

## Lesson XII.

## TEMPERANCE LESSON

September 22, 1901

Proverbs 23: 29-35. Commit to memory vs. 29-31. Read 1 Cor. 8: 1-13.

29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth

**Revised Version**—1 Complaining; 2 Out; 3 Its; 4 Goeth down smoothly; 5 Strange things; 6 Forward; 7 Hurt.

## GOLDEN TEXT

Prov. 20: 1. Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

## DAILY READINGS

M. —Prov. 23: 29-35. Temperance lesson.  
T. —Amos 6: 1-7. Luxury condemned.  
W. —Nahum 1: 1-10. Goodness and justice.  
Th. —Prov. 1: 10-23. Consent not!  
F. —Luke 21: 25-36. Watch, and take heed.  
S. —Rom. 13: 8-14. The better way.  
S. —1 Cor. 8. Abstinence for others' sake.

## CATECHISM

Q. 95. To whom is baptism to be administered?

like an adder.

33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

35 They have stricken me, *saith thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.*

Goeth down smoothly; 5 Strange things; 6 Forward;

A. Baptism is not to be administered to any that are out of the visible church, till they profess their faith in Christ, and obedience to him; but the infants of such as are members of the visible church are to be baptized.

## LESSON PLAN

I. Points 1 Questions, 29, 30.

As to the woes of wine bibbers.

II. Wholesome Advice, 31.

To not even look upon the enticing cup.

III. Excellent Reasons, 32-35.

Its effects are so certainly evil.

## LESSON HYMNS

Book of Praise, 533; 528; 91 (Ps. Sel.); 530; 247; 252.

## EXPOSITION

**The Lesson Situation**—The lesson "comes in the midst of a little separate collection of 'Words of Wise Men,' beginning with Prov. 22: 17, and ending with 24: 22. In each of these sections the teacher stirs up those whom he addresses to desire wisdom, and warns them against some fault, as fatal to their hope of being wise. In vs. 15-18, that fault is mistaken ambition. In vs. 19-21, it is over-indulgence in eating and drinking. In vs. 22-25, it is injustice. In vs. 26-28, it is licentiousness. In v. 29, it is indulgence in intoxicating drinks. Each of these faults is presented as antagonistic to wisdom." (Professor Willis J. Beecher.)

## I. Pointed Questions, 29, 30.

V. 29. *Who hath woe? who hath sorrow?* The translation of the margin of the Revised Version, "Who hath wo? Who hath alas?" is more expressive of the broken exclamation of pain and grief that are apt to be uttered by one recovering from a drunken stupor, as the outcry of misery or torture. *Who hath contentions?* Drunken men are quarrelsome because the moral powers are dethroned, and the animal propensities have the mastery. *Babbings?* Complaining to oneself, senseless chatter. By reason of the pressure on the brain the reason is temporarily unbalanced. *Wounds without cause?* The result of quarrels in which the sober would not engage, or of

accidents which they would have avoided. *Redness of eyes?* The congestion of the blood around the eyes visible to the on-looker, or "dimness of vision" (Delitzsch) caused by the over-stimulation of the brain. Who hath these effects? The next verse gives the answer.

V. 30. *They that tarry long at the wine; they who sit drinking till the hour is late, who linger in the house of revelry (Isa. 5: 11).* "The primary meaning of the word *wine*," says Professor Beecher, "is potable fermented grape-juice. All other meanings are secondary or figurative." *They that go to seek mixed wine;* "meant in mockery. They are heroes, i.e., heroes in drinking." (Delitzsch). They are not satisfied with wine of ordinary strength. They seek the strongest, mixed with spices to intensify its inebriating quality. The picture in mind is not that of poor men, rough and coarse in disposition, but of opulent, luxurious people giving themselves over to the pleasures of appetite, without stint or restraint.

## II. Wholesome Advice, 31.

V. 31. *Look not thou upon the wine when it is red.* Let not its attractive appearance beguile. *When it giveth his color in the cup;* "giveth its eye in the cup;" a strong poetical idea, that of the sparkling or beaming eye or bead of wine looking up. *When it*