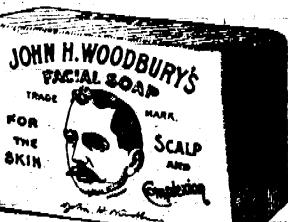


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Was Same Old Mower

"A neighbor of mine at Bath Beach last July," said ex-Sheriff "Tom" Nease, "used to bore everybody on the train by bemoaning the vagaries of his lawnmower. He had about ten square feet of lawn that he used to shave most conscientiously every other day. His lawnmower, however, seemed possessed of a mischievous sense of some sort. It would sulk and refuse to go. Then, when he started to investigate the cause of the stoppage, it would start suddenly and cut his finger to the bone. But, to my surprise, its possessor seemed trying to avoid me."

"How about the new lawnmower?" I asked.

"There is no new lawnmower," he answered shortly.

"But the advertisement—"

"But that advertisement," he replied, with terrible solemnity, "was inserted by my wife."—New York Telegraph.

Strong Youth of Japan

One of the first things to impress itself upon a foreigner in Japan is the peculiarity and the excellence of the physical training given to Japanese youth. They are a race of miniature spartans, and they have become so through such patient, painstaking toil and endurance as would appall the average American youth, inured to softness. The Japanese schools are nearly all modeled after American institutions, or, as the people like to believe, after a composite of all that is best in the schools of America, England, France and Germany. The students are not, of course, trained in modern athletics, and could hold their own at nothing of this kind with our magnificent college boys, but in simple physical training, making the very best of what nature has provided, the Japanese excel any people I have ever seen.

My very first day in the little island empire was full of exclamations about this constantly evident nation.

The Kansas Farmer's Song

On the days done gone when the drought was on and the chintzbugs猖狂 in the grain; when we just raised a crop for the thing that hops, an cyclone dusted the plain; then our regular far was but, pray, an old man's shirt, now we're on our Sunday clothes would alarm the crows, but you bet it's different now.

Oh, a farmer's life is the life for me; The winnin' card in the deck; On them rattlin' days of prosperity I'm in it up to the neck; The plow is no longer grash, An' a singin' of the rural rank, With makin' to do but count the cash and carry it to the bank.

On good of wives in their hard luck eyes were tugged in but tattered now; the waist in their waistbands was of gunny bags. Now the gowns they wear on their fingers bear the scars of the虎's claw; An' a gamin' like a fairy dream, an' they're stylish to beat the band.

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MICHIGAN

SUNDAY SCHOOLS

LESSON VI. NOVEMBER 6.

GOLDEN TEXT.—When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice.—Prov. 29:2.

A Review. Elijah's Temporary Partial Failure, but Far Off Success.—If we turn back to Lesson IX. of the last quarter (1 Kings 19), we may recall to mind what God did for Elijah in his discouragement after his great and dangerous work on Mt. Carmel. After giving him an object lesson, which taught the prophet that his real success was not measured by outward worldly events, but by the hidden, unnoticed changes in the hearts and feelings of men, the Lord gave him two tasks.

The first task was to anoint at Damascus one of King Ben-hadad's great and talented generals to be king of Syria in Ben-hadad's place, not immediately, but several years later. When the ripe time came, Elijah either carried out the orders of Elijah, or repeated the anointing to notify him that the time had come.

The second task was to anoint to be king over Israel another military man, Jehu, young, energetic officer under Ahab, who became the head of the army under King Jezebel, Ahab's grandson. Jehu was the means of stamping out the whole brood of Jezebel and all the worshippers of Baal, thus completing outwardly the work which Elijah had begun and on which he had set his heart.

The Moral Condition of the Two Kingdoms.—Israel.—King Ahab inherited the kingdom of Israel from his father Omri, who was a successful warrior. Ahab was a man of military talent, but morally weak. To strengthen his kingdom he made an alliance with the neighboring kingdom of Tyre, by marrying the Tyrian king's daughter, Jezebel, who introduced Baal worship and caused it to spread over the kingdom of Israel, and "inence over Judah to the third generation. Ahab did his utmost to demoralize the kingdom of Israel, and with Jezebel, his strong-minded heathen queen, persecuted the worshippers of Jehovah, and encouraged the idol-worship of Baal and Ashteroth, till Elijah thought that he was the only true worshiper of God in the kingdom.

III. How Joash Became King (vs. 4-16). 4. "In the seventh year" of his reign, "Jehoahaz, the high priest, 'Fetched the rulers.' Captains with the captains. Made a covenant." A bargain, agreement.

5. "A third part of you." The troops of the royal guard had periods of work and of rest off duty, as in modern European capitals. "Enter in on the Sabbath." Those who relieved each other on the Sabbath: "Shall be keepers of the watch of the king's house." To prevent any unauthorized person from going in or out.

6. "A third part shall be" guard "at the gate of Sun." It is not known what gate is referred to. "A third part at the gate behind the guard, or couriers." This gate was the principal entrance to the palace (v. 19). "The house." The palace. "That it be not broken down." They were to repulse any attack, be "a barrier against every enemy."

7. The "two parts." Divisions: All those men who were going off duty at the palace were to divide themselves into two bodies, and go and serve at the temple to protect the king.

8. "Within the ranges." Ranks. Whoever broke through the ranks of the guards, to enter in spite of them, "let him be slain."

