OLD TESTAMENT TIMES

BROOKLYN TABERNACLE BIBLE STUDIES

CO-LABORERS WITH GOD.

Nehemiah iv—Dec. 3.

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith; quit you like men; be strong."—I Corinthians xvi, 13.

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER for Jerusalem and the holy interests centered there continued for months before the answer suddenly came. The king, whom he served as confidential secretary, made a banquet, the queen being present as well as Nehemiah and others. Everybody was smiling and joyous, attired in their silks and jewels, but the King noticed that his trusted secretary had a sadness which showed through his smiles. Finding that he was not ill he said that it must be a trouble of heart and inquired as to what it was. It was a dangerous moment for Nehemiah, for the kings of that time were quite autocratic and capricious. The sadness might have been construed to mean a loss of interest in the king and his affairs, or a hundred things disapproved for such an occasion of rejoicing.

"Why is thy countenance sad?"

Nehemiah's prayer instantly went up to God for wisdom to know how to answer, for he did not receive the wisdom at once, although he had prayed beforehand. He knew that the Almighty could read his desires of heart, uttered or unexpressed. He received the needed wisdom for a wise and successful reply which did not offend the King but enlisted his interest. He told the King that his sadness of heart was because the home of his fathers was ruined. The result was that the King appointed him special governor of Judea with full authority to attend to the work and to call upon the governors of surrounding provinces for aid if necessary.

Wisdom Shown by Methods.

That Nehemiah was a wise man and no mere dreamer was evidenced in the practical methods he employed. A man of wealth, he probably financed his own expedition, aside from the retinue of soldiers, etc., furnished by the king. A four months' journey brought him to Jerusalem.

He perceived the necessity for great caution, as enemies were on every hand as anxious to hinder them as he was anxious for success.

Nehemiah joined in the work with others, his accompanying servants participating also. His spirit of zeal was an inspiration to the discouraged people who took heart and hope began to thrive. Then came discouragement and opposition from the enemies. The higher the walls grew the more difficult it was to place the stones and mortar, and the more stones built into the wall the fewer suitable ones remained amongst the rubbish. It was a time of testing of faith and loyalty to God. Trials and difficulties are permitted to come to all of God's people for just such testings. The overcomers are developed through various experiences for the Divine Service.

Nehemiah collects money.

"Stand Fast in the Faith."

It may be asked why Nehemiah's faithfulness and courage were tested, and what reward was his. We reply that a reward of character-development follows every good endeavor. The reward of those who lived faithfully in Nehemiah's time differs essentially from the reward of the faithful amongst the followers of Jesus. The latter are promised a share with the Master in His glorious Messianic Kingdom. "Fear not, little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom." "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne."

But Nehemiah could have no share in these Kingdom promises because he lived before the call to the Kingdom—before Pentecost. He and others of his time who displayed faithfulness and loyalty are not personally mentioned by St. Paul in Hebrews xi, but they are undoubtedly included in the list. Of them the Apostle declared, "They had this testimony, that they pleased God." St. Paul declares that they will receive their reward—a share in the earthly phase of the Kingdom, after the Church shall first have received her share with the Redeemer in the heavenly phase of the Kingdom, for "they without us shall not be made perfect, God having in reservation some better thing for us."—Hebrews xi, 38-40.

St. Paul's words in our text teach the same great lesson of the necessity for character development on the part of all who might hope to be heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ their Lord. They must watch as well as pray, they must "stand fast in the faith" against the various oppositions of the world, the flesh and the Adversary. They must acquit themselves like men, "strong in the Lord and in the power of His might." They must be strongly developed by trials, difficulties and obstacles overcome.

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FREE LOVE SEEN IN DECREE

Decision Handed Down by Justice Ford in New York Supreme Court Finds No Favor.

Cleveland, Ohio.—The decision of Justice John Ford, in a supreme court divorce case in New York city, in which he advanced the opinion that any woman wanting a divorce should be given it by her husband, finds no favor with the judges of Cleveland courts.

Instead of accepting Justice Ford's opinion as advancing the divorce problem, the judicial opinion here is that it amounts to a harmful doctrine, dangerous to the country's home life and approaching an advocacy of "free love."

"If a woman wants a divorce so badly that she will swear falsely against her husband," said Justice Ford, "it is his place to keep still and let her go ahead."

"The divorce is a problem of law—not one to be lectured on as proper," said Justice Estep. "Such an opinion as Justice Ford is quoted with is a doctrine close to free love.

"Divorce should not be made an easy matter. There are too many of them here and every other place in the country. In Ohio one of the most common causes for divorce is gross neglect of duty, a blanket charge that makes divorce easy. I think it should be changed and believe that the legislature should make some provision to investigate the troubles which lure husband and wife into court.

"Instead of helping people to separate, the court should have some means of measuring just how great or how small their troubles are. It certainly works harm when marriages are lightly regarded in high places."

"I believe Justice Ford was talking as a man and not as a judge," said Judge Harvey R. Keeler. "To spread a loose doctrine in connection with divorce cases strikes at the heart of the home, and it's dangerous."

