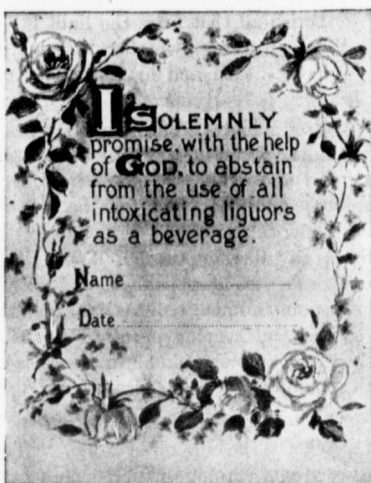


Lesson XII.

WOES OF DRUNKENNESS

March 24, 1907

Isaiah 28 : 7-13—Memory Verse, 7.

Golden Text—Wine and new wine take away the heart.—Hosea 4 : 11.

7 But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way ; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink ; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment.

8 For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.

9 Whom shall he teach knowledge ? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine ? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept ; line upon line, line upon line ; here a little, and there a little :

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest : and this is the refreshing : yet they would not hear.

13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept ; line upon line, line upon line ; here a little, and there a little ; that they might go,

and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

THE LESSON RETOLD

In the days when the people of Israel and Judah forgot the Lord and all His goodness to them, and worshiped other gods, God sent prophets to them—first to warn, and then to threaten them with punishment, if they did not mend their evil ways.

Isaiah was one of these good prophets, and one day he came to the people of Judah in their famous capital city, Jerusalem, and told them that God was soon coming to judge their sister kingdom, Israel. The glories of Samaria, its capital, should be laid so low, by an enemy, that it would look as if a terrible tempest had utterly destroyed everything ; and the inhabitants should be carried away captive.

But, although the kingdom of Israel should thus be destroyed, God was sparing Judah for the sake of those who still loved and served Him as their King ; and was guarding and defending this kingdom. But there were those, even in Judah, who deserved to be punished for their wickedness. These were the men who were given to strong drink, among whom were even prophets and priests who had so far forgotten their high calling, as

to become drunk with wine. Thus they were unable to teach and instruct the people as they ought, for the wine went to their heads, and they could neither reason nor explain doubtful questions, and so the people went astray, with no one to guide them. The judges also gave wrong judgments in their courts, because the wine they drank made them so stupid, that they could not distinguish