

In Peking.

BY SAMANTHA WHIPPLE SHOOD.

The stars are bright o'er that far Eastern city,
The smiling heavens are blue;
The day falls not for horror and for pity,
The nights are sweet with dew

Day after day, while screaming shells are flying,
And throb barbaric drums,
Our own folk wait, amid the dead and dying,
For help that never comes.

Millions of yellow, pitiless, alien faces
Circle them round with hate;
While desperate valour guards the broken places,
Outside the torturers wait.

To-night, to-morrow, sinks the last defender,
Crash down the crumbling walls,
O death, most merciful, swift servitor,
Ere the black horror falls.

Haste with your legions, all ye mighty nations,
Lead on your armies brave
Ere ye shall find, mid nameless desolations,
Only the dead to save'
Independent

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS.

LESSON VIII.—NOVEMBER 25.

SOBER LIVING.

TIT. 2. 1-15. Memory verses, 11-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

We should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.—Tit. 2. 12.

OUTLINE.

1. Sobriety of Mind and Heart, v. 1-6.
2. Adorning the Doctrine of God, v. 7-10.
3. Hope as a Motive Power, v. 11-15. Time.—A.D. 67. Place.—Written from Rome to Crete, where Titus had been left to properly organize the newly formed churches.

LESSON HELPS.

1. "Sound doctrine" — "Wholesome teaching." False teachers are mentioned before this as having done harm to the weak Christians of Crete.
2. Aged men — "Meaning here mature men rather than feeble old men." "Sober" — "The sobriety or sober-mindedness which Paul teaches all classes to have goes far beyond abstinence from intoxicants. Self-mastery with regard to all such things is included, but other things are included also. It is that power over ourselves which keeps under strict control all impulses, whether of the body, the mind, or the spirit." "Grave" — "Reverent, modest, having an hourly recognition of the importance of life." "Temperate" — "Discreet." "Sound in faith, in charity, in patience" — "Sound" means healthy; "charity" means love; "patience" means enduring perseverance.
3. "The aged women" — "Not necessarily what we would call old women, but women in mature years." "Likewise" — "After the same general pattern of goodness which the men had been exhorted to keep before them." "In behaviour" — "In manner, conversation, habits, and dress." "As becometh holiness" — "Reverent, consecrated." "Not false accusers" — "Not slanderers nor mischief-making gossips." "Not given to much wine" — "The Cretans were shockingly addicted to wine."
4. "Sober" — (See note on verse 2.) "Husbands" — "children" — "In Paul's day nearly all young women, except slaves and devotees of the temples, were married, maidens being kept at home without social life; this is the reason Paul gives no special advice to them; but his advice to the young married women, in its essence, fits all."
5. The virtues of this verse are in modern words common sense, purity and refinement, industry at home, good temper, and loving deference to husbands. "That the word of God be not blasphemed" — "Inconsistency of behaviour is fatal to the Gospel."
6. "Sober-minded" — (See note on verse 2.)
- 7, 8. Here is advice for Titus himself. "Doctrine" means "teaching;" "sound speech" means "healthy discourse."

9. Although slavery was morally wrong, the individual slave was exhorted to make the best of his condition, and to lovingly serve his master.
10. "Purloining" — "Stealing."
11. "That blessed hope" here means the hope fulfilled.
12. "That he might redeem us" — "Buy us off with a price."
13. "Authority" — "Commandment, imperativeness."

HOME READINGS.

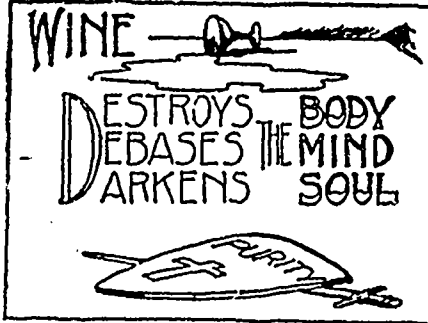
- M. Sober living.—Tit. 2. 1-15.
Tu. Temperate in all things.—1 Cor. 9. 19-27.
W. In the light.—Rom. 13. 7-14.
Th. Be sober and watch!—1 Pet. 4. 1-8.
F. Right and wrong doing.—Prov. 20. 1-11.
S. Fruits of the Spirit.—Gal. 5. 16-20.
Su. The high calling.—Phil. 3. 13-21.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Sobriety of Mind and Heart, v. 1-6. What is meant by "speaking the things which become sound doctrine"? In what broad sense is temperance here used? What kind of character will temperance "in all things" produce?