9. "And the captains," etc. They carried out Jeohoda's plan.

12. "And he," the high priest, "brought forth the king's son," Joash, a seven-year-old boy. "And gave him the testimony." By this "we must understand the law, as the people then possessed it."—Cambridge Bible "Anointed him." Thus setting him apart for his kingly office.

13. "And when Athaliah heard. She took in the whole scene at a glance, and in that scene she read her doom.

14. "Stood by a (the) pillar" or the tribune erected for such occasions. "As the manner was." The customary place for a king at his coronation.

15. "Have her forth without the ranges" or "ranks" of the guard "him that followeth her" to defend.

16. "She went into King's house." Athaliah was conducted to the royal stables which adjoined the palace, and there put to death.

—Elijah. His Later Life: Under the direction and influence of his uncle Jeohoda, the high priest, Joash entered upon the work of the religious reformation of his people, by repairing the temple and restoring its worship, as described in our next lesson.

Joash seems to have been a prince of fine impulses, but he lacked independence and strength of character. He, too, readily took the impress of the influences around him. Jeohoda seems to have been the real ruler for twenty-three years of the reign (2 Kings 12:6). But when Jeohoda died there was a reaction from him, perhaps too stern control, and Joash put himself into the company of the young and fashionable princes who favored the establishment of Baalism, and whose highest ambition was to ape the follies of Tyre and Samaria (1 Chron. 24:17, 18). There was rapid deterioration in King Joash. He even stoned to death Zechariah, the priest, the son of his benefactors, Jeohoda and Jeohesha, in the temple by the altar, a murder that made such an impression that it was referred to by Christ eight hundred years later as one of the greatest sins of the Jewish people (Matt. 23:35).

But swift and terrible came the retribution, "like the whirling of a hurricane." Enemies came, riches fled, disease racked his body, and murder ended his career, as the sun sets in a storm (2 Chron. 24:19-27).

The object of what took place was the saving of the nation. It was like some terrible surgical operation, which alone could save the life of the patient. The wild beasts, that cannot be tamed must be banished or destroyed. An executioner's work is sometimes necessary, but it is repugnant to good men, and does not require the highest order of souls.

Joash, the boy King. I. His Ancestry.—Joash was the son of King Ahaziah and Zibiah of Beersheba. He was the grandson of Queen Athaliah and great-grandson of Ahab and Jezebel. His mother may be named because of the influence she exerted over his natural inheritance.

Thus we see in him the confluence of two lines of ancestry. On one hand, he was descended through David, and the line of Solomon and Asa and Jeohoshaphat. He had in him the blood of great and good men.

On the other hand, he inherited from the weak and wicked Ahab, and Jezebel, that brilliant, passionate, overbearing heathen queen and her daughter Athaliah, so like her mother. Thus his ancestry included all classes.

His Presence Everywhere. Jesus deliberately invades His life, into all that is commonest in life, says the Rev. W. J. Dawson. He has made it impossible for us, if indeed we have His spirit, to think of any salient aspect of human life without thinking of Him. Where childhood is, there is Bethlehem; where sorrow is, there is Gethsemane; where death is, there is Calvary; and where the hoggar is, there is He who had no place where to lay His head.

Bearing Life's Scars. Some of you look careworn, tired, unable for the burden of life. Others standing up to it, as it were, strong, rich, full in your manhood; but you bear the scars, and on every one of you is the handwriting of time, pain, sorrow. Do you never look wistfully back, wish you had your opportunities again? Do you think about the checkered way that you have come, and you are living through your happy childhood, when you know nothing about life as you know it now?

Additional Local.

Several of our townsmen accompanied the military band to Chelsea last night, where they attended a monster republican mass meeting.

Mr. Hughes, who lived on the Vegel place at Silver Lake, which he sold to Andrew Braun, has moved into Fred Haarer's house, formerly owned by Mrs. Haarer.

James Scott of Goodland, Ind., who came here to work in George Nisal's blacksmith shop, will move his family here after election. They offered to pay his expenses and house rent for a month, if he would come back there to vote, and of course he will accept it.

A good many have enquired, "where was the night-watch?" Hallowe'en has too many mysterious workers for one night-watch.

Moses Stalarck has purchased the dwelling occupied by Wells Martin, corner Boyne and Railroad streets. He is a permanent resident and business man now.

Mr. Dove, who has a billiard and pool room in the Arbeiter block, has bought a restaurant and bowling alley at Tecumseh, and has gone there to run it. He has not decided what he will do with the establishment here.

FROM THE PENCIL'S POINT.

"Put money in thy purse." Achilles lost because he was not well heeled.

It is about as foolish to look on and criticize foolish things as it is to be a part of them.

Drowning remorse is like killing a cat. It walks home the next day and resumes work at the old stand.

We do not estimate a man by his clothing; but if we don't like his clothing, we don't furnish an estimate.

It is surprising how much emphasis a woman who wears a switch and has her face powdered can put in the words "Men were deceivers ever."

REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR.

If a man likes to work very hard with nothing to show for it he is a fool not to get married.

It's funny how a girl's lips can smell of tobacco smoke when she has been in a room alone with a man.

A girl would hate to think that a man she liked could suspect how narrow a seat she could sit in with him.

There is something singularly consistent in a feminine way in a bleached blonde singing in a church choir.

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