

# A GRAND SHOWING.

Andrew F. Gault, a prominent merchant and manufacturer of Montreal, insured his life in the Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York. He was required to pay the sum of \$16.00 per \$1,000.00 each year. Recently Mr. Gault died and the Company paid to his heirs, not only the original insurance of \$1,000.00, but \$1,422.00 in addition, making in all \$2,422.00. Mr. Gault paid fifty-two annual premiums, amounting to \$840.00; the Company returned in dividends \$542.20 more than it received from the insured.

Mr. Gault was insured under another policy in the same Company for a like amount, taken out a few years later, on which he paid forty-nine annual premiums of \$18.28, amounting to \$895.72. Dividend additions to this policy were \$1,238.00 or \$342.28 in excess of total premiums paid.

**A. N. FRASER,** Special Agent, Ch'town. **JOHN McEACHERN,** Local Agent, Ch'town.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

LESSON VIII, THIRD QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, AUG. 21.

Text of the Lesson, 1 Kings xviii, 30-46—Memory Verses, 36-39—Golden Text, 1 Kings xviii, 21—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

[Copyright, 1904, by American Press Association.] Ahab having assembled the children of Israel and the prophets of Baal at Mount Carmel, Elijah addressed them in the words of verses 21 to 25 and they agreed that the god who answered by fire should be the god whom they would worship. He gave the prophets of Baal the first opportunity, so they prepared their altar and their sacrifice and called upon their god from morning until noon and until afternoon, but there was no answer nor any attention to their cry from their gods. Then Elijah called the people near to him, and taking twelve stones to represent the twelve tribes of Israel, he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down, building it in the name of the Lord (verse 32), made a trench about it, placed the wood in order upon it, cut the bullock in pieces and laid it on the wood and three times drenched the whole with water and also filled the trench with water; then he prayed the simple beautiful prayer of verses 36, 37, and the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the sacrifice, the wood, the stones, the dust and the water in the trench. The people seeing this fell on their faces and cried, "The Lord, He is the God; the Lord, He is the God" (verse 39).

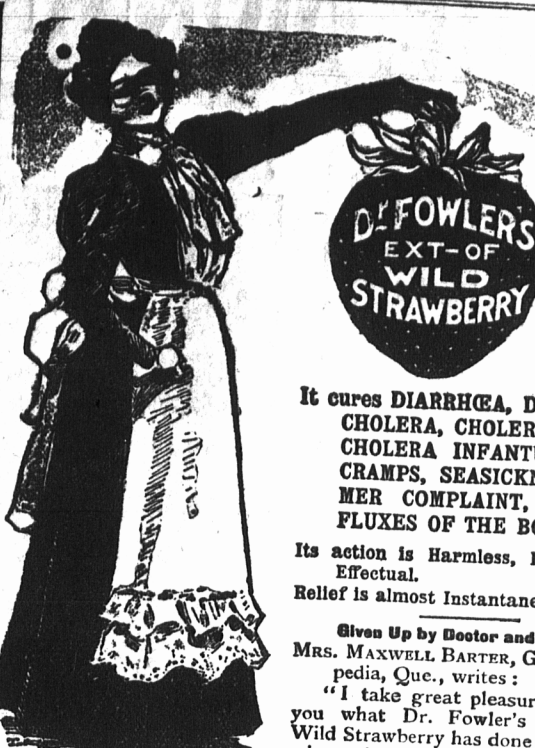
Elijah had no thought of himself nor of any glory that might come to him; he was jealous only for the glory of the God of Israel and desirous that the people might turn to Him and be blessed by Him. If we were willing to be so lost in God and so desirous of His glory that we should have no thought of honor to ourselves or our church or denomination or society, but only that people's hearts should turn to the Lord, we might be able to say to all that is against God in us or about us, "Let fire from God consume thee!" (1 Kings i, 10-12.) Our God is a consuming fire (Deut. iv, 24; Heb. xii, 29) and desires a people purified unto Himself, set apart for Himself, that He may be glorified in them. He is willing to receive, forgive, bless and make a blessing any and every one who will truly turn to Him, and He will use any vessel, however weak and unworthy, that is wholly given over to Him to magnify His name.

Our Lord Jesus said in His last prayer, "I have magnified Thy name, I have declared Thy name," and He prayed that His people might be so one with Him that the world might believe and know that He was sent of God (John xvii, 4, 6, 26, 21, 23). He needed no fire to purify Him; the Spirit came as a dove upon Him, but when the Spirit came upon the disciples at Pentecost He came as tongues of fire. We need the purifying consuming fire, but we are so in love with the dress of self and self interest and self glorification and so unwilling to be a living sacrifice (for God must have a willing heart, a willing offering) that He is hindered and cannot bless and use us as He desires to. We, like Israel, must acknowledge "O Lord our God, other lords beside Thee have had dominion over us."

As to God accepting by fire, consider the sacrifice of Abel, the offering of Gideon and of Manoah, the dedication of the tabernacle and the temple, and note that in the two latter when the glory filled the Holy of Holies no man could stand to minister, reminding us that no flesh shall glory in His presence (Ex. xl, 35; 1 Kings viii, 11; 1 Cor. i, 29-31). Jehovah having been proclaimed God, the prophets of Baal are slain. To be on the Lord's side means that all that is against God must be slain, however dear to us. Consider the action of the Levites when in answer to Moses' question, "Who is on the Lord's side?" they stood forth. See how all such had to slay their brothers, companions and neighbors who were against God.

Elijah sent Ahab home with the assurance that rain would come abundantly, but he went to the top of Carmel and cast himself down before the Lord and prayed, sending his servant to look toward the sea for the answer. Again and again he went and returned, saying, "There is nothing," but at the seventh time he returned, saying, "Behold there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea like a man's hand" (verses 43, 44). So the heavens became black with clouds and wind and there was a great rain. A man of like passions with us prayed earnestly and for three and a half years it rained not that the word of the Lord by Moses might be fulfilled; again he prayed and the rain came, but see how earnestly and persistently he prayed, although God had said, "I will send rain upon the earth" (xviii, 1).

It is in His purpose that we shall ask Him to do this and that, even though He has promised to do it, as He says, "I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them" (Ezek. xxxvi, 37). Is there not a suggestion in the cloud "like a man's hand" that it was in answer to a man laying hold upon God. In Isa. lxi, 7, the complaint is, "There is none that calleth upon Thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of Thee." If he would take hold of God with the persistence of Elijah for that which He has promised to do, what might we not see to His glory. Then note in the last verse of our lesson, "The hand of the Lord was on Elijah." When we take persistent hold of Him, He will take hold of us for His glory. Let us apply the command in Isa. lxi, 6, 7, first literally and then according to John xiv, 12, 14.



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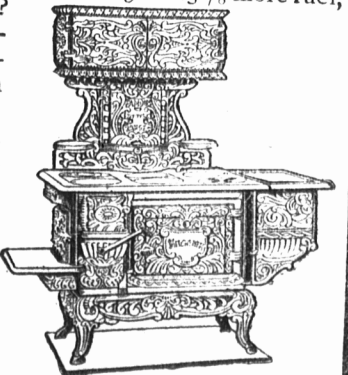
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