

Bowser Prepares for War

He Is Going to Build a Fort

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Mr. Bowser had come home looking very solemn and earnest.

It was when they had finished their meal and gone upstairs and he had smoked half a cigar that he began packing up and down and finally explained:

"Mrs. Bowser," he began, "do you know that I am almost a criminal?"

"Have you almost killed some one?" she queried.

"Worse than that. If you could kick higher than a toe-string I should ask you to kick me all around this room."



"I'll Be Found Behind It"

I have done a reprehensible, if not a criminal thing. For weeks and weeks I have exposed your life to danger."

"Do you mean that the gas meter may blow up, Mr. Bowser?"

"No, ma'am; I mean that all this howling about war and unpreparedness has been passed by me and I am today as helpless as an infant. The United States was not prepared for war, and Samuel Bowser is not."

"But what could you do, dear?" asked Mrs. Bowser.

"Well, I will go over the case for a minute. If the Germans land troops here they will naturally land at Fritz's dock. He is a German, you know, and he will have sent word to them that they can land at his dock and he will make no objection. Six or eight thousand troops will land and march right up Joy street until they come to the corner of ours. There they will halt until the general in command asks where I live. They will scare some boy

and I shall work around home until it is finished. I shall build a fort to protect this open space. It won't be a fort after all. It will be a breast-work facing the street, and on this will be mounted cannon and quick-firing guns, and when the hour of peril comes, I will be found behind it with a rifle in my hand and five or six flags flying defiantly."

"Haven't you planned a pretty big thing?" asked Mrs. Bowser, in doubtful tones.

"Yes, it is a pretty big thing, but I can carry it out," was the reply. "The breastwork will be made of sand bags, and I must see a contractor to get my first thing in the morning. I must also go to army headquarters and see about cannon, quick-firing guns, rifles and ammunition. Not until that breastwork is finished and ready for business, shall I draw a long breath of relief. What are you getting out pencil and paper for?"

"Oh, just to figure a little," was the reply. "We want to see how much it's going to cost to win the glorious victory of the Germans and save our lives. Now, then, how many sand bags will you use?"

"About 200, and each bag will weigh 200 pounds, I don't see any use in figuring."

"Well, it won't do any hurt, Mr. Bowser. You get a contractor. He has got to buy 200 sand bags, and have them filled, and drawn here on his truck and delivered. I don't believe you can get them at less than two dollars a bag. They may have to be drawn a great distance, don't you feel?"

"Then," continued Mrs. Bowser, "you must have at least one man to assist you in placing the bags, and you can count on three hard days' work—may be weeks. You must add all this into the expense, and you will probably have two cannon. What do cannon cost, Mr. Bowser?"

"As I told you this figuring is all bosh," sulkily replied Mr. Bowser. "I don't believe you can get them for less than \$500 each, and you never loaded nor fired a cannon in your life. It looks to me, as if you would have to hire an artillery company. And I read in the paper that a quick-firing gun cost \$250. You will want two of them, and about 10 rifles at \$10 apiece."

"Are you done?" sulkily demanded Mr. Bowser, as Mrs. Bowser stopped to wet her pencil on her tongue.

"Just a minute, Mr. Bowser. There is the ammunition for all of these arms—that is going to cost a pretty penny. There is no doubt but that you will kill at least a thousand Germans, but let us see how much it will cost you a head."

"We won't see anything of the kind!" half shouted Mr. Bowser. "I am going ahead and build that fort, and an hour before the Germans come you can start out on a visit to your mother and leave me here alone. I shall perish defending that breastwork."

"Just wait until I see more guns," said Mrs. Bowser. "Your breastwork will front toward the street. Your artillery will all point that way. The space between your breastwork and the alley will be all open. Have you thought the Germans might come down the alley and take you in the rear, and you couldn't fire a gun at them?"

Bowser gave a start and jumped to his feet, and without a word he let the house. An hour later, and a mile away, he was standing behind a breastwork, a shade tree when a patrolman stopped before him and said:

"Come, old man, be moving along. You set to me like a who who is afraid to go home and face his wife, but you can't loaf around the streets. Go home and beg her pardon, and tell her you'll never do it again."

