



STREET IN PEKIN.

PEKIN.

The engraving here represents one of the busiest parts of Peking, giving only specimens of the people who daily assemble here. Aside from the carts which fill the roadway, vendors of all sorts of wares move up and down crying their goods, while workmen, such as cobblers and tinkers, and even blacksmiths, bring their moveable shops and carry on their trades in the streets. Even the barbers ply their calling in the midst of the crowds. Here, also, the beggars congregated, and there are so many of this class that they have given their name to the bridge.

A little more than twenty years ago the American Mission Board began work in Peking, the capital of the empire. This is one of the largest cities of the world, and a score of missionaries would find ample room for labour within its walls. It is a promising field.

Though, perhaps, the Chinese are not as quick as some other people to receive the truth, many of them, when they do become Christians, seem to be specially faithful in making known the gospel. Just now our missionaries in western China are entering upon their labours in special hope, believing that before long great progress will be seen in that land which, a few years ago, was regarded as almost beyond hope.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER

STUDIES IN THE ISALMS AND DANIEL.

B.C. 603.] LESSON VIII. [May 22.

DANIEL AND HIS COMPANIONS.

Dan. 1. 8-21. Memory verses, 17-19.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank.—Dan. 1. 8.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The principles of righteousness and temperance are the way to usefulness and success.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

THE FOUR CAPTIVES.—About the time of Lesson II. a number of captives were carried from Jerusalem to Babylon. Among them were four boys who became noted in history—Daniel, and the three who were cast into the fiery furnace. These four were selected to be trained for the official service of King

Nebuchadnezzar. They were taught in the Chaldean learning, and fed with the luxuries provided by the king. *Purposed . . . that he would not defile himself with . . . the king's meat—i.e., food.* Some of the flesh was that forbidden to Jews. (See Lev. 11; Deut. 12, 23-25.) Often it was consecrated to idols. It was too luxurious for their best health. *God had brought Daniel into favour*—By direct influence, and by giving Daniel a lovable, noble character. *Endanger my heart*—Lest his head be cut off for disobedience. *Melzar*—The melzar, or steward; not a proper name. He had charge of their food. This plan was doubtless by permission of the prince of the eunuchs. *Hananiah, etc.*—See their other names in verse 7. *Pulse*—Vegetable food; grains. Pulse originally meant leguminous seeds, as beans, peas. *End of the days*—Of the three years' training (verse 5). *Stood they before the king*—As his officers and advisers. Servants always stood when in the presence of the monarch. *Better than all the magicians*—The priestly, learned class. *Astrologers*—Wise men, magi, scientific men. All used and believed in magic and astrology. The Chaldeans were at this time the most learned people in the world. *First year of King Cyrus*—B.C. 534, the end of the seventy years' captivity. Cyrus conquered Babylon.

Find in this lesson—

A boy who resisted temptation.
The good effect of temperance.
How to obtain knowledge and wisdom.
How God rewards those faithful to him.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. Who was Daniel? "A Jewish prince, carried captive when a boy to Babylon." 2. How was he tempted? "To luxurious living, intemperance, and irreligion." 3. What did he do? "He overcame the temptations by the grace of God." 4. What was his character? "He was faithful, religious, diligent, temperate, studious, wise, favoured of God." 5. What was the result? "He lived a most useful and successful life."

CATECHISM QUESTION.

22. What follows from our regeneration or being born again?

Our new life being begun, we receive power to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ, and to live in the exercise of inward and outward holiness.

As new born babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation.—1 Peter 2. 2.

The Sunday-school lesson may be so plain and simple to you that to study it may not seem necessary. But you cannot know it too well nor study it too carefully. Ask yourself the questions, and then look up the answers.

Precious Ointment.

Do not keep your box of ointment;
Break it o'er your friends to-day;
Do not keep it in the darkness,
Half forgotten, laid away.
Little deeds of love and kindness,
Don't forget to give them now;
Don't forget to smooth the pillow—
Don't forget to bathe the brow.

Send your flowers to the living;
Do not keep them for the grave—
They may comfort some poor mourner;
They may strengthen, help, and save.
Send them in their fragrant beauty—
Show your friendship true and warm;
What would care a rosewood casket?
What would care a lifeless form?

Hearts there are with burdens laden,
Bearing bravely toil and care;
Ready to receive your kindness
Should you leave your ointment there.
Don't forget the kindly counsel—
Don't forget the loving tone;
They will make the cross seem lighter
To some sorrow-laden one.

All along life's rugged pathway,
Stretch your hand and lift your voice,
Bringing all your love and kindness,
Making every heart rejoice.
Keep your ointment ever ready;
Use it freely—there is room:
It will bring you richest blessings,
Soothe your passage to the tomb.

"WHO KILLED HIM?"

*THE truth was recently pressed home in a forcible manner to the saloon-keepers of Pontiac, Mich. A young man was killed in the town while intoxicated by the high license beer. Copies of a "Roll of Honour," a little folder giving, under the symbol of the skull and cross-bones, and within mourning borders, the names of the city's saloon-keepers and their bondsmen, were freely distributed throughout the city on that day, and soon after the killing of the young man a circular was issued and distributed, asking, "Who is responsible for this murder?" The circular, a single-page leaflet, bore a portrait of the young man, and beneath ghastly head lines that stated that the young man was "Murdered by Pontiac legalized whiskey," the truth was pressed home in strong language to the consciences of the republican and democratic voters that they are responsible for murder, and those who had voted for prohibition had no part in it. The portrait and reading matter were enclosed by mourning borders. The circular sent consternation into the ranks of the saloon-keepers and their sympathizers.

SON AND MOTHER.

ONE evening the Doro family were sitting in the common room, and Gustavo was at a little table drawing quaint forms and figures in his copybook. Something prompted the mother to look over her boy's shoulder.

"Do come and look," she exclaimed, catching up the copybook. "See what Gustavo has done. How funny. Here is the postman, here is Françoise (the old family nurse and servant), and a lot of people I don't even know. Where did you see them, Gustavo?"

"Everywhere," he answered, with a loud laugh.

"Yes, but how have you been able to make them so lifelike? Did they sit to you?" persisted the delighted mother.

"Sit to me! Never!" said the boy scornfully. "They are all here," touching his forehead significantly. "Why should I not draw them like?"

"My son is a genius," exclaimed the mother.

"Don't fill his head with nonsense," answered the father, who was a civil engineer.

"It is not nonsense," retorted the mother. "My son is a great genius; he must study painting. He will be one of the first artists in the world."

"Our son will do nothing of the sort, and he shall not study painting," reproved the father. "He shall go to a polytechnic school with his brothers, and we shall see what he can do; but he will never become a painter, if he wishes to please his father."

The boy made no reply save to brush away a tear. He turned to his mother for sympathy, and she encouraged him to keep on drawing.

As they were both of them persistent and as the boy's talents were really of a decidedly striking quality, they triumphed, and the world gained an artist of great merit as well as with many defects.

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