"Speaking from a personal standpoint, I think Justice Ford is right," said Judge Martin A. Foran. "I don't think any self-respecting family would go into the divorce court.

"I wouldn't contest a divorce except if a charge of cruelty were made, which would compel me to defend my character.

"Feeling this way about it, however, is a matter for individuals and not for holding up to people the idea that divorce is easy. I believe there should be no divorce."

5,000 HORNETS HIS FRIENDS

Strange Charm Possessed by New Jersey Civil War Veteran Over Swarm of Black Insects.

Spring Lake, N. J.—John M. Wood, veteran of the Civil war, hero of Gettysburg and pioneer of Spring Lake, has so completely won the confidence of a swarm of 5,000 black hornets that they make an advance guard for him whenever he goes walking and buzz about his cozy bungalow a veritable army of defence against unwelcome intruders.

Wood made the acquaintance of his dangerous friends several days ago. Perhaps it was his courage that commanded their respect. During a storm last week a blind on a nearby cottage became unfastened. Wood climbed a ladder to nail it fast. A few well directed blows with a heavy hammer and the veteran was conscious of a buzzing sound which carried with it a world of meaning. A black stream of sky-cleavers was emerging from a long crack in the boarding of the house. Wood dismounted the ladder cautiously, rung by rung, until he once more stood on terra firma.

About him swarmed the hornets, never ceasing their weird humming. They lit on his shoulders; they caressed his cheeks; they sang reassuring melodies about his ears, but not one of them stung him. What charm he may possess for the strange insects he is at a loss to understand, but he says he is the only person in America who can lay claim to the friendship of 5,000 black hornets.

SEA GULL CHOKED BY FISH

Bird Dies While Swallowing Big Sea Bass—Yarn is Backed by Picture Taken at the Time.

New York.—Several residents of Bungalow Town, at South Beach, Staten Island, are trying the credulity of their friends, with the story of a remarkable sight they witnessed recently. But they back their yarn with a photograph.

A large seagull dived into the water, a hundred feet off the beach, after a sea bass that rose to the surface. The bass was jumping after a smaller fish, and rose just as the gull opened its beak and hit the water.

The bass entered the gull's mouth and stuck fast in its throat. The gull rose, flapping its wings wildly, rose and fell and tried desperately to get the fish out of its mouth. Finally it fell on the beach, choked to death, with the bass still wriggling in its maw.

Sets Submarine Mark.

Newport, R. I.—All records for submergence of submarine boats of the United States navy have been broken by the Salmon. This boat, with 19 sailors and two officers on board, descended in Narragansett bay to a depth of 144 feet, remaining there for 10 or 15 minutes. The previous record of 135 feet was held by the Octopus.

Made Sure of Death.

A gruesome incident was reported at an inquest at Biggleswade, England, a few days ago on the body of Horace Endersby, aged 20. After a quarrel with his sweetheart, the youth cut his throat, having first written the girl's name in blood on his bedroom floor. He then bound up the wound in his throat, walked a mile to a lake, and there drowned himself.

Pinless Hat for Women.

A pinless hat for women hooks around the head with hooks and eyes.

ELK YIELDS PROFIT

Claimed Animals Can Easily Be Raised for Market.

Meat Can Be Produced at Less Cost Per Pound Than Beef, Mutton or Pork—Some Suggestions on Food.

Las Vegas, N. M.—George W. Russ of Kansas City, Mo., who has a herd of about 100 elk in the Ozark mountains, declares that in many parts of the United States elk meat can be produced at less cost per pound than beef, mutton or pork. These animals afford a much greater proportion of dressed meat than cattle do.

When it comes to clearing out underbrush they are more useful than goats. They brouse as low as the goats, and also twice as high. He advises using both varieties of animals, however, and says that one elk and two goats to five acres will eliminate the brush and weeds. What is more, brush thus cleared stays cleared.

It is asserted that for other reasons no better arrangement can be made than to graze a few elk with sheep and goats. The elk is the natural enemy of dogs and wolves. Mr. Russ says he suffered great depredations on his flocks until he put a few elk with them. Since then there has been no loss from that cause. A few elk in a ten-acre pasture will absolutely protect the flocks therein. Even the dogs belonging in the place could not be induced to enter a pasture containing elk.

The cost of stocking an elk preserve is not great, says Fur News. Young elk in perfect condition may be bought for $100 per head or less. A few years ago Mr. Wilson of Lewisburg, O., paid $165 for three head. A Michigan breeder recently offered a dozen head, all fine specimens, but age and sex not given, for $500.

This is, of course, a low price, not more than cattle would bring, and less than the venison would be worth if they could be sold in that form. The price of such stock is determined by the supply and demand, and as long as the present restrictions on the sale of deer and elk are maintained, low prices are likely to prevail.

Live elk sold at forced sale have been known to net the owners less than $25 a head, but conditions would soon change if the laws concerning the sale and shipment of venison were generally made favorable for producing it in preserves. The demand for breeding stock would grow and increase the cost of starting, as well as the returns from the business.

The natural food supply is an important consideration in choosing a range for the elk. While elk have done well in bluegrass pasture and on the prairie grasses alone they do far better on preserves which have a variety of food—grasses, bushes and trees. Rough lands well watered by streams and having a considerable proportion of forested area are best adapted to their wants.

