

Autumn.

BY HARVEY M. BARR.

Now autumn comes, With muffled drums, And women's faces fast as snobs...

The birds fast fly From threaten'g sky, Where clouds on clouds are piling high...

From window bright The warm freight Streams out upon the chilly night...

With plaintive woe The winds echo From drooping hill to vale below...

Still, undismayed, O'er field and glade, The robin trills his serenade...

O'er vast expanse All nature chants In melancholy resonance...

'Tis autumn now, Whose scarlet brow Reflects on every tree and bough...

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON III.—OCTOBER 15.

ESTHER PLEADING FOR HER PEOPLE.

Esth. 8. 3-8, 15-17. Memory verses, 15-17.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass.—Psalm 37. 5.

OUTLINE.

- 1. Frustrating Evil, v. 3-8. 2. Rejoicing in God, v. 15-17. Time.—Perhaps between 485 and 425 B.C. Place.—Susa.

LESSON HELPS.

Ahasuerus is another name for Artaxerxes, who ruled Persia. Haman was his prime minister. Esther was his queen, and her beauty and charm of manner had won the heart of the king...

3. "Besought him with tears"—No wonder, for she was a Jewess. Piety and patriotism combined to make her weep. Her tears were eloquent words.

4. "The golden scepter"—A symbol of authority, and when held out to another a symbol of mercy. See chap. 2. 11.

5. "Reverse the letters"—Which Haman sent out in the royal name because of the royal authority given by the signet ring.

6. "How can I endure to see the evil"—She and Mordecai were now safe, but the decree was still in force against the Jews. Sympathy with her race would make them suffer if it persisted.

8. "May no man reverse"—Irreversible laws, so called, are not wise. Neither are they practical. If they stand on the statute book they can be modified and thus made of no effect, as in this case. The Jews could now by law defend themselves, and so their safety was assured.



HAMAN AND AHAESUERUS.

15. "In royal apparel"—Dress, as a sign of office, was more important than at the present day. "A great crown of gold"—A large turban for the head, ornamented with gold and precious stones.

16. "Light"—The word is here figurative and expressive. "A feast and a good day"—So the Jews throughout the world have even now, at the anniversary of their deliverance. "Many . . . became Jews"—Because of fear, which had no ground to rest upon. Converts through fear are no credit to the true faith.

HOME READINGS.

M. Esther pleading for her people.—Esth. 8. 1-8.



AHAESUERUS AND QUEEN ESTHER.

Tu. Esther pleading for her people.—Esth. 8. 3-17. IV. Deliverance commemorated.—Esth. 9. 20-23. Th. Joy in deliverance.—Psalm 31. 14-24. F. Promise of help.—Zeph. 3. 14-20. S. Safety of God's people.—Psalm 91. Su. Trust, and fear not.—Psalm 37. 1-17.

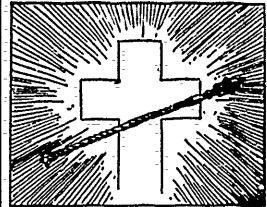
QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. Frustrating Evil, v. 3-8. Who was Esther? How was she related to Mordecai? What had she risked to plead for the lives of her people? Was the king favourably disposed towards her? What did she beseech the king with tears to do? What sign did the king show that he was pleased with Esther? What, in verse 5, did Esther ask of the king? What reason did she give in verse 6? To what two persons did the king speak? What did he say in verse 7? What strange order does he give in verse 8? What does that mean? 2. Rejoicing in God, v. 15-17. How was Mordecai dressed when he left the king? Of what was that a sign?

Were the people of the city pleased or displeased by Mordecai's advancement? What happened to the Jews? How were the people of the land affected? Is our Golden Text as true to-day as it was in Mordecai's time?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where in this lesson do we learn— 1. That whatever we have to do we should do thoroughly.



- 2. That God never sleeps? 3. That one should never keep a bad promise?

The more you do God's work within yourselves the more he will give you the opportunity of doing external work for him.—Neale.

A large pall, or even a tub full of lemonade placed at the door as the scholars go out some Sunday, would be a pleasant surprise.

Your most deadly sin is the one you love the most.

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