

A Literary Man as Practical Reformer

The International Sunday School Lesson For October 28 Is "Ezra's Return From Babylon."

Ezra 8:15-36

By WILLIAM T. ELLIS

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Now that it has grown so notably the fashion for literary men to enter the sphere of practical politics and reform, it is especially suggestive to study the career of a more distinguished literary man than they all, who lived half a century before the beginning of the Christian era.

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at the present time, but who cannot at all see that their nation is passing through its greatest crisis. The extraordinary unsettling of American thought in our day means to some persons that war is a disturbance. They are blind to the larger interpretation of their times.

By Desert Ways

The thought of travel in the desert appeals to every lover of the picturesque and the adventurous. Just as a caravan of camels on the sky line is a thing of rare beauty and statelyness, but common and unpleasant when seen close at hand, so these desert journeyings are made attractive by distance. The exiles could tell you that the camels are infested with vermin, and that there is no beast of burden which so racks its rider.

To the spectator they were doubtless as interesting as the caravans which one may see to-day. I have watched the Persian pilgrims travel across this Mesopotamian desert, some on camel back, some of the children in panniers swung at each side of its beams of burden; some on donkeys, the rich on horses, some on foot. The speed of the journey is the camel's pace—about three miles an hour. Probably then, as now, the camels

were decorated with blue shells and musical bells. A devout Jew seeing the cavalcade set out from Babylon, would watch it from the heights, just as I watched an expedition set out from the desert from old Asshur.

Did their imaginations foretell the testing times they were to have by the way, and the regretful thoughts they would send back to the fat land of Babylonia?

Literary (But Businesslike)

It is the visionary who aways the minds of kings, and it was Ezra, the scribe, who secured the favor of Artaxerxes for the return for some seventeen hundred exiles to Jerusalem. He won the good will of the government and secured immunity from taxation by the way, and the promise of help from local officials as well. In gifts the pilgrims bore with them some aggregating more than two million dollars in American currency.

That best business methods are thoroughly consistent with high idealism, was shown by Ezra's conduct with respect to this treasure. He had every shekel of it carefully weighed at the beginning of the journey, the responsibility accurately distributed, and then he made an exact reckoning at the end. That sort of system should characterize every religious and philanthropic organization.

The other side of Ezra's character came out when the questions of asking for guard arose. He had represented Jehovah as the ruler of nations, able to lift up and to cast down. His fine sense of fitness of things, and his zeal for the honor of Jehovah, would not permit him to ask for an escort from the king. He took all proper precautions, and then trusted the Lord, which is true courage.

A Reform Gone Wrong.

It seems but a little time before that the main body of exiles had entered Jerusalem with mingled grief and jubilation; the sound of rejoicing over the laying of the foundations of the temple seemed still to be lingering in the air. The ecstasy of that occasion was fairly delicious. In a graphic gesture the children in panniers swung at each side of its beams of burden; some on donkeys, the rich on horses, some on foot. The speed of the journey is the camel's pace—about three miles an hour. Probably then, as now, the camels

when a young man who might have become a great poet, a great preacher or a great reformer, deteriorated into a mere millionaire. Jerusalem had insured its prosperity at the cost of its message.

Is there any worse calamity in life than to lose one's "gleam"? Thousands of high-souled young men and women are thus gradually becoming blind and deaf to the ideals which had once been as life and death to them. They have, perhaps, mastered fortune, but they have lost their soul's loftiest possession. Even so these returned Jews had found it good business to make alliances with the heathen. What a descent from the first sincerity of their purposes, when they had refused help from their contaminated brethren in building. As it is so often the case with the "practical man," his short-sightedness leads him to steps which really defeat his purpose.

Had these Jews scanned a larger horizon, they would have realized that the Jews voluntarily adopting the method which an ancient Assyrian conqueror had used to destroy the national integrity of the Jews. They were taking heathen wives and thus losing their identity as a nation.

The tendency to conform to one's environment and associates is as common a temptation as mortal meats. Ask the old resident in the East what he has seen baffle newcomers. Worldliness always sits seductively at the door of the church, and usually she is invited inside. "Be ye not conformed, but be ye transformed," is the word for all chosen people. Some one says that the church is in the world, which is her privilege; but when the world gets into the church, that is her peril.

Cleaning Up the Town.

An evangelist has come to town. Why is this? Did we not have an evangelist last year? Is another revival necessary? Alas, and alas, so it is. There are few churches, or communities that do not need frequent revivals.

When your head aches you simply must have relief or you will go wild. It's needless to suffer when you can take a remedy like Dr. James' Headache Powders and relieve the pain and neuralgia at once. Send someone to the drug store now for a dime package of Dr. James' Headache Powders. Don't suffer. In a few moments you will feel fine—headache gone—no more neuralgia pain.—Adv.

and irrevocable law of Jehovah which the lapsed city was violating.

Sugar or Salt?

Some folks can't see why piety does not atone for lawlessness. Coatesville attempted to justify herself in the eyes of the world by pointing to her special religiousness. The world said, "prove it by convicting the criminals in your midst."

But Coatesville had no religion enough for that. In this extraordinarily perverted and dangerous separation between religiousness and loyalty to law lies a deep peril of our modern times. The Jews observed their temple ritual, but they kept heathen wives. Ezra understood that his mission was not to be sugar, to make himself agreeable to people, but to be salt, to purify and preserve the society. So he drove the terrors of the law into their consciousness until something like an epidemic of fear and remorse seized them. His note was borrowed by Sam Jones, who was forever urging people to "quit your meanness."