On an average, such lands will support about the same number of elk as of cattle on the same area, without impairing the range. There should be thickets for the animals and a supply of winter foliage of other kinds will prevent the too rapid destruction of shrubbery in thickets.

Except in times of snow, elk will keep in excellent condition on ordinary grass pasture, but a system of management which regularly furnishes other food to the animals will be found better. For winter, hay and corn fodder furnish excellent forage, but alfalfa has proved to be the most satisfactory dry food that can be given to either elk or deer.

A little oats or corn, whole or chopped, may be fed each day. Elk are fond of corn, and feeding corn and salt affords the best opportunities for winning the confidence of the animals and taming them. Salt should be furnished liberally to all deer kept in inclosures. Running water, although not essential, is of great importance in maintaining elk in good condition.

Elk are not nervous like the common deer and seldom jump an ordinary fence. A fence five feet in height is usually sufficient to confine elk, and Henry Binning of Cora, Wyo., thinks a four-foot woven-wire fence is ample. When they escape from an inclosure in which they have been fed they usually return of their own accord. Some herds may be driven like ordinary cattle. A small inclosure for a vicious bull elk should have a strong fence seven or eight feet high.

CREOSOTE TAINTS HIS CAKE

Paris Pastry Cook Recovers Damages From City Because Street Work Ruins His Confections.

Paris.—Orange cream perfumed with creosote and tarts saturated with naphthalene were the cause of a suit which a pastry cook has just won against the city of Paris.

When the work was begun of laying wood paving in the street where his shop was situated, M. Charabot, the cook, resigned himself to the inconvenience until one customer after another returned to the shop with delicacies which they declared uneatable. Dr. Metchnikoff, the savant, called in person to say: "My dear sir, I asked for orange cream, but you have sent me creosote cream."

Expert advice showed that Charabot's wares were all tainted from the fumes of the wood paving outside of his shop, and he has been awarded $350 by way of damages.

No Frayed Cuffs.

Historical note from the Wichita Beacon: "Shirts were unknown until the Crusaders. Gents didn't send anything to the laundry. They simply perfumed what they had on."

Not in His Native Element.

The Admiral de Vivonne, while crossing the Rhine at Tolhuys, noticed his horse stumbling when in midstream. "Would you drown an admiral in fresh water?" he shouted to his steed.

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SAINT FOR THE JOURNALISTS

Pope Pius IX. Fifty Years Ago, Selected St. Francis De Sales as Their Patron.

It will be news to many journalists to learn that they have an officially selected patron saint. But the Manchester Guardian points out that they have, and have had for the last fifty years. Pius IX., at the request of a number of continental journalists, issued a decree on the point. He recommended journalists to seek the help of St. Francis de Sales, whose body has just lately been transferred, with great pomp and amidst popular rejoicing, to a new church at Annecy, in Savoy, his native place. The choice, our contemporary thinks, was an apt one, for St. Francis was a man of letters. His famous work, "The Devout Life," is still popular, "no doubt because of the lightness of touch with which it is written and the unerring journalistic instinct (if one may put it so in writing of the work of a saint) with which he compels attention to serious questions by the skilful use of anecdote and illustration."—Westminster Gazette.

Long Sermons.

Of one of the sermons, preached by Dr. Samuel Parr in 1800, the lord mayor for the year is said to have remarked to the preacher that there were four things in the sermon which he had been very sorry to hear. "Dear, dear, my lord," exclaimed the doctor, anxiously, "what were they?" "Sir," was the reply, "I mean the quarters struck by the church clock."—London Chronicle.

Saved Many From Death.

W. L. Mock, Ark., believes he has saved many lives in his 25 years of experience in the drug business. "What I always like to do," he writes, "is to recommend Dr. King's New Discovery for weak, sore lungs, hard colds, hoarseness, obstinate coughs, la grippe, croup, asthma or other bronchial infection, for I feel sure that a number of my neighbors are alive and well today because they took my advice to use it. I honestly believe its the best throat and lung medicine that's made." Easy to prove he's right. Get a trial bottle free, or regular 50c or $1.00 bottle. Guaranteed by

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A Father's Vengeance.

would have fallen on anyone who attacked the son of Peter Bondy, of South Rockwood, Mich., but he was powerless before attacks of Kidney trouble. "Doctors could not help him," he wrote, "so at last we gave him Electric Bitters and he improved wonderfully from taking six bottles. Its the best kidney medicine I ever saw." Backache, Tired feeling, Nervousness, Loss of appetite, warn of Kidney trouble that may end in dropsy, diabetes or Bright's disease. Beware: Take Electric Bitters and be safe. Every bottle guaranteed. 50c at

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Balked at Cold Steel.

"I wouldn't let a doctor cut my foot off," said H. D. Ely, Bantam, Ohio, "although a horrible ulcer had been the plague of my life for four years. Instead I used Bucklen's Arnica Salve, and my foot was soon completely cured." Heals Burns, Boils, Sores, Bruises, Eczema, Pimples, Corns. Surest Pile cure. 25c at

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