

## Lesson XII.

## REVIEW, SUPPLEMENTAL LESSONS

March 25, 1906

BIBLE WORK—Groups of Books of the Old Testament with Key-words for each Group. SCRIPTURE MEMORY PASSAGES. SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 1-10. SUPPLEMENTAL HYMN. Ps. Sel. 114, Book of Praise. THE QUESTION ON MISSIONS. Questions 1-11.

## TEMPERANCE LESSON

Proverbs 23 : 29-35. Commit to memory v. 31. Read Genesis 9 : 18-27.

GOLDEN TEXT—At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.—Proverbs 23 : 32.

29 Who hath woe ? who hath sorrow ? who hath contentions ? who hath <sup>1</sup> babbling ? who hath wounds without cause ? who hath redness of eyes ?

30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek <sup>2</sup> mixed wine.

31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth <sup>3</sup> his colour in the cup, when it <sup>4</sup> moveth itself aright.

Revised Version—<sup>1</sup> complaining; <sup>2</sup> out; <sup>3</sup> its; <sup>4</sup> goeth down smoothly; <sup>5</sup> things; <sup>6</sup> froward; <sup>7</sup> hurt.

32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

33 Thine eyes shall behold strange <sup>5</sup> women, and thine heart shall utter <sup>6</sup> perverse things.

34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

35 They have stricken me, *shalt thou say*, and I was not <sup>7</sup> sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not : when shall I awake ? I will seek it yet again.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—About nine hundred and fifty years B.C.; Jerusalem the capital of King Solomon.

Connection—Solomon was the second king of Israel, succeeding David about B.C. 970, and reigning until about B.C. 930. He was noted for his wisdom, and gathered together a large number of proverbs, that is, "observations relative to human life and character, expressed in a short, pointed form." Many of these Solomon wrote himself. His collections, along with some others, make up the Book of Proverb.

I. A PORTRAIT.—29. We cannot fail to recognize the picture of a drunkard in vs. 29, 30. Woe . . sorrow; literally "Oh !" . . "Alas !" These are the drunkard's cries be-

cause of his pains of body and mind. His woes are so many that they cannot be named or numbered. Contentions; both within, for there is a conflict between his conscience and his desire, and without, for drink makes men quarrelsome. Babbling (Rev. Ver., "complaining"). Everything is wrong with the drunkard, in his heart, his home, his business; hence he complains. Wounds without cause. A drunkard is more exposed than a sober man to accidents and diseases. There is no good reason for the hurts and sicknesses brought about by drink. Let drink alone; they will cease. Redness ("dimness") of eyes. Drink dulls the sight, and makes the drunkard unfit for work. By the marks in this verse the slave of drink is known, as among the Romans thieves were known by the letter "F" ("fur," a thief) branded on the face.

30. Here is the cause of all the misery described in v. 29. Tarry long. Compare Isa. 5 : 11. Hours, often whole nights, that ought to be given to useful

work or quiet rest, are worse than wasted in drunken carousals. Seek. The drunkard searches diligently for his drink, as if it were the chief thing on earth. Mixed; with spices, to heighten its flavor and increase its strength, Isa. 5 : 22. It is, indeed, "the cup of a costly death."

II. A PROHIBITION.—31. Look not. Keeping the eyes from seeing, is the surest way of keeping the lips from tasting, strong drink. When it is red. Red wines were most esteemed in the East. Giveth his (its) colour in the cup; bubbles or sparkles when it is shaken or poured out—a sign of the quality and strength of the liquor. Moveth itself aright;

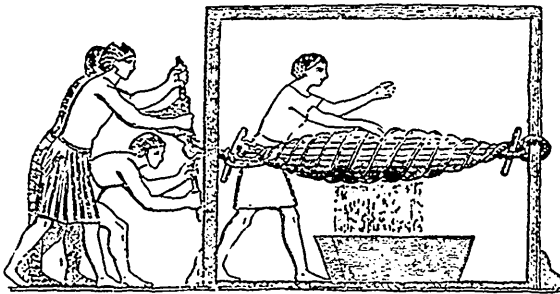
glides smoothly down the throat, having a pleasant taste and, for the time, producing agreeable effects.

32. In v. 31 we seem to see the shining spoon that attracts the fish, in v. 32 the barbed hook with which the fish is caught. Biteth like a serpent.

Wine is like the

serpent, brilliant in color and gliding gently in its motion, but like the serpent's deadly bite, too, are its terrible effects. Adder; another name for "serpent." Drink is like a treacherous, poisonous snake. The "adder" is thought to be the cerastes, or horned snake. It is exceedingly venomous, lurking in the sand, curled up, perhaps, in a camel's footprint, ready to dart at any passing animal. Poisonous reptiles of all kinds are very common in the East.

III. A PREDICTION.—33. Eyes . . behold strange things (Rev. Ver.). Drunkenness often brings on delirium tremens, in which the victim is haunted by horrible visions. Heart . . utter perverse things. Strong drink affects the speech, causing the



An Egyptian Wine-Press