SCHOLAR'S NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

LESSON XI.

Dec. 14. 1884.] [Eccles. 2: 1-13

VANITY OF WORLDLY PLEASURE.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS. 10, 11.

1. I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth: therefore enjoy pleasure: and behold, this also is vanity.

2. I said of laughter, It is mad; and of mirth, What doeth it?

3. I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life.

4. I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards;

5. I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kinds of fruits:

6. I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees:

7. I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me:

8. I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings, and of the provinces: I got me men-singers and women-singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts.

9. So I was great and increased more than all that were before me in Jerusalem: also my wisdom remained with me.

10. And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them. I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labor: and this was my portion of all my labor.

11. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labor that I had labored to do: and behold all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun.

12. And I turned myself to behold wisdom, and madness, and folly: for what can the man do that cometh after the king? even that which hath been already done.

13. Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness."—Eccles. 2: 13.

HOME READINGS.

M. Eccles. 1: 1-18. .....Worldly Wisdom Tested.
T. Eccles. 2: 1-11. .....Worldly Pleasures Tested.
W. Eccles. 2: 12-26. ...Human Wisdom and Labor Vain.
Th. Eccles. 6: 1-12.....What is Man the Better?
F. Luke 12: 13-21.....The Rich Fool.
Sa. Luke 16: 19-31 ...Worldly and Heavenly Portions Contrasted.
S. Eccles. 12: 1-14. ...The Conclusion of the Whole Matter.

LESSON PLAN.

1. The World's Pleasures Tested. 2. The Result of the Test.

Time.—About B.C. 977. Place.—Written at Jerusalem by Solomon, after his repentance and restoration from idolatry.

INTRODUCTORY.

The book of Ecclesiastes was probably written by Solomon near the close of his life, when he had repented of his sin and folly, and was convinced of the vanity of everything except piety toward God. The word "Ecclesiastes" means preacher, and by this name the author is designated throughout the book. Our lesson passage gives us the confession of one who had tried worldly pleasures and found them wanting.

LESSON NOTES.

I.—V. 1. I WILL PROVE THEE — will test whether thou canst find solid good in pleasure. MIRTH—the self-indulgence that excites mirth; gay, merry society. V. 2. MAD—puts men beside themselves, out of their own control. V. 3. UNTO WINE—the pleasures of the table, rich feasting and abundant drinking. ACQUAINTING—not abandoning himself to indulgence, but carefully observing its effects upon him—a dangerous experiment to which he became a victim. V. 4. GREAT WORKS—from the lusts of the flesh he now passes to the lust of the eye and that pride of life which seeks and delights in outward splendor. HOUSES—see 1 Kings 7: 1-12. GARDENS AND ORCHARDS—parks of beautiful trees, with fruit trees. V. 6. POOLS OF WATER—the remains of these pools or reservoirs are still seen a few miles south-west from Jerusalem. V. 7. SON—brought or procured. BORN IN MY HOUSE—these from their natural faithfulness were, on this account, esteemed of special value. V. 8. SILVER AND GOLD—see the account of Solomon's riches in 1 Kings 10: 14-29. PECULIAR TREASURE—rare and curious things highly esteemed. V. 10. WHATSOEVER MINE EYES DESIRED—he had no wish ungratified.

II.—V. 11. THEN I TOOK—he took a careful survey of the whole, and found that all he had gained was not worth the labor. NO PROFIT—no permanent, satisfying portion. Life with its highest joys is profitless without a higher end—without a other life. V. 12. WHAT CAN THE MAN DO—or other man could possibly have the power to make the trial of these things as he had. V. 13. WISDOM EXCELLETH FOLLY—worldly wisdom, not heavenly or true piety, is here meant. It exceeds folly as much as light exceeds darkness. But it does not yield the solid, permanent good that man craves. All worldly things are unsatisfying. The Wisdom that is from above, the hope of a blessed life beyond the grave, is the only satisfying good.

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

1. That sensual pleasures are unsatisfying and debasing.

2. That wealth and luxury cannot afford real enjoyment.

3. That worldly honors can give no enduring joy.

4. That worldly wisdom and learning yield but temporary satisfaction.

5. That we should set our affection on things above, not on things on the earth. Col. 3: 2.

COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, Dec. 2, 1884.

This week has been an almost stagnant one, not only in this market, but generally. Grain, flour, and dairy produce are all alike, very dull indeed, and were it not for the approaching Christmas season, which creates an appearance of business there would be nothing but stagnation visible. Prices have not changed much, if any. Liverpool quotes Canadian Peas at 5s. 9d.

Chicago is very quiet and dull, with prices unchanged with for wheat and corn. We quote:—Wheat at 73⅞c Dec. and 74⅛c Jan. Corn is quoted at 35⅝c year and Jan. at 34½.

The local market is as dull as last week, which in saying a good deal. We quote Canada Red Winter, 82c to 83c; White, 83c to 84c; Spring 82c to 83c; Peas, 72½c to 73c; Oats, 31c. Barley, 55c to 65c. Corn 69c.

FLOUR.—Receipts are rapidly falling off, and it is high time, as the market is now stagnant and prices are threatening to go. The quotations are as follows:—Superior Extra, $3.75 to $3.80; Extra Superfine, $3.55 to $3.60; Fancy $3.55; Spring Extra $3.60; Superfine, $3.25 to $3.35; Strong Bakers' (Can.,) $3.80 to $4.00; Strong Bakers, (American,) $4.00 to $4.25; Fine, $3.00 to $3.15; Middlings, $2.85 to $2.90; Pollards, $2.60 to $2.70; Ontario bags, (bags included) Medium, $1.75 to $1.85; Spring Extra, $1.65 to $1.70; Superfine, $1.45 to $1.55; City Bags, (delivered,) $2.35.

