# The Middleburgh Post.

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## ESTHER PLEADING.

International Sunday School Lesson for October 15, 1899-Text, Esther 8:3-8, 15-17-Memory Va. 15-17.

[Specially Arranged from Peloubet's Notes.] GOLDEN TEXT.—Commit thy way unto the Lard; trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.—Pira. 37; 8.

RIAD Chapters THE TIME of the story, B. C. 473, May

PLACE The baltes at Shushan, TIMESIAN SHIELD BUSTORY -Between the sixth and seventh chapters of Ezra. ENPLANATORY.

I. Danger to the People of God .-- We saw in our last lesson how Haman, the prime minister of Xerxes, had succeeded in obtaining a decree from the emperor for the destruction of the whole race of Jews, including, of course, those at Jerusalem. The whole people of God were to be wiped off from the face of the earth. A Persian decree once promulgated was irreversible,

Il. Queen Esther to the Reseue .-Esther had been queen for four or five years when notice was sent to her by Mordecal of the great danger which threatened her people, with the suggestion that she intercede with the king for their salvation. The mission committed to Esther was one of great danger and difficulty. She had not been summoned to the king for a month. Apparently his love for her had cooled, to what degree she knew not. It was a rule of the palace that no one unsummoved should come into the inner court of the palace, on pain of death, unless the fickle monarch should hold out his end of Central Park with the crest of golden scepter. From oriental customs it is probable that women were not allowed in this court at all (Haley), so that it would be doubly dangerous for Esther to go uninvited.

Reasons Why Esther Undertook the Task: 1. It was to save her whole peo- can often be obtained by placing in ple. She was patriotic. 2. She was apparently the only one who could do it. 3. She was providentially endowed with beauty and raised to her position as queen for this very purpose. 4. She would doubtless have perished herself in the general massacre. This was not H. Medicine. The same remedy is only a right motive in itself, but it emphasized all the others, enabling her to realize the danger and the need more clearly than otherwise would be possible. 5. We must keep in mind the heroism in her girlish soul. The queen, therefore, in attempting to save her people, must (1) risk everything-her position, her husband, her wealth, her life. (2) She must do it on the mere chance that such a king would look upper, and refuse to accept worthless on her with favor. (3) "She must atsubstitutes. tempt, by the mere weight of personal influence, to reverse the decrees of an empire that prides itself on infallibility -whose laws are unalterable." And she must do this against the influence of the king's favorite, who had the biliposters and distributors, and in easiest access and largest influence with the monarch, and was the most powerful subject in the kingdom and the enemy of her people. (5) She belonged to a despised race, and must reveal that fact to the capricious king.

III. Esther's Plan.-Vs. 3-8, V.1. She asked her friends to fast three days in her behalf. Fasting implies prayer, confession of sin and a belief in God. This was on the same principle as Christ's promise to His disciples when two or three agreed together touching anything they shall ask (Matt, 18:19), V. 3. "Esther spake yet again:" The execution of Haman did not save her or her people, for the decree of Haman was still in force. V. 4. "The king held out the golden scepter;" The usual sign of his favor. V. 5. "Reverse the letters devised by Haman:" The former decree must stand. The king could not reverse it as Esther proposed, but another decree was issued which practically annulled the former one. V. 8. "Write ... as it liketh you:" The plan was to give the Jews permission to stand in self-defense and repel every attack, and take possession of the property of those who attacked them. "King's . . .

IV. The Deliverance,-Vs, 15-17. The rest of the book relates the result of this decree. The Jews stood up in selfdefense and large numbers of their enemies were slain, including the ten sons of Haman, who may have thought to revenge their father's death on the Jews. The king told Esther what had been done, and asked her what more she desired, and she asked another day of the same, and that Haman's sons be hanged up before the people. The deliverance was a wonder of providential interference. The nation was saved. Mordecai was exalted to Haman's place. The feast of Purim was instituted with great feasting and joy, and has been celebrated annually ever since the 14th of Adar (February-March), one month before Easter.

LESSONS FROM ESTHER.

The man or the woman for the emergency is forthcoming, because God, who foresees the emergency, makes ready

One of the most interesting studies in the story of Esther is to trace the ways of Divine providence and see how God makes all things work together for the good of His people,

The religious note in the book of Esther does not sound so clearly as the patriotic note. But patriotism is a lesson we all need to learn, and its meaning should be clearly understood. Suffering, living, working for our country is as true patriotism as is fighting

### SHANTYTOWN DIES HARD.

Persons familiar with the topography of New York, or of so much of New York as is included in Manhattan Island, are aware that in the region of upper Broadway from Forty-second to Fifty-ninth street, bedrock is about 12 feet below the surface, whereas north of the southern boundary of Central Park the rock formation was originally, in most places, higher than the present street grades, requiring on the whole west side of town repeated and general blasting. Before the Riverside section became a favorite residential part of the city the territory to the west of the Park bore the name of Shantytown, especially so much of the west side as was between Sixtieth and Ninetieth streets. By degrees the whole surface has been cleared, or very nearly cleared, but here and there houses remain perched upon the rocks, squatters' homes, the habitat of the Harlem goat and the abiding place of the Bloomingdale pig.

