

figures the death of some 400,000 horses and mules, together with a debt of \$1,000,000,000,

besides \$80,000,000 a year ever since the war in increased taxation.

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the School.

For Teachers of Bible Classes

Bring out the historical background of Micah's picture of universal peace (see Lesson Setting). State clearly the view-point of Micah, that the condition of abiding peace is the world-wide preeminence of Zion (compare Isa. 2:1-4). The thoughts to be presented are: (1) The coming glory of Zion (v. 1); (2) Zion the centre of divine instruction (v. 2); (3) Jehovah's rule of universal peace (vs. 3-5); (4) the restoration of the remnant, vs. 6, 7. Help the class to fill in this outline from both the Old and New Testaments.

As this is selected as a Lesson on International Peace, discuss its application to the question of peace among the nations. Question as to whether peace could be possible apart from the gospel, with its higher law of love and righteousness as the ruling power in life. Emphasize Micah's teaching as bearing upon social blessings, the widening brotherhood of nations, universal peace, labor freed from war, universal security of property, deep concern for the needy and the lost. Show that with the spread of true religion these things are now daily growing in power and reality.

The international aspect of peace is the special subject for study. Discuss the horrors of war. Question as to whether the conditions of peace are being fulfilled in this age. Are the nations listening to, and heeding, the teachings of the gospel? Yes, and efforts are being made to realize the vision of Micah. Refer to some marks of progress in the cause of international peace, such as the establishment of the International Court of Arbitration at The Hague and the enacting of more than eighty treaties agreeing to submit disputes to The Hague Court for arbitration.

The new view-point is suggestive of great possibilities in the near future. The causes

of separation must be removed. Point out that these are largely moral, due to the greed of nations, which is essentially immoral. Whatever does away with injustice, the appeal to brute force and selfishness, will hasten the reign of peace. Lay special stress on the spread of the gospel as promoting peace among the nations.

For Teachers of the Senior Scholars

In this Lesson we have the Hebrew picture of the Golden Age. Bring out the contrast between this picture and the actual state of things in Micah's day. (See Lesson Setting.)

The teaching may turn on three questions:

1. *What are the marks of the Golden Age?*

(1) It will be an age of universal peace, vs. 3, 4. The arts and engines of war will be destroyed, and in their stead shall flourish the arts of peace. We have been beating plowshares into swords and pruning-hooks into spears long enough. It is high time to reverse the process. (2) The Golden Age will be a time when all men will be religious, v. 5. Dwell on loyal obedience to God as a condition of true peace and prosperity.

2. *How is this Golden Age to be ushered in?*

(Vs. 1, 2.) It is the work of the church of Christ. The church will become dominant in the land: it will be exalted above every other society or institution, and will be so attractive, so bright and beautiful with the life and love of Christ, that people everywhere will flock to it and will feel its divinely human power.

Impress upon the class, that the church stands to-day for everything that is good in the community, for the highest ideals of life, as a revelation of God to the world. There is no other institution in the world to be compared with the church as an inspiration to higher life. The person who lives outside of the church's influence is suffering a great loss.

3. *When will the Golden Age come?* (V. 1.)

What is meant by "the last days"? We