

Epworth League Topic card, and the Rally Day programme for 1912-13.

5. Instructions were given the General Secretary to forthwith communicate with other denominational boards and the Provincial Associations as may seem expedient as to the advisability of co-operating in Sunday School and Young People's Summer School work.

6. The visitation by the General Secretary in 1912 of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba annual conferences and if deemed to be in the interests of the work, the Maritime Conferences as well.

The reports of the General and Field Secretaries indicate a growing interest in the work, as a whole, and the General Treasurer's report for 1911-12, showed the best financial statement in the history of the Board. The outlook for both departments of our work is very encouraging.

F. L. F.
Minute Secretary.

Living Questions on the Sunday School Lessons

For Personal Study and Public Discussion.
To be allotted in advance to members of the class.

By REV. J. H. McARTHUR, S.T.D.

Nov. 19.—Text, Ezra 8:15-36.

1. What is the value of fasting? What should be the purpose and character of a religious fast?

2. Would Ezra have sought help from man rather than from God had he not been ashamed to do so? To what source do we usually apply for help?

3. What is the relation between pre-cautionary measures and faith in God? Are they consistent with each other or inconsistent?

4. Should a sick man be ashamed to seek aid from a physician because he trusts in God? If not why should Ezra be ashamed to seek aid from the king?

5. Nehemiah returned to Jerusalem under the protection of a band of soldiers (Neh. 2:9), but Ezra returned trusting solely in the protection of God. Were both right or not? Explain.

6. While the Jews in this case were allowed to return to their homes, in some

2. Why did Nehemiah take these things so much to heart when the rank and file of the Jews were careless (4)? What about present day conditions in the church?

3. What is the relation between fasting and prayer?

4. What are the main characteristics of Nehemiah's prayer which we should imitate?

5. What in the opinion of Nehemiah were the causes of the present sad condition of the Jews? Are the same causes at work to-day?

6. Nehemiah acknowledges that their present condition is a just punishment (8). On what grounds therefore does he plead for their restoration (6, 7, 9)?

7. Nehemiah was neither prophet, nor priest, nor king nor warrior; what then was he in relation to the Jews? What place can we fill in relation to God's church?

8. Do you remember others definitely in your prayers?

Dec. 3.—Text Neh. 4.

1. What difficulties did the Jews meet with in rebuilding the walls?

2. In what spirit were they met, and by what means were they overcome?

3. Which is the most critical time in a protracted work, the beginning, or end, or half-way through? Why?

4. Which is capable of doing the most harm, the threats of the enemy, or the disheartening words of friends?

5. "The people had a mind to work" is that more than half the battle? Can it be shown to be a lack in our S. S. and other church work?

6. Discuss Qualities of Leadership, Division of Labor in Church Work, Protection of Workers in Modern Industries.

7. What work can you do for God over against your own house (Neh. 5:28)?

8. Are difficulties in the way of progress a hindrance or help in character building?

Dec. 10.—Text, Neh. 6.

1. In the two previous lessons Nehemiah is presented to us as a man of prayer, a man of action, and a man of courage; in what light is he presented to us in this lesson?

2. What qualities are needed to meet fraud, treachery and trickery, rather than force?

3. Does the consciousness of being in the line of duty give a man courage?

4. To what extent should every man exalt his own work (3)?

5. Why does Nehemiah speak as he does in verse 11?

6. Should men go to church to save their lives or to give their lives for God? To preserve their respectability or to obtain help for Christian service?

7. Contrast the action of Nehemiah (7) with the action of Pilate (John 19:12).

Dec. 17.—Text, Neh. 8.

1. What was the immediate effect upon the people of the reading of the law? And why?

2. What was the effect upon future ages of the adoption of the law at this time by the citizens of Jerusalem?

3. What place does the Bible occupy in our national life?

4. Why do some people think the Bible a dull book?

5. In becoming a Christian does one have to give up fun and pleasure (10, 12)?

6. Is it a duty to be happy? Or is happiness something over which we have no control?

7. What is the relation between joy and service (10)?



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Dec. 24.—Text, Mat. 3:1-4:3.

1. What is the meaning of "Return unto me" (7)?

2. In what different ways may a man rob God (8)?

3. How can the robbing of God be followed with curses (9)?

4. If we bring to God our proportionate offerings what kind of blessings shall we receive (10)? Material, spiritual, or both?

5. What are the conditions of the happiness spoken of in verse 12? Likewise what are the conditions of unhappiness or misery?

6. Are the ungodly just as well off as the godly (14, 15)? What profit is there in serving God?

7. What is the value of Christian fellowship (16)?

8. What conditions are necessary to make real fellowship possible among any class of people?

Dec. 31.—REVIEW. Sixteen Lessons.

XI. Of what value is plain living as a means of securing good health, good looks, physical endurance, and mental vision?

XII. Which is the most valuable asset in the Kingdom of God, a dead man who lost his life through maintaining the truth, or a living man who saved his life by denying the truth?

XIII. Is it possible to be a secret Christian?

1. To what extent am I my brother's keeper?

III. and IV. What did the temple stand for in the mind of the patriotic and religious Jew who returned from the exile?

V. What effect did the restoration of the Jews have upon their religious life?

VI. What is the cause of the modern prejudice against the Jews?

VII. How does this lesson illustrate the proverb, "Pride goeth before a fall"?

VIII. What proof did the Jews have that the hand of God was upon them in their journey? What proof have we?

IX. X. XI. From the life and work of Nehemiah describe some of the chief characteristics of a patriot. Illustrate from the lives of other patriots.

XII. Do we make as much of God's word to-day as Ezra and his people did?

XIII. Is systematic giving a necessary or optional part of Christian service?



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countries to-day they are driven from their homes, Why is this?

7. The value of the offerings of gold and silver mentioned in verses 25-27 was about \$5,000,000. In view of this should Canada think it a burden to make a similar offering for missions?

Nov. 26.—Text, Nehemiah, 1.

1. How far is it our duty to make inquiries concerning the welfare of others?