From time to time the announcement is made that this or that relic of Shantytown has disappeared and very recently the part to go was the squatter's residence at the rocks in One Hundred and Twenty-fourth street, near the Boulevard, now Broadway. The tenants were forced to move to allow the erection of flat houses. Although Shantytown has been disappearing on the installment plan, detached portions of it still remain in those western sections of town which have not yet been utilized for residential purposes. The original residents of Shantytown were Irish immigrants, who, familiar with rural life in their own country, settled on their arrival here in the unoccupied part of town, building for themselves cheap wooden dwellings and paying either a

nominal rent or no rent at all.

The last considerable section of Shantytown to withstand the upward march of improvements was in the neighborhood of One Hundred and Tenth street, between Columbus and Amsterdam avenues, but the public improvements thereabouts have completely changed the character of that neighborhood, notably the new Episco-pal Cathedral, St. Luke's Hospital, Columbia University and the improve ment of the road connecting the north Amsterdam avenue at One Hundred and Tenth street. For many years to come, it is probable, New York Shantytown will continue to disappear. But it hasn't all gone yet.

Instant Relief from Toothache. the hollow tooth a small piece of cotton saturated with the famous H. H. H. Medicine. Sciatica, that painful disease of the sciatic nerve, extending from the hip down the leg, producing great agony, is best treated by the vigorous external application of the H. H. equally efficacious in neuralgia, that excrutiating nerve pain, which should receive immediate attention. Try it, and you will recommend it to your neighbors. Internal remedies for neuralgia, rheumatism and headache are all of them dangerous, and should therefore be avoided. Call for the genuine article with the portrait of D. Dodge Tomlinson, 400 North Third street, Philadelphia, Pa., on each wrap-

Jack Youngs' Giraffe.

A great attraction ahead of Al. Martin's Uncle Tom's Cabin Show was Jack Youngs' pet giraffe. The giraffe to do the work usually given to addition to doing that work well the giraffe put up a mighty good talk to the newspaper men about the Imperial, Creole, White Hussar and Pickaninny bands with the show. I won't tell you the giraffe's exact height, because I never measured him, but when Jack Youngs had him working in Broadway he could reach a "snipe" into the sky parlor windows of the St. Paul building. In Philadelphia Jack got into trouble for letting the giraffe paint "Uncle Tom" on the hat of William Penn statue, which stands on the city hall tower.

The giraffe was mighty useful, too, in placing posters above the normal brush line. Now and then when billposters had got over their awe for the giraffe's capabilities, they would try to have a little fun with him by call-ing him old "rubber neck." When any remark of that kind was made the giraffe was apt to lose his temper Once on an occasion like that he quit the show, but Jack Youngs, by considerable coaxing, got him back. The time came, however, when the giraffe got too old to distribute bills in stormy weather, and then he was released. But in his day he was a good agent.

FRANK A HEYWOOD.

The Toy Dog. A copy of Mr. John E. Diehl's latest book on the Tog Dog has just been submitted to us for criticism. We can speak of the neat little volume only in terms of the highest praise. The author, who was recognized for years as an authority on Domestic Pets of all kinds, has evidently put his best efforts on his last production, so that this becomes almost invaluable to al! who admire, or intend to previde themselves with a Toy Dog. The book has been published by the Associated Fanciers, 400 North Third street, Philadelphia, Pa., who offer to mail it to any addres on receipt of 25 cents, preferably in postage stamps.

His Brain Bell. "You know," said a man who writes things for a living. "there's a bell rings on the typewriter when you get to the end of the line to warn the operator that the end has been reached and he must stop and take a fresh start. I have no bell in my brain, but I have something there that tells me with no less certainty when I have done my stunt, and it is time for me to stop for the day. And I sometimes wonder if the gentle reader doesn't think that my brain bell ought to ring

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A Use for Greentes.

First Reporter-How did the Daily Getthere obtain a report of the Highup-Tiptop wedding? No reporters were

Second Reporter-They sent a new wen there, and he looked so scared that all the attendants mistook him for the groom.-N. Y. Weekly.

Love at First Sight. The dear girl has been baiting him

"Do you believe in love at first sight?" "Of course," answered the savage bachelor. "Do you suppose if a man

had the gift of second sight he would

fall in love?"-Cincinnati Enquirer. The Schedule. "All things come round to those who

The honest truth this does not state; Whoe'er abroad a train would climb Has got to be there right on time. —Detroit Free Press.

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If not, drink Grain-O-made from If not, drink Grain-O—made from pure grains. A lady writes: "The first time I make Grain-O I did not like it tafter using it for one week nothing would induce me to go back to coffee." It nourishes and feeds the system. The children can drink it freely with great benefit. It is the strengthening substance of pure grains. Get a package today from your grocer, follow the directions in making it and you will have a delicious and healthful table beverage for old and young. 15e. and 25c.

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