

Primary and Intermediate.

BY M. V. M.

LESSON THOUGHT. *God's Store-house is Full.*

INTRODUCTORY. Recall the lesson of October 19—God's question to Solomon, and Solomon's answer. Remind the children that God gave Solomon both what he asked, and good things which he did not ask. He saw that Solomon's heart was not a selfish one, and he loves to pour his gifts into such a heart.

To be taught: The king talked about; the king sought out; the king well thought of.

1. Speak of Solomon's riches; his ships which were sent to distant countries to bring back gold and silver and precious things to the king. The sailors who went in the ships told about his riches and wisdom wherever they went, and many heard of his power and wondered at it, because they did not know the true God who has all power and riches and wisdom in his hands. Teach that it is good to talk about our King, for in this way many are led to think about him and inquire about him.

2. Draw word-picture of a very rich woman living in great splendour. Tell what she has upon her head, what she holds in her hand; and lead children to say that she is a queen. Tell that she lived a long distance from King Solomon, and yet she took the journey to see for herself the greatness of Solomon and to ask him many questions that were in her heart. Tell of the procession of guards and servants and camels, the loads of precious things which the queen took with her, and the wonder and delight with which she listened to Solomon's wisdom and saw the signs of his great riches and power.

3. Draw a crown, and print upon it, "A Rich Queen." Another, still larger, may bear the inscription, "A Richer King." Review lesson already taught by the aid of these symbols. Then draw a third crown, still larger than the last, and teach that there is One greater than either king or queen, and that all their riches and wisdom came from him. If the children know "I'm the child of a King," let him sing one verse just here, impressing the thought that God is the source of all greatness and goodness. Make a cross, and print "Jesus our King." Tell of his riches in heaven—how he left all for our sakes, and on the cross gave his life, so that we might have riches that will last forever.

Lesson Word-Pictures.

Camel after camel, loaded with spices, loaded with gold, loaded with precious stones, accompanied by drivers swarthy and

turbaned, all filing through Jerusalem's gates. Along ways that are rocky and sandy, in the shadow of grim mountains, through the depths of green valleys, have they come. They bear the queen also, reclining on cushions, curtained from the world by silken hangings, the great queen of Sheba. And here she is with wondering eyes before Solomon himself, a greater sovereign than she, Solomon the magnificent. I wonder it at this time the great throne of ivory had been built, white ivory overlaid with yellow gold. I can see its six stately steps, and I shrink from the twelve frowning lions that stand on the six stately steps. How the forms of the courtiers go down, down at the footstool of gold, like grass-stalks that bend to the earth at the pressure of the wind! But hark! There is a burst of music out from the swinging doors of the banquet-room. Sheba's queen has gone there. Look within. What a glitter of colour from the vessels of gold! See the rainbows swinging in the garlands of flowers! What gorgeous apparel flashes upon the ministers of Solomon! Notice with what grace the royal cup-bearers glide about, while servants slip with ease of shadows from guest to guest. And the wild, delirious music, the perfume of the flowers, the dazzle of lights—what a gay, enchanting, triumphant hour they make! I see the king standing on some elevation, Sheba's queen looking off with him, and he points out the advancing fleets of Hiram. O, the gold, the precious stones, and the almug-trees packed into that proud fleet. Have such almug-trees ever been grown since? But strangest of all strange things to Sheba's queen, is the house where Jehovah dwelt. She watches the king in his royal robes passing by that magnificent "ascent" to the temple, and then the excluded, dark-browed stranger follows him in her thoughts as he disappears behind the costly walls over which float the smoke of the sacrifices and the music of the temple choir. O wonderful king! Marvellous his wealth! More marvellous his wisdom! Wherever he leads his queenly guest, I hear his words dripping with wisdom like the honey-comb with sweets. He picks for her the brightest flowers from his three thousand proverbs and his one thousand and five songs. He tells of "beasts and of fowl and of creeping things and of fishes." His words range from Lebanon's cedars down to the "hyssop that springeth out of the wall." The guest is bewildered. She pronounced him blessed, and then utters a benediction in gold and spices and precious stones. Gone are the camels of her train, winding over path of flint and crumbling sand, through valley and past mountain, to her distant home.