"But now that you see it at last you are going to prepare, are you?" was the query.

"I am going right at it tomorrow morning, and I shall work around home until it is finished. I shall build a fort to protect this open space. It won't be a fort after all. It will be a breast-work facing the street, and on this will be mounted cannon and quick-firing guns, and when the hour of peril comes, I will be found behind it with a rifle in my hand and five or six flags flying defiantly."

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What Well Dressed Women Will Wear



Evening Frocks for the Younger Set.

Although the evening dress—pure and simple—"one-piece" with a question mark—is more or less banished from the wardrobe of young matrons and mature women, it is still allowed to the younger set.

Every girl is entitled to her share of the little joys of youth, and as evening dress means much in her young life. Naturally evening dress for the youthful is, or at least seems, simple. Nobody wants to see "the girl he left behind him" sit down in dull apathy because her maid has gone to the store. If she is down-hearted, she must proclaim it, and nothing will hearten her more than her share of pretty clothes. Besides the wheels of business must be kept going.

The lovely dancing frock shown in the picture is warranted to contain nothing that might be better used by the sultry French and Belgians. It is only a gracefully draped skirt of bright green satin, a bodice of green sequins and malines. From the right shoulder a long scarf of gauze is

shown, hanging to the floor. It is intended to be wrapped about the shoulders and arms when the wearer dances, or at any other time, except when she poses to show to admiring sisters how this brilliant frock is made.

The skirt is draped in folds that cascade over the hips and hang in points at the bottom. The glittering bodice is not encrusted with small green sequins and rhinestones. It is extended into points that end in a tassel over the hips and supported by two narrow straps of satin over each shoulder.

The pointed skirt allows a glimpse of light gray silk hose that match up well with silver slippers. Altogether this is a very brilliant affair, which can hardly be classed as magnificent, and is therefore the sort of frock for the younger girl. It does not require too much money, and even the conscientious young matron might reconcile herself to indulgence in it. There is no reason for her to be disappointed to the extent of falling to look her best occasionally—in a simple evening frock.



For Every Day and Summer Time.

Thrifty mothers who take advantage of winter days spent indoors to prepare for summer days spent outdoors will welcome these spring models in everyday summer dresses for little girls. They are made of the same reliable and familiar cotton goods that have made a place for themselves in the wardrobe of the young set. Striped gingham and plain chambray lend their established popularity to promote the success of the two practical little frocks illustrated. It almost goes without saying that none out of the greenest for the everyday wear of little girls are made of these fabrics.

With materials a foregone conclusion mothers interest themselves in the little changes in style and methods of construction that make a little variation in the story of children's frocks from season to season. So much attention has been given to new designs for summer frocks that the youngsters' frocks are unusually interesting. The little model at the left is made, for the hardest wear, of tan-colored gingham with a blue stripe. Its business is to be strong and easy to launder and as little in the way of its small wearer as a dress may be. It has a plain yoke, fastened at the front with pearl buttons. Its

bow sleeves are finished with plain cuffs of white plique and a white plique collar helps to make this little frock dainty and fresh looking, when it starts on its lively career in the morning of a summer day.

The frock at the right has ambition at the heart as is noted by the white plique collar that is "dressed up." It will not need tucking as often as the play dress, and has considerable more work involved in its making. It is of yellow, pink blue plain chambray with a smocked and scalloped yoke. The smocking is ornamented with cat-stitching in black and white cotton and this looks well with any of the colors chosen for the frock. It has a fancy collar of white plique with tabs fastened down by large pearl buttons sewed on with black thread. There are white plique cuffs and pockets finished with black and white cat-stitching. They are the delight of little ones. A small bow of narrow, black ribbon proclaims that this little frock is an affair of some importance in the world of little frocks.

Julia B. B. B.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. G. SELLERS, Acting Director of the Sunday School Course of the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.)
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LESSON FOR JANUARY 20

JESUS AT WORK.

