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THE CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

MORNING Daily Catches All Early Morning Mails.

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CHINA BUILDING PO WERFUL ARMY.

Giant reforms effected within few years and more in prospect along modern ideas. Recent manouvers indicate great national awakening in military affairs. China, thoroughly impressed by the signal success ob-tained by her easterly neighbor, Ja-pan, over Russia's forces in Manchu-ria, and gradually awakening to the fact that this is imperative for her to emulate this example, has, as the result of her efforts, in a couple of years time accomplished a remark-able piece of military reform.

LEFEBRE AVIATOR KILLED BY AEROPLANES FALL.

Young man one of the foremost of France's host of young aeronaut in-ventors was killed when his maching fell to the ground during a trial flight in France last week.

THE GU'RDIAN'S WEEK END SERMON

SERMON BY REV. J. W. AIKENS.

And it came to pass that God did tempt Abraham and said unto hi , Abraham and he said, Behold here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son, Isaac, whom thou lovest and get thee into the land of Moriah and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the moun-tains which I tell thee off. Gen-esis 22:1—2.

We read that Abraham was called the "Friend of God." This might suggest that he be spared many of the trials that come to suffering hu-manity but exactly the opposite is the case, for "whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth." There is no weak-ness in the love of God. He knows how to wield the rod and apply the knife when our characters need to be so disciplined. God is not working for our comfort only but for our eternal good, and when Abraham ar-rived home after his memorable trip he was more fitted for this life and the life which is to come than he had ever been before.

Again Abraham was a pioneer,what Stanley was to darkest Africa, Ab-raham was to the unexplored re-gions of obedience to God. People did not rush to the frozen Klondike until the pioneers brought out some specimens, then the stampede began; so many trembling souls have been enabled to abandon themselves utter-ly to God because Abraham has shown them the fruits of complete obedience and trust.

The word tempt in this case means to test. God tests us to establish us in righteousness, but the devil tempts us to establish us in weak-ness.

There were some things that made it hard for Abraham to obey God. To begin with there was no reason given. God came to him saying—"Take thy son and offer him for a burnt offer-ing" but God gave no reason for the command. We may reverently ask if God has any right to make such heavy demands upon people. He al-lowed Joseph to be put in prison, the Hebrew children to go into a furnace of fire; He has allowed many a one to enter into deep and bitter tribula-tion and has never given a reason. Is this right? God does not give rea-sons but he gives something better, he gives promises and when Abraham left home he calculated that he would slay Isaac and burn him up, but he also firmly believed that God would raise Isaac to life again and that he should bring his son home with him. So we read in Hebrews XI and 17.—By faith Abraham when he was tried offered up Isaac and he that had re-ceived the promises offered up his only begotten son of whom it was said," that in Isaac shall the seed be called, accounting that God was able to raise him up even from the dead from whence also he received him in a figure." Some speak of obeying God as if it was something like the blind obedience that resulted in the charge of the light brigade but such is far from the truth. God never asks people to obey him blindly, for every command there is a promise. "He that had received the promises" obeyed God and his path was full of light and safety for he was resting on the word of the faithful and eter-nal God.

God laid his hand on the most precious thing in Abraham's possess-ion—How He lingers on the details, "thy son," "thine only son," "whom thou lovest." Years before this God had asked Abraham to choose between his friends and country and fellowship of God in a strange land and Abraham chose God.

Again he came to the place where the well-watered plain lay before him which he might have claimed by right as well as by might but for the sake of peace he relinquished his hold up-on it and trusted God. He was of-fered riches by the King of Sodom but refused to be under obligation to a bad man—"not from a thread even to a shoe-latchet will I take, lest thou shouldst say I have made Ab-ram rich." And now comes the sur-render of the last and dearest thing in his life. We hear of people saying that they have made a complete con-secration of themselves to God. Ab-ram did, but it took a whole life time to accomplish the surrender. We may assume the attitude of complete surrender but the details require three score years and ten. When God lays his hand on our choicest treas-ures let us remember that for our sakes he gave his only begotten Son and if we are to be like God our path must be marked by sacrifice.

