

AMERICAN MISSIONARIES GIVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE FAITH



LIENCHOW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



ADAMANT OF BRITAIN'S FLEET.

Prince Louis of Battenberg in Command of Visiting Squadron.

Prince Louis of Battenberg, who is in command of the British squadron which arrived at Annapolis on a visit of courtesy, and will call at New York, is a nephew of King Edward. He is the son of Prince Alexander of Hesse and Princess Alice, King Ed-



PRINCE LOUIS OF BATTENBERG

ward's sister. He is a naturalized British subject, and entered the British navy in 1868 as a cadet.

WORK OF Y. M. C. A. INCREASING.

Year Book Just Issued Making a Gratifying Showing.

The Y. M. C. A. year book, just issued, stated that the number of associations in North America has increased in 1926, with a membership of 381,982. They own 517 buildings and other property of an estimated value of more than \$32,000,000—an increase of \$2,400,000 during the year—and \$2,733,000 has been pledged for 143 new buildings. Last year the association paid \$4,800,000 for supervision and other current expenses. Increased their force of employees to 2,013 and yet have 255 temporary vacancies.

The Y. M. C. A. railroad department number 203, with 356 secretaries. The 709 college associations have 50,419 members, and the army and navy department had an attendance of 600,000. The educational classes had an enrollment of 33,210 students.

Will Devote Life to Good Deeds.

Mrs. Devotee of Lieut. Perry, who was killed by the blowing up of the Bennington in San Diego harbor last summer, says she will devote the remainder of her life to nursing sick sailors and soldiers. She is to enter St. Luke's training school for nurses in connection with the hospital in New York and after graduating will offer her services to the government. Mrs. Perry is only 20 years old. She is intensely patriotic. When the body of Lieut. Perry was sent east Mrs. Perry would allow no one to have any part in the funeral who was not a sailor or a soldier, and the lieutenant has been buried with full military honors.

GREAT WRITER NEAR DEATH.

Dispatches from Copenhagen announce that Henrik Ibsen, the Norwegian dramatist, is pronounced to be suffering from arterial sclerosis. He is unable to move, but is mentally bright.



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New Maps of Railroads.

P. H. Harriman, who has introduced many new things into railroad building, has found time to devise still another. He has ordered his passenger department to print hereafter maps of the various Harriman roads, showing the exact course of the rails. Up to this time all railroad maps have printed the right of way as the shortest distance between two points. Mr. Harriman's maps will show circles and zigzags as they occur on his lines. This important step probably will force other roads to abolish the maps showing their routes as the "crow flies."

Russian Woman Poet Dies.

The poet's corner in the cemetery of the Alexander Nevski cloister in St. Petersburg has been augmented by the grave of Myrrha Lochwizkaya (Yibert), one of the few Russian women who have attained eminence in their poetry. She was the daughter of a prominent lawyer in St. Petersburg, where she was born in 1863. In 1886 her first volume of poems was issued; three other volumes followed. Her verse is characterized by Oriental touches, and her favorite theme is love.

Famous Temperance Worker.

In Germany there was recently celebrated the seventieth birthday of Ottilie Hoffman, who has been for more than twenty years one of the foremost workers for the cause of temperance in that country. She has been instrumental in establishing coffee-houses in place of saloons and making them attractive as places of resort, and also in introducing into the public schools a certain amount of instruction about the injurious effects of alcohol upon the human system.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON SEVEN—NOVEMBER 12.

GOLDEN TEXT—The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him.—Ezra 1:2

I. The Desolations of Zion.—The enthusiasm aroused by the leaders and the prophets Hagai and Zechariah (Lesson V.) culminated in the completion of the Temple, and then gradually declined into a deadened religious condition. The Temple had been built, but the opposition had been so great that the walls had not been restored and the rubbish still arose in long-stretching mounds. The visions of glory had faded. Poverty, oppression, hardship and disappointment had settled down on the little Jewish community, which now found itself far worse off financially than the captives at Babylon. They began to make alliances with the Gentiles, the leading families intermarrying with the heathen, till the land became defiled with the filthiness and abominations of idolatry. The religious home life was being destroyed. Laziness of morals, religious indifference, desecration of the Sabbath, moral ignorance, were in the ascendency; the spiritual declined, and high ideals grew dim. Such was the condition of things, seventy-eight years after the first joyous Return.

II. Ezra, the Man for the Times.—Our sources of information are Ezra 1:10, Neh 1:10 and the two books of Esdras (—Ezra) in the Apocrypha. Ezra was of a priestly family, and his great work was that of a scribe; not a mere copyist of the Law, but a diligent student and interpreter of the Law. He grew up amid the culture and intense literary activities of Babylon. The literary activity of Greece was not far away. He grew up also in the consciousness of the humiliation of the captivity, as a punishment for sin. He saw that the only way to save the nation was through the power of their Law, and of obedience to it.

III. Preparations for a New Religious Movement.—First. The exile was indeed a punishment, but it was also a discipline for a better life. Foreign culture and literary activity made their indelible impression on the Jews. The scribes copied the Law, commented, recast and wrote. They "saved" the people from the worst of all possible calamities—from ignorance of its own past.

Second Preparation. In the year 465 B. C. Xerxes was murdered in a palace conspiracy, and his son Artaxerxes Longimanus reigned in his stead. He was a young man and had reigned six or seven years when Ezra had it in his heart to go up to Jerusalem. This king granted the desired permission to Ezra (1) perhaps because of his natural amiability and bonhomie, (2) because of the powerful Jewish influence at the court where he was trained. Mordecai, Esther, Nehemiah, and probably others had been favorites.

Ezra needed three things—"men, money and authority." The king gave the latter two, and permitted the men to volunteer.

Third Preparation. Volunteers. By the decree no one was compelled to go on an unwilling sacrifice, but whoever "were minded of their own free will to go" (Ezra 7:13). About 1,700 persons, including heads of families and their retainers (Ezra 8:1-14), priests, Levites and 220 Nethinim, or the servants who assisted in the work about the Temple.

Fourth Preparation. Fasting and prayer (vs. 21-23). The rendezvous was (21) "at the river of Ahava," probably one of the many canals running into the Euphrates, and not very far from Babylon on the north. "Then I proclaimed a fast." Fasting, as a religious act would seem to have its basis in (1) a grief over sin so deep and intense that all desire for food is taken away. (2) In the aid to devotion furnished by a body unburdened with food, so as to leave the mind and heart in their most active and free condition. (3) It is the natural expression of deep sorrow for sin. It is not enough for the heart to feel deep; it needs to express its feelings. Though the proof that the fasting is sincere lies in forsaking the sin, repentance of and doing deeds