The sentimentalist would say that Ezra's demand that these Jews should relinquish their wives involved a hardship. So it did. Likewise it is always a hardship when the thief is deprived of his income. It is a worse hardship, however, to his family when he is sent to jail. Whoever said that the wages of sin should be anything else than hard? To break the law always brings

NO HEADACHE OR NEURALGIA PAIN

Get a 10 cent package of Dr. James' Headache Powders and don't suffer.

When your head aches you simply must have relief or you will go wild. It's needless to suffer when you can take a remedy like Dr. James' Headache Powders and relieve the pain and neuralgia at once. Send someone to the drug store now for a dime package of Dr. James' Headache Powders. Don't suffer. In a few moments you will feel fine—headache gone—no more neuralgia pain.—Adv.

trouble; and often trouble to the innocent as well as the guilty. The cleaned up church creates havoc in some quarters, yet a clean church is worth all that it costs. Nobody doubts now that Ezra's stern measures were the means of preserving the life of the Jews, and in saving the returned exiles from a moral deterioration that would perhaps amount to the extinction of the Jewish people.

EMPLOYER'S LOVE VEERS.

SALESWOMAN SHOOT.

Chicago.—A. B. Collingbourne, president of the Western Thread Company was shot and slightly wounded by Mrs. Katherine Rose, 28, a saleswoman in his employ. The shooting took place in Collingbourne's office. Mrs. Rose fired four shots, only one taking effect.

WOMAN SWEARS IN SUIT.

Andora, Ill.—Mrs. Margaret Krenwinkle, of Aurora, bought a horse from her neighbor, Charles Kirschner. She says she took his word that the animal was young and sound, paying down \$40 on the purchase price of \$60.

After she got the horse, she says, she discovered it was 128 years old. She sued to recover her money. Justice Cortez Dutton ruled it was an ordinary horse deal and ordered Mrs. Krenwinkle to pay the \$20 balance.

boarder at his home. He refused to prosecute.

Buy DandYline Shoes

The Better Shoe for less money. Save \$1 to \$2 per pair. Made in Harrisburg by Devine & Yungel. Direct from factory to you.



BOYS' BLACK BLUCHER AND BUTTONS. A shoe that will stand all kinds of wear; value \$3.50; factory price... \$2.45

MEN'S BLACK AND TAN ENGLISH, both leather and fiber soles. Regular \$6 and \$7 values. Special factory price... \$4.95

LADIES' LATEST FALL MODELS — In Military and Louis Heels, in black, tan, plum and combination. Regular \$6 and \$7 values we are offering at special factory prices... \$4.95

DandYline Shoe Store 202 Market Street. Opposite Old Commonwealth Hotel — S. Baturin, Mgr.

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We were fortunate enough to buy 700 Women's and Misses' Coats at a wonderful Cut Price — These Coats are placed on Special Sale, and we guarantee to save you from \$5 to \$15.00 on any Coat in the lot — Here you will find

- Velours Navy
Broad-cloths Black
Pom-Taupe
Poms Brown
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Styles
Well
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Latest
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Big Reduction

Table with columns for coat types and prices. Includes items like Navy Black Coats for \$15.00, Green Coats for \$18.00, etc.

Fall and Winter Suits

- FOR WOMEN AND MISSES. Poplins, serges, gabardines, velvets, velours; colors, navy, black, brown, gray, green, plum, tan, etc. Wonderful styles — and we do not show more than one or two of a kind. Sizes range from 14 to 54.
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Women's and Misses' Suits; values to \$25. Now \$15.98
Women's and Misses' Suits; values to \$30. Now \$19.98
Women's and Misses' Suits; values to \$35. Now \$22.98
Women's and Misses' Suits; values to \$40. Now \$25.98
Women's and Misses' Suits; values to \$45. Now \$29.98

1,000 SWEATERS to Clean Up. Women's, Misses', Girls', Men's, Boys' and Infants'. The most complete line of Sweaters in town. Gray, brown, black, rose, tan, corn, white, sand, orange, green, red, olive, in Shetlands or regulars — All styles and combinations.

Women's and Misses' Fall and Winter Dresses

- Serge, Velour, Jersey, Taffeta, Messaline, Crepe de Chine, Etc. All Colors All Styles Good Values. Sizes 13 to 50.
Women's & Misses' DRESSES \$5.98 Now \$10.00 Value.
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Women's & Misses' DRESSES \$11.98 Now \$18.00 Value.
Women's & Misses' DRESSES \$15.98 Now \$22.50 Value.
Women's & Misses' DRESSES \$19.98 Now \$30.00 Value.



Men's and Young Men's Suits & Overcoats

Table with columns for suit types and prices. Includes items like \$15.00 Suits or Overcoats for \$9.98, \$18.00 Suits or Overcoats for \$11.98, etc.

Boys' Suits

Table with columns for boys' suit types and prices. Includes items like \$4.00 Boys' Suits for \$2.49, \$5.00 Boys' Suits for \$2.98, etc.

Boys' Overcoats & Mackinaws

Table with columns for boys' overcoat types and prices. Includes items like \$5.00 Overcoats or Mackinaws for \$2.98, \$6.00 Overcoats or Mackinaws for \$3.98, etc.

Men's Pants

Worsted, Serge, Cassimere, Corduroy, Etc.—Sizes From 30 to 50 Waist. 500 pair of Men's Pants; worth to \$3.50 500 pairs of Men's Pants; worth to \$5.00. \$1.98 \$2.98