

Lesson XIII. REVIEW, SUPPLEMENTAL LESSONS March 28, 1909

BIBLE WORK. SCRIPTURE MEMORY PASSAGES. PRIMARY CATECHISM—QUESTIONS 1-20. SHORTER CATECHISM—QUESTIONS 1-11. SUPPLEMENTAL HYMN—580, Book of Praise. THE QUESTION ON MISSIONS FOR THE QUARTER.

TEMPERANCE LESSON

Proverbs 23 : 29-35—Memory Verses, 29, 30.

Golden Text—At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.—Proverbs 23 : 32.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Many, many, years before Christ came into the world, there lived a wise man, who, besides being the very wisest man that ever lived, was a king of Israel—King Solomon. Many of the wise things which he said were so helpful to old and young, and so instructive and full of warning against evil, that they were collected into a book, called, The Book of Proverbs, which now forms a part of the Old Testament.

There was one particular evil that King Solomon hated very much ; so that, in this book of his, he mentions it often, and always with a warning to everybody to keep far, far away from it. This was the sin of drunkenness, a sin which the people in the world to-day need to be warned against, as much as those who lived in the time of King Solomon.

Solomon, in one place, draws a very sad picture of a drunkard returning home, after spending a night feasting and drinking with

29 Who hath woe ? who hath sorrow ? who hath contentions ? who hath babbling ? who hath wounds without cause ? who hath redness of eyes ?

30 They that tarry long at the wine ; they that go to seek mixed wine.

31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

35 They have stricken me, *shalt thou say*, and I was not sick ; they have beaten me, and I felt it not : when shall I awake ? I will seek it yet again.

evil companions. It had seemed pleasant enough while it lasted, but soon the poison in the wine had taken away the man's senses ; and his heartless companions had knocked and kicked him about at their will, because he was too helpless to protect himself, until he was covered with wounds and bruises, which, with his red and swollen eyes, made the man a sad spectacle of what that dreadful evil, drink, does. And yet, even after that, this man would not be warned against his evil ways. He had become such a slave to this bad habit, that he could not give it up, and went on caring for it more and more.

"And so", said Solomon, "this beautiful wine that looks so rich and red and sparkling in the glass, at last biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." These were two of the most dreaded reptiles of that Eastern country. They often darted out from hidden and unexpected places, and attacked people who had not thought of danger, and the bite of each was poisonous and deadly. So it was with wine. Before a man was aware of it, this wine, which seemed so harmless, would bring him to certain ruin and destruction.