

LESSON VII.—November 13th, 1898.

THE ASSYRIAN INVASION. 2 Kings, 19 : 20-22, 28-37.

I. GOLDEN TEXT : "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psa. 46 : 1.

II. REVIEW THOUGHT FOR THE QUARTER : Pictures and Stories about Good Men of the Old Testament.

III. REVIEW THOUGHT FOR TO-DAY'S LESSON : Making God our Refuge.

IV. REVIEW QUESTIONS :

1. Who was Hezekiah ?
2. Was he a good or bad man ?
3. Why did he send letters by post ?
4. What feast did the people keep ?

V. SYNOPSIS OF LESSON :

Two Sundays have been allotted to us for 'he study of the life of Hezekiah. To-day we are to consider the last part of his reign. The Golden Text is chosen from the well-known 46th Psalm. The circumstances under which the Psalm was spoken were as follows :

Sennacherib's Army had laid siege to the City of Jerusalem, probably an army of two hundred thousand soldiers surrounded its walls, while fifty thousand people were crowded within. For a long time the siege had been kept up. The people were starving; the enemy were undermining the walls. The case seemed a hopeless one.

In their extremity the people came to Isaiah, and he answered them in the words of our Golden Text. Soon after, they came to him again. They were now suffering from a water famine, in addition to the pangs of hunger, and when they appealed to Isaiah again, he said, "There is a river, the streams whereof, etc." They were now in a condition where only God could help them. In the extremity of King Hezekiah he prayed to God, and the answer came through the prophet. The next morning one hundred and eighty-five thousand of the enemy were found dead outside of the city.

VI. SUGGESTIVE STEPS IN TEACHING THE LESSON :

1. Review last week's lesson, so as to bring the story of Hezekiah's great Passover before the scholars.

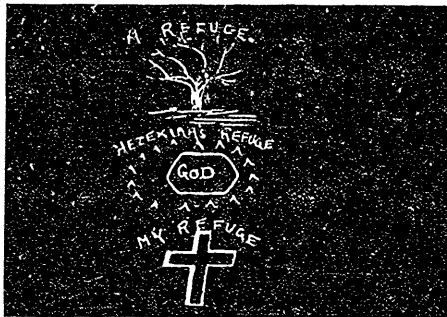
2. What is the Golden Text to-day? What

is a Refuge? So as to make clear to the children the idea of a refuge, an illustration of this kind might be used.

Tell the story of a kitten, who, chased by an angry dog, sought "refuge" in the apple-tree. The dog could not touch it there. It was a place of safety for the kitten.

3. The Golden Text says, "God is a Refuge." Why is God a refuge? Because we can go to him in trouble. Do you ever get into trouble? Why? Bring out the thought that temper and pride get us into trouble. We need refuge from these things. It is then that God is our refuge. It is then that God fights our enemies. He is our "place of safety."

4. Tell the story of Sennacherib's Invasion



into Jerusalem. Make a square to stand for the walls, and then tents for the enemy outside.

(a) Jerusalem's walls, gates closed, the time of siege.

(b) Fifty thousand people within. Two hundred thousand soldiers without.

(c) No food left, people starving; they come to Hezekiah and Isaiah, who speak words of Golden Text.

(d) People are dying of thirst, again they come to Hezekiah and Isaiah.

(e) One hundred and eighty thousand dead on the plains.

Note the details in Synopsis. In time of trouble God was Hezekiah's refuge. He overcame his enemies.