



KING AHASUERUS AND QUEEN ESTHER.

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Those who enjoy reading thrilling stories can never find one in all the thousands of books printed in modern times that will surpass in interest the old Bible story of the beautiful Jewess, Queen Esther, who saved the life of her uncle, Mordecai, and the lives of all her people, and exposed the jealous and wicked plotting of the too ambitious Haman. Our imaginations carry us back to the strange customs and scenes of Persia of that period so many ages ago, and we see the magnificence of Shushan, the palace, and picture to ourselves Queen Esther in all her loveliness.

In our cut we see King Ahasuerus and Queen Esther seated on their throne. The King's cup-bearer kneels before him bearing in his hands the King's golden cup. This cut illustrates the Sunday-school lessons we have been having.

### LESSON NOTES.

#### SECOND QUARTER.

#### OLD TESTAMENT TEACHINGS.

B.C. 1000.] LESSON VIII. [May 21.]

#### AGAINST INTEMPERANCE.

Prov. 23. 29-35.] [Memory verses, 29-32.]

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

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

#### OUTLINE.

1. The woes of wine, v. 29, 30.
2. The warning against wine, v. 31-35.

TYPE.—About B.C. 1000.

#### EXPLANATIONS.

"Who hath woe"—There were drunkards in Solomon's time, and their vice had the same effects as the same vice has to-day. "Sorrow"—Nothing else brings into the world as much sorrow and as many contentions as strong drink. "Wounds without cause"—The drunkard is likely unintelli-

gently to harm others, and to be thus harmed by others. "Redness of eyes"—Bloodshot, from drink. "Mixed wine"—The oriental nations drank their wine mixed with water, and often with aromatic spices to make it stronger. "Moveth itself"—With sparkle and bead. "Biteth like a serpent"—In the want, misery, loss of character and of reputation which it brings here, and in eternal death hereafter. "Strange women"—The wickedest passions are excited by strong drink. "Perverse things"—The vile utterances of an intoxicated man. "Lieth down"—This describes the sickness which follows drinking. "Stricken me"—An allusion to the stupidity of intoxication. "I will seek it"—Will seek once more the cup which brings him such evil. The appetite for liquor becomes a master passion.

#### PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

What are here shown—

1. As the danger from strong drink?
2. As the safety from strong drink?
3. As the evidence of the power of habit?

#### THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who hath woe, sorrow, and contentions? "They that tarry long at the wine." 2. Against what are we cautioned? "Looking upon wine to drink it." 3. What does wine do in the end? "Biteth like a serpent." 4. What do men do when filled with wine? "Utter perverse things." 5. What is the natural result of once drinking? "A desire to drink again." 6. What does the Golden Text say? "Wine is a mocker," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The power of evil habit.

#### CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What is the catechism?

A book which teaches by question and answer, according to the ancient method of the Christian Church.—Luke 1. 4; Proverbs 22. 6, 21.

What does the Catechism teach?

The main doctrines and duties of religion, set in order, and proved by texts of Scripture.

"Yes, indeed," said little Amy's aunt, "you shall come to the country and see us milk the cows." "What's that, auntie?" "Why that's how we get milk for our coffee at breakfast." "Oh," said Amy, knowingly, "we do it with a can-opener."

### What a Boy Can Do.

These are some of the things that a boy can do:

He can whistle so loud, the air turns blue;  
He can make all sounds of beast or bird,  
And a thousand noises never heard.

He can crow or cackle, or he can cluck  
As well as a rooster, hen, or duck;  
He can bark like a dog, he can low like a cow;  
And a cat itself can't beat his "meow."

He has sounds that are ruffled, striped, and plain;

He can thunder by as a railway train,  
Stop at the stations a breath, and then  
Apply the steam, and be off again.

He has all his powers in such command  
He can turn right into a full brass band,  
With all the instruments ever played,  
As he makes of himself a street parade.