It is worth noticing that when Ab-raham's supreme trial came he was over one hundred years old. It is comparatively easy to bear trials when the tides of life are strong with-in us but when the hair is gray and the step feeble it is another matter to bear up against life's ills. Jacob was an old man when they brought to him Josephs coat bloody and torn. David was old when Absalom brought sorrow and shame to him. Some-times life closes like a peaceful sun-set but again for some the closing years are full of tempest and trial.We may not be able to explain the rea-son for this but we are sure that Even down to the old age all God's people shall prove,

His sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love
And when hoary hairs do their temples adorn.
Like lambs they shall still in His bosom be borne.

Another question with Abraham was "What would Sarah say"? She was not as spiritual as he was and there is little doubt that if Abram had said to her "Sarah, last night God told me to take our son and offer him for a burnt offering" that Sarah would have thought her husband was men-tally unbalanced and would have looked around for someone to take him in charge.

Sometimes the wife does stand be-tween the husband and God but as a general rule she is found leading her partner in the path of obedience. Manoah said—"We shall surely die be-cause we have seen God, but his wife said unto him—if the Lord were plea-sed to kill us he would not have re-ceived a burnt offering at our hands" Many a man has come home from his work discouraged and ready to give up—"but his wife said" and then he plucked up his courage and tried a-gain. You would not be half the man that you are had it not been for the influence of your wife but you have never admitted it.

Perhaps Abraham thought "What will the people say? I am surround-ed with heathen people and while I am in the very act of slaying Isaac they may come upon me and spread the report that I am a murderer.Lots of people would have used that as an excuse for disobedience "The fear of man bringeth a snare but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe."

Taking it altogether Abraham might have seen many lions in the way but as a matter of fact he saw only the path of obedience and trust. We are absolutely safe and sure if we obey God but if we turn aside we will find our way hedged with thorns.

"And Abraham rose up early in the morning" and we can hear the ring of the axe as the wood for the burnt of-fering is being prepared. Soon all is ready and the journey is started. Is-aac never looked quite so well in his life as on that special morning, and the earth must have fairly reeled be-neath Abram's feet as he thought of slaying him. At night they halted and when the others were asleep doubtless Abraham stole away to pray and commune with God. How he would repeat the promises! "I will make of thee a great nation" "in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed." "I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth" "thy seed shall be as the stars for num-ber" "I will multiply thee exceeding-ly" and like Jesus in Gethsemane he would arise strengthened and self-possessed. On the third day they came to the mountain and leaving the men at the foot the father and son ascended the hill of sacrifice.When they arrived at the place Abram built an altar of wood and after bind-ing Isaac laid him upon the altar. "And Abraham stretched forth his hand and took the knife to slay his son." Another moment and the deed would have been accomplished but "the angel of the Lord called unto him out of heaven and said. —Lay not thine hand upon the lad for now I know that thou fearest God."

There are some closing lessons.

God delivers in the nick of time. The angel did not stop abram at the base of the mountain, nor at the top, nor when the altar was built and Is-aac laid upon it but when Abram stretched forth his hand then God de-livered Isaac. It is often so. Joseph is in the pit waiting to be slain but "there passed by midianites merch-antmen" and Joseph was sold to them. God always has the midianites arriving at the proper time. The poor widow had reached the last meal when Elijah appeared. Peter was kept in prison and was to be taken out in the morning and killed but God was on hand and changed the whole current of affairs. Your child was seriously ill, all hope was gone but God turned the fever and the child got well and you were un-believing enough to think in your heart "the child would have got well anyway." So do we grieve God by our unbelief and rob him of the grati-tude due unto him. These deliver-ances in the nick of time assure us that we are ever in God's thought and that his eye sees us at all times.

II. The end of obedience is great blessing. "Because thou hast ob-eyed my voice" said the Almighty, "that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is upon the sea-shore and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." What a blessing it was. It is like a river ready to overflow its banks. It was God open-ing the windows of heaven and pour-ing it out, and that which brought it all was the obedience of faith. These abundant blessings may be ours if we walk in the steps of faithful Abraham.

