

ALMA BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

SOCIETIES. U. B. CHURCH—Morning service at 10:30. Sunday School at 11:45. Preaching service at 7:30. Rev. H. B. FORTKREFF, Pastor.

The Testing of Abraham

OUR BIBLE STORY by the "Highway and Byway" Preacher. (A Vision Between the Lines of God's Inspired Word.)

Scripture Authority.—"And it came to pass after these things, that God did prove Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham; and he said, Here am I. And He said, Take now thy son, thine only son, whom thou lovest, even Isaac, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt-offering upon one of the mountains which I tell thee of.—Gen. 22:1-2. Read all the chapter.

"By faith Abraham, being tried, offered up Isaac; yes, he that had gladly received the promise was offering up his only begotten son; even he to whom it was said, In Isaac shall thy seed be called; accounting that God is able to raise up, even from the dead; from whence he did also in a figure receive him back"—Heb. 11:17-19.



THE sharp, clear note of a horn sounded on the soft afternoon air, and three people seated in the comfortable shade of the ample tent paused in their conversation to listen, and looked out across the fruitful fields in the direction from which the cheery

blast had come. "That is Jerah's horn, if I mistake not," quickly spoke up a tall, comely young man, rising to his feet. "I must be going. Eliezer has his hands more than full these days in taking the accounting of the flocks and herds, and I must help him."

"The reports thus far are good, my son?" questioned the aged father, lifting his eyes to the face of the young man and studying it with quiet earnestness. "There has never been a better year that I remember, father. And I know Eliezer is well pleased, for repeatedly during the last few days, as the reports have come in, he has exclaimed: 'How hath the Lord prospered my master!'"

Neither parent spoke for some time, but letting their eyes rest on the spot where their son had disappeared, they seemed to be lost in thoughts and plans for him. Abraham was the first to break the sweet silence, as he said, with fervor: "How graciously Jehovah hath dealt with us. He hath withheld nothing from us."

"Ye, and the Lord hath spoken nothing but good concerning our son, Isaac," rejoined Sarah, confidently. "It is in my heart to make an offering unto the Lord this day in token of His goodness and mercies," responded Abraham, rising.

Going to the flocks, Abraham selected one of the finest of the lambs, and, bearing it in his arms, he sought out the altar in the midst of the grove where it was his wont to call upon the name of the Lord, and offer sacrifice unto Him. Carefully he laid the wood on the altar and upon this placed the little lamb. As he took his knife in hand, prepared to shed its blood, a voice called him, saying: "Abraham!"

"Behold, here am I," quickly responded Abraham, staying his hand and waiting reverently with bowed head, for he knew it was the Lord talking with him.

"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 mountains which I will tell thee of."

The voice ceased. Abraham's hand dropped nerveless at his side. Cold beads of perspiration stood upon his forehead. A mist like a cloud fell over his eyes, shutting out the bright sunshine. His brain whirled in confused helplessness, and a strange dread seized hold upon his heart. His limbs shook beneath him, and sinking to the ground, he heard again the words: "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 mountains which I will tell thee of."

It was God speaking. He had obeyed that voice before, but could he obey now? His only begotten son whom he loved! Oh! could he walk in the pathway which God had marked out? Long and fierce was the conflict, but at last victory, and a calm peacefulness which always comes when the soul has placed itself unreservedly in the hands of God and walks with Him into the furnace of fiery trial. He could not understand, and he knew it was not for him yet to see the reason why. Out of the agony and confusion of heart and mind two thoughts came at last to calm and help him. One was that God had spoken, and that he must obey. The other was that God, who had so miraculously given him and Sarah a son in their old age, could also restore him to them, though he were dead.

The afternoon had slipped away and the twilight was deepening into the darkness of night, and still Abraham lay in the dust at the foot of the altar. So lost was he with his inward contemplations that he did not hear the tread of footsteps, but the gentle pressure of a hand upon his shoulders aroused him, and lifting his head he looked up into the face of his son, in whose eyes there shone mingled wonder and loving sympathy.

