

## SOME THINGS I HAVE LEARNED

ON THE S.S. LESSONS OF THE PAST QUARTER.

### I HAVE LEARNED FROM LESSON I

That I need not envy young people who are brought up in luxury, with nothing to do, and having all their own way, with every wish gratified. Rehoboam had all that, and it made his life so vain and self-willed that he lost his kingdom by it. I have learned that it is better to be taught to work, to think of others, to realize that they have rights, and thus be fitted to live happily and usefully among others when I grow up.

I have learned too that mere worldly advancement does not make a successful life. Jeroboam, from poor boy to king, made a great failure of life, for he lived for himself and for the world. The one who at life's end has built up the best character, in the love and service of God, is the truly successful man, for he has the most to take with him to another life.

### I HAVE LEARNED FROM LESSON II

That God reigns, and that he punishes a land for the people's sin. He withheld the rain from Israel for their sin.

I have learned from it also, that God will provide, sometimes in unexpected ways, for those who trust and obey him. He provided for Elijah, and for the widow of Zarephath. And he is the same God yet. He will provide in different ways; but in his own way, the best way, he will provide.

### I HAVE LEARNED FROM LESSON III

That the God whom I have been taught to worship is the true God. He proved himself such at Carmel, and in many ways he proves himself now the true God.

That God is forgiving. As soon as the people acknowledged him to be God, he gave them rain in plenty.

That when we are doing any good work, we do not need to practice any tricks, or do anything deceitful, in order to gain our end. If it is a thing God wants done he will bring it about if we do right. There was no need for Elijah to hide fire about the altar, so that it might burn the sacrifice; God provided the fire. We should seek to do what is right and leave results with God.

### I HAVE LEARNED FROM LESSON IV

That it is as much a duty to flee from danger at one time as to face it at another time. Where there is duty to be done, then we should face it, no matter what the danger. When duty does not call us, it is a sin to rush into, or remain in, danger. Elijah had nothing to do at Ahab's court, and when his life was threatened he fled.

That discouragement is often the result of bodily weariness, and one way to make the world brighter is to give it food and rest.

That the one thing which we should never forget, when discouraged, is to get alone with God. No one can remain long discouraged who is alone with him. And we do not have to travel forty days to meet him.

That religious movements which make the most noise, have not always the most of God in them.

### I HAVE LEARNED FROM LESSON V

That being in a high place and having a great many things does not make one more happy or contented. Ahab was king and had much, but was unhappy because he could not get Naboth's one little bit of ground.

That I should not sulk because I cannot get everything I want.

That being kings and queens does not keep people from doing very childish things, or very mean and false and cruel things. Ahab sulked, and Jezebel lied and killed, all for a trifle.

That gain gotten by wrong-doing of any kind, is a curse and not a blessing. Ahab met Elijah when he went to take the vineyard, and we must meet our conscience and our God. He makes a bad bargain who sells his character, himself, for gain.

### I HAVE LEARNED FROM LESSON VI

That the close of a good life is a grand thing. Other people do not always see the grand messengers that God sends to carry his children home, but they are there, and the home-going of every Christian is just as grand and glorious a thing as was that of Elijah. If I live right the close of my life here will be the grandest part of it, because it will be the beginning of a better one.

That when good men are taken away, other good men are needed to fill their places and do their work, in the Sabbath school, in the