III. We have here a type of the Saviour. Some have spoken of Isaac as the type of Jesus but rather is he the type of a sinner bound and ready for judgment. "Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked and behold be-hind him a ram caught in the thicket by his horns and Abraham went and took the ram and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son." So Jesus was offered in our stead, "All we like sheep have gone astray," but wonderful substitution, "the Lord hath laid on him the ini-quity of us all." A certain minister in England, a few years ago gave the following experience. After I left college I made up my mind that I would not preach the old gospel but would give the people something more modern and up-to-date, so I preach-ed with varying success until one night a knock came to my door and on going out I found a little waif off the street who said to me. "Mister I want you to come and help me get her in." Thinking it was some little girl trying to get a drunken mother home I followed her through alleys and courts, then up a rickety stair until finally in the top storey of an old house she pointed to an abandon-ed woman lying on a heap of straw, and said—"this is my mother, she is dying and I heard that you were the person to get people into heaven and I want you to get her in." "There I was" said the preacher" face to face with the black damning sin of this world." So I thought I would try my new gospel. I told her the story of the Magdalene but she paid no heed, I repeated the parable of the prodigal son but it made no impres-sion, I exhausted my creed without any result until finally God dragged out of me the story of Jesus dying for sinners on Calvary's Cross. And as I explained how he bore our sins and was wounded for our transgres-sions she listened eagerly and by the help of the spirit of God she believed and I believe we "got her in." When the heart is broken with sin and shame and guilt the only gospel that can touch the case at all is the old gospel of the Christ who loved us and gave himself for us.

J. W. AIKENS.

"Be sure to patronize the appetizing viands at the Bazaar dining room in the Market Hall basement, Sept. 21 st to 25th. 9—13d1w.

"School Requirements, New Stock-ings, Pants, Caps, Ties, Underwear, Pocket Handkerchiefs, Suits, Braces, Belts, at right prices at Paton's. 9—7dtf.

"Every little helps. Any donation to the Bazaar to be held under the aus-pices of Notre Dame Academy during Exhibition week, will be gratefully re-ceived. Sept. 21st to 25. 9—13d1w.

NEW FLANNELETTE GOODS.THE NEAR APPROACH OF CHILLY WEATHER MAKES THE THOUGHT OF THESE GOODS COMFORTING. AS PREVENTIVES AGAINST COLDS, THESE HOLD AN ENVI-ABLE POSITION AMONG CAREFUL BUYERS, WHERE HOMES ARE IMPERFECTLY HEATED, OR HERE ONE IS SUSCEPTIBLE TO CHANGES OF FALL TEMPERA-TURE, THEY'RE EQUALLY DESIR-ABLE. LET US HAVE THE PLEA-SURE OF SHOWING THEM. THEY ARE ENGLISH GOODS, DIRECT FROM THE MAKER. 12C TO 22C. JAS PATON & CO. 9—17dtf.

MINING CAVE—INS THREATEN TO WRECK WHOLE CITY.

The picture shows Public School No. 16. wrecked as the result of the recent earth settling caused by un-dermining the town of Scranton Pa The building, which cost $90,600,dol-lars will have to be rebuilt and other parts of the city are threatened with destruction.

HE CLIMBS MOUNTAINS FOR FUN.

The Duke of Abruzzi who was some time ago prominent in the matter of his rumoured marriage to Miss El-kins has again distinguished himself by reaching the highest point ever reached by a mountaineer in any part of the world, when ascended 24, 600 feet up the the side of Mount Goodwin-Austen.

"Two yards by one and a half yards, that is the size of the best twilled imported tartan car-riage wrap that we are selling at two dollars, two twenty-five and two fifty. They are the best value ever offered to horsemen and farmers that we know of. The patterns are all good. Jas. Paton & Co. 9—11dtf.

The School Bell will ring on Tues-day morning. Have you everything ready for the boys and girls. For the girls, tams, underwear, stockings etc; for the boys,—caps, shirts, underwear, hose, suits, odd Pants, are all to be found at Jas Paton & Co's. 9—7dtf.

"Beddings camper's outfits, bal-cony chairs, camp stools, stret-chers, chairs for lawns, and all other house furnishings at honest prices at Jas. Paton's. 9—11dtf.

"Our range of Fountain pens is probably the most complete in the city. Prices 75c, $1.00, $1.25, $2.00, $2.50 up to $8.00. G. F. Hutcheson, Jeweller. 9—17d1i.