Sabbath School Work.

LESSON HELPS.

THIRD QUARTER.

LESSON II. July 8.

THE GOLDEN CALF.

Ex. xxxii. 15-26.

MEMORISE VERSES 19-21.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Little children, keep yourselves from idols.—1 John v. 21.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The sin and danger of forsaking God.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Ex. xxxii. 1-14.
Tu. Ex. xxxii. 15-26.
W. Ex. xxxii. 27-35.
Th. Deut. ix. 1-21.
F. Rom. i. 18-25.
Sa. Matt. vi. 19 33.
Su. 2 Kings xvii. 9-20.

TIME.—The first half of July, B.C. 1491.

PLACE.—Mount Sinai and the valley before it.

PARALLEL ACCOUNT.—Deut. ix. 11-21.

INTRODUCTION.—After the assent of the people to the Book of the Covenant, as in our last lesson, Moses went up into Mount Sinai, to receive further instruction from God. Here he remained forty days away from the people. Aaron and Hur were appointed leaders.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—THE GOLDEN CALF. The people became weary of waiting for their absent leader. They had also only an invisible God. Therefore they entreated Aaron to make them an image, so that they might have a *visible object of worship*, like their former neighbours, and might have the same wild revelries. Aaron collected their golden ear-rings and made a golden calf, or young ox, as an image of Jehovah, not as another god. Around this image they sang and danced and feasted and drank. 15. *And Moses turned:* after God had told him what was going on in the valley. *Tables:* tablets. 17. *And Joshua:* the son of Nun, who afterwards succeeded Moses. He was part way up the mount (xxiv. 13). 18. *Them that sing:* the boisterous songs of revelry. 19. *Moses' anger* (or indignation) *waxed* (grew) *hot:* he was intensely indignant at the people for forsaking so glorious a God, whom only a few weeks before they had promised to serve. The good must be indignant at those who ruin themselves and others by sin. *Break them:* an emblem of the broken law, a symbol of what the people had done, breaking their solemn covenant with God. 20. *Strewed it upon the water:* of the brook Moses brought from the mount and from which they drank (Ex. xvii. 6; Deut. ix. 21). *Made . . drink of it:* for they had nothing else to drink. 25. *The people were naked:* rather they had partly disrobed for dancing, or they were *broken loose*, as in Rev. Ver., from all restraint, and were riotous, disorderly. 26. *Gate of the camp:* which had probably been fortified after the attack of the Amalekites (Ex. xvii. 8-13). There was probably an open space there. *The sons of Levi:* Moses' own tribe. Many others probably returned to their tents; but the worst ones, those who were turbulent and disobedient, remained, and of these 3,000 were slain before the riot was quelled.

SUBJECTS FOR FURTHER STUDY AND SPECIAL REPORT.—Moses forty days in the Mount.—Why the people wanted an image.—The attractions of idolatry.—The golden calf.—In what ways are modern people guilty of idolatry.—The tables of stone.—Why Moses broke them.—Did Moses do well to be angry.—Aaron's excuses.—In what ways Moses punished the idolaters.—The wisdom of his plans.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY. — What solemn promise did the people in our last lesson make to God? Where did Moses go after that? (xxiv. 15-17.) What was he doing in the mount? How long did he remain there away from the people? (xxiv. 18.)

SUBJECT: IDOLATRY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES.

THE GOLDEN CALF.—IDOL WORSHIP (vs. 15-19), What discouraged the people? (xxxii. 1, 23). What did they ask Aaron to do for them? What did he make? Which of the commandments did this break? In what way did the people worship the idol? (xxxii. 6, 18, 19), Were this revelry, and the feasting, and drinking among the attractions of idolatry? How could they do this so soon after their solemn promise to obey God? How did Moses learn what the people were doing? (xxxii. 7, 8, 18.)

What idols do men make for themselves now? What are idols of the heart? (Ezek. xiv. 3, 4, 7.) Is anything that we love more than God an idol? How are these modern idols worshipped? Is it as foolish to worship money, or pleasure, or fame as to worship a golden calf?

II. VAIN EXCUSES (vs. 19-24.) What did Moses do when he saw the the people dancing around the idol? Was it right for him to be indignant? (Eph. iv. 26.) What did his breaking the tables of the law signify? What did he say to Aaron? What excuses did Aaron give? What should Aaron have done? Are the threats or entreaties of others an excuse for our sinning? What shows Moses' great courage?

III. WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE (vs. 25, 26.) What is meant by "naked" in vs. 25? What decision did Moses call upon the people to make? Would it be difficult for a few to come out against the great multitude? In what way must we answer the question "Who is on the Lord's side"? Can we help taking sides? (Matt. xii. 30). Who came to Moses' side?

