

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From the International Lessons for 1879, by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday-School Union.)

LESSON XLVII.

DECEMBER 21.]

THE LAST WORDS.—Rev. 22: 10-21.

COMMIT TO MEMORY, vs. 17-21.

10. And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.

11. He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

12. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

13. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

14. Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

15. For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

16. I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

17. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely.

18. For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book.

19. And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

20. He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly: Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

21. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.—Rev. 22: 21.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The Bible ends as it begins—grace and glory.

THE CONNECTION.—With this lesson the Bible-history closes. It contains the last prophecy, vs. 12-15; the last invitation and warning; the previous part of the book having given an account of the end of the world, the judgment, and the new heavens and the new earth.

EXPLANATIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I.) THE FINAL CONDITION, (II.) THE FINAL INVITATION, (III.) THE FINAL WARNING.

I. THE FINAL CONDITION. (10.) SEAL NOT. Isaiah and Daniel were ordered to seal their prophecies, Is. 8: 16, Dan. 12: 4, 9; but John was to leave his open for the comfort of persecuted saints, and because the time was at hand; a part, at least, of the sayings were to be fulfilled very soon. (11.) UNJUST. There may be solemn irony in this verse; as if the time were too short almost for change. It certainly implies a fixed and unchangeable condition. (12.) QUICKLY, shortly or suddenly, unexpectedly. These words may have a double meaning, referring to Christ's coming at our death, and to his final coming, Matt. 16: 27, 28. (13.) ALPHA, the first letter of the Greek alphabet, and hence the beginning of things; OMEGA, the last letter of the Greek alphabet, and hence the end of all things. (14.) DO HIS COMMANDMENTS. See similar words of Christ, Matt. 7: 21-25. (15.) DOGS. Eastern people call all infidels "dogs," hence here it probably signifies all men lost to virtue and truth; SORCERERS, those using magic art to deceive people, and hence those in league with Satan; WHOREMONGERS, all sensual and debased persons.

II. THE FINAL INVITATION. (16.) MINE ANGEL, see Rev. 1: 1; 10: 9; THE CHURCHES, the churches of Asia, Rev. 1: 4, and to all churches; ROOT . . . OFFSPRING OF DAVID, the Messiah, Is. 11: 1; Rom. 15: 12; MORNING STAR, as heralding the glorious day. (17.) BRIDE, the Church; SAY, COME, repent and come to Jesus and into this blessed state and place; HIM THAT HEARETH, he that has believed; ATHIRST, so Isaiah and Christ called to the people, Is. 55: 1; John 7: 37; WATER OF LIFE, salvation.

III. THE FINAL WARNING. (18.) TESTIFY, bear witness; ADD UNTO THESE THINGS, an awful warning to any who despise or neglect this book, or who wrongfully or triflingly interpret it; PLAGUES, this book is full of threatened plagues. (19.) WORDS . . . OF THE BOOK, This seems most naturally to refer to the book of Revelation only, as the books now known as the Bible were not then collected into one book; THE BOOK OF LIFE, the best MSS. and scholars read, "tree of life;" THINGS WRITTEN, or promised in this book. (20.) QUICKLY . . . AMEN, "I come quickly," [the prophet answers] "Amen; come, Lord Jesus," (Cowles); GRACE, favor. Thus this wonderful book closes with a benediction.

ILLUSTRATION.—The Celestial City. "Now just as the gates were opened to let in the men, I looked in after them, and behold! the city shone like the sun; the streets also were paved with gold: and in them walked many men, with crowns on their heads, palms in their hands, and golden harps, to sing praises withal. There were also of them that had wings, and they answered one another without intermission, saying, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord. And after that they shut the gates; which, when I had seen I wished myself among them."—P4-grim's Progress.

LESSON LII.

DECEMBER 28.]

REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT.

To the only wise God our Saviour be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever.—Jude 25.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus is our exalted and glorified Saviour.

PLANS FOR REVIEW.

The lessons for the past twelve Sundays may be profitably reviewed under the following heads:

I. INTRODUCTORY.—1. The books studied. 2. The classes of Christians addressed. 3. The connection of the books and lessons.

