



LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

H.O. 474] LESSON XI. [March 14
ESTHER'S PETITION.

Esther: 10-17, & 5:1-3. Commit to men.
verses 1-3.

GOLDEN TEXT.

So will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. Esther 4:16.

OUTLINE.

1. The Message of Faith, v. 10-14.
2. The Resolve of Faith, v. 15-17.
3. The Power of Faith, v. 1-3.

TIME.—474 B.C. 74th Olympiad. Year of Rome, 321.

PLACE.—Shushan, or Susa.

EXPLANATIONS.—Hold out the golden sceptre—The sceptre was the symbol of authority. Extended in the king's hands it meant safety and peace. Inner court—Within the court of the royal palace. Royal throne in the royal house—The throne of the king in the palace, so placed that it commanded a view of the court and of those entering at the opposite gate. Touched the top of the sceptre—Perhaps as a sign that she wished a favour granted to her.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—

1. Faith's test!
2. Faith's sacrifice!
3. Faith's reward!

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who was Esther? A beautiful Jewess, the queen of Persia. 2. From what did she save her people, the Jews? From death by their enemies. 3. How did she save them? By asking the king for their life. 4. What words of Esther are given in the GOLDEN TEXT? "So will I," etc. 5. What was the result of her prayer to the king? The Jews were spared, and their enemies slain.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Faith.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

13. How does our Lord teach us his religion? By his word and by his Spirit. 14. What is his word? The Scriptures of the Old and the New Testaments, which are the sacred books of the Christian faith.

H.O. 440.] LESSON XII [March 21.
MESSIAH'S MESSENGER.

Mal. 3:1-6, & 4:1-6. Commit to men. vs. 3:1-3.
GOLDEN TEXT.

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me. Mal. 3:1.

OUTLINE.

1. The Coming Messenger, 3:1, 4:5, 6.
2. The Refining Fire, 3:2-6.
3. The Sun of Righteousness, 4:2-4.

TIME.—440 B.C. In Greece, the 84th Olympiad. Year of Rome, 311.

PLACE.—Jerusalem. (1)

EXPLANATIONS.—A refining fire—A fire which is so hot as to melt the silver or gold, and enable the dross to be separated from the pure metal. Fullers' soap—Soap that re-

moves the filth and traces of impurity from the garment and bleaches it white. *Sit as a refiner*—The refiner must watch his precious metal and be ready to remove the dross and impurities at just the right moment. *Burn as an oven*—Ovens were often holes in the earth; and were fitted for baking by filling them with combustible material, which was burned in them.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—

1. The need of the natural heart!
2. The final doom of the wicked!
3. The safety of those who fear the Lord!

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who was Malachi? The last of the Old Testament prophets. 2. What did he foretell? The coming of the Saviour. 3. What did he say in the GOLDEN TEXT? "Behold, I will," etc. 4. Who was meant in this? John the Baptist. 5. What did Malachi call the coming Saviour? The Sun of righteousness.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION. The way of salvation.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

15. How does the Old Testament teach Christianity? The Scriptures of the Old Testament were written by many holy men, who prophesied that the Christ was coming, and foretold also what he would suffer and do and teach [1 Pet. i. 10, 11.]

CLOSING LONDON TOWER.

THE Tower of London is locked up every night at eleven o'clock. As the clock strikes that hour the yeoman porter, clothed in a long red cloak, bearing a huge bunch of keys, and accompanied by a warder carrying a lantern, stands at the front of the main guard-house and calls out, "Escort keys." The sergeant of the guard and five or six men then turn and follow him to the outer gate, each sentry challenging as they pass with, "Who goes there?" the answer being, "Keys." The gates being carefully locked and barred, the procession returns, the sentries enacting the same explanation and receiving the same answer as before. Arriving once more at the front of the main guard-house, the sentry gives a loud stamp with his foot, and asks, "Who goes there?"

"Keys."
"Whose keys?"
"Queen Victoria's keys."
"Advance Queen Victoria's keys, and all's well."

The yeoman porter then calls out, "God bless Queen Victoria!" to which the guard responds, "Amen." The officer orders, "Present arms" and kisses the hilt of his sword, and the yeoman porter then marches alone across the parade and deposits the keys in the lieutenant's lodging.

HOW IT BEGINS.

"Give me a halfpenny, and you may pitch one of these rings, and if it catches over a nail I'll give you threepence." That seems fair enough; so the boy handed him a halfpenny and took the ring. He stepped back to the stake, tossed the ring, and it caught on one of the nails.

"Will you take six rings to pitch again, or threepence?"

"Threepence," was the answer, and the money was put in his hand. He stepped off, well satisfied with what he had done, and probably not having an idea that he had done wrong. A gentleman standing near him watched him, and now, before he had time to look about and rejoin his companions, laid his hand on his shoulder:—

"My lad, this is your first lesson

in gambling."

"Gambling, sir?"

"You staked your halfpenny and won six halfpence, did you not?"

"Yes, I did."

"You did not earn them, and they were not given to you; you won them just as gamblers win money. You have taken the first step in the path; that man has gone through it, and you can see the end. Now, I advise you to go and give his threepence back, and ask him for your halfpenny, and then stand square with the world, an honest boy."

He had hung his head down, but raised it very quickly, and his bright, open look, as he said, "I'll do it," will not soon be forgotten. He ran back, and soon emerged from the ring, looking happier than ever. He touched his cap and bowed pleasantly, as he ran away to join his companions. This was an honest boy, and doubtless made an honourable man.—*Morning Star.*

DO NOT GIVE UP.

HERE is a saying old, boys,
But though so old 'tis true,
And, lest you should forget it,
I'll tell it now to you.
'Tis this: If any task you have
Which trouble costs or pain,
Don't give it up the first time,
But try, try again.

No; don't give up, but this resolve:
"However hard it be,
And though it cost me hours of toil,
'Twill never conquer me."

What has been done you sure can do;
So now to work with might;
And you will rise, when victory's yours,
The stronger for the fight.

NO SMOKER NEED APPLY.

I was sitting in the office of a mechanic, not long since, when a lad of about sixteen entered, with a cigar in his mouth. He said to the gentleman:

"I would like to get a situation in your shop, to learn the trade, sir."

"I might give you a place, but you carry a bad recommendation in your mouth," said the gentleman.

"I didn't think it any harm to smoke, sir; nearly everybody smokes now."

"I am sorry to say, my young friend, I can't employ you. If you have money enough to smoke cigars you will be above working as an apprentice, and if you have not money your love for cigars might make you steal it. No boy who smokes cigars can get employment in my shop."—*Children's Paper.*

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