LESSON TEXT—Mark 1:21-45.
GOLDEN TEXT—We must work the works of him that sent us, while it is day.—John 9:4.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL FOR TEACHERS—Matt. 4:23-25; Luke 4:14-21; Matt. 9:35-38; 11:23-30; Luke 9:1-17.

PRIMARY MEMORY VERSE—He has healed many that were sick.—Mark 1:34.

INTERMEDIATE TOPIC—The power and authority of Jesus.

MEMORY VERSE—Gal. 6:2.
REVISION AND ADULT TOPIC—Jesus meeting human needs.

At the risk of repetition we will once more call attention to the new plan of Sunday-school lessons. Its characteristics are: First, the uniform teaching. A general lesson title and the same general Scripture passages as the basis of study for all grades. One Golden text for all, although frequently a devotional Scripture lesson and particular text which is intended for the opening story of the school or for departments of the school, with additional scriptural material for the use of teachers of the various grades.

Second, the grades and ages. The grades are: Primary, pupils from six to eight inclusive; Junior, nine to eleven or twelve inclusive; Intermediate boys and girls, twelve or thirteen to seventeen inclusive; senior or young people, eighteen to twenty-four adults, twenty-five and upwards. Beginners are not included in these lessons, as they have been provided for in the beginning lessons of the graded courses. Third, the graded teachers.

Different lesson topics or titles as adapted to the different grades. Again, memory verses for the various grades. Additional scriptural material intended especially for the graded lesson writers and teachers. Sometimes the lesson text for a certain grade is simply a small portion of the uniform or general Scripture passage for that day.

Fourth, the months of this year will be devoted to the Gospel of Mark. Every syllable will be covered during the course. Then there is to be a three months course of study in the Christian life on moral ritual topics; The Beginning of a Christian Life, Reading God's Word, Praying to God, Obeying God, Growing Stronger, Speaking for Christ, Conquering Evil, etc., apparently disconnected, but really a vitally related course on topics dealing with Christian living.

The Lesson for Today.

I. The Man of the Unclean Spirit (vv. 21-27). Jesus was teaching in the synagogue, and the results were far different from those in Capernaum or Nazareth. (See Luke 4:16-30.) But as always, evil is present with good, and evil always recognizes true piety. Hence those present recognized that a God-sent man with a God-given message was speaking. Sunday-school teachers should also speak with authority, for we are "the anointed of God." (1 Peter 4:11.) Notice Christ's power over spiritual evil. (vv. 23-27.)

Demons, possession, we are told, is quite common today in China and other heathen lands. The error of this demon at the world of Christ may suggest how evil men will feel when Christ shall come again. As always, evil desires to be "let alone," but Christ would not let him alone. The demon did not want to come out, but he was helpless before the power of Christ and had to come, and in coming he made himself so felt that the people were "all amazed." Neither astonishment nor amazement, however, is correct.

II. Peter's Mother-in-Law (vv. 28-34). In this next scene we have one of the homes wherein Jesus manifested his power over physical or bodily illness. Notice Christ was abiding with his own loved ones. Here is an example on the part of Christ of how to do personal work. Also an example and a testimony that service is a testimony of gratitude. The fact that his one was healed and that she began at once to serve is also a testimony to the fact of the cure. There was sickness in that home, not "error of mortal origin," and they did what was best—brought the sick one to Jesus. Again in verse 30 is this keyword of Mark's Gospel, "straightaway." Jesus could heal at a distance (John 4:50-53), but he liked to come straight up to the afflicted one. Notice he took her by the hand. This, too, is a lesson for us. The gospel of a handclasp is too often neglected. The "taking-by-the-hand" religion is a thing we need in our churches today. Notice he also "raised her up." People need to be lifted up. It is not enough to command them to rise; we must also help them. Notice that it was said that "the fever left her." Sickness, as well as demons, gave way before the Lord.

The concluding scene of this day (vv. 35-38) is remarkable and presents a vivid and beautiful picture. "At even when the sun did set" (v. 32) they brought unto him "all" that were diseased. While all were gathered at the door, not all were healed, for the record says, "many were healed." We read, "all" are called, but few chosen. All that day was gathered that evening about Peter's door (v. 23), but the sad part of it was that not all received the healing touch of Christ. They had had a wonderful Sabbath day. They had seen proof of the power of the Master.