You can tell that a boy is very ill  
If he's wide awake and keeping still;  
But earth would be—God bless their noise!—  
A dull old place if there were no boys.

### WHAT ONE BOY DID IN ONE YEAR.

He begged the office of sexton in the little Western church, and earned seventy-five cents a week.

He picked one hundred quarts of fruit for a neighbour.

He bought and sold eleven dozen chickens, and cleared five dollars on them.

When he could get no other work, a neighbour's wood pile was always ready, at a dollar a cord for sawing and splitting. He earned thirteen dollars and seventy-five cents on his wood piles.

For doing chores, cleaning yards, doing errands, etc., he received ten dollars.

For milking cows, taking care of horses, etc., for neighbours, twenty dollars.

At the end of the year this fourteen-year-old boy had earned a little more than one hundred dollars, and never missed a day at school. It was a busy year, yet play-hours were scattered all along; swimming, fishing, hunting, skating and coasting, each found its place. The old adage proved true in his case, "Where there's a will there's a way." He never missed a job; when other boys were idle he was busy, and the best of all that I can tell you about him is this, he was a King's son.

### AN ANT FUNERAL.

A LADY gives this account of some ants which she saw in Sydney. Having killed a number of soldier ants, she returned in a half hour to the spot where she had left their dead bodies, and in reference to what she then observed she says:

"I saw a large number of ants surrounding the dead ones, and determined to watch their proceedings closely. I followed four or five that started from the rest toward a hillock a short distance off, in which was an ant's nest. This they entered, and in about five minutes they reappeared, followed by others.

"All fell into rank, walking regularly and slowly, two by two, until they arrived at the spot where lay the dead bodies of the soldier ants. In a few minutes two of the ants advanced and took up the dead body of one of their comrades; then two others, and so on until all were ready to march.

"First walked two ants bearing a body, then two without a burden, then two others with another dead ant, and so on until the line extended to about forty pairs; and the procession now moved slowly onward, followed by an irregular body of about two hundred ants.

"Occasionally the two leader ants stopped, and laying down the dead ant, it was taken up by the two walking unburdened behind them, and thus by occasionally relieving each other, they arrived at a sandy point near the sea.

"The body of ants now commenced digging with their jaws a number of holes in the ground, into each of which a dead ant was laid. They now laboured on until they had filled up the ants' graves. This did not quite finish the remarkable circumstances attending their funeral.

"Six or seven of the ants had attempted to run off without performing their share of the digging. These were caught and brought back, when they were at once attacked by the body of the ants and killed upon the spot."

### YOUNG EBONY'S ESSAY ON CORK.

CORK am de bark of a tree. It makes no noise. De bark dat comes from a dog does. Cork had a lazy time of it before bottles were thought of. Cork don't like bottles. It won't go into one without a deal of pressin'.

Cork am used to stop holes in casks. It makes a bungling job of it.

Legs are sometimes made of cork, but dey hab no feelin'. So I guess people who will do wrong and hab no care for other people have their hearts made of cork, too.

Many a man couldn't have kep' his head above water but for cork. It am a handy thing to have about.

Hats are made of cork, but cork-screws are made of somethin' else. So there's nothing in a name. Some old gentleman who lived a long way back said that. It's true, too. A bath-bun am not to wash with; an' sponge-cake am made by leavin' all de sponge out.

Dis am all I know about cork; only I should like to say dare ought to be some of it livin' in every house, 'cos it am de only cure for a bottle dat won't keep its mouth shut.

### BURNING AND SHINING LIGHTS.

MR. MOODY tells us of a blind beggar sitting by the sidewalk on a dark night with a bright lantern by his side; whereas a passer-by was so puzzled that he had to turn back with, "What in the world do you keep a lantern burning for? You can't see!"

"I keep it so that folks won't stumble over me," was the reply. We should keep our lights burning brightly for others' sake, as well as for the sake of being "in the light" ourselves.



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BY

EMILY P. WEAVER.

Author of "My Lady Nell," "The Ebb's Son," etc.

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