

"Be Ye Strong, Therefore."

Be ye strong, O Christian soldiers!
Who are going forth to stand
As the vanguard of Christ's army
In a distant heathen land.

Be ye strong, and do not waver,
Though the parting must be sore,
Christ has borne alone its anguish,
He is with you evermore.

Are you dreading for your loved ones,
More than for yourselves the pain?
Trust them with the tender Father,
He will turn their loss to gain.

Be ye strong to offer gladly
On the altar of your Lord,
Culture, ease, or brilliant prospects,
Ye shall reap a full reward.

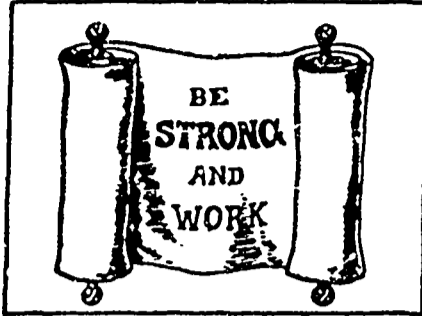
Be ye strong to face the blackness,
Coarse and vile, of heathen sin,
Christ shall shield you, Christ shall teach
you
How to pity, love and win.

Be ye strong to bear the hunger
For a well-known voice and face,
Parted "for a while," "in presence,"
Christ is still your meeting-place

Therefore be ye strong and patient,
Now his will to do and bear;
Privileged with Christ to suffer,
Soon ye shall his gladness share.

This was the sixteenth year of the return from Babylon.

3. "Who is left among you that saw 'his house in her first glory'—The temple in the days of Haggai was finished



in four years. The former temple, more glorious, was destroyed by war sixty-eight years before. Old men who saw in memory that building, with its sacred relics now gone, were saddened. Comp. Ezra 3. 12. The former house was the temple of Solomon, not great in size but in splendour "Is it not in your eyes . . . as nothing"—The Jews had not the men nor the wealth to now erect a building like Solomon's, but the prophet thought they ought to have the high resolve to do the best they could.

4. "Zerubbabel"—Governor of Judah (verse 2). "Be strong"—In the pur-

the Prince of Peace. The peace of God passeth all understanding.

HOME READINGS.

- M. God's call to build—Hag 1.
- Tu. Encouraging the builders.—Hag. 2. 1-9.
- W. The call obeyed.—Ezra 5. 1-5.
- Th. Opposition—Ezra 5. 6-17.
- F. Enemies defeated.—Ezra 6. 1-12.
- S. The temple completed.—Ezra 6. 13-22.
- Su. God's glory.—2 Chron. 5. 11-14.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Past Failure, v. 1-3.
Through what prophet did this word of the Lord come?
When did he receive the message?
To whom was the message sent?
What three questions were asked?
2. Present Duty, v. 4, 5.
What present duty did the Lord urge? Golden Text.
What two men were especially exhorted?
What reason had they for strength and zeal?
What was the Lord's promise? Exod. 29. 45, 46.
What further promise was now made?
What security would God's people then have? Joel 3. 16.
3. Future Glory, v. 6-9.
What was God about to do?
What would happen to the house of the Lord?

A Lady.

BY HELEN A. WALKER.

I know a lady in this land
Who carries a Chinese fan in her hand,
But in her heart does she carry a thought
Of her Chinese sister who carefully wrought
The dainty, delicate, s'iken toy,
For her to admire and enjoy?

This lady has on her parlour floor
A lovely rug from Syrian shore;
Its figures were woven with curious art—
I wish that my lady had in her heart
One thought of love for those foreign homes
Where the light of the Gospel never comes.

To shield my lady from chilling draft
Is a Japanese screen of curious craft.
She takes the comfort its presence gives,
But in her heart not one thought lives—
Not one little thought—ah, no!—
For the comfortless homes that lie over the sea.

My lady in gown of silk is arrayed,
The fabric soft was in India made,
Will she think of the country whence it came,
Will she make an offering in His name,
To send the perfect heavenly dress,
The mantle of Christ's own righteousness,
To those who are poor and sad and forlorn,
To those that know not that Christ is born?

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JERUSALEM RESTORED BY NEHEMIAH.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

LESSON XI.—SEPTEMBER 10.

ENCOURAGING THE BUILDERS.

Hag. 2. 1-9. Memory verses, 4, 5.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Be strong, all ye people of the land, saith the Lord, and work! for I am with you.—Hag. 2. 4.

OUTLINE.

1. Past Failure, v. 1-3.
 2. Present Duty, v. 4, 5.
 3. Future Glory, v. 6-9.
- Time.—About B.C. 520
Place.—Jerusalem.

LESSON HELPS.

1. "By the prophet Haggai"—Of the parentage of 'his Hebrew prophet we know nothing. He was probably born in Babylon at the time of the seventy years' captivity. He was perhaps the first prophet sent to the Jews after their return to their own land. His aim was to stir up the Jews to proceed with the building of the temple. For about fourteen years the work had ceased. Cyrus, who had given permission to build, revoked his edict through evil advisers who were hostile to the Jews. Darius ascended the throne, and in the second year of his reign renewed permission.

pose to build; more lack of will than ability. "I am with you," therefore "be strong." The glory of a temple is not in its walls, relics, stained glass windows, splendid altar, but in the fulfilment of the promise, "I am with you." Salvation and sanctification are the glory of a church.

5. "When ye came out of Egypt"—The memory of the past is called up to inspire present trust in God.

6. "I will shake the heavens"—The Jews called to mind the giving the law on Sinai, when an earthquake shook the mountains. So great changes were coming to the nations.

7. "I will shake all nations"—Political and religious revolutions were at hand. The Persian monarchy fell under the military power of Alexander, and other changes took place within two centuries. "The desire of all nations shall come"—Various interpretations are given. There is an outer and inner meaning. Nations shall bring things of value to adorn the temple. But there is a hint of him who is the desire of nations, of Christ, whose presence in the church is more precious than gold and silver. "I will fill this house with glory"—As was the temple of Solomon on the day of its dedication.

8. "The gold is mine"—An eternal truth. What we have is to be held as a trust. How often this fact is forgotten!

9. "Greater than of the former"—Because in its clearer light of revelation growing into the full day when Christ came. "Will I give peace"—Christ is

To what treasure did the Lord lay claim?

What would the glory of this temple surpass?

What gift would the Lord there impart?

What message of peace did Christ's birth bring? Luke 2. 14.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—

 1. That we ought to listen to God's word?
 2. That we ought to obey God's command?
 3. That we ought to trust God's promises?

