#### INTERNATIONAL BIBLE LESSONS.

THIRD QUARTER: STUDIES IN LUKE'S GOSPEL.

A. D. 28. LESSON XI. IMPORTUNITY IN PRAYER; or, The Father's Willingness. Luke 11, 5-13. September

#### EXPLANATORY.

VERSE 5. HE SAID. He had just given to his disciples "the Lord's Prayer," and now he is about to show them that while the form is of slight consequence, the spirit of earnestness is all important. A friend. The bold contrast between the unwillingness of the earthly friend and the readiness of the heavenly Father only intensifies the lesson of earnestness in prayer. Shall go unto him. (1) " We may hesitate in calling upon our fellow-men at an opportune time, but all times are alike to God." At midnight. A midnight journey is not uncommon in the East, where the heat by day is excessive, and the nights are cool. Three loaves. Round cakes of barley, very thin, and about four inches in diameter, making less than half a loaf of our bread.

6, 7. A FRIEND OF MINE. (2) "Would that we were as anxious to supply the souls of our friends with food as we are to feed their bodies with the bread of earth?" Come to me. The customs of the Orient count hospitality one of the cardinal virtues. At whatever hour, day or night, a visitor enters the huse he must be enter. tained and supplied with food. Nothing (3) "We have nothing of our own to bestow on the needy souls around us, but there is a Friend who has abundance, and who will welcome our request for help.,' From within. One calls loudly from the street, the other responds from within the barred door. Trouble me not. " He uses not the honeyed word, friend."-Whedon. The answer is decided and sharp. Chil. odren are with me. Bedsteads are unknown among the common people of Oriental countries, and beds are made upon the floor, all the family sleeping in different parts of the same room. To rise and find one's way among the sleepers to the cupboard in the darkness would be no easy Cannot rise. "Better that one stranger should fast till morning than that a whole family should be disturbed in the night."-Arnot.

8. BECAUSE HE IS HIS FRIEND. (4) Friendship is a staff which is beautiful to look at, but weak to rest upon." Importunity. Literally, "shamelessness," a determination to be heard, dropping at courtesy. The caller cannot go back and face his guest with the confession of his own empty larder, so he stands at the door, knocking, awakening the family. arousing the neighborhood, until his wants shall be supplied. He will rise. "We prevail with men by importunity, because they are displeased with it; but with God, because he is pleased with it." -M. Henry. This householder at first refuses, that he may permit his family to sleep, now he yields from the same motive. As many. Not three, but all in the house, if need be, to be rid of the clamor.

9. 10. I SAY UNTO YOU. This passage is here repeated (as Christ often reiterated his most important utterances), from the sermon on the mount. | Teacher, learn a lesson from the Master, and repeat, review, drill your instructions into the scholar's memory. (5) "People need line upon line, truth to be presented again | Eight is the usual number a spider has, and again, in order to make impression." Ask, and it shall be given you. This man called upon an earthly friend; we call on a heavenly. He found repulse; we receive welcome. He had no promise: we can plead God's own plighted word, never yet broken. He must be importunate to avoid refusal; we, in order to attest our own earnestness. Seek ... knock. Each sentence and hunt their prey have them more mounts a step higher and expresses a scattered. They are very beautiful, deeper earnestness, an intensity of pur- too, looking-under a microscope-like pose to be heard and blessed. Every one. round, polished diamonds. There is no exception to this rule. (6) Every prayer offered according to divine condition is sure of an answer." Those conditions are, a right purpose, a right character, a right spirit.

11, 12. (7) "As a good father will not mock his son's cry for that which he needs, so God will never scorn his children's prayer." But if the son in blindness ask for a stone or serpent, the father must refuse, or give him something better than his prayer demands, even though the child may ignorantly complain. Egg. scorpion. It is said that there was formerly in Palestine a white scorpion which, when folded up, bore some likeness to an egg. The scorpions now found in Palestine are black, with two formidable claws, and a poisonous sting at the extremity of the tail.

13. YE THEN, BEING EVIL. (8) " Every man has good and evil mingled in his nature in varied proportions according to

his character." (9) "Often the worst of men have tender hearts toward their own children:" and can be touched in that relation as nowhere else. Your heavenly Father. While our natures are of mingled good and ill, his is all good; while we are blind and ignorant, he is all-wise. The Holy Spirit. (10) " The crown of all God's STATIONERY, gifts is that of his Spirit to men." Whoever asks for that will never be denied.

GOLDEN TEXT: Men ought always to pray, and not to faint. Luke 18, 1.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION: The power

The next lesson is Luk 12, 13-23.

CHARACTER.—The character is formed by the personal habits of daily life as much as the thoughts and principles inculcated. The careless and unmethodical in action will scarcely be the accurate observer, the correct reporter, the reliable authority, or the steadfast supporter in other matters. The loose ends of daily habits repeat themselves in the character; and graver virtues than the posaic qualties of method, order, regularity and the like follow on those habits of forethought and observation which elder people try so hard to inculcate on the younger, and the younger try so hard not to learn. Also no one can exaggerate the importance of daily combating the sins or the frailties that most easily beset us. To give way to-day to a fit of inconsiderate selfishness, unfounded suspicion, irration al anger. or caaeless self-indulgence makes | Brunswick, Imperial, Crown, and Royal in quarter control all the harder to-morrow, and the folly committed now all the easier to repeat then. The character is not formed by great leaps, by one strong impression, by a few striking experiences, but by

RULES FOR A HOLY LIFE.

small repeated touches, by the constant

rippling of daily thoughts, the minute shaping of daily habit.

Too much desire to please men mightily prejudiceth the pleasing of God. 2. Too great earnestness and vehemency, and too greedy delight in bodily works and external doing, scattereth and loseth the tranquility and calmness of the mind. 3. Cast all thy care on God, and commit all to his good pleasure; laud, and praise, and applaud him in all things, small and great; forsake thine own will, and deliver up thyself freely and cheerfully to the will of God, without reserve or exception, in prosperity and ad versity sweet or sour, to have or to want, to live or to die. 4. Untie thy heart from all things, and

unite it only to God. 5. Remember often and devoutly the life and passion, the death and resurrection, of our Saviour Jesus. 6. Descant not on other men's deeds, but consider thine own: forget other men

faults, and remember thine own. 7. Never think highly of thyself, nor despise any other man.

THE PRECIOUS LITTLE HERB.-Two little German girls, Brigitte and Wallburg, were on their way to the town, and each carried a heavy basket of fruit on her head.

Brigitte murmured and sighed constantly; Wallburg only laughed and

joked. Brigitte said, "What makes you laugh so? Your basket is quite as heavy as mine, and you are no stronger than I am."

Wallburg answered, "I have a precious little herb on my load, which makes me hardly feel it at all. Put some of it on your load as well."

"Oh," cried Brigitte, "it must indeed be a precious herb! I should like to lighten my load with it; so tell me at once what it is called."

Wallburg replied, "The precious little herb that makes all burdens light is called Patience-From the German.

SPIDER'S EYES.

The more you study into things the more wonders you will find even in things so small as the eye of a spider. and in each branch of the family they are differently arranged to suit their way of life. Those which live in caves or dark holes and need to see only before them have all the eyes in a group on the front of the head. Spiders which live in a web have the eyes raised so they can see all about them, and those of the family which travel about

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