

SCHOLAR'S NOTES.

(From the International Lessons for 1876 by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday-School Union.)

CONNECTED HISTORY.—David's victory over Goliath caused the king to enquire carefully in regard to his family, and to call him and honor him at court.

LESSON IV.

JANUARY 23.]

DAVID IN THE PALACE. About 1073 B. C.
READ 1 Sam. xviii. 1-16. RECITE vs. 14, 15.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—The danger of having to see others prosper, of envying them, is clearly shown in this lesson. Saul was angry because David was praised for slaying Goliath, and from being a friend to David he turned into a bitter enemy.

GOLDEN TEXT.—When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.—Prov. xvi. 7.
CENTRAL TRUTH.—Purity and peace go together.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—1 Sam. xviii. 1-16. T.—1 Sam. xx. 1-23. W.—Eccles. iv. 1-16. Th.—1 Sam. xix. 4-17. F.—Prov. xxii. 1-25. Sa.—Ps. cxl. 1-13. S.—Ps. xiv. 1-7.

NOTES.—David at court. It is not easy to explain Saul's enquiries about David, chap. xviii. 55-58. Some suppose that this was David's first appearance in court, and that his visit as a harper (chap. xvi. 14-23) came after his combat with Goliath. Others think he was at court a very short time, hence Saul's questions. Wordsworth suggests that as Saul's enquiry was as to David's parentage, it does not imply that he did not know David. *Javelin*, a long spear, made of a long staff of wood, and tipped with some sharp-pointed and hard metal. *Captain over a thousand*, King Saul had made David commander-in-chief of his army (v. 5), but now he removes him from that position and sets him over 1,000 men, something like a colonel in our army.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

Lesson Topics.—(I.) DAVID'S FRIENDS. (II.) DAVID'S ENEMY.

I. DAVID'S FRIENDS. (1.) **was knit**, or "bound to," Gen. xlv. 30. (2.) **took him**, the king also his friend. (3.) **covenant**, a pledge of friendship. (4.) **robe**, or "coat" (1 Sam. ii. 19); **garments**, means his military dress. (5.) **Saul set him**, king further honors him; **the people**, David the hero of the people. (6.) **tabrets**, timbrels or tambourines, played upon like a drum; **instruments**, or "three-stringed instruments." (7.) **women answered**, the singing responsive. See Ex. xv. 20, 21.

I. Questions.—What effect had David's speech on the king's son? What was his name? How is their friendship described? How did the king show his friendship for David? v. 2. How did Jonathan treat David? What power did Saul confer upon David? v. 5. How did the people regard him? Describe the return from the battle? How did the women praise Saul? How did they speak of David? Why did David prosper? v. 14. Who loved him? v. 16. Why?

II. DAVID'S ENEMY. (8.) **displeased**, (Heb.) "was evil in his eyes," (9.) **eyed**, with envy. (10.) **evil spirit** (see chap. xvi 14); **propheesied**, as wicked spirits and men prophesied. See 1 Kings xxii. 6, 22. (12.) **afraid**, feared David would become king in his place. (14.) **behaved**, or "prospered" in all his ways.

II. Questions.—What made Saul angry? Against whom was he angry? How did he regard David now? What again came upon Saul? v. 10. With what effect? What did he try to do to David? Why did he not do it? Why was he afraid of David? Where did he place David? v. 18. How did David act toward his enemy? v. 15. How should we treat our enemies?

Illustration.—*Envy*. As a moth gnaws a garment, says Chrysostom, so does envy consume a man. *Evil of envy*. Caligula slew his brother because he was a beautiful young man. Dionysius the tyrant punished Philoxenus the musician, because he could sing; and Plato the philosopher, because he could reason better than himself. Cambyes killed his brother because he could draw a stronger bow than himself. The poets imagined envy dwelt in a dark cave, being pale, lean, full of gall, with black teeth, never rejoicing but in the misfortune of others.

Careless Sinners. Sinners are like idle swimmers that go carelessly floating down stream rather than swim against the current and gain the shore. They will reach the sea at last; and when they hear the breakers and see the dashing waves, they will be alarmed, but too late; they are quickly hurried into the ocean of eternity. So men thoughtlessly indulge in envy until their peace of mind is gone, and their soul destroyed.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—Saul hated David, and to entrap him offered to him his daughter for a wife. Jonathan and Saul's daughter saved David's life twice; and David fled to Samuel at Ramah. Saul sent to take him, but David escaped to Gibeath, and was advised again by Jonathan of Saul's wish to slay him.

