

THE EXCELLENT WOMAN.

May 28.
Lesson, Prov 31 : 10-31.
Golden Text, Prov. 31 : 30.
Memory vs. 26-29 Catechism Q. 61.

HOME READINGS.

M. Prov. 31 : 10-31.... *The Excellent Woman.*
T. Ruth 1 : 1-22 *Ruth.*
W. John 12 : 1-9 *Mary.*
Th. Matt. 27 : 55-66 ... *The Women at the Cross.*
F. J hn 20 : 1-18 *The Woman at the Sepulchre.*
S. Acts 9 : 36-42..... *Dorcas.*
S. Acts 16 : 8-15 *Lydia.*

Time.—About B.C. 700; Hezekiah king of Judah, by whom the last six chapters of Proverbs were collected.

Opening Words.—This passage is in the Hebrew an alphabetical poem, the verses beginning with the letters of the Hebrew alphabet in order. It describes and commends a prudent, wise and industrious woman, and holds her up an example to all girls who would be noble and true and good.

QUESTIONS.

Introductory.—Against what great sin did our last lesson warn us? What six evils of intemperance are there mentioned? To what is the poison of the cup likened? Title of this lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *Her Industry.* vs. 10-19.—What is said of the excellent woman? Who trusts her safely? What will she do for him? How is her industry shown? How does she attend to her household?

II. *Her Unselfishness.* vs. 20-26.—What does she do for the poor? How do her words show her unselfishness? How is it shown by her actions? How is she further described?

III. *Her Motherliness.* vs. 27-31.—How does she bear herself toward her household? Toward her children? What is said of beauty? What is the crowning virtue of the excellent woman? What commendation is addressed to her? How also will she be praised? What "excellent women" are mentioned in the Bible?

PRACTICAL LESSONS LEARNED.

1. Honest industry is of more value than mere accomplishments.
2. Mental and moral graces are of greater importance than personal beauty.
3. True piety will not slacken attention to temporal duties.
4. The fear of the Lord is the condition of all womanly as well as manly excellence.
5. Personal beauty soon fades and perishes; the fear of the Lord is the beauty of the soul; it endures for ever.

REVERENCE AND FIDELITY.

June 4.
Lesson, Eccl. 5 : 1-12.
Golden Text, Rom. 12-13.
Memory vs. 1, 2. Catechism Q. 62.

HOME READINGS.

M. Eccles. 5 : 1-12..... *Reverence and Fidelity.*
T. John 4 : 1-24 *Spiritual Worship.*
W. Psalm 11 : 1-7..... *The Lord in his Temple.*
Th. Prov. 15 : 1-33..... *The Prayer of the Upright.*
F. Rom. 12 : 1-21 *Not Slothful in Business.*
S. Psalm 73 : 1-28 *The Prosperity of the Wicked.*
S. Psalm 62 : 1-12.... *Trust not in Oppression.*

Time.—About B.C. 977, in the later years of Solomon's life.

Place. Written by Solomon in Jerusalem.
Opening Words. The book of Ecclesiastes was probably written by Solomon near the close of his life, when he had repented of his sin and folly and was convinced of the vanity of everything except piety toward God. The word *Ecclesiastes* means Preacher, and by this name the author is designated throughout the book.

QUESTIONS.

Introductory.—What is the title of this lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses? Catechism?

I. *Sincerity in Worship.* vs. 1-3.—What counsel is given in verse 1? Against what sin are we warned? By what reason is this warning enforced? What further reason is given in verse 3? What does our Saviour say about acceptable worship? John 4 : 24.

II. *Keeping of Vows.* vs. 4, 7.—What is a vow? What direction is here given about vows? Why is it better not to vow than to vow and not pay? Explain verses 6 and 7.

III. *Dependence on Providence.* vs. 8-12. Why are we not to marvel that God in his providence permits injustice and oppression? What are God's works of providence? What is said of the love of silver? What contrast is made between the contented laborer and the careworn rich man?

PRACTICAL LESSONS LEARNED.

1. Reverence the house of God.
 2. Render to God a sincere heart-worship.
 3. Do not make rash vows.
 4. Pay unto the Lord your vows.
 5. Doubt not that God's providence is noly, wise and powerful; he ruleth over all.
- Westminster Question Book.*