MEALS unchanged.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Both butter and cheese are quiet with unchanged prices. We quote:—Creamery, 23c to 26c; Eastern Townships, 18c to 22c; Western, 14c to 17½c. Cheese is unchanged at 11½c to 12c for September and October, and 8c to 11c for other makes.

EGGS, fresh, are selling at 19c to 21c, as to quality.

HOG PRODUCTS are very quiet. We quote: —Western Mess Pork $15.00 to $15.50; Hams, city cured, 14c to 14½c; Bacon, 13c to 14c; Lard, western, in pails, 10½c to 10¾c; do., Canadian, 10½c; Tallow, common refined, 7c to 8c.

ASHES are very weak, Pots selling at $3.70 to $3.80, as to tares.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1, 1884.

GRAIN.—Wheat, 81½c Dec.; 83⅞c Jan; 86⅞c Feb.; 88⅛c Mar.; 92½c May. Corn, 50½ Nov; 47½c Dec.; 45½c Jan.; 45⅝c Feb.; 46c May. Rye, quiet, 63½c. Oats, dull; 31⅞c Nov., 31⅞c Dec.; 32½c Jan. 34¾ May. Barley, Canada No. 2. 76½c. Peas nominal.

FLOUR, quiet and unchanged. We quote: Superfine, $2.30 to $2.65; Low Extra, $2.65 to $3.65; Clears, $3.40 to $4.15; Straight $3.65 to $4.70; Patent, $4.65 to $5.00. Winter Wheat; — Superfine, $2.60 to $2.70; Low Extra, $2.65 to $3.20; Clears (R. and A.), $3.75 to $4.00; Straight (R. and A.), $4.00 to $4.95; Patent, $4.50 to $5.25; Straight (White Wheat), $4.00 to $5.00; Low Extra (City Mill), $2.90 to $3.15; West India, sacks, $3.60 to $3.65; barrels, West India, $4.40; Patent, $4.80 to $5.40; South America, $4.25 to $4.30; Patent $4.50 to $5.25. Southern Flour—Extra $3.60 to $4.25; Family, $4.50 to $5.00; Patent, $5.10 to $5.60. Rye Flour—Fine to superfine, $2.75 to $3.85.

MEALS.—Cornmeal, $3.40 to $3.50 in brls; oatmeal, $5.00 to $5.90 per brl.

SEEDS. — Dull. Clover 8c to 8¼c; Timothy, $1.45 to $1.47; Linseed $1.80.

DAIRY PRODUCE.— Butter unchanged. Creamery, ordinary to select 19c to 30c. Half firkins, ordinary to best 16c to 28c; Welsh tubs 18c to 27c; Western ordinary factory, to choice imitation creamery, 9c to 24c. Cheese, state factory, ordinary to fall cream. 3½c to 12¾c. Ohio flats, fair to choice 6c to 11½c; Skims 1c to 3c.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

The market is overstocked with common and interior beef critters, and prices of these kinds have a downward tendency, but choice animals bring pretty high figures as very few of them are brought to market. The best beeves sell at from 4¼c to 4¾c per lb. Pretty good steers and fat cows sell at about 4c per lb; common dry cows at about 3c do., and lean stock at from 1½c to 2½c do. Sheep and lambs are in good supply and there is an active demand for the best lambs, which sell at from $4 to $4.50 each. Common lambs sell in lots at about $3 each and small lean ones at from $2 to $2.50 each. Live hogs are plentiful and are declining in value; prices running from 4½c to 5c per lb Good milch cows are very scarce and in demand at from $55 to $70 each, and common ones sell at from $35 to $50 each. The horse market is very dull with very little doing.

FARMERS' MARKET.

There has been a considerable increase in the quantity of farm produce offered in the markets here of late and though the demand is active prices are generally lower. Dressed hogs and dead poultry are much more plentiful than they have been of late and prices are considerably lower. Tub butter is also very plentiful and lower in price, but choice prints are scarce and dear. Fresh laid eggs are too high-priced for ordinary use. The supply of hay continues to increase, but the quality is very far from what it ought to be and might be if farmers took proper care in saving it. Oats are 75c to 85c per bag; peas, 75c to 90c per bushel; beans $1.40 to $1.80 do; potatoes 35c to 50c per bag; turnips, carrots, beets and onions 30c to 50c per bushel; cabbages 15c to 30c per dozen heads; butter 16c to 40c per lb; eggs 22c to 50c per dozen; apples $1.50 to $3.00 per barrel; dressed hogs 6½c to 7½c per lb.; mutton quarters 5c to 7c do; young turkeys 9c to 12c per lb.; geese 6c to 9c do; fowls 7c to 10c do; ducks 12c to 15c do; hay $5.00 to $9.50 per 100 bundles.

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PEOPLE who never could see any sense in spelling "fushia" as they pronounce it, "f-u-c-h-s-i-a," will perhaps be enlightened as to both the spelling and the pronunciation of the word when they remember that the flower was named after a man named Fachs. In the same way they will know how to spell "camellia" if they remember that it was named after the Jesuit missionary, Father Camelli, its first importer.

"DON'T you think you have a good mamma, to spread such nice large slices of bread and jam for you?" said an old lady to a little boy who was enjoying his tea. "Yes," was the reply; "but she would be still better if she'd let me spread on the jam myself."

IN THESE DAYS of oleomargarine, it takes a smart man to find out "on which side his bread is buttered."

BOARDING-HOUSE KEEPER: "Why, how deftly you carve the beef, Mr. Smith. You must be an adept!" Smith (with a grunt of exertion): "Yes'm, I am; I'm a wood carver by trade"—*Burlington Free Press.*

WORDS IN SEASON.—"How's your cold?" "Breddy bad, thag yer."

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