

trouble or expense. We have no such journey to take. The "greater than Solomon" is here, accessible at any moment, and that "without money and without price." She came uninvited, and yet was welcome; we are invited, yea, besought to come.

By Way of Illustration.

A man's influence will reach farther than he thinks. In Solomon's time, caravans were the newspapers, and travelers were the telegraph. Solomon little knew how he was influencing men and women in far away lands. He had not known the Queen of Sheba, but she had been moved by the report of his greatness to seek him. He had kindled a desire for truth in her heart, so that she undertook a long weary journey from Arabia and sacrificed personal ease to commune with him. Solomon's fame made a seeker after truth. His light kindled a light in the far-off darkness of heathenism. The north star, millions of miles away, guides the mariner across the sea of this little earth. So, one great good heart is a beacon light of truth in the darkness of this world. No one knows how the influence of his life is shaping and guiding other lives.—*E. S. Tead.*

History of missions tells us that there appeared in a great eastern city one day some peculiar looking Indians—"flat-headed Indians" they were called—who had come through trackless forests from the wilds of the West to find out if it was true that there was a great Spirit who had left a written message for men, and who held communication with men. In some way, unknown, these sincere seekers after truth had heard of the fame of Christ, and had come to see if these things were so. Greater than their expectations must have been the Saviour of whom they heard.

Golden Text. Christ greater than Solomon. The great men whom we have honored sink into pygmies, if you but compare them with Christ. Who is Luther, pray you, but the lowliest follower of Christ? And who are all the grand heroes of past ages at whose mention our blood thrills. They are no more to be compared to Him than the candle is to be compared to the sunlight that illuminates a world. Christ leads, they follow. He stands among them, they kneel in humblest adoration.—*Hepworth.*

Before the Class.

Introduction. Solomon's fame had spread to distant countries and attracted to his kingdom many curious ones, but none more noble than the one of whom our lesson to-day speaks.

Sketch an outline map on the board, showing the position of Sheba in the southern part of Arabia bordering on the Red Sea. Speak of the country and its productions, particularly its gold, gems, and

spices. Trace the journey across the great desert to Jerusalem, describing briefly the caravan itself and the hardships and dangers of the long journey of over twelve hundred miles.

Then take up the purpose and results of the visit as shown in the lesson text.

Development of the text. Place upon the board the following outline: A Royal Purpose, A Royal Visitor, A Royal Reception, A Royal Acknowledgment, A Royal Gift.

The first verse shows us a royal purpose, a grand purpose worthy of a king or queen. When this heathen queen heard of Solomon's greatness which he had attained through the favor of the Lord she resolved to undertake the long and dangerous journey to hear more of the wonderful God. The great truths of the Gospel are right at our hand, and yet how few there are that care for them. How very applicable to us now are the words of Christ concerning the queen of the south: "The queen of the south shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it." O that more were imbued with the spirit of this queen; more whose hearts were fired with a royal purpose to seek truth.

The second verse shows us the royal visitor, with her great train bearing all manner of precious stones, gems, and other gifts, for she would not come empty handed to the great king. As we come to our still greater King let us not come empty handed, but bringing the gift of a humble, contrite heart, for a "broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

Verses 3-5 give us a glimpse of the royal reception which was accorded the queen. All her questions were answered, and she was astonished beyond measure at the greatness of Solomon's wisdom and the richness of his kingdom. So as we come to our King we shall have all our questions answered, all our longings satisfied, and then we shall begin to realize that "eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love him."

The queen's royal acknowledgment of the wonders which were displayed before her is told in verses 6-9, and it is indeed a royal acknowledgment. She acknowledges the truth of the report which she had heard, and freely expresses the conviction that the realization far exceeded her expectation. Note further that she gave the glory to God, where it rightfully belonged. The queen again teaches us a great lesson—the duty of acknowledging God and his truth, when clearly seen, with as much readiness as was shown by the heathen queen.

And lastly, verse 10 speaks of the royal gift of gold and spices and gems. She was abundantly satisfied with all she had seen, and joyfully added her part to the wealth of the great king. Our King desires our gifts—our thoughts, our words, our

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