IV. THE PUNISHMENT OF IDOLATRY.—What was the first punishment Moses inflicted? (v. 20). What was the object of this? How were the obstinate ones punished? (v. 27.) How many perished? (v. 28.) What will become of all who choose idols instead of the living God?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

I. Every person needs seasons of retirement with God.

II. How easy it is to fall from promises to God.

III. Modern idols—wealth, fashion, pleasure, ambition, fame, passion.

IV. Note the power of one good, brave man on the side of right.

V. It is no excuse for sin, that others entreated and threatened us.

VI. There are only two sides, God's and Satan's, right and wrong.

VII. We must choose one side or the other.

VIII. Severity to obstinate sinners is mercy to all.—*Peloubet.*

THIRTEEN RULES FOR LIGHTING UP LESSONS.

THEY are these:—

1. Facility in the use of illustration, which is a great element in teaching, is attained and cultivated by *practice*.

2. Illustrations are multiplied by the habit of *observation*. For example, a man walks down town with an eye to his business. He sees nothing else, thinks of nothing else. Another man walks down the same street with an eye to find what he can use to illustrate the lesson for the coming Sabbath. Some teachers take a book in their pocket, to write down what incidents occur to them.

3. The teacher should keep a *scrap-book*, for the preservation of incidents. He should *look it over frequently*; make an index in it, take it to the schoolroom. You gain more attention from your scholars by the very fact of their seeing you have it, and open it before them, as I do here now, by opening mine before you.

4. The teacher should use freely and wisely the *facts of every-day life* with which his pupils are most familiar.

5. He should make large use of *Bible facts*, narratives, parables, etc.

6. To use Bible light in "lighting up a lesson," the teacher should be very familiar with the history, geography, poetry, manners, and customs of *Bible times*, etc. When Holman Hunt prepared to paint Palestinian scenes, he went to Palestine, and spent two years in Jerusalem.

7. To *live a godly life* is the best way to light up a lesson. The best illustration of Christianity is a living Christian. When in an old temple in Egypt, I saw a mirror so arranged that it all day long followed the course of the sun, and so kept the temple brilliant all the while with rays of the sun *itself*. So we, as Christians, will shine forth on the world, if we keep our faces and hearts constantly towards Jesus.

8. The teacher should use illustrations for the *better teaching of the lesson*, and never fill up time to amuse the class, or to display his own genius. When light is let in on a painting, it is not to show the light but the picture.

9. A *clock-face* may be so illuminated as to dazzle the eye. The teacher should not use *too many* illustrations.

10. By apt illustration of the *beginning* of the lesson, excite the curiosity of the pupils, and thus lead them to self-activity in study. Lay a mould and ask them to fill it. Anything to get their minds wide awake. Then tell them of another greater and grander procession, of which this lesson speaks.

11. You *should* remember that in word-picturing the pupil will acquire no more definite and vivid view of the lesson than the *teacher himself* possesses.

12. You should remember that the best illustrations are those which come *spontaneously*, while you are endeavoring to make clear to your pupils a truth which is clear to yourself.

13. *Converse much* with unlettered people and little children during the week on the subject of the lesson.

For months I tried a class of children in my study, and was surprised to find how many illustrations children would think of. "I wish I could break the hearts of my hearers as you do the stones." The stone breaker replied, "If you would, work more on your knees, you might."

We should use illustrations as well as we can. A Chinaman who was too poor to buy a candle, caught a glow-worm, *held it while* he lifted its wings, and so caught glimpses of light by which to read the Bible.—*S. S. Teach. Magazine.*

THERE is something better than a revival, and that is a Christian life that doesn't need to be revived.—*Moody.*

Imperial Bank of Canada.

THE Thirteenth Annual General Meeting of the Imperial Bank of Canada was held, in pursuance of the terms of the charter, at the Banking House of the Institution, 20th June, 1888. There were present:—

Messrs. H. S. Howland, T. R. Merritt (St. Catharines), T. R. Wadsworth (Weston), Robert Jeffray, Hugh Ryan, E. B. Osler, R. H. Ramsay, J. W. L. Forster, John Bain, Q.C., S. Nordheimer, David Kidd (Hamilton), John Stuart, I. J. Gould (Uxbridge), Rev. E. B. Lawler, George Robinson, W. T. Kiely, John K. Fisken, James Mason, Robert Thompson, R. Wickens, G. M. Rose, Robt. Beaty, A. McFall (Bolton), D. R. Wilkie, etc., etc.

The chair was taken by the President, Mr. H. S. Howland, and Mr. D. R. Wilkie was requested to act as Secretary.

The Secretary, at the request of the Chairman, read the report of the directors and the statement of affairs.

THE REPORT.

