

not but come. If a man sows the wind, he must reap the whirlwind.

Lesson Points

Those who will not heed the warning bells of experience, are sure to run upon the rocks of disaster. v. 7.

The wider our influence, the weightier is our responsibility. v. 7.

Drinking may be fun at first, but it ends in filth. v. 8.

To boast of one's wisdom is a sure sign of folly. v. 9.

No one is so childish as he who has ceased to be childlike. v. 9.

The greatest truths may be wrapped up in the simplest speech. v. 10.

God will speak by His deeds to those who despise His words. v. 11.

Sin's penalty will be made the more bitter by the memory of God's eagerness to save us from it. v. 12.

It is our own hand alone that can close the door of mercy against us. v. 12.

A nation's worst foes are the sins that sap the moral strength of its people. v. 13.

TEACHING HINTS

This section embraces teaching material for the various grades in the school.

For Teachers of the Older Scholars

This is one of Isaiah's great chapters. Note the time and historic setting. Get a good idea of the social condition of the period, when luxury and intemperance abounded on every hand. The leaders had become so corrupt that they could not see the danger of their mad career. There was a fearful scourge appearing on the northern horizon, and Isaiah lifts up his voice in trumpet tones.

1. Note the fearful vice—drunkenness, vs. 7, 8. The prophet had in view two main facts : (a) The classes affected, the priest and prophet, who should have been the conscience of the people. The inference is that, when these have failed, the others were already hopeless. (b) The extent of their degradation. They "stagger," "reel in vision," "stumble in judgment," "err," "are out of the way," "full of . . . filthiness." These words reveal a terrible condition among the higher classes.

2. The retort of the drunkards, vs. 9, 10. These verses should be in quotation marks, as they are a reply to Isaiah's warning. Note the sneer. His call and warning were only for infants, hence he must repeat ! His manner seemed to them to indicate great weakness.

3. Isaiah's reply, vs. 11-13. God had spoken so that even infants could understand. He will next speak in judgment so terrible, that they will be "broken," "snared," "taken." Emphasis falls on the iniquity of those who had laughed at the prophet's message.

This is an illustration of the evil of intem-

perance in ancient times. In considering the problem in its modern phases, it is well to follow the Lesson outlines. Consider : (a) The power of alcohol. It conquers those who, in virtue of their training, spiritual work and responsibility, seem to stand in a safe place. Society will afford many painful illustrations. Further, it makes a complete wreck of the faculties of the soul. A study of the effects of alcoholism as seen in crime gives graphic testimony. (b) The attitude of the victim towards the word of warning shows that the great curse of alcohol is that it takes away moral seriousness and the ability to grasp and weigh evidence. This moral deadness is seen in the fact that men seem unaware of the ruin they are bringing to health, home, business prospects and spiritual power. (c) The earlier note of warning, if unheeded, is followed by final retribution, when outraged nature exacts the penalty of excess.

Let the teacher use such material as will impress the seriousness of the evil. It would be well to pledge against the use of alcohol in any form.

For Teachers of the Boys and Girls

There is a leap of a thousand years between the last Lesson and this. It will be foolish to try to connect the one with the other, beyond reminding the scholars that the people of Isaiah's day were descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and that although, as we shall see, they had so sorely forgotten God, God had not forgotten them, nor ceased in His effort to keep them in His ways.

The setting of the Lesson may be got from the three first words :—