2. That we should always be temperate and loving?
3. That our hearts should be full of hope?

The destruction of our physical frame by the poison of wine or strong drink, and the debasement of the mind, are but



outward signs that proclaim the horror of great darkness that falls upon the soul. It is the evil of which the former are but the symptoms, and it is that which forms the greatest curse of the



AINOS, THE ORIGINAL INHABITANTS OF JAPAN.

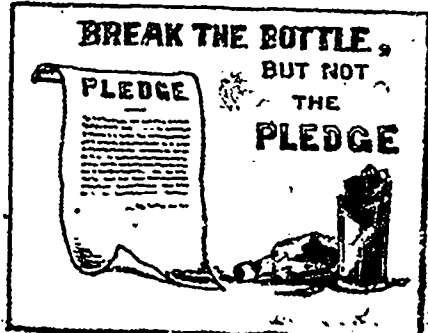
- Is the world much in need of this kind of character?
Does intemperance in anything hurt us?
What is God's command in regard to this?
What special intemperance does the Bible repeatedly warn against?
Does intoxication by other things besides strong drink create disaster?
Is not intemperance in anything sinful?
2. Adorning the Doctrine of God, v. 7-10. What does God expect of his followers? Golden Text. What desirable result is promised? Does God's law apply equally in every station and position in life?
 3. Hope as a Motive Power, v. 11-15. To what are we looking forward? What preparation is necessary? Why did Christ give himself to us? How are we blessed over heathen nations? What work is given us to do? What is meant by "let no man despise thee"? What responsibility have you in this matter?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson do we learn—
1. That common Christians may adorn the doctrines of God?

traffic—the ruining of the soul. Purity is a shield not one of us can lay aside for a moment, for our own protection; and the sword of vote and influence should be raised to free our fellows from the power of that which so completely wrecks home and fortune, mind and soul.

How can you be perfectly sure of being temperance men and women by and by when you are grown up? There is one certain way: begin now and keep on. Temperance boys and girls ought to grow into temperance men and women, and they will if they keep on as they have begun in the way of sober living. Small as you are, you can make



up your minds what you will or will not do. No one can make up your mind for you. If you do not like a certain thing and don't want to do it, I can't change your mind. You must do that. So now, in the beginning of your lives, make up your minds never to touch the poison stuff, but to live soberly always. You would not swallow a coal of fire, but you would better do that than to swallow the poison that burns and burns and cries out for more, though more does not stop the burning inside, but makes it worse. But besides doing right ourselves, we must help others. We can help boys and girls by talking about this matter. Some have not heard about it as you have. Tell them, and help them to grow up strong and to live soberly. Then be sorry for those who have begun wrong and are not living soberly. Think how sad it is for them, and for their friends. Pray for them, be kind to them when you can, and do what you can for the little children who suffer because their fathers drink. Be ready to help, and God will show you how.

BOYS WANTED.

The saloon must have boys, or it must shut up shop. It is a great factory, and unless it can have two millions from each generation for raw material, some of these factories must close up, and the operatives be thrown upon the cold world, and the public revenue dwindle. It is estimated that it will take two millions of boys to keep up the supply of patrons for the saloon. This means that one family out of every five must contribute a boy, in order to keep up the supply.

These statements are as true as they are startling. It is beyond a peradventure that, if no boys were tempted and ruined, there would be no drunkards. If it were believed that within thirty years two millions of American boys would die of hydrophobia, or a tenth part of two millions, every dog in America would be destroyed, and a law of absolute prohibition would be passed on dog kennels and their occupants.

A drunkard is not a beast. If he were he would not get drunk.

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