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Sunday School Lesson

August 13.

Lesson VII.—Queen Esther Saves Her Nation. Golden Text.—The righteous cry and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. —Psalm xxxiv: 17. Lesson Text.—Esth. iv: 10-17 to Esth. 1:3. For entire lesson see Book of Esther.

The Time—About B.C. 474. The Place—Shushan (Susa) the inner city or palace in the capital of Persia, now a great mass of ruins.

The massacre which Haman the prime minister of Ahasuerus (Xerxes) planned for the destruction of the Jews is not without frequent parallel in history. Even within very recent times there have occurred instances of butchery of whole hordes of Jews in Russia and elsewhere. Haman's method of securing the king's consent to the massacre was by the common Oriental fashion of a direct bribe—offering the immense sum of ten thousand talents or possibly according to some \$16,800,000, and counting upon the plunder which he would obtain from the slain Jews to pay the bribe.

"Again Esther spake unto Hatach." Hatach was the chamberlain (manservant or eunuch) whom Esther had sent to Mordecai. "All the king's servants, and the people of the king's provinces." The king's servants means those in immediate attendance upon the king; the people of the provinces meant those in the most distant lands—all people both far and near. "Unto the king, into the inner court." The palace had an "outer court" (Esth. vi:4) and an "inner court" from which the throne room was visible. "Who is not called?" The law that no one might approach the king without summons was designed to give dignity to his person and to protect him from assassination. "There is one law of his to put him to death." Herodotus states this law but says that a person might send in a message to the king and request an audience. Esther, however, was not in the king's favor at the time and did not dare to do this. "Except such to whom the king shall hold out the golden sceptre." The king is always represented on the monuments as holding in his hand, long tapering rod with a head like ornament at one end and a loop at the other—don't let us get the golden sceptre. "But I have not been called to come in unto the king these thirty days." It is probable that some other woman had become the favorite of the reckless monarch. "And they told to Mordecai Esther's words." Hatach drops abruptly out of the story and Jewish commentators infer that Haman had him slain. "Think not with thyself that thou shalt escape." Esther thus far, following Mordecai's instructions had conceived the fact that she was a Jewess, but Mordecai was sure that in the midst of the massacre that was planned the fact would come out. Perhaps Haman had discovered the relationship between Esther and Mordecai. "Then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place." God is not shut up in the use of one agent. God desires for the man his honorable part in the progress of his kingdom but if that man fails, his glorious chance will be given to another. "But thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed." Mordecai adds the appeal so weighty with a Jew regard for the family. "And who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this." Mordecai adds the solemn appeal of providential leadership. "Then Esther bade them to return Mordecai this answer. She was asked to go in and tell the king what he did not yet know, that she herself was one of the despised and hated race. "Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan." There must have been many of them since they could lay three hundred men. (Esth. ix:15). "And fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink, three days, night or day." Oriental abstinence would not be very severely taxed by a fast of this length. The time intended—from the evening of the first to the morning of the third day—need not have much exceeded thirty-six hours. "I also and my maidens will fast like thee." Esther trusted in God to move Xerxes rather than her own beauty or she would not have lessened the full force of the latter by fasting. "And if I perish, I perish." The absolute power of such Oriental autocrats as the power-mad Xerxes, led the lives of all who approached them at the mercy of their caprice. Ahasuerus had just sanctioned a senseless bloodthirsty decree. Very possibly he had executed Vashti and that on the offence of the moment. Esther's courage and resolution were of a high order. "Now it came to pass on the third day (Esth. v:1). Evidently the fasting did not last three whole days. "And stood in the inner-court of the king's house. The king's house means the king's private apartments well-fenced in from unwarranted intrusion. "And the king sat upon

FOR THE Home Builder



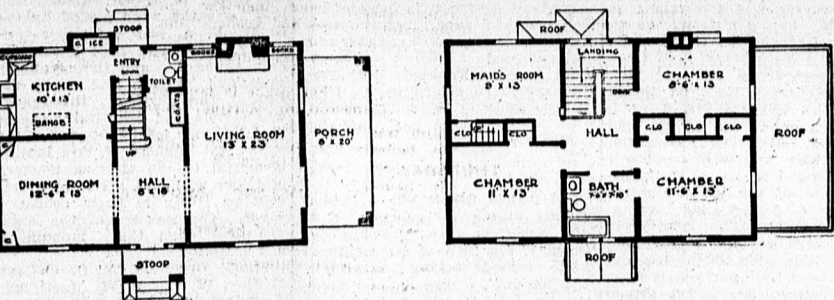
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THIS home here illustrated is one that should appeal to many, as it is planned on very simple lines, and true colonial in its details. It gives the maximum amount of floor space, at a minimum cost, while the floor plan arrangement is very convenient. It is all frame construction, with wide siding painted white, green shutters, green asphalt shingle roof, which together with the red and white brick used as a soldier course of brick at grade, gives a most pleasing color combination. Concrete foundation, oak floors throughout, tile in bath and first floor toilet, linoleum in kitchen, will birch trim throughout ivory enameled, with stair treads and rail birch stained mahogany. Size 36x24, basement 7-6; first floor 8 feet, second story 8 feet, with stairway to attic where good storage space is obtained. This home is now building in Minneapolis at a cost of \$7,500 or without heating and plumbing for \$6,000.

