

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

LESSON L. JANUARY 6. REHOBOAM, FIRST KING OF JUDAH. READ 2 Chron. xii. 1-12.

CONNECTING HISTORY.—We learned, last year, how the Hebrew nation, which God established in the world, and which He loved and cared for, was divided, and how ten of the tribes forsook the good government of God, and went away and chose a king for themselves and served idols. Our lessons for the first half of this year will tell us of the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin, which together made the kingdom of Judah, and which was so called, because Judah was the larger, and more powerful of the two. This was the kingdom that remained loyal to God, and the kingdom in which Christ was born. It will be well for us to remember that the kingdom was divided 975 B. C.; that Rehoboam the son of Solomon, reigned over Judah for about seventeen years from 975 to 957 B. C.; that Jeroboam reigned over the ten tribes, which was called the kingdom of Israel, for about twenty years, from 975 to 953 B. C.

NOTES.—V. 1.—Bad established the kingdom,—made it strong and powerful. All Israel.—This name is here given to the people of the kingdom of Judah. V. 2.—Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem.—This means that he made war against it. Because they transgressed.—God punishes men for their transgressions. V. 4.—Fenced cities.—i.e., fortified cities. Came to Jerusalem.—They came to Jerusalem and captured it. V. 5.—Shematah He was a prophet who lived in Jerusalem. Princes.—These were men who held high offices in the kingdom. Ye have forsaken Me.—God leaves us in the hands of our enemies when we forsake Him. V. 6.—Humbled themselves.—They repented of their sins. Righteous.—just and right in punishing them. V. 7.—Some deliverance.—deliverance for a little while. V. 8.—They shall be his servants.—They were to be in some kind of bondage to Egypt. That they may know.—That they may know how much better it is to serve God than heathen masters. V. 9.—The house of the Lord.—the temple at Jerusalem. The king's house.—the royal palace where the king lived. V. 12.—Things went well.—In all the bad things in Judah there were many good things.

CENTRAL THOUGHT.—The way to the Lord's favor is through repentance.

GOLDEN TEXT.—When he humbled himself, the wrath of the Lord turned from him. 2 Chron. xii. 12.

LESSON VERSE.

Though I forgot Him, and wander away, Still He will love me, wherever I stray; Dear to His dear, loving arms would I flee, When I remember that Jesus loves me.

LESSON QUESTIONS.

What did we learn of the Hebrew nation last year? What will our lessons for the first half of this year tell us about? When was the kingdom divided? Over what did Rehoboam reign? From what year, to what year, and how long did he reign? Who reigned over the kingdom of Israel? From what year, to what year, and how long did he reign?

V. 1. What did Rehoboam forsake? Who with him? When? How did he forsake the Lord? 1 Kings xiv. 23, 24. In what great danger are we when we have great prosperity?

Vs. 2-4. What punishment was visited upon the sinning people? When? Why? With what army did he come? What did Shishak first do? What next did he do? What were fenced cities? What did he do to Jerusalem? What may wicked nations fear?

V. 5. Who now came forward? Why was there a gathering at Jerusalem? With what authority did he speak? What was his message? What great truth is here taught? Chap. xv. 2. What are we thus warned not to do?

V. 6. Whom did he rebuke? What did the sinning people do? What did they say of the Lord? In what did they acknowledge that the Lord was righteous? What does the Bible say about pride and humility? Matt. xxiii. 12.

Vs. 7, 8. What again came to Shematah? When? Saying what? Promising what deliverance? Nevertheless what was threatened? Why were they to be in servitude to Shishak? What may every one who turns to God say? Isa. xvi. 13.

V. 9. So, what did Shishak do? What did he take away? What, also, did he carry away?

Vs. 10-12. What did Rehoboam make, instead of the shields of gold? To whom did he commit them? What was done when the king entered the house of the Lord? What was the result of the king's humbling himself? What is said of Judah? What is the way to exaltation? 1 Peter v. 6. Through what is the way to the Lord's favor?

LESSON II.

JANUARY 13. ASA FAITHFUL TO HIS GOD. READ 2 Chron. xiv. 1-11.