II. THE TITLES, GOLDEN TEXTS AND CENTRAL TRUTHS.

III. THE LESSON TRUTHS.

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| 1. THE OLD TYPES, | Lessons 40-43. |
| 2. THE NEW LIFE, | Lessons 44-48. |
| 3. THE HEAVENLY GLORY, | Lessons 49-51. |

I. INTRODUCTORY.—State when, by whom, and to whom, the following books of the Bible were written:

HEBREWS	I JOHN,
JAMES,	II JOHN,
I PETER,	III JOHN,
II PETER,	JUDE,

REVELATION.

State what you have learned in regard to the commendations and warnings sent to the churches at the following places:

EPHESUS,	THYATIRA,
SMYRNA,	SARDIS,
PERGAMOS,	PHILADELPHIA,
LAODICEA.	

II. RECITE THE TITLES, and Golden Texts of each lesson. State the Central Truths of the first four lessons. Of the next five lessons. Of the last three lessons.

III. THE LESSON TRUTHS.—State the three divisions of the lessons under review. The number of the lessons. From how many Bible-books are they taken? By how many persons were they written? How many of the books are by one writer? Who wrote four of the books?

1. THE OLD TYPES.—Who is now our high priest? Where is he? How was he appointed to his work? By what experience was he specially fitted to become our high priest? To what old priest-king is he likened?

Of what were the tabernacle, ark of the covenant, golden censer, cherubim and mercy seat the types? Who has made a perfect sacrifice for us? How? Of what is faith the substance? What reward did Enoch receive? What is said of Abel's influence? Of Noah's reward? Of the city for which Abraham looked? Why is faith without works unprofitable? How shown?

2. THE NEW LIFE.—Through whom does our new life come? State three ways in which Jesus showed himself to be the Perfect Pattern?

In what way did Jesus prove himself to be a perfect Saviour? How may we show that we have our life in him? How may we have our sins forgiven? Who will cleanse us from our sins? Who is the source of love? Who first loved us? How did God manifest his love toward us? How may we dwell in love? Who appeared to the Apostle John on the Lord's day? Rev. 1: 10. How is the appearance of the Saviour described? Rev. 1: 12-16? What was the effect of the sight upon the Apostle? What was he commanded to write?

Against how many things was the church in Sardis warned? How encouraged at the close of the warnings? How was the church in Philadelphia encouraged?

3. THE HEAVENLY GLORY.—In whose hand was the book with seven seals? Why did John weep? How was he comforted? Who opened the book? What song was sung?

Whither was John carried? Rev. 21: 10. How? What did he see descending out of heaven? How many gates had the city? Of what made? Who was the light and temple of it? Who walked in its light? Who could enter the city? Who could not enter? What river and tree were there? What did the people do there?

What was John not to do with the book? Rev. 22: 10. What is said of the unjust and just? Who will come quickly? Who go into the city? Who be kept out of it? What final invitation is given? How does the Bible close?

VOLUNTEERS.

A REGIMENT TO BE RAISED AMONGST THE YOUNG READERS OF THE "MESSENGER."

We want to raise a regiment amongst the young readers of the MESSENGER. Like all regiments it is to have various ranks—privates, corporals, sergeants, ensigns, lieutenants, captains, and other officers. Should the regiment become too large we may have to form several regiments, and then it will be an army with a general and several colonels. This army is not to be like those that go forth to kill and destroy, but to do good; it will not be confined to any one country,

but be a universal one, drawing recruits from Canada, the United States, England, and perhaps China, Japan and Australia. Unlike other armies, we want the younger soldiers to be the officers, and, the greatest innovation, we want the ladies and little and big girls to do some of the fighting! We will allow anybody who likes to enlist to be a private, but we expect all our soldiers to be abstainers from intoxicating liquors and tobacco. This army is like the other ones, in that promotion is gained by good service and good conduct. Our good service is to be work. When any member of this volunteer army gains two new subscribers to the MESSENGER he will be promoted to corporal, and be sent a New Testament. If he should gain four new subscribers, he will be made a sergeant and be presented with a beautiful pyramid inkstand. The next highest office is an ensign, which may be gained by obtaining five subscribers, when he will be presented with a portrait of the Marquis of Lorne or the Princess Louise. A lieutenant must obtain ten subscribers, when he will be entitled to the two pictures or one of Queen Victoria. These pictures all the soldiers of any country will desire, as they are of persons whom those of all nations honor or themselves by honoring. A captain must raise a company of twenty to obtain his position, when he will be rewarded by a beautiful pocket Bible, or any prize of the same value he may choose.