The Cheerful Kitchen Architect's Specifications

If there is one room in the house that should be comfortably, artistically and brightly furnished, it is the kitchen. A sweeping statement perhaps, but true, nevertheless; and unfortunately the kitchen is generally the one place in the house that is untidy, unattractive, not to say ugly, more often than not, and in most cases, ill-lighted.

Dull Kitchens Make Dull Workers. It is said with bated breath that this state of affairs very often results from a deplorable attitude on the part of the householder, and it is this "What's the difference, nobody sees it anyhow!" Nobody sees it? Well, perhaps so, if "nobody" includes the housewife who spends at least two-thirds of her time in it—and probably, of her husband and family, and the housewife's state of mind will be influenced by the drab, unpleasant atmosphere which this apartment creates.

Work Made Attractive. On the other hand, can you imagine anything more joyous than a bright, gaily colored kitchen? A blue and white tiled floor, wainscoted woodwork and cupboards; a polished and shining stove; an immaculate porcelain sink; blue and white mustard yellow covering ceiling windows—a clean, because often kitchen windows are not—and finally a table covered with snowy ocotilla and one or two chairs painted a pretty blue to match the ties and the curtains. Surely work would be a pleasure in surroundings such as these.

The housewife who is wise will commence by brightening up her kitchen, and the rest of her house cannot fail to follow suit. A Transformation Scene. "That is all very well," you may say, "for those who are building a home of their own, or who are lucky enough to be able to obtain one where such a cheerful kitchen that described already exists. But what about the others who have not this advantage. They can do nothing." You are quite wrong there. Linoleum, a pot of paint and plenty of energy are all the requirements to transform the dingiest of places into a regular "Home Beautiful" dream. True, of your house is set too close to your neighbors, you cannot very well move it, and consequently there is possibly not as much light in your kitchen as you would wish, but you can at least make the best of it by having gaily colored curtains on your windows and by placing pots of flowers or window boxes on the sill to lighten up the place while you work.

Paint and Linoleum do their Share. Then, linoleum can be obtained in such a variety of attractive designs nowadays that, falling a genuine linoleum floor, you can easily purchase laid linoleum made to represent tiles or if you prefer it, hardwood flooring which though a little more expensive than the ordinary kind, well repays you for the few dollars spent, by the double length of time it lasts. The commonplace kitchen chairs can be transformed also by the use of paint, white to match the woodwork that you have already painted.

Foundation footings and walls to be of rubble stone. Walls to be 13 inches thick, laid up in cement mortar. Exterior walls to be of 1 inch terra cotta, the blocks laid in cement mortar. Inside face of tile walls to be wood furred to receive lath and plaster. Cellar and porch bottoms to be of 4 inch cinder concrete and 1 inch cement finish. Porch finish to be lined of 10 inch squares and colored as directed. Chimney to be of common brick laid in cement mortar with terra cotta flue linings. Facings of fireplace to be of face brick as selected.

Ironwork. To include clean out doors, ash dumps, dampers, stirrups, iron balcony, etc.

Lath and Plastering. Exterior to be stuccoed direct on tile walls. Stucco shall be applied in three coats of cement plaster, finish to be as directed. Interior walls and ceilings throughout to be lathed with spruce lath, to receive two coats of plaster including a hard white finish, except walls of bathroom to four feet height, which shall be of wire lath to receive tile finish.

Carpentry. All framing timbers, such as beams, studs, rafters, girders, etc., to be spruce all of sizes as indicated on working drawings. Exterior millwork to be of white pine of best qualityypress. All interior millwork to be of white wood for painting. Exterior doors to be painted white; interior doors,

Roofing and Sheet Metal. Flashings, valleys, etc., to be of copper. Leaders and gutters copper sizes as indicated. Roof to be of sheet copper with standing seams.

Plumbing. Fixtures of modern design, vitreous china and enameled iron. All exposed work in bathroom to be nickel plated on heavy brass. Sinks and vents extra heavy cast iron, lead and brass bends and water supply lines galvanized wrought iron for hot and cold supplies to each fixture. House sewer to run 5 feet outside of building at point where directed. Laundry tubs in basement.

Heating. The heating system to be single pipe steam, with sectional boiler. All lines to be covered with asbestos cell covering. Low radiators with improved air valves, and system to have a heat regulator, controlled electrically by an eight-day clock.

Electric. The electric system to be started from outside of building, with proper cutouts, etc. All wiring to be B.X. cable to each outlet, with single and three-way switches, as indicated on working drawings.

Painting. Exterior trim to be painted three coats of lead and oil. Interior millwork to be given three coats of lead and oil, or an approved prepared paint. Doors, stair treads and rail to be given one coat of mahogany colored stain and one of oil. The floors to be filled with an approved wood filler and varnished or waxed as directed.

E. M. Barrett

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