March 26. REVIEW OF FIRST QUAR TER. [1876.

GOLDEN TEXT: Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. Psa. 37. 34. HOME READINGS.

MONDAY-Deut. 8. 1.20. TUESDAY-1 Sam. 16. 1-13. WEDNESDAY-1 S.m. 17. 38-51. THURSDAY-2 Sam. 5. 17.25. FRIDAY—2 Sam. 7. 18-29. SATURDAY—2 Sam. 18. 24-33. SUNDAY-Psa, 103, 1-22.

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A. L.

In our lessons for the quarter we have traveled over the history, including the "Introductory Note," of about seventy years. Our review, while gathering much on the side of the gracious dealings of God shows from first to last an unpleasant feature of human character and life. The fairest chances are lost, the brightest hopes blasted, and woeful wretchedness wrought by the cause of sin. The Saul who, humble and modest, was called to the throne amid the joyful enthusiasm of his people we find so far changed in character that he is rejected from being king because of willful disobedience to a specific injunction of Jehovah. From that day he steadily deteriorates, giving way to fiery passion, imperious temper, and violent rage, striking again and again at the life of David, who has incurred his hate, though he has done no wrong; in his passion, aiming at the life of Jonathan, and going on from worse to worse until he falls on Mount Gilboa. THE SPIRIT OF THE LOED DEPARTED FROM SAUL, 1 Sam. 16, 14, is one of the sad passages of this history. When abandoned of God he could do no otherwise than deteriorate. The same law holds to day.

Let us take David, the shepherd boy

Surely here we shall find stability and persistent uprightness. He was anointed by Samuel, and thus divinely called to the kingdom when about eighteen years old, just as in these days the Holy Spirit often moves the heart of a young man of the same or an earlier age with the conviction that he must preach the Gospel. Years of study and discipline pass before the Church ordains him to the ministry; and in like manner years of training elapse before the people make David king. Will he, as a young man, WAIT ON THE LORD AND KEEP HIS WAY, or will he grow proud and vain? His great victory over Goliath does not elate him, although it easily might if his soul were not in faith grounded on the Lord. The song of the people, DAVID HIS TEN THOUSANDS, is pleasant, but does not lift him from his propriety. In intimate friendship with Jonathan, the prince, and promotion to official position and power, he retains his humility. Persecuted by Saul, he enters into no conspiracy and plans no revenge. As a hunted exile, he spares his greatest earthly foe. And when Saul is slain none in Israel more tenderly laments him. But these years were to David mostly years of trouble, and years of rich spiritual growth as well. His troubles drove him to God in prayer and trust, and led him into such experiences as are recorded in Psalms 31. 54. 57. 63. and 142.

The effect of these years of discipline was a profound conviction that Jehovah was his king and must be obeyed. In the spirit of entire devotion to his will he ascended the throne. The marvelous victory at the Mulberry-trees, in an answer to his prayer for guidance, showed him that his prosperity was of God. His ardor in bringing up the ark to his capital city proved his piety. God's covenant to perpetuate his throne forever in the kingdom of Messiah was a word of wonderful grace. The prosperity of his armies and the extension of his empire prove the divine favor. These twenty years of his reign ought, one would suppose, to have so established him in righteousness that he would be as firm as the rocks of Mount Zion itself. Perhaps he thought he was, and so forgot to pray, and watch, and trust. Saul could not endure sudden prosperity, and he miserably fell. David's long training prepared him to value prosperity, and he stood long, but he, too, fell. Young people are thought to be in special danger, and many are their lessons and cautions; but the middle-aged and the old are in danger too. The only safety for any is in keeping the WAY OF THE LORD.

