

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Cautions against intemperance. Prov. 23: 15-25. *Tuesday.* "Who hath sorrow?" Prov. 23: 29-35. *Wednesday.* Woe to the drunkard. Isa. 5: 11-19. *Thursday.* God's anger against sin. Isa. 5: 20-25. *Friday.* Wine a mocker. Prov. 20: 1-11. *Saturday.* Avoiding evil-doers. Ps. 26. *Sabbath.* Be separate. 2 Cor. 6: 11-18. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

INTRODUCTORY. Not long ago in one of the towns in the United States a travelling menagerie was exhibiting its collection of fierce and of curious animals. In order to attract the crowd a young lion was chained near the entrance. It was believed to be perfectly tame and harmless and its keeper was by its side. Nevertheless the wise gave it a wide berth and contented themselves with admiring at a distance. A little girl, however, innocently ran up to it and before anyone could interfere the ferocious nature of the animal awoke, and seizing the child, as a cat would a mouse, he shook her and crushed her to death in an instant. The frantic mother could hardly be restrained by force from throwing herself on the savage beast. Like this young lion, as soon as the cub of the drinking habit has become full grown, it will assert its power, destroy self-control and hurry its thoughtless victim to disgrace and death.

LESSON PLAN. I. True Wisdom. vs. 15-19. II. Self Control. vs. 20, 21. III. Filial Piety. vs. 22-25.

15. My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine—Solomon uses the term son, but the same advice and instruction may apply to a daughter, for he would not teach that no care or thought should be bestowed upon her, or that she is without her duties or responsibilities, either to parents or to others, or in no need of preparation for a future life beyond this. While there are many temptations surrounding the young man, that little affect a young woman, there is much need of watchful care, that she avoid all those evils which would destroy her wholesome influence. (A. C. M.) The heart is the seat of wisdom according to the Hebrew conception. The brain does not appear to have been thought of as the throne of the mind. Only in the Book of Daniel is the "head" mentioned in connection with mental activity, and there it is in connection with "visions." In Eph. 1: 18 we find the phrase "the eyes of the heart." As the heart in the body is the fountain and centre of natural life, so the word was employed to designate the centre of all the conscious activity of the man. Love, hatred, anguish, joy, imagination, memory, reflection, judgment, resolution, understanding, will, belief, are all predicted of the human heart. "Out of it are the issues of life" (ch. 4: 23). (Terry). To have a wise heart means to regulate the life by the principles of God's word. To have the thoughts pure, the aims of life noble, and the plans pursued honorable. "Be wise" is rather "becometh wise." Wisdom is not a natural gift but the result of discipline and experience. The emphatic repetition "even mine," or, literally, "even I," is very pathetic. There is no greater joy to a parent than to see a child honorable and pious, respected and beloved, and the deepest shame of which many evil doers are conscious is that they have disgraced their father's name.

16. Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things—The "reins" are the kidneys. Here, and elsewhere, being the most inward of the "inward parts" of the body they are looked upon as the seat of the deepest and strongest emotion. (Plumptre). The parents joy is deep and real. The utterances of the lips shew the wisdom of the heart. Our words shew what we are (Luke 6: 45).

17. Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long—Do not be emulous of them and imitate them because you desire their pleasures (Ps. 73: 3-12, 16, 17-20). The feeling which looks half longingly at the prosperity of evil doers is sinful. (Plumptre). Have a constant mind, a heart always in tune with the ways of the Lord. Be devotional, be prayerful, be obedient and submissive, so that no desire for evil can have place, no dissatisfaction with God's plans and providences. Let the thoughts be exalted to the Lord. Be in the fear of the Lord as in thy element, thy natural place. (A. C. M.)

18. For surely there is an end; and thine expectations shall not be cut off—