TWO DOLLAR WHEAT

This Price Will Hold For Some Years.

A well-advised commercial authority gives it as his opinion: "as a slow descent may be counted on in the prices for grain when the war ends—it may take several years to restore the world's stock of foodstuffs to normal—there is good ground for confidence in the outlook for rapid development in agriculture."

If this be correct, it follows that the profession of farming will materially increase its ranks in the next few years.

Today, the price of wheat is set by the United States government at \$2.20 per bushel, and in Canada the price has been set at \$2.21. This, of course, is less freight and handling charges which brings the average to the farmer at about \$2.00 per bushel. This price will pay so long as land, material and labor can be secured at reasonable prices. It remains for the would-be producer to ascertain where he can secure these at prices that will make the production of grain profitable. He will estimate what price he can afford to pay for land that will give him a yield of wheat which when sold at \$2.00 per bushel, will return him a fair profit. Local and social conditions will also enter into the consideration. Finding what he wants he would be wise to make his purchase now. Land prices in some portions of the country are low, certainly as low as they will ever be. City property and town property will fluctuate, but the property will hold its own. The price of grain is as low as it will be for some years. Therefore it would be well to look about, and find what can be done.

There are doubtless many opportunities in the United States, especially in the Western States, to purchase good agricultural lands, that will produce well, at reasonable prices. If the would-be buyer has the time to investigate, and that is needed, for these lands do not exist in any considerable area, he would be well repaid. Not only will his land certainly increase in value, the unearned increment would be an asset—without under cultivation he can find nothing that will give better results. He will at the same time be performing a patriotic act, a needful controller's plea to increase agricultural production and assist in reducing the deficit of 75 million bushels of wheat reported by the controller.

In addition to the vacant lands that are brought under cultivation, Western Canada offers today the greatest area of just the land that is required, and at low prices—prices that cannot last long. Even now land prices are increasing, as their value is daily becoming more apparent, and their location desirable.

As to the intrinsic value of land in Western Canada, hundreds of concrete cases could be cited, which go to prove that at fifty and sixty dollars per acre—figures that have recently been paid for improved farms—the crops grown on them gave a profit of from twenty to thirty per cent and even higher, on such an investment. One instance, is that of a young Englishman, unaccustomed to farming before he took his seat on the sulky plow with which he does most of his work, after allowing himself \$10,000 for his own wages last year, made a profit of \$2,000 on a \$20,000 investment. His total sales amounted to \$5,700 and his expense, which included the \$10,000 wages for himself, was \$3,500. The interest was 11 1/2 per cent.

To the man who does not care to buy or who has not the means to purchase, but possesses wealth in his own hardihood, his muscle, and determination, there are the thousands of free homesteads of which he may have the pick on paying an entry fee of ten dollars. These are high class lands and adapted to all kinds of farming. Send to your nearest Canadian Government Agent for literature, descriptive of the splendid opportunities that are still open in Western Canada. Adv.

War-Saves Teeth.

That "national decay" had set in for many years before the war is undeniable, says an authority on national life. Nationally, our teeth, our hair, our eyes, were "going." We were becoming a toothless, baldheaded, bespectacled race.

War bread, owing to the greater mastication that its ingredients, its starchy results, save the teeth of thousands of the younger generation.

Richard Grady of the United States Naval academy, in a lecture at Forsyth infirmary in Boston, said:

"Without thorough mastication, digestion, there cannot be proper assimilation."

"Without proper assimilation there cannot be nutrition."

"Without nutrition there cannot be health."

"Without health what is life?"

"Hence the paramount importance of the teeth."

Homelike Language on Rifle Range.

Officer—"Have you anyone else to shoot, sergeant?" Sergeant—"No, sir, I'll shoot myself now."—Exchange.

Mother—"And why did you put this frog in sister's bag?" Son—"I tried to find a mud turtle and couldn't."

It doesn't pay to dunk a woman whose only asset is a gift of gab.