David's great sin is not to be excused or palliated. The same Scriptures which describe his character as God's servant, tell us of his awful fall. They cover up nothing. But they also tell us of his bitter repentance. Saul repented, but only for the consequences of his sin, and did not stop sinning: David repented for the sin itself. The Fifty-first Psalm, full of remorse and tears, is an eternal rebuke of the scoffs at him of wicked men. He found forgiveness, yet the results of his in were full of misery. Nothwithstanding his repentance, he lost respect among the people. His sin paralized his hand in the control of his family and the punishment of his guilty sons, and the wilful rebellion of Absalom was only one of its consequences. The story is a sad one, and full of lessons for all ages.

On the other hand, it is out of such histories and experiences as these that the world was to learn the great wickedness of sin, the weakness of men in struggling with it, and, therefore, their need of a Saviour. We must remember that spiritual light and influence were less than now. and we must not Judge the people of that time as we would judge ourselves, who have the light and power of the Gosnel God was educating the world as fast as he could up to a felt need of its utter helplessness. But it was a thousand years before it so felt its need that Christ came to help it. From the beginning, as we can now see, God's holiness and hatred of sin stand out very distinct, but it was hard to make men see the truth. No less distinct are his loving-kindness and tender mercy His blessings were many, and they were gained, as ours are, by his grace, through simple faith, and in the way of obedience If he slew Saul, smote Uzzah, punished David, and destroyed Absalom, teaching the evil and ruin of sin, he none the less showed his mercy to the penitent and obedient.

When David wrote the Golden Text he was an old man, ver. 25. The psalm may be taken as the summing up of all the experiences of his life. Wickedness and wicked men may plan and triumph, and schemes of selfishnessness, ambition, and wrong doing succeeded for a time; but THE LORD is the protector, the judge, the guide, the deliverer and Saviour of them that trust in him. There is no safety but in God. And the result of it all is that to WAIT ON THE LORD, AND KEEP HIS WAY, is the highest wisdom. The Gospel teaches no loftier lesson, though it better tells us how, and helps us with a mightier power of the Holy Spirit.

REVIEW CONCERT SERVICE.

The Berean Leaf containing this Concert Service can be supplied from the Book Room at Six cents per dozen copies.

PROGRAMME. 1. VOLUNTARY .- Instrumental or vo-

2. INVOCATION. Closing with "Lord's prayer.'

3. RECITATION by a boy: "The Approach to our Lessons." See Quarterly Berean Leaf, page 17

4. CONCERT RECITATION by the school Titles, Topics, and Golden Texts" for

5. Song. "Song of the first month." 6. CONCERT RECITATION by the school 'Titles, Topics, and Golden Texts" for

7. Song. "Song of the second month." 8. CONCERT RECITATION by the school Titles, Topics, and Golden Texts" for March.

9. Song. "Song of the third month." 10. GEOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE. Let a member of one of the Bible classes prepare a brief outline of David's journey ings. (See Itinerary of David, Berean Question Book, page 43.) By using a map this exercise may occupy five minutes, or even more, with great interest.]

11. PRACTICAL OUTLINE. [Let a teacher give, in a ten-minute address, the one or two practical truths from each of the twelve lessons for the quarter, calling the attention of the scholars to their duties as suggested by the twelve lessons from the life of David.]

12. REVIEW CATECHISM. [Pupils who have been taught the answers of the "Review Catechism" for the quarter will be able to recite the thirty six answers. See Lesson Miscellany" under each lesson in the JOURNAL.

13. A Song. "The Shepherd-boy made King."

Air :- "Rejoice, or Millenium." Superintendent. " In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah.'

VERSE 1.—Song of Judah. (To be sung by a part of the school.) Rejoice, rejoice, O Judah's sons and daughters,

Rejoice, rejoice, for Judah's king hath come : From Ziklag in Philistia's plain, The exiled David comes again; Rejoice, rejoice, O Judah's sons and daughters, Rejoice, rejoice, for Judah's king hath come:

The shepherd-boy of Bethlehem, The friend beloved of Jonathan, Whose harp appeased the angered king;
Who slew Goliath with his sling;
Rejoice, rejoice, O Judah's sons and daughters, Rejoice, rejoice, David to Hebron comes.

VERSE 2.—Song of ALL ISRAEL.

