



A METEOR SHOWER.

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ONE of the most beautiful phenomena to be seen in the night skies of certain months is a so-called meteor shower. It is a common enough thing to see an occasional falling star shoot across the sky like a flash, leaving a long trail of glory behind it. But when these are seen chasing one another through the darkness by the hundred and even by the thousand it is a very different sight; a grander and more beautiful display of light it is difficult to imagine, except perhaps the terrible red flames that leap out of a volcano and seem to set the sky on fire. The explanation of these falling stars is interesting. The scientists tell us that space is full of pieces of broken up worlds or of the solid matter which will one day be brought together, and formed perhaps into a new planet. When one of these pieces in its headlong course through space comes into contact with a heavy atmosphere like that round our earth there is at once a very great amount of friction caused. Indeed the pace is so terrific that there is sufficient heat generated to cause the fragment to ignite. A brilliant flame and all is over; while the burnt-up ashes fall very slowly to the earth. The weight of the earth is thus said to be increased several tons every year by the meteoric dust which falls in this way on the tops of high

mountains. This dust may often be noticed and picked up in small quantities and in the ocean a sufficient deposit has fallen and sunk to the bottom in the past ages of the world's history to form a distinct geological formation.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, AND EZEKIEL.

B.C. 550.] LESSON V. [Jan. 31.

THE SUFFERING SAVIOUR.

Isa. 53. 1-12. Memory verses, 3-5.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord has laid upon him the iniquity of us all.—Isa. 53. 6.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus Christ, by his life, sufferings, and death, has made atonement for the sins of the world.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

The prophet looks at the distant future when Christ should appear, and speaks of it as if present before him. *Who hath believed*—That is, few at first. *Our report*—That the Son of God, the Messiah, should come to save the world. *The arm*—The symbol of power. *Grow . . . as a tender plant*—That is, small and easily destroyed. *Root, etc.*—A shoot from the root of a decayed tree. The house of David, from which Christ sprang, was then in very lowly condition. *No form*—No beautiful appear-

ance. Not referring to Christ's bodily appearance, but to his state, so different from the outward circumstances of glory which the Jews expected to surround their Messiah. *He hath borne our griefs*—Christ did this by his healings (Matt. 8. 17), his sympathy, and all the ways in which Christianity lessens the sorrows of men. *He was wounded for our transgressions*—All his sufferings were for our sake, to make atonement for our sin. Christ bore the sins of men so that, to those who repent and believe on him, (1) the sense of justice is satisfied; (2) the evil of sin is shown to be greater than it could have been by the punishment of sin; (3) more than by any other power is the sinner saved from committing sin; (4) it is the greatest preventive of sin among men. It brings the strongest motives—love, duty, fear, hope—to bear on the hearts of men with the greatest power. Facts visible in every Christian community prove that Christ does bear the sins of men away. *Taken from prison and from judgment*—Or justice; rather, he was taken away by oppression, and the forms of justice. *Who shall declare his generation*—His family line. He was cut off without children, and with but few spiritual children. *It pleased the Lord*—This was not merely the work of wicked men, but was a part of God's plan for the salvation of men. *He shall see his seed*—His spiritual children, to whom he gives spiritual life. *Prolong his days*—He was raised from the dead, and ever liveth. *Troth with pain*. *Shall be satisfied*—Because so many will be saved by him. *Justify*—Forgive and make holy. *Many*—Countless numbers will be saved. *A portion with the great*—He shall be among conquerors, the greatest of all.

Find in this lesson—

1. Our need of a Saviour.
2. What the Saviour has done for us.
3. How the Saviour was first received.
4. His final triumph.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. What great event was foretold by the prophet Isaiah? "The coming of the Saviour, Jesus Christ." 2. How would he be treated at first? "He would be despised and rejected of men." 3. What did he do for men? "He bore our sorrows and carried our griefs." 4. What would be the fruit of this suffering? "Great numbers saved from sin, and the kingdom of God come on the earth."

CATECHISM QUESTION.

7. Who were the first preachers of the Gospel?

The apostles of our Lord, whom he called to be witnesses to both Jews and Gentiles of his resurrection.

Of these must one become a witness with us of his resurrection.—Acts 1. 22.

TEMPERANCE THOUGHTS AT RANDOM STRUNG.

A RACY speaker put the different phases of the temperance problem in a nutshell, at a recent prohibition meeting. He said: "Take twenty-five snakes, and turn them loose on your premises: that is free whiskey. Put the same snakes in a box and bore twenty-five holes in the box: that is low license. Shut up all the holes but ten: that is high license. Kill the snakes: that is prohibition."

When a school-boy, a drunkard's son, was asked to spell g-l-a-s-s, the teacher, after the letters had been slowly pronounced asked, "what do you put in your window at home?" The boy answered, "Papa's old hat."

Many a man has ruined his eyesight by sitting in the bar-room looking for work.

A correspondent from South Dakota writes: "We have had only one saloon in our town for a year past and that is now closed. The proprietor was converted last Sunday night in the Methodist church and this morning poured out all his beer and liquor in the street." We have known the same thing to be done in these parts. The *Mail* says, editorially, that

"drinking at the open bar is rapidly becoming disreputable." It was always so in our estimation.

It is said of a young man who attended a certain church and gave a cent when the collection plate came round, that he smoked three five-cigars the same day.

His Coming.

BY DR. BONAR.

They tell me a solemn story,
But it is not sad to me,
For in its sweet unfolding
My Saviour's love I see.

They say that at any moment
The Lord of life may come
To lift me from the cloudland
Into the light of home.

They say I may have no warning,
I may not even hear
The rustle of his garments
As he softly draweth near:

Suddenly, in a moment,
Upon my ear may fall
The summons loved of our Master,
"Answer the Master's call."

Perhaps he will come in the noontide
Of some bright, sunny day,
When with dear ones all around me,
My life seems bright and gay.

Pleasant must be the pathway,
Easy the shining road,
Up from the dinner sunlight
Into the light of God.

Perhaps he will come in the stillness
Of the mild and quiet night,
When the earth is calmly sleeping,
'Neath the moonbeams' silvery light.

When the stars are softly shining
O'er the slumbering land and sea,
Perhaps in holy stillness
The Master will come for me.

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