LESSON V.

JANUARY 30.]

DAVID AND JONATHAN. [About 1061 B. C.]
READ 1 Sam. xx. 35-42. RECITE vs. 41, 42.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—1 Sam. xx. 35-42. T.—1 Sam. xx. 18-35. W.—1 Sam. xvii. 17-31. Th.—Ps. xlii. 1-11. F.—Ps. lxxiii. 1-11. Sa.—Num. vi. 22-27. S.—1 Sam. xxii. 1-23.

GOLDEN TEXT.—There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.—Prov. xviii. 24.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—True saints make true friends.

NOTES.—*Artillery*, or "instruments"—that is, his bow, arrows, and quiver. *Towards the south*. This phrase is generally supposed to refer to the same place as "Ezel" in v. 19. The Greek version reads "a heap of stones" in v. 41. "Ezel" means "going," or "travelling"—that is, a stone which directed travellers in the way, as our guide-boards.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

Lesson Topics.—(I.) JONATHAN AND THE LAD. (II.) JONATHAN AND DAVID.

I. JONATHAN AND THE LAD (35.) **morning**, (see v. 19); **field** (see v. 19); **appointed**, agreed upon as in vs. 19-23. (36.) **beyond**, or "to pass over him." (37.) **beyond thee**, the sign he was to give. See v. 22. (38.) **cried**, called after the lad; "make speed," this was meant for David as well as for the lad. (39.) **not anything**, the lad did not know why Jonathan acted thus; David knew. (40.) **artillery** (see Notes); **to the city**. Jonathan wanted to be alone with David so he sent the lad away.

I. Questions.—Where was Jonathan to meet David? For what purpose? v. 13. What signals had they agreed upon? vs. 20-22. What time was appointed? v. 19. Who was with Jonathan? What was the lad to do? State how David was shown Saul's wish to kill him? Who alone understood the matter? How did this prove Jonathan's love for David?

II. JONATHAN AND DAVID (41.) **the south** (see Notes); **bowed himself three times**, to show his love for Jonathan (see Gen. xxxiii. 3); **exceeded**, David's sorrow and expressions of love were greater than Jonathan's. (42.) **Go in peace**, the Lord has saved you; **the city**—that is, "Gibeath;" its location is unknown.

II. Questions.—When did David openly join Jonathan in the field? Why not before? How did he meet Jonathan? Why were they so sorrowful? Whose sorrow was the greatest? How did Jonathan bid him farewell? Of what pledge did he speak? How long was this friendship to continue? What shows that Jonathan's friendship was real? See vs. 32-34. Why do we prize friends most in trouble?

Illustration.—*True Friendship*. "So long as there is blossom on the trees and honey in the blossom the bees will frequent them in crowds and fill the place with music; but when the blossom is over and the honey is gone the bees too will all disappear. So it is with some friends: they flock around us in our prosperous days; but when fortune flies, they fly with it."—*Gotthold*.



ANCIENT ARCHER.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—After parting with Jonathan, David fled to the priest at Nob, then to Gath, next to the cave Adullam, and thence to Mizpeh, in Moab. Warned by the prophet Gad, he returns to Judea, defeats the Philistines at Keilah, escapes to Ziph, then to Maon, and next to Engedi.

LESSON VI.

FEBRUARY 6.]

DAVID SPARING SAUL. [About 1060 B.C.]
READ 1 Sam. xxiv. 1-16. RECITE vs. 14, 15.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Recompense to no man evil for evil.—Rom. xii. 17.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—We must shew mercy as we expect it.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—1 Sam. xxiv. 1-16. T.—Ps. xxxviii. 1-22. W.—Rom. xii. 9-21. Th.—Matt. v. 38-48. F.—Ps. xxxviii. 1-25. Sa.—Ps. xxxv. 1-2. S.—Ps. xliii. 1-5.

NOTES.—*Engedi*, "fountain of the goats," a town on the west coast of the Dead Sea, now called "Ain Jidy," from a spring of that name, and from the number of wild goats found there. The limestone cliffs about it are full of caves, still used as sheepcotes. They are very dark, and the "keenest eye looking inward cannot see five paces; but one being within and looking outward toward the entrance could see plainly." So David and his men, concealed within the cave, could not be seen by Saul as he entered, but they could watch him without being discovered.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

Lesson Topics.—(I.) DAVID SPARES SAUL. (II.) DAVID REPROVES SAUL.