CONNECTING HISTORY.—Abijah or Abijah (will of Jehovah) was Rehoboam's son and successor. He began to reign 957 B. C., and ruled three years. His great effort was to recover the ten tribes by making war upon that nation under the rule of Jeroboam, and he was successful in recovering several of the cities of Israel. The moral aspect of his reign was not largely different from that of Rehoboam, as we learn from 1 Kings xiv. 23, 24.

NOTES.—V. 1.—Asa (physician), the third King of Judah, was Abijah's son and successor. He began to reign 955 B. C., and ruled for forty-one years. His reign was characterized by the marked piety which distinguished him from his predecessors, and by his efforts to purify the nation from idolatry. City of David.—Jerusalem. V. 3.—Strange gods.—Idols. High places.—places of worship on the hill tops; to be near the objects of their superstitious adoration, the sun and stars. The Groves.

—dedicated to the depraving worship of the goddess Astarte. V. 4.—Lord God of their Fathers,—not the gods of their fathers, but the Omnipotent God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and who brought them out of the land of Egypt. The law and the commandments.—The scribes and Pharisees acted up to this law, but Christ requires our righteousness to exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, &c. V. 5.—Quiet.—There were no wars to disturb. V. 6.—Built fenced cities,—in peace preparing for war; it's best to prepare for adversity when everything looks prosperous. V. 7.—The land is yet before us.—Invaders had not entered into it. V. 8.—Mighty men of valor.—Both strong and courageous. V. 9.—Thousand thousand,—a number not to be counted. V. 11.—We rest on Thee.—In v. 7 God had given them rest from their enemies; now that their enemies had attacked them in an innumerable number they could rest in the sure confidence that He would protect them. Let not man prevail against Thee.—They put God to his promises.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have no power, verse 11.

LESSON QUESTIONS.

V. 1. How long did Abijah reign? What year did Asa begin his reign? What is meant by the land being quiet? Was ten years a long time for the land to be quiet? How long is it since England has had no war in all her borders?

V. 2. What is good and right in the eyes of the Lord? Who can do what is good and right? The best way to please God?

V. 3. Where is the Christian's altar of sacrifice? Do Christians worship any images? Can there be other than physical images of worship?

V. 4. Who or what is meant by Judah? How would the people of Judah seek the Lord? How may you seek the Lord?

V. 5. What is meant by high places? and what by images?

V. 6. What are fenced cities? Are there any in Canada? V. 7. Is building now considered an evidence of prosperity? What can we build up besides erections of wood, brick, and stone?

V. 8. What is an army? Who compose Jesus' army? Are you on His side? What service does he require from his soldiers? How can you fight for Him? When is the best time to enlist into His army? How may you be a mighty man of valor; in Christ's army?

V. 9. Why need not one of Christ's soldiers be afraid if thousands of thousands oppose him? In whom may he securely trust?

V. 10. Where is Marashah? What is meant by battle array?

V. 11. What is meant by crying unto God? Why is it as easy for the Lord to help against few as many? Is there strength given us by battling in the Lord's name? How may we prevail against God? What have you learnt from this lesson?

1878.

Again we wish you a happy New Year. 1877 has been full of pleasurable events and serious transactions, of advancements and retrogressions, of victories and defeats, of hopes which have attained to realities, and hopes which have proved to be delusions; yet you are prepared with new courage and resolutions to meet its successor, perform the duties it may bring, suffer what may have to be suffered, and enjoy what you may be privileged to enjoy. Although the past year has been a severe one to many, who would like to have it blotted out of their recollections? Very, very few readers of the MESSENGER we think, and not one, we sincerely hope.

It is very strange how past memories gradually shape themselves in the mind. What once was considered as a burden to bend under, now looked at through the mists of intervening days, months or years, has changed its form and its character. Was it then a grief God given? Now we know that it was from Him who doeth all things well. Was it a joy? We may regret that in it we did not recognize the Giver of joys, and that it turned to bitterness. Was it a mystery, then, that we stumbled over? Increasing years, and the unaccountable knowledge which comes through experience, unravels the mystery, and what was tangled has been made plain.

The year just opened we hope will bring blessings to all. While the last one was full of wars and warlike rumors, may the present be one of peace and peace-making. While during the one just closed, want was deeply felt, may we not hope that during the present the openings in the lowering clouds of adversity are not deceptive, but indicative of a happy change for the better.