(To be sung by the whole school.) Rejoice, rejoice, let Israel's tribes uniting.

Rejoice, rejoice, and come to crown their king: The shepherd-boy of Bethlehem Shall build thy walls, Jerusalem Rejoice, rejoice, let Israel's tribes uniting,

Rejoice, rejoice, and come to crown their king;

Jerusalem in strength shall rise,

The proudest city 'neath the skies; A noble king to us is given, Renowned on earth and loved in heaven; Rejoice, rejoice, let Israel's tribes uniting, Rejoice, rejoice, and come to crown their king.

Superintendent. And David, the king. inned sorely against the Lord. School. And the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

Supt. And David was sorely troubled because of his sin, and he cried unto the Lord:

School. Have mercy upon me, O God, ccording to thy loving kindness: Supt. According unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my trans-

School. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Supt. For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me.

School. Against thee thee only, have sinned, and done this evil in thy sight; that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou

Supt. Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

School. Behold thou desirest truth in the inward parts; and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom. Supt. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me and I shall be whiter

than snow. School. Make me to hear joy and gladless; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice.

Supt. Hide thy face from my sins, and olot out all mine iniquities.

School. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me Supt. Cast me not away from thy preence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from

School. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free

Supt. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted

School. Deliver me from bloodguiltiness O God, thou God of my salvation; and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy right-

Supt. O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. School. For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it; thou delightest not

Supt. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart. O God, thou wilt not despise. 14. A Song. "Just as I am."

by a choir, tenderly and softly. Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God I come! I come!

Just as I am, and waiting not,
To rid my soul of one dark blot;
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot
Q Lamb of God I come! I com

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come! I come

15. Address by pastor or other person. Short, practical, and bearing on one or more lessons from the life of David. 16. A PRAISE SERVICE. From the

Psalms of David.] Pastor. Praise ye the Lord. Supt. Praise God in his sanctuary Teachers. Praise Him in the firmament

School. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens.

Sing : [Italian Hymn.] To the great One and Three, Eternal praises be, Hence, evermore. His sovereign majesty May we in glory see, And to eternity Love and adore.

Pas. Praise him in the heights. Supt. Praise ye Him, all his angels: Teachers. Praise ye him, all his hosts. School. Praise ye him, sun and moon. Pas. Praise him, all ye stars of light. Supt. Praise him ye heaven of heavens School. And ye waters that be above the

Det all sing with force and feeling.] HALLELUIAH!

Lord of every land and nation,
Ancient of eternal days!
Sounded through the wide creation,
Be thy just exalted praise.
Halleluiah! Halleluiah! Halleluiah! Amen.

Supt. Praise the Lord from the earth ye dragons and all deeps : School. Fire, and hail; snow, and vapors; stormy wind fulfilling his word:

Supt. Mountains, and all hills; fruitful rees, and all cedars : School. Beasts, and all cattle; creeping things, and flying fowl:

Supt. Kings of the earth, and all people; princes, and all judges of the earth: School. Both young men and maidens; old men and children: Supt. Let them praise the name of the

Lord: School, For his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.

[Let all sing :] For the grandeur of thy nature-Grand beyond a scraph's thought-For created works of power, Works with skill and kindness wrought; Halleluiah! Amen.

For thy providence that governs Through thine empire's wide domain,-Wings an angel, guides a sparrow,— Blessed by thy gentle reign: Halleluiah! Amen.

Supt. The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens: School. And his kingdom reigneth over

Supt. Bless the Lord, ye his angels that excel in strength, that do his command-

ments. School. Hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Supt. Bless ye the Lord, all ye his hosts; School. Ye ministers of his that do his oleasure. Supt. Bless the Lord, all his works in

all places of his dominion. School. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Supt. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.

School. Praise ye the Lord!

[Sing heartily.] Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. MACDONALD & CO.

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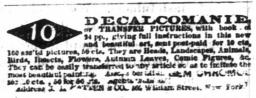
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