"Father, we have wondered at thy prolonged absence, and I came in search of thee."

The father struggled to speak, but his voice choked, and Isaac's quick perception told him that his father had

had some kind of a vision and that God had spoken to him, but his reverent regard for his father and his father's God restrained him from questioning him as to the experiences of the afternoon, and why he was prostrate before the altar.

Silently Abraham rose to his feet, and as he did so his eyes fell upon the little lamb which still lay bound upon the altar. Quickly glancing up at Isaac, and noting the questioning look in his eyes as he, too, saw the lamb and the wood carefully laid for the sacrifice, he said: "The Lord hath required a better sacrifice!"

And stooping down Abraham took the knife which had slipped from his hand earlier in the afternoon, and cutting the things which bound the patient creature, rubbed its stiffened limbs, and then, placing it on the ground, let it go.

"To-morrow morning, my son, we will go to the land of Moriah, to a place the Lord will show us, to offer up a burnt offering to the Lord there," said Abraham, as they walked slowly homeward.

Isaac understood not the full import of his father's words, but he felt the deep fervor, and the intense pathos of his father's voice, and as his father drew him to himself in tender embrace, his heart stirred with a devout longing to be in close fellowship and sympathy with him in this new call to worship and service. Returning his father's pressure, he said, earnestly: "All that God hath said unto thee, do! Thy God is my God! Let me worship and serve Him with thee!"

"Ye, that thou wilt, my son, for it is the only way of blessing," responded the father with a Godly fervor which sought to stifle and still the agony of his breaking heart.

No other word was spoken, and the young man as he walked by his father's side pondered deeply over all these things. They found Sarah waiting impatiently their coming in the tent door, and to her questions as to what had detained him, Abraham returned reluctant reply. A new conflict was raging within his heart. Could he tell her all? He had been so deeply absorbed in God's command and of Isaac's part therein that he had not taken any thought as to what explanation he should make his wife, or how much he should tell her of what God had said to him. She noted his evident confusion and pressed him eagerly for answer.

But could he tell her? Could he tell her? With great effort to control his feelings and hide from her the great sacrifice which God had called upon him to make, he related to her the incidents of the afternoon, telling her how God had spoken to him and had called him to offer burnt offering upon a mountain in the land of Moriah. He told her all, save that Isaac, their only begotten and well-beloved son, was the offering which God required.

"Well," she exclaimed, somewhat impatiently, when he had concluded, "I see nothing in this that should cause you such confusion and reluctance in the telling of it. Should not God call you to worship Him in the land where we sojourned so many years, and where God's messengers renewed the promise of the coming of our son Isaac?"

She paused to take breath after her rapid speech, and then continued, little realizing what her words meant: "God has marvelously prospered us, the son of promise is with us to-day to comfort our hearts, and fill all the future with the brightness of hope, and should we withhold anything from Him of all that He has given us? Nay, go serve thy God whither He has called thee, and let Isaac go with thee that he too may be one with thee in worship!"

Abraham bowed his head in assent to his wife's words, but spoke not, and Isaac, who had listened to his mother's speech with sympathetic approval, turned and left the tent, saying to himself: "I will get things in readiness, that we may get started early in the morning."

He sought out Eliezer, his counselor in all plans, for the faithful servant of his father had guarded and cared for him from the time he was old enough to toddle out among the flocks and herds. He told him of his father's experience of the afternoon, and of the call to worship God on a mountain in the Land of Moriah, and then planned with him for the trip.

"Jerah, who came in but to-day, is a devout soul, and shall go with us, and I am minded to take the young man Aram, for he has often spoken of a desire to have a part in our service of sacrifice."

"And the lamb?" questioned Eliezer, "have you selected it to take with you?" "I was going to ask you to go with me and help me choose the likeliest one in the flock," eagerly rejoined Isaac.

And suiting the action to the words, he took the older man by the arm and together they walked out into the beautiful moonlit night, and went hither and thither among the gentle sheep seeking a goodly offering for the Lord.