To the MESSENGER, 1877 has been a comparatively prosperous year. Its many friends have stood by it, and it has delivered its messages twice every month to some two hundred and fifty thousand readers,—that is supposing each paper

is read by five persons, which may or may not be the case. Many kind expressions of the good done by its words have been received, which are most encouraging to us. It is our desire that in 1878 it may prove of greater value to those it visits than ever before, and that not one to whom it comes but may feel that he or she have been in some manner benefited by it.

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY pair of skates have already been sent to those who have won them, and also some two dozen albums, several weather glasses, ever so many rings, a Mackinnon pen and other prizes. We have not heard of a single case in which those receiving them have been dissatisfied.

OUR PRIZE OFFER is as follows: An \$80 gold watch will be given to the person who sends in the largest amount in subscriptions before January 7th; a prize of a \$50 sewing machine will be given to the person sending in the second largest amount; a prize of a \$20 silver watch will be given to the one sending in the third largest amount, before the date mentioned above. A pair of "Eureka" skates which sells for \$4.00 will be given to any one sending \$15 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS publications. A pair of "Eureka" skates which sells at \$2.75 will be given to any one who sends in \$10 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS publications; and a pair of "Canadian Club" skates which sells at \$2.75 will be given to any one who sends in \$9 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS publications. All letters for the prizes of the skates must have on them "in competition."

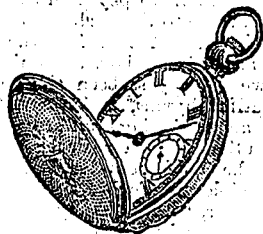
EPPE'S COCOA—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING. "By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately-flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—Civil Service Gazette.—Sold only in Packets labelled—"JAMES EPPE & Co., Homoeopathic Chemists, London, Eng."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

SUPPLEMENTARY PRIZE LIST.

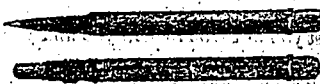
We have received letters from a few workers saying that they do not care about the Skates, are not anxious for a cash commission and would like some other prize. One little girl tells us that there is not a pond within ten miles of her place, and a gentleman that he has but one leg, and therefore the skates would not suit. On the presumption that there are others somewhat similarly situated, the following supplementary prize list (which, in every case, gives the worker the advantage of the wholesale price of the goods mentioned) is submitted.

A GENUINE SILVER HUNTING-CASE WALTHEAM WATCH, Plain-Jewelled, and commonly retailed at \$20. A good time-keeper.



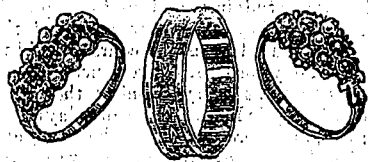
One of those very popular Watches will be sent to every person sending in \$90 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS.

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This Pen, as now sold, is made of Vulcanized Rubber and Metals that cannot corrode in the strongest acids. It looks like a Penell Case ornamented with gold, but combines ink, inkstand pen and pencil in one. When not in use a valve is opened and ink at once flows to suit the writer. This Pen is always ready, neat and handsome, and as clean to carry in the vest pocket as a penknife. There is nothing about it to wear out; and it is claimed to be, without exception, the handiest, most economical and most durable Pen in the world. The regular retail price at the Montreal Book-Room is \$4. This Pen will be sent to the address of anyone who sends in \$15 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS.

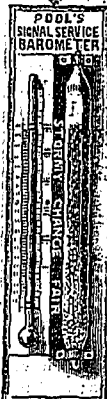
FOR GIRLS ONLY.



GOLD AND JEWELLED RINGS.

This is a present exclusively for girls (little or grown up), and for those who intend to present the prize to their lady friends. The Gold Keeper shown in the centre of the engraving retails at \$2, and will be mailed to anyone sending us \$5 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS. The Gold Ring with eight pearls and five stones retails at \$4; it will be mailed to anyone who sends \$10 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS. The Gold Ring with three pearls and six stones retails at \$5; it will be mailed to anyone sending \$15 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS. If the competitors prefer they can obtain rings of greater value on equally advantageous terms. For example, if they send \$50 in new subscriptions, they would receive by return mail a ring which they would have to pay \$20 for at any retail store; and such a ring would be a pretty good one. A lady in sending for any of these rings should send a piece of paper or thread the size of her finger, so that one to it may be obtained.

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