The directors beg to submit to the shareholders the thirteenth annual balance sheet and statement of profits for the year ended 31st May, 1888:—

Balance at credit of account 31st May 1887, brought forward		$ 29,749 44
Profits for the year after deducting charges of management and interest due depositors, and writing off all losses		172,513 14
		$202,261 58
From which has been taken:—		
Dividend No. 25, 4 per cent. (paid 1st December, 1887)	$60,000 00	
Dividend No. 26, 4 per cent. (paid 1st June, 1888)	60,000 00	
		120,000 00
		$ 82,261 58
Written off bank premises and furniture account	$10,000 00	
Carried to contingent account	10,000 00	
Carried to rest account	50,000 00	
		70,000 00
Balance of account carried forward		$ 12,261 58

REST ACCOUNT.

Balance at credit of account, 31st May, 1887	$550,000 00
Transferred from profit and loss account	50,000 00
Balance of account carried forward	$600,000 00

The business of the Bank shows a steady and satisfactory growth, and the profits for the year have enabled your directors to pay the customary dividends and to place $50,000 to Rest account, which account now amounts to $600,000, and represents the equivalent of forty per cent. of the capital of the Bank.

The last harvest in Manitoba exceeded in quantity and value the highest expectations and its results have compensated in a great measure for the deficiency for the same period in the crops in other provinces. The continued growth and prosperity of the North-West is both gratifying and encouraging.

The proposed reduction by the Dominion Government of the rate of interest upon the deposits in the Postoffice and Government Savings Banks, when carried into effect, must prove very beneficial to all legitimate business enterprise in Canada. The payment by the Government of an abnormally high rate of interest upon deposits payable at call entails by its attractiveness serious financial responsibility upon the country, involves a heavy unnecessary tax upon the public at large, tends to the withdrawal of capital from its natural channels, and places the agricultural, manufacturing and labour interests of the Dominion at a serious disadvantage in their competition with similar interests elsewhere.

As may be observed by the statement, the Bank continues to hold a large proportion of its reserves in immediately available assets.

The present business and prospects of the Bank justify your directors in believing that a further addition to its capital may be in the near future in the interests of shareholders, and a by-law will be presented for your approval, authorising an increase in the capital of the Bank by any sum not exceeding $500,000. This authority need not be acted upon, but will furnish your directors with the necessary power should they find any increase expedient.

The officers of the Bank continue to perform their respective duties to the satisfaction of the Board.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. S. HOWLAND, President.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

31st May, 1888.

Liabilities.	
Notes of the bank in circulation	$1,063,621 00
Deposits bearing interest (including interest accrued to date)	4,449,489 02
Deposits not bearing interest	1,194,140 69
Due to other banks in Canada	2,383 54
Total liabilities to the public	$6,709,634 47
Capital stock paid up	1,500,000 00
Rest account	600,000 00
Contingent account	21,637 13
Dividend No. 26, payable 1st June, 1888 (4 per cent)	60,000 00
Former dividends unpaid	779 52
Balance of profit and loss account carried forward	12,262 58
	$8,904,303 70
Assets.	
Gold and silver coin current	$220,426 71
Dominion Government notes	504,326 00
Notes of and cheques on other banks	199,434 23
Balance due from other banks in Canada	568,472 54
Balance due from agents in foreign countries	272,167 95
Balance due from agents in United Kingdom	23,341 02
Dominion of Canada debentures $164,668 96	
Province of Ontario securities 435,150 21	
Municipal and other debentures 326,161 54	
	925,977 81
Loans on call, secured by debentures and other securities	496,430 33
Total assets immediately available	$3,206,606 22
Loans, discounts or advances on current account to municipal and other corporations	163,320 16
Other current loans, discounts and advances to the public	4,796,626 39
Notes discounted overdue, secured	81,673 74
Notes discounted overdue, unsecured (estimated loss provided for)	14,857 30
Real estate, the property of the bank (other than bank premises)	54,425 64
Mortgages on real estate sold by the bank	37,493 35
Bank premises, including safes, vaults and office furniture, at head office and branches	164,436 67
Other assets, not included under foregoing head	34,101 35
	$8,904,303 70

D. R. WILKIE, Cashier.

The report was adopted.

Messrs. R. S. Cassels and R. Beaty were appointed scrutineers.

The by-law authorising an increase in the capital stock of the Bank by five hundred thousand dollars was approved of and adopted.

The usual votes of thanks were passed to the president and directors, also to the cashier and other officers for their attention and zeal in promoting the interests of the Bank.

The ballot was then taken for the election of directors, which resulted in the election of the following shareholders, viz.:—Messrs. H. S. Howland, T. R. Merritt, William Ramsay, T. R. Wadsworth, Hon. Alex. Morris, Robert Jeffray, Hugh Ryan.

At a subsequent meeting of the directors Mr. Henry S. Howland was elected president and Mr. Thomas R. Merritt vice-president for the ensuing year.

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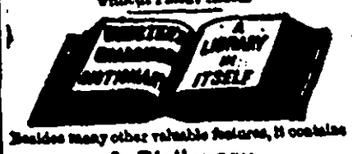

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