Now who will join this army of workers, and who will be its officers? Many of those who lead in it though young to-day will be the leaders of the people. There may be several presidents of the United States among them, and Canadian premiers and Cabinet Ministers and members of Parliament and of Congress. We would like the future ministers, statesmen, engineers, capitalists, mechanics, inventors and all who will hereafter be engaged in useful employments to be officers in this regiment. Who will enlist and who will become recruiting sergeants and officers in this regiment?

THE WITNESS.

Your valuable paper is much thought of here for its genuine usefulness and instructive reading. R. S., Oxford, O.

We have taken your WEEKLY in our family this last eight years. We feel as if we could not do without it.

MRS. E. TAPSCOTT, Port Hope, O.

I am a subscriber to the WITNESS and prize it highly. N. C. BALDWIN.

Stephenville, Erath Co., Texas.

I think that it is the best paper in the Dominion. WILLIAM CAMPBELL.

Bayfield, O.

THE MESSENGER.

I have had the pleasure of receiving your letter and also the MESSENGERS. I like them very much, and believe they will please the Sunday-school much better than any we ever saw.

J. H. RAGSDALE.

Fort Scott, Kansas, U. S.

We all read the MESSENGER with interest and recommend it to our friends.

M. A. WILBY, Victoria, B. C.

We take the MESSENGER and call it a most excellent paper and very cheap.

MRS. J. F. PLATTS.

Wilson's Crossing, N. H., U. S.

The Sunday-school children are delighted with it. A. W. BLANCHER,

Greenbush, O.

I have taken the NORTHERN MESSENGER for three years, and intend not to do without it as long as I live. It is the best paper I have ever taken. L. A. BELYEA.

Belyea's Cove, Queen's Co., N. B.

AN OPINION OF THE PORTRAITS.

GRANVILLE FERRY, Nov. 21st, 1879.

Messrs. John Dougall & Son:—

GENTLEMEN,—The portrait of the Princess Louise, your letter and package of specimen papers were received all right. I am very much pleased with the portrait, which is got up on a beautiful card and nicely finished. I would recommend all your subscribers to make an effort to obtain it. The first MESSENGERS coming to Granville Ferry were addressed to me, and the first WITNESS also was taken in the family eight years ago. The longer we take it the more it is valued. Now, nearly every family for a considerable distance takes some of your papers. Hoping that your sphere of usefulness may continue to widen, I remain

Yours truly

WHITMAN ARMSTRONG.

OUR PRIZES.

We have other prizes in addition to the ones mentioned under the heading "volunteers." Any one desiring a full list may have it on application to the publishers. All the prizes given last year will be given this year as well, besides several new ones; so that all our last year's competitors will know just what to work for. At the time of writing the following note about one of the favorite prizes just came to hand:

DEAR SIR,—I received the premium ring on the 14th of this month. I am well pleased with the ring. It is even more beautiful than I expected it would be. I live in the Township of Tecumseth, but my post-office is Bond Head.

Yours respectfully

CATHERINE MOORE.

THE CLUB RATES for the "MESSENGER" when sent to one address, are as follows:—1 copy, 30c; 10 copies, \$2.50; 25 copies, \$6; 50 copies, \$11.50; 100 copies, \$22; 1,000 copies, \$200. J. DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

MONTREAL DAILY WITNESS, \$3.00 a year, post-paid.

MONTREAL WEEKLY WITNESS, \$1.10 a year, post-paid.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON,
Publishers, Montreal, Q.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

EPP'S COCOA.—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may gradually be built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame." *Civil Service Gazette*—Sold only in packets labelled—"James Epps & Co. Homoeopathic Chemists, London, Eng."

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