

The Lilies.

THE Lilies, ah, the Lilies! They stand superb in light, In field and bank and garden fair, A wonder to the sight; So rich their royal scarlet is, So pure their staidless white!

Consider, then, the lilies, O heart of mine, to-day; They neither toil nor spin, to win Their beautiful array; I would that thou could live a life So fearless-sweet as they.

They gather when the summer Her silver bugle thrills; When troop to meet her shining feet, The bright, uncounted rills; And when the purple glories lie All softly o'er the hills.

Each in her place appointed, The lily d'volla serene: She cares not though the thistle blow A near her leaf of green; Her neighbours cannot vex her soul, For she was born a queen.

She fills the air with fragrance, She crowns the day with bloom; From dewy morn to darkening eve, Our shadows to illumine, She bears a torch, divinely fed, And smiles away our gloom.

Fair lilies, gentle teachers, Evangelists of love, The word that bids me heed your voice Is spoken from above; Ye are the gracious gift of Him In whom our spirits move.

We too would wear unspotted The garments of the King, Would have the royal perfume About our path to cling, And unto our beholders A lilled beauty bring.

LESSON NOTE.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE KINGS.

B.C. 892.] LESSON XII. [Sept. 20.

NAAMAN, THE SYRIAN.

2 Kings 5. 1-16. Commit to mem. vs. 10-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. -Ps. 51. 7.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

There is but one remedy for sin-sick souls.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 2 Kings 4. 38-44. Th. Isa. 1. 10-20. T. 2 Kings 5. 1-16. P. Matt. 8. 1-13. W. 2 Kings 5. 17-27. Sa. Luke 17. 11-19. Su. Rev. 7. 9-17.

TIME.—Perhaps B.C. 892.

PLACES.—Samaria, the capital of Israel; and Damascus, the capital of Syria, 110 miles apart in an air line.

PERSONS.—A little slave girl. The king of Syria, Benhadad; his commanden-in-chief, Naaman; the king of Israel, probably Jehoram; and Elisha, the prophet of God.

INTRODUCTION.—There was a chronic feud between Israel and Syria. David had conquered Syria, but it was now independent. After the death of Ahab no formal peace was made, and the borders were exposed to frequent raids and the carrying away of spoils and captives.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. Captain of the host—Commander of the army. Honourable—Honoured. Mighty man in valour—Courageous. Leper—The disease of leprosy was contagious, loathsome, and polluting. 2. A little maid—A young maiden. 3. Recover—Literally, receive again (see Numb. 12. 15 for the receiving back of those who were cured). 4. One went in—Probably Naaman. 5. Go to, go—Come now. He took—According to Eastern custom. Tent talents—About \$18,000. Six thousand pieces—Perhaps \$36,000. Raiment—Costly robes. 6. Now—Only the important part of the letter is given. That thou mayest recover him—Not to do it himself, but command his prophet to heal him. 7. Am I God—Am I all-powerful? To kill and to make alive—Curing leprosy would be like giving life to the dead. Consider—He thinks an impossibility asked intentionally. 8. Know... prophet in Israel—A rebuke is given to the king, who had

forgotten him. 9. With his horses, etc.—With all his attendants. 10. Messenger—Gohazi. Jordan—More than thirty miles away. Seven times—The Hebrew number of completeness. 11. Was wroth—At Elisha's apparent indifference to his case. He will surely come out—In deference. And stand, etc.—As the false prophets did. Strike his hand—a prophet or a king was supposed to have special healing in his hand. 12. Better than all the waters of Israel—The Damascus rivers were remarkably clear. Jordan was turbid. 14. His flesh came again—The corrupt mass was restored to health. Clean—Leprosy is pollution. 15. Blessing—Gift.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Why is leprosy a type of sin?—The education of an Israelitish child.—Bible teachings in regard to "I thought."—The heathen converts of the Old Testament.—The missionaries of the Old Testament.—Acknowledgment a sign of gratitude.—Liberality a sign of gratitude.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Where was Syria? What were its relations with Israel? Who was the king of Syria? What was the name of his chief officer? What is the central truth of this lesson?

SUBJECT: THE ONE REMEDY.

I. THE DISEASE (v. 1).—What prosperity did Naaman possess? What prevented the enjoyment or use of his blessings? What do you know of that disease? Was it curable? Of what is leprosy a type? Why?

II. A REMEDY SUGGESTED (vs. 2-4).—Who first suggested a means of cure? How came she in Syria? What was her position in the house? What is God's command to captives in a strange land? (Jer. 29. 7.) What did she say? What does this show of her early training? How much value was placed on her words? By what may a child be known? (Prov. 29 11.)

III. A REMEDY SOUGHT (vs. 5, 6).—What did the king propose? What did Naaman carry with him? Why? Had he a long journey? Why did he go first to the king? What message did he take?

