada to enable the western farmer to sell the bulk of his produce in this country, exporting the remaining surplus afterwards he would be much better off than he is or can be under present conidtions. And considering that, in the majority of cases, he himself entered Canada as an immigrant, it is singularly ungracious of him to attempt to shut others out from the opportunities that have been freely accorded to himself.

West Indian Trade

Moncton Transcript (Ind.): Although Canada buys from the West Indies only a small proportion of its tropical importations, it sells in the market an equally small proportion of the purchases which the West Indies make abroad. There is ample room for the extension of the trade between Canada and the West Indies, in both directions, and the proposal to establish a trade commissioner service in this country appears to be a reasonable one.

What Is Home Without a Name?

Family Crest on Car Must Pay, Why Not the Luxury of a "Bellevue" or "The Chestnuts" on Suburban Bungalow? Asks Perplexed Mailman

London.—Post-war years in England have seen a tremendous development of suburbs and garden cities. Apparently every purchaser of a suburban villa feels that he is entitled to paint whatever seems to him an appropriate name on the front fence. Be it ever so humble, it still becomes Sans Souci, The Chestnuts, Rudder Grange, or something equally impressive.

Now the potsmen are showing signs of rebellion. Too many letters are being mailed to such addresses as "The Willows," Golders Green," without adding the street and number, and it has been suggested that the proper remedy is a tax on such names. A tax is already exacted from anyone who wants a family crest on a carriage or motorcar, and the question is asked whether a high-sounding name on a cottage is any less an exhibition of vanity.

Sometimes, however, all the neighbors are not in accord on the subject of names. A writer in the "Manchester Guardian" says he knows two small villas side by side in a Thameside village which face the great wall of an estate. One owner put the name "Bellevue" on his gate, and his neighbor matched this with "Wallview." Another villa name in a northern suburb of London seems to hint that all of the family were not agreed in choosing the house. The cottage is called simply "Mary's Mistake."

The Reparations Conference

Sisley Huddleston in the New Statesman (London): From start to finish the conference at Paris has been an affair of bargaining ,and not an affair of precise reckoning. The Allies want to extract as much money from Germany as possible. Germany wants to pay as little money as possible. On one side are the Allied needs—and these can be, and have been, calculated in accordance with a number of systems. On the other side is Germany's capacity of payment, which, dependent on unknown factors, present and future, is utterly indeterminate ad this capacity is influenced by Germany's willingness to pay, Germany's interest in paying, and the degree of pressure of various kinds which can be put upon her to compel payments. The problem, therefore, is more political than financial and economic, or, using the word in this connection as a synonym, psychological.

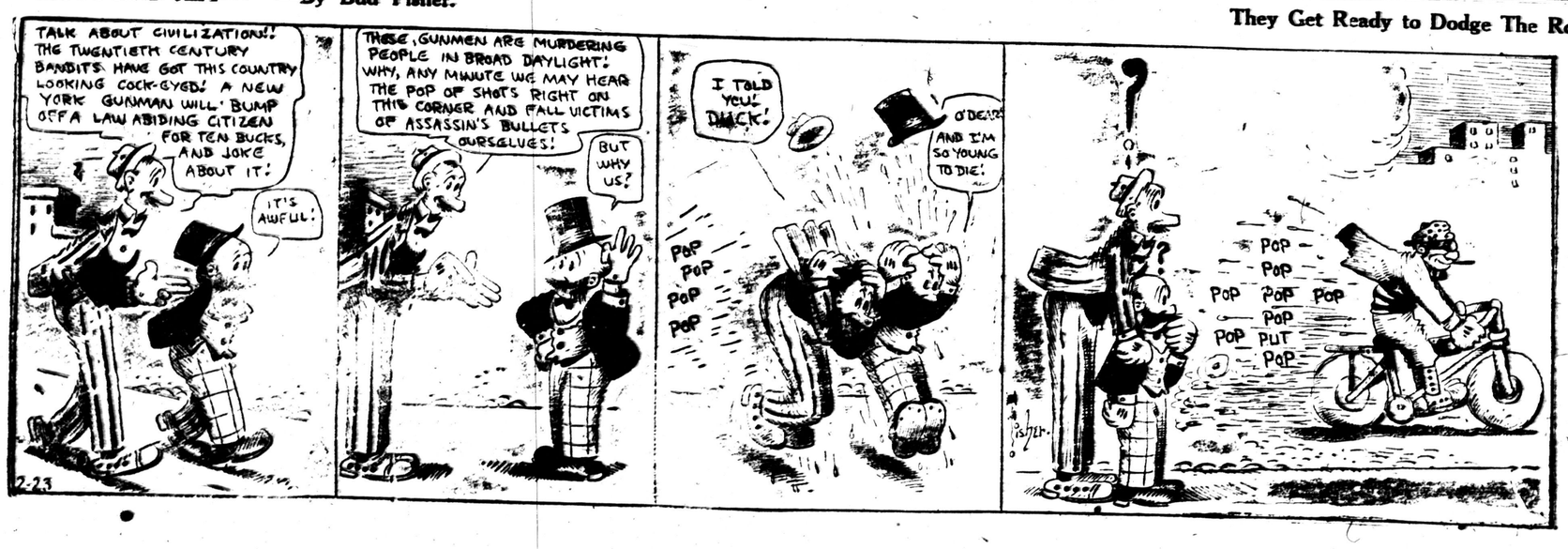
Stock Market Gambling

Ottawa Journal (Cons.): No country can be in a wholesome state when a lot of its citizens think that all they need to do to get rich is buystock in some enterprise one day and sell it at a profit the next. To that crazy notion, prevalent for the past few years, too many of our people subscribed. They thought, or appeared to think, that stocks must always go up, not stopping to reflect what effect such continued soaring must eventually produce upon national economics. Now, and perhaps not too soon, their disillusionment has come.

Bilingual Difficulties

Guelph Mercury (Ind.): Those who have become intimately acquainted with the history of Ontario in recent years are well aware of the difficulties caused by the spread of the French language into New Ontario, where the overflow of population from "Lower Canada" has been for years causing social and linguistic troubles taht future generations will find it difficult to overcome. But these will be trifles compared with the linguistic and other social obstacles that the Dominion Government is confronted with in the Canadian West.

Women now control nearly half the individual wealth of North America, women millionaires being as plentiful as men.

MUTT AND JEFF— —By Bud Fisher.

They Get Ready to Dodge The Rolling-Pin.