And Abraham sitting silent and alone before his tent looked out into the night and pondered over the offering which the Lord had asked. What could it mean? Earnestly he groped in the darkness of mystery for the answer. Could it be that the Lord required more than the blood of a lamb for acceptance with Him? A new thought in the worship of God was coming to him, and what Abraham saw in symbol and mystery that night we know the blessed fullness of to-day, as we realize that God withheld not His only begotten son, but freely offered Him up as a sacrifice for sin that in Him we might have deliverance from sin and might receive the gift of eternal life.

County News

From the Record's Corps of Forty Special Correspondents

SHEPHERD

Mrs. Anna Schweiers has returned from Pawaamo, where she spent several days visiting relatives.

Miss Anna Penoyer, who has been visiting her parents and other relatives for some time, has gone to Cincinnati and other points in the south.

Miss Cecil Schweiers has returned from Mt. Pleasant, where she made her aunt, Mrs. Sayers, a visit.

Mr. Berry made a business trip to the county seat Saturday.

E. S. McClellan made a business trip to Grand Rapids last Saturday. He will remain there several weeks to take lessons in embalming.

Mr. and Mrs. Walker, of Holly, are visiting their son, M. E. Walker, and family.

Mrs. Fowler, a former resident of this village, died at the home of her daughter, west of town, Sunday morning, July 9th.

G. W. Fouts, an old time resident here, has arrived in the village after an absence of ten months in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Fouts is visiting old friends and relatives and expects to remain some time.

Mrs. Etta Manning, of Sturgis, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Moore.

Mrs. F. H. Ballinger has returned from visiting friends and relatives at St. Johns.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Clark, of Sumner, attended the funeral of Mrs. John Dunham, remaining over night with Mrs. L. P. Gillman.

A. H. Gruber, of Middleton, was with relatives and friends here over the Fourth.

Greatly in Demand.

Nothing is more in demand than a medicine which meets modern requirements for a blood and system cleanser, such as Dr. King's New Life Pills. They are just what you need to cure stomach and liver troubles. Try them at Geo. E. Sharrar's drug store, 25c, guaranteed.

ELWELL

Mrs. Arthur Moyer, of Potosky, was the guest of her father, Uncle Ike Hilsinger, from Saturday to Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Boyle and Thomas Gallagher, of Alma, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Follick Thursday.

Art Hilsinger and Miss Bessie Borton took in the excursion to Toledo Sunday.

Geo. Myers was a Sunday visitor at the home of A. G. Wiley.

Mrs. Jake Zergy, of Detroit, is visiting her grandfather, Uncle Ike Hilsinger this week.

Mrs. Grace Moyle, of Rosecommon, who has been visiting at the home of W. T. Pitt, returned to Alma Saturday.

Mrs. Clark, of Grand Ledge, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Roberts this week.

Chas. Tamm was in St. Louis Monday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Whitman, of Palo, were the guests of Asa Dalrymple over Sunday.

Frank Strayer and wife visited his father, Nathaniel Strayer, at Elm Hall Saturday. Grant took a carp that tipped the beam at twelve pounds out of the Pine.

Doctors Could Not Help Her

"I had kidney trouble for years," writes Mrs. Raymond Conner, of Shelton, Wash., "and the doctors could not help me. I tried Foley's Kidney Cure, and the very first dose gave me relief and I am now cured. I cannot say too much for Foley's Kidney Cure." Sold by Geo. E. Sharrar.

TUBBS DISTRICT

Gene Needham, of Detroit, who has been visiting friends and relatives in this vicinity, returned home Sunday.

Joseph Krupka is entertaining a felon. Barney Sutphin, of Saginaw, is home for a few days.

WHEELER

Mrs. Chas. Suttin is in quite poor health.

Gil Hatfield returned Wednesday from Muskegon, where he had been visiting a sister.

Ralph Taylor left Wednesday for Lansing, where he has employment.

Chas. Allen spent Friday and Saturday with his daughter near Merrill.

Alice Berry, of Redstone, visited Mrs. McKinnan last week.

Mrs. Wm. Bradford entertained several ladies from Merrill last Thursday evening.

Mrs. Weeks came Thursday from Saginaw to spend a week at her home in Wheeler.

Miss Lucy Rich has gone to Saginaw to attend school.

Evangelistic meetings closed Sunday evening. Quite a number were converted.

Dr. A. J. Ervey has returned from Walled Lake and reports a good time.

Miss Alice Browning, of Walled Lake, is visiting at Geo. Young's.

ARCADA DISTRICT NO. 5

Miss Lola G. Todd, of Ithaca, has been engaged to teach the Ely school next year.

Mrs. Hazelton returned to her home in McComb county Friday after a visit of several weeks with her daughter, Mrs. John Murphy.

Ed Andrews is getting material on the ground for a new barn.

Mrs. Oscar Moore is in poor health this summer.

Spoiled Her Beauty.

Harriet Howard, of 299 W. 24th St., New York, at one time had her beauty spoiled with skin trouble. She writes: "I had Salt Rheum or Eczema for years, but nothing would cure it until I used Bucklen's Arnica Salve." A quick and sure healer for cuts, burns and sores, 25c at Geo. E. Sharrar's drug store.

PLEASANT VALLEY

The dance at Lew Davis' barn was well attended and all report a good time.

There was no preaching at the church Sunday as the minister is away on a visit.

Mrs. Jackson Martin, who has been such a long sufferer from heart trouble, passed away Sunday morning. The funeral was held at the house, Tuesday at 1 o'clock, and the remains laid at rest in St. Louis cemetery.

The L. A. S. meets at Chambers' Hall this Friday. Work will be quilting the Aid's quilt.

You will save a doctor bill, save time and avoid discomfort if you will learn to "read the tongue" and take Celery King when it tells you, by its coated appearance, to do so. 25c. at druggists.

BEBOW'S CORNERS

We notice in last week's Vincent News that L. Roe had rented the farm of E. M. Wagner for the coming year. E. M. says if such is the case, he knows nothing of it and it was a surprise to him.

The Misses Ethel and Nina and Mr. Orlo Wagner and Miss Harriet Monroe spent Sunday at the home of Frank Monroe.

Oswald Noak was able to be removed home Sunday.

Misses Grace and Clara Monroe returned to Belding, Monday, after spending three weeks with their parents.

E. M. Wagner was in Wheeler, Monday, looking after the interest of the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co. He wrote up policies amounting to \$51.60.

CURE FOR HAY FEVER

Chas. Rhodes Says Hyomei Will Give Relief—Sold Under Guarantee.

The season for hay fever is almost at hand, and many people feel that they will be obliged to go away in order to avoid the sneezing, watery eyes and other annoying symptoms of this disagreeable summer disease.

Chas. Rhodes wishes to announce that when Hyomei is used as a preventative, or a cure there will be no hay fever. He advises daily treatment for two or three weeks before the usual time for the annual appearance of hay fever. If this is done, the attack will be prevented. However, if the preventive treatment is not started soon enough, and the disease makes its appearance, use Hyomei six or seven times daily, and relief will be given at once.

There is no stomach dosing when Hyomei is used. Breathed through the neat pocket inhaler that comes with every outfit, its medicated air reaches the minutest air cells, killing all germs and soothing and healing the mucous membrane.

The complete Hyomei outfit costs but \$1, extra bottles 50 cents. It is the only treatment for hay fever sold by Chas. Rhodes under a guarantee to refund the money if it does not give satisfaction.

FOLEY'S KIDNEY CURE

Will cure Bright's Disease. Will cure Diabetes. Will cure Stone in Bladder. Will cure Kidney and Bladder Diseases. Sold by Geo. E. Sharrar.

Ayer's

You can depend on Ayer's Hair Vigor to restore color to your gray hair, every time. Follow directions and it never fails to do this work. It stops

Hair Vigor

falling of the hair, also. There's great satisfaction in knowing you are not going to be disappointed. Isn't that so?

"My hair faded until it was about white. It took just one bottle of Ayer's Hair Vigor to restore it to its former dark, rich color. Your Hair Vigor certainly does what you claim for it."—A. M. BOSTON, Rockingham, N. C.

Fading Hair

Young Men Wanted

How would you like to secure a commission as an officer under Uncle Sam? If you are between the ages of 17 and 35 years, possess the necessary common school education, are moral, persistent, and can pass the required physical examination send me four one cent stamps to pay postage, and I will mail you a personal letter, literature, etc., that will tell you of the qualifications required for positions leading to promotions of high rank as an officer in our army or navy.

H. W. PHILLIPS, LOUISVILLE, KY.

Are Your Clothes MADE RIGHT?

Think this over—have a confidential talk with yourself—make sure that you are getting the best in material, workmanship, style, etc. For spring and summer you'll need a new top coat, or suit. At my shop you'll find a great variety of styles, fabrics, and patterns to select from. Come and see me. Cleaning and repairing a specialty.

M. J. McPhee

FINE MERCHANT TAILORING. State St., First Door North of Wright House.

BARBER SHOP

and Bath Rooms. Three Barbers. No long waits. At the shop with the Big Barber Pole.

DAVIS BROS. Props.

BATH TUBS

We've just received a nice new line BATH TUBS. Call and see them if you are intending to furnish a bath room. We have everything in the way of

FIXTURES, LABORATORIES, RANGE BOILERS, ETC. Opposite Post-office. Union Phone, 149. Residence 151.

J. G. WALKER

Our Seed Corn Grows.

Plant our Acclimated Michigan Grown Corn. RED BLAZED OR BMT NOSE \$1.50 PER BU. The best Early Flint variety. We warrant it to ripen in 90 days in every part of Michigan.

EARLY GOLDEN DENT OR PRICE OF THE NORTH \$1.50 PER BUSHEL. Add 15c for each bag. Write for Catalogue.

LOHMAN SEED CO. 73 GRATIOT AVE. DETROIT.

C. E. CHANDLER, Auctioneer.

BUTERNUT, MICH. Telephone for rates and dates for Auction Sales.

To subscribers who pay one year in advance we are giving a cloth bound map of Gratiot county for only twenty-five cents. The supply is limited. Come at once if you wish to take advantage of this low offer.

WEAK MEN MADE VIGOROUS PEPPER'S NERVIGOR. Acts powerfully and quickly. Cures when all others fail. Men regard it as a life-saver. Absolutely guaranteed to restore Nervous Debility, Loss of Vitality, Failing Memory, Dropsy, Rheumatism, and all effects of excess and indigestion. Restores happiness, energy, vitality, and increases the force and vigor of the system. Strengthens every organ. Works of merit and concentration. Insist on having PEPPER'S NERVIGOR, or send for it. Can be carried in vest pocket. Prepared, plain wrapper, 50¢ per box, or 10¢ per box. Write for it. PEPPER MEDICAL ASSN., Chicago, Ill.

HUMPHREYS' Veterinary Specifics cure diseases of Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Dogs, Hogs and Poultry by acting directly on the sick parts without loss of time. A. A. FEVERS. Congestions, Inflammations, Hoarseness, Lung Fever, Milk Fever. B. B. SPRAINS, Lameness, Injuries, Colic, Rheumatism. C. C. SORE THROAT, Quinsy, Epizootic, Croup, Distemper. D. D. WORMS, Bots, Grubs, Curds. E. E. COLIC, Coughs, Influenza, Inflamed Lungs, Pleuro-Pneumonia. F. F. Diarrhea, Dysentery. G. G. Prevents MISCARriage. H. H. KIDNEY & BLADDER DISORDERS. I. I. SKIN DISEASES, Mange, Eruptions, Itch, Grease, Farcy. J. K. BAD CONDITION, Starving Coat, Indigestion, Stomach Stragglers. 50¢ each. Stable Case, Ten Specifics, Book, 50¢. At Druggists, or sent prepaid on receipt of \$1. Humphreys' Medicine Co., Cor. William and John Streets, New York.