IV. OBSTACLES IN THE WAY (vs. 7-13).—How did the king of Israel receive the request? What was his mistake? What message relieved them? How did Naaman approach Elisha? What was Elisha's message? Why did not Elisha treat Naaman now as became his rank? Why was Naaman greatly offended? What had he expected? In what respects were Abana and Pharpar better? In what of no value? Does God save in our way or his own? Who saved Naaman from rash action?

V. THE REMEDY APPLIED (v. 14).—How far was it to the Jordan? How exactly did he follow directions? With what result? Can we be cleansed from sin? (Zech. 13. 1.) How thoroughly? (Isa. 1. 18.) Why, then, do not all people apply the remedy?

VI. THE NEW LIFE (vs. 15, 16).—How did Naaman come back to Elisha? Will people whom God has saved confess him? What did Naaman say? What did he offer? Why did not Elisha accept the offering? (v. 15.) What evidence that Naaman intended to worship God? (v. 17.) Is "I thought" a sufficient excuse for neglect of duty?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- 1. When you are tempted to envy, stop and ask with whom you would be willing to change places in every respect. 2. "Young lips may teach the wise," Christ said; "Small feet sad wanderers home have led." 3. "Do all the good you can, to all the people you can, in all the ways you can, as long as you can." 4. "Whose life lightens, his words thunder." 5. The child who knows a thing is often worth ten men who do not know it. 6. People who do not trust God are suspicious of one another. 7. The strait gate is too narrow for pride to pass through. 8. We must not despise God's way because it is simple, nor because it is not what we expected. 9. What we are unwilling to give up for God's sake is that which may cost us our souls.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in concert.)

- 1. What was the one affliction of Naaman's life? ANS. Leprosy. 2. Who said that Elisha could cure him? ANS. A little captive

maid in his family. 3. What did Elisha bid him do? ANS. Go wash seven times in Jordan. 4. What was the result? ANS. His flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child. 5. Of what is leprosy a type? ANS. Sin. 6. How can it be cleansed? (Repeat the Golden Text.)

B.C. 892] REVIEW. [Sept. 27.

John S. 31-36.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Choose you this day whom ye will serve. —Josh. 24. 15.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Follow that which is good; avoid that which is evil.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 1 Kings 12. 6-33. Th. 1 Kings 19. 1-13. T. 1 Kings 16. 23-34. F. 1 Kings 21. 1-19. 17. 1-16. W. 1 Kings 18. 1-16. Sa. 2 Kings 2. 1-15. Su. 2 Kings 4. 18-37; 5. 1-16.

TIME.—B.C. 875-892.

PLACE.—The two kingdoms: Israel and Judah.

GENERAL REVIEW.—By Map, Central Truths, Golden Texts, and Review Exercises.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORT.—The division of the kingdom.—A brief history of the kingdom of Judah.—Outline of the history of the kingdom of Israel.—Ahab.—Jezabel.—Elijah.—Elisha.—Story of Naboth.—Story of Naaman.

QUESTIONS.

Over how long a period do the lessons of this Quarter extend? What three kings ruled over the united kingdom? What led to the division of the kingdom? How many tribes composed each kingdom? Which of the two was most prosperous? How was idolatry introduced into the kingdom of Israel? What punishments were inflicted on account of this? What prophets arose to withstand the evil? Name the kings of Israel, and those of Judah, during the first century of their existence.

I. THE PERSONS WHO WERE FOR A WARNING TO US.—Name the persons whose example we should not follow. What were the things in them we should avoid? What led to these sins? How were these people punished?

II. THE PERSONS WHO WERE FOR EXAMPLES TO US.—How many people are mentioned whose example was worth following? Name them. What good things did Obadiah do? What good things did Elijah do? What good things were done by Elisha? Relate the story of Naboth. Of the sacrifice of Carmel. Of the Shunammite's son. Of Naaman. What virtues do you find in the characters of these good men? What failings? How many other persons are mentioned by number as serving God in secret?

Which of all the persons in this Quarter's lessons would you most desire to be like? What was the noblest deed recorded? Which the bravest? Which was the worst?

No cord or cable can draw so forced or bind so fast as love can do with only a single thread.

OUR want of usefulness is often to be ascribed more to our want of spirituality than to our want of natural ability.

WHEN a man has not a good reason for doing a thing, he has one good reason for letting it alone.—Walter Scott.

TRUTH can hardly be expected to adapt herself to the crooked policy and wily sinuosities of worldly affairs; for truth, like light, travels in straight lines.

To carry with us the thought of God in every employment of the day—this is to walk with God. In reading, in studying, in working with the hands, in walks and drives, to keep fresh the thought and presence of God is to bring the Divine into our lives.

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