

gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" But there is something better than worldly wisdom which God will give to all who ask—wisdom from above or spiritual sight. And he has something far better for us than corruptible riches—an incorruptible inheritance, laid up in heaven for the faithful.

Turn to God for this spiritual sight, this heavenly wisdom, and while here on earth "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven" that you may enjoy them when entered upon the prepared inheritance.

Bring out as a closing thought the responsibility resting upon each one to use for his own good and the good of others whatever of the things of this world God may have given; in this way laying up treasures in heaven, and securing true peace and prosperity.

The Teachers' Meeting.

The *Illustrative Notes* recommends us to treat this lesson as an external view of Solomon's empire, studying in due order, (1) His Realm. The ancient prophecy was at last fulfilled, and Israel extended from the edge of the Nile to the edge of the Euphrates. It was the largest empire of that age, and may be taken even to-day as a symbol of the all-conquer-

ing kingdom of God. (2) His Reign. It was a peaceful reign; but the subjects of Christ possess a peace that Solomon's servants never knew. (3) His Riches. Never had Israel seen such splendor in the palace, such abundance throughout the land. This wealth came largely from the spoils and tribute of foreign nations, but there are afterward plain indications that it came also (especially toward the close of Solomon's reign) from heavy taxation of the people. (4) His Large-heartedness. Solomon had a breadth of view far beyond that of his people and his age. Indeed, he seems to have been too "liberal," so that at last he failed to recognize a distinction between true worship and idolatry. (5) His Wisdom. He rose to the highest position a mortal has ever attained. Homer and Solomon may be called the most famous authors of their time—about three thousand years ago; to-day for one who reads Homer there are a thousand who read Solomon. (6) His Fame. He was the central figure of his age. He stands in the Bible as a synonym for splendor and riches, and throughout Oriental lands in history and legend his name is celebrated.

References.

FREEMAN. Ver. 25: Sitting under the shade, 613. Ver. 26: Chariots, 119, 615. Ver. 28: Fodder, 293.

LESSON IV. THE PROVERBS OF SOLOMON.

GOLDEN TEXT. My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. Prov. 1. 10. [Oct. 25.]

Authorized Version.

Prov. 1. 1-19. [Commit to memory verses 7-10.]

[Read Prov. 1. 1-33.]

- 1 The Proverbs of Sol'o-mon the son of Da'vid, king of Is'ra-el;
- 2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;
- 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;
- 4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.
- 5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:
- 6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.
- 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.
- 8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:
- 9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.
- 10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

Revised Version.

- 1 The proverbs of Sol'o-mon the son of Da'vid, king of Is'ra-el:
- 2 To know wisdom and instruction;
To discern the words of understanding;
- 3 To receive instruction in wise dealing,
In righteousness and judgment and equity;
- 4 To give subtilty to the simple,
To the young man knowledge and discretion:
- 5 That the wise man may hear, and increase in learning;
And that the man of understanding may attain unto sound counsels:
- 6 To understand a proverb, and a figure;
The words of the wise, and their dark sayings.
- 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge:
But the foolish despise wisdom and instruction.
- 8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father,
And forsake not the law of thy mother:
- 9 For they shall be a chaplet of grace unto thy head,
And chains about thy neck.
- 10 My son, if sinners entice thee,
Consent thou not.
- 11 If they say, Come with us,