III. THE STEWARD'S DUTY.—41-44. **Peter** ; forward, as so often, in speaking for his brethren. **Us** ; the Twelve. **Who then.** Jesus does not answer Peter's question directly, but uses another parable to get each hearer to answer it for himself. **Steward** ; the slave who had oversight of part or all of his master's estate, including persons and property. **Give . . their . . food** (Rev. Ver.). It was the steward's duty to deal out the proper portion to every servant and even to the children. **Set him over all** (Rev. Ver.). The faithful steward is rewarded, not by release, but by promotion.

45-48. V. 45 pictures an unfaithful steward. **Cut him asunder** (Rev. Ver.); literally, as with a saw (see 2 Sam. 12 : 31). But perhaps it means to cut up with unmerciful lashing. **Unbelievers** ; Rev. Ver., "unfaithful" **Knew . . many stripes . . knew not . . few stripes.** For example, ignorant people and heathen will have lighter punishment than well taught people in Christian lands. **Much . . given . . much** required. See ch. 19 : 11-27.

What the Lesson teaches as to temperance is. that there is continual need of watchfulness against drink. Jack London says that most drunkards become such because drink is so accessible. So long as it is so every one must be always on guard, lest he be led astray.

THE JERUSALEM CATTLE MARKET

Standing on the highway from JERUSALEM to Bethlehem, one may see the Gihon cattle market. On market days oxen, donkeys, camels and other live stock are driven in by farmers from a distance, and bargains are made with a great amount of animated talk and discussion. Cattle and sheep and goats used to be sold at just such a market as this nineteen hundred years ago. Business was particularly good at times when the Passover or other Jewish feasts called people to Jerusalem from all parts of Syria. Great numbers of animals were then bought to be offered as sacrifices in the temple.

LESSON QUESTIONS

35 35 Explain "loins girded about." What were Eastern lamps like ? Whom were Jesus' disciples to be like ? What parable describes a wedding procession ? (Matt. 25 : 1-13.)

37, 38 How would the master treat his watchful servants ? Into what watches did the Jews divide the night ? Why are the "second" and "third" watches mentioned here ? Into what watches did the Romans divide the night ?

39, 40 What surprise had Jesus spoken. of ? Of what does He now speak ? By whom was the master surprised ? Whose business is it in the East to prevent and detect crimes ? How could the walls of an Eastern house be "dug through ?" For what did Jesus bid His disciples be ready ? Where is it said that "the day of the Lord . . cometh as a thief in the night ?" (1 Thess. 5 : 2.)

41-44 What did Peter ask ? How did Jesus answer him ? What were the duties of a steward ? How would a faithful steward be rewarded ?

45-48 How would an unfaithful steward be punished? Who receive the severest punishment from God ?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Is moderate drinking harmless ?

2. Even if strong drink were harmless for me would it be right for me to use it ?

A PRAYER

Make us pure, Lord, as Thou art pure. May no evil thing be allowed entrance to our mouth, our mind or our heart, and may no evil proceed from us to injure those about us. Teach us our responsibility for those we meet day by day—our loved ones at home, our friends, our acquaintances, even those whose names we do not know. May we daily draw them nearer to Thee, because we are drawing nearer ourselves. Amen.

Prove from Scripture—*That drink is a danger.*

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 1-11.

The Question on Missions—10. How do new and needy Schools get their Sunday School Helps and Papers ? In places where the people are not able to pay for them, the School asks the Secretary, Rev. J. C. Robertson, Toronto, for a grant of these Supplies through the Rally Day Fund.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise : 80 (Supplemental Lesson), 83, 247, 32 (Ps. Sel.), 248 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY), 245.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What two illustrations of watchfulness did Jesus use ?...

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2. What did He teach is the reward of faithful stewardship ?..

....

3. What sins deserve the severest punishment ?...

....

SIGN NAME HERE...