

from those spiritual enemies, against which he commands us to contend, and especially to expel them out of our own hearts! May he give us grace to extend his kingdom upon earth, by laboring to bring both Gentile and Jew into it, that in him all nations may be blessed! May he who passed through the Jordan of Death, in order to bring us through its dark waters to the land of everlasting life, the Canaan of the Church triumphant in heaven, and who has made death to be the entrance to a glorious immortality, enable us to follow him in the march of victory; so that at that great day, when all the types of the book of Joshua will be swallowed up in their antitypes; when the ark of Christ's Church will have ended her course, and the walls of all the Jerichos of this world which oppose Christ will fall flat to the ground; when the sun and moon themselves will be stayed from setting until all things are subdued to him; when all his enemies, who have fled to the dens and the hiding places of earthly security, and think themselves safe from the eye and the arm of the divine Joshua, in the Makkedahs of their earthly refuge, will find their hopes to be vain, and will be driven forth from their caves and be placed beneath his feet; and when all the confederate forces of unsanctified knowledge and antichristian power will be routed, as the league of Jabin was at the waters of Merom, we may be with the Caleb of Israel, and have an inheritance of the spiritual Hebron, where Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob rest in peace, and may hereafter sit down together with them in the kingdom of God."

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 1875.

LESSON I.—JOSHUA ENCOURAGED. Joshua i. 1-9.

Berean Notes on the Lessons.

I. TO TEACHERS.

TEACHER, consecrate yourself anew to the work in which you are now to engage for this new year. Cross the "Rubicon." Follow the "ark of God." Have strong faith. "Be strong and of a good courage." Remember who leads you. Enter the "rest" to which God calls you—the rest of faith and hope. Love your pupils. Pray for them. Live for them. Study hard that you may instruct them.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT.

Joshua, probably now in his eighty-fifth year, undertakes a great work. In this he is encouraged, as our OUTLINE says, "1. TO DO, (vers. 1-5;) 2 TO BE, (vers. 6-9.)" He needs strength, so do we. There is one source of

strength and one way to find it. The GOLDEN TEXT for the day points to the source: "*Thou, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.*" 2 Tim. 2. 1. The TOPIC for the day points to the way by which we may find strength: "*In the way of duty—STRENGTH.*" Obedient, restful, childlike faith in the Lord Jesus Christ enables us both to DO and to BE.

The lessons for this month are lessons of warfare. Let us therefore lift up our banner for the month as the symbol of the truth we study. The army and its leader are before us. God (who, according to the DOCTRINE for this week, "*is faithful to his purpose and to his people,*") encourages the leader to "be strong and of a good courage."

[For helpful notes from many commentators see "Less n Compend," price 60 cents; also, "Foster's Cyclopaedia of Prose Illustrations," Nos. 1123, 1675, 1690, 1015, 4218. For sale by Rev. S. Rose, 80 King Street East, Toronto.]

III. OUTLINES.

Joshua Encouraged. 1. By the call of God; 2. By the commands of God; 3. By the consolations of God. (His assurances, pledges, promises.)

IV. NOTES, ILLUSTRATIONS, AND LESSONS.

SERVANT OF THE LORD, v. 1. A good title for any man. (1.) *We may be not servants only, but sons.* Rom. 8. 14, 15. JOSHUA (word means JESUS.) Born in Egypt and was about forty-five years old when the Israelites left there. From being Moses' MINISTER he becomes Moses' successor. (2.) *He who is faithful in the lower takes the higher sphere of service.* MOSES.....DEAD. Difference of administration but the same Lord. (3.) *The workers die but the work goes on.* I DO GIVE, v. 2. Not earned by merit but given by grace. (4.) *We are saved by the free favor of God.* SOLE OF YOUR FOOT, v. 3. The land given must be taken. A gift not a gift until received. (5.) *We must accept the grace proffered.* WILDERNESS to the south of Palestine. LEBANON, the lofty range of mountains to the north. EUPHRATES, the great river about five hundred miles east of Palestine. HITTITES, the tribe in the south-west. GREAT SEA—the Mediterranean. God offered more than Israel accepted. (6.) *How limited our religious attainments as compared with the offers of God.* Eph. 3. 20. I WILL BE WITH THEE. The grace that gives must strengthen us to accept. It is all of God, and God is