I. DAVID SPARES SAUL. (1.) **following**, pursuing the Philistines (see chap. xxiii. 28); **Engedi** (see Notes). (2.) **chosen men**, carefully picked. (3.) **sheepcotes**, sheep pens; **sides**, holes in the side. (4.) **Lord said**, the Lord had not said this was the day; **skirt**, his robe. (5.) **smote him**, he felt sorry. (6.) **this thing**, kill Saul, as you advised; **Lord's anointed** 1 Sam. x. 1. (7.) **stayed**, held back.

I. Questions.—Why did Saul pursue David? where was David hid? State how Saul sought to take him. His failure. Describe Saul's danger. Why did David spare his life?

II. DAVID REPROVES SAUL. (8.) **stooped**, bowed, to show respect to Saul. (9.) **hearest**, yieldest to them; (11.) **father**, David was Saul's son-in-law (see 1 Sam. xviii. 27); **know thou**, from my sparing thy life. (12.) **Lord avenge**, (see Rom. xii. 19); **upon thee**, to kill or hurt thee. (14.) **dead dog**, David seemed as weak as a dog or a flea compared with the king. (15.) **deliver**, David strong in God.

II. Questions.—For what did David reprove Saul? What had David's men advised? Why had David spared Saul? What proof of his words did he show to Saul? Who would avenge David? How would he be delivered? What was the effect on Saul? How does David's conduct teach us to act toward our enemies?

Illustration.—*David and Saul*. The cliffs in that region are so near together, and have such deep chasms between them, that in the clear air Saul, standing on one rock, could hear David distinctly speaking from another rock, without being able to take him prisoner. Jewish Rabbins have a story to account for David's safety. They say, "God, foreseeing that Saul would come to this cave caused a spider to weave her web across its mouth, which Saul perceived, and supposed from it, that the cave was empty."

LIGHT IN DARKNESS.—It has been said by one who once appeared "almost a Christian," Let him who gropes painfully in darkness or uncertain light, and prays vehemently that the dawn may ripen unto day, lay this other precept well to heart, which to me was of invaluable service: Do the duty which lies nearest thee, which thou knowest to be a duty, thy second duty will already have become clearer.—*Carlisle*.

GOOD WORDS.

It does seem something like self-praise for a paper to make room for talk about itself, but the MESSENGER is in a peculiar position. It has, as it were, been carried on the shoulders of its friends, and they all like to hear good opinions of it, and besides the column is useful to those who are commending the paper to their friends. We, of course, only give specimens of these letters, with which we might fill the paper. Mr. L. D. Martin, of Toronto, writes: "I have subscribed for the MESSENGER for two years, and feel so well pleased with the pure and useful reading matter it contains that I heartily recommend it to my friends." We may add that the recommendation has not been without effect. A friend from Tweed, Ont., says, "I have taken it this last year and would not do without it for twice the money." We have this from Mass Town, N. S.:—"I sent you six names the first of October, and they are well pleased with the paper. The MESSENGER is a paper that should be in every family and read by both old and young. A gentleman told me the other day that he had been taking the MESSENGER for ten years and would not do without it." The following from Bayview is especially pleasing:—"The school children are quite pleased with their papers." Wallace Plotten, Scugog, says:—"I take the MESSENGER. I am twelve years old. I like the MESSENGER first-rate, there is such nice reading matter in it. I noticed your prize list in the first December number, but I think it is no use for me to try for a prize, so I will try to get as many as I can at the offer you make in the same paper."

NOTICE.

Subscribers finding the figure 2 after their name will bear in mind that their term will expire at the end of the present month. Early remittances are desirable, as there is then no loss of any numbers by the stopping of the paper.

THE PRIZES.—Our competitors for the January prizes need not be troubled because the names of those who were successful are not recorded in the present number, for the day on which this is written is December 29th, 1875. It is a question if they will be all in time for next number, as some are coming from San Francisco and British Columbia.

RENEWALS.—This is about the time of the year that most of our old subscriptions are to be renewed. It is pleasant to obtain new subscribers, but still more so to retain old ones. We would, therefore, request all our old subscribers whose time expires in February, and who have not done so before, to renew their subscriptions at once, so that there will be no numbers missed. If they can send along another subscription with their own so much the better.

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