

Notes on the Lessons.

LESSON V—August 2nd, 1896.

David's Kindness. 2 SAM. 9: 1-13.

(Commit to memory verse 7).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love." Rom. 12: 10.

PROVE THAT—We should remember the poor. Prov. 19: 17.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 70. Which is the seventh commandment? A. The seventh commandment is, Thou shalt not commit adultery. 71. What is required in the seventh commandment? A. The seventh commandment requireth the preservation of our own and our neighbor's chastity, in heart, speech, and behaviour.

LESSON HYMNS, *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 82, 133, 135, 41.

DAILY PORTIONS. Monday. David's kindness. 2 Sam. 9. Tuesday. David and Jonathan. 1 Sam. 20: 11-17. Wednesday. A sorrowful parting. 1 Sam. 20: 35-42. Thursday. A glad welcome. 2 Sam. 19: 24-30. Friday. Constancy in friendship. Prov. 27: 1-10. Saturday. A blessed memory. Job 29: 1-16. Sabbath. The love of Christ. Eph. 3: 8-19. (The I. B. R. A. Selections).

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

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INTRODUCTORY. The eighth chapter contains a brief history of the wars that raised Israel from an oppressed and despised people, to the exalted position of a powerful and widespread empire. The supremacy of the Philistines was broken. It was probably at that time that several of David's "heroes" won their laurels in war (2 Sam. 23: 8-12). To-day's lesson marks the close of the first part of David's reign. Here David appears a true man and a noble prince.

LESSON PLAN. I. Thoughtful Inquiry. vs. 1-4. II. The Unfortunate Prince. vs. 5-8. III. The Magnanimous King. vs. 9-13.

I. THOUGHTFUL INQUIRY. 1. David said—The opportune season had come for David to make good his promise to Jonathan (1 Sam. 20: 14, 15). Is there yet any?—A thoughtful enquiry after the house of one that had been his chief enemy. "Love your enemies" (Matt. 5: 44). Show him kindness—The beauty and power of real kindness, a kind look, a kind word, a kind act, kindness to the needy is kindness shown to Jesus (Matt. 25: 40). Jonathan's sake—The tried, self-forgetful and true friend of David. "Hallowed associations are a great power in life." 2. Zi'ba—Evidently David had no personal knowledge that Jon'a-than had left any children. From this old servant that had remained loyal and faithful to the house of Saul the desired information was obtained. David was desirous of shewing kindness to any representative of the fallen monarch. 3. The kindness of God—Kindness in the highest degree. The thought of God's goodness and loving-kindness to David himself kindled in his heart a delight in showing loving-kindness to others. "God is love." And when the love of God dwells in the heart it manifests itself in acts of loving-kindness. No life is so unselfish as the christian life. "He that hath friends must show himself friendly" (Prov. 18: 24). Hath yet a son—Possibly Ziba knew of the sworn friendship that had bound David and Jonathan together. He knew that tidings of a son of Jonathan would be welcome news to the king. Lame on his feet—The effects

of an accident that befel him when five years of age (ch. 4: 4); expressive of his feeble power and helpless condition. Many are spiritually lame of foot in the service of God. 4. Where is he?—A personal and kindly interest taken by David in his old friend's son. Ma'chir—A man apparently rich in earthly possessions (ch. 17: 27), remembering Saul's heroic enterprise in behalf of his people he offered ready shelter and hospitality to his grandson. Lo-de'bar—A town east of the Jordan not far from Ma-ha-na'im.

II. THE UNFORTUNATE PRINCE. 5. Fetched him—Did not send a company of men to bring him by force, but sent and brought him in a kindly manner. Me'phi-bo'sheth—Also called Meri-baal (1 Chr. 8: 34). Fell on his face—No doubt poor Mephibosheth was in great fear lest he should share the fate that usually befel the members of a "dethroned dynasty." Reverence—"Obeisance" (R. V.) After eastern manner. David said—How much there is in the way that a name is spoken whether with kindly interest or angry intent. 7. Fear not—These words would fall like the sweetest music on the ears of the dispirited, terror-stricken son of Jonathan. How often do we live in dread of that which has for its object our highest good. To all his children, as to Abraham, the Lord says, "Fear not; I am thy shield and thy exceeding great reward" (Gen. 15: 1). Jonathan thy father's sake—What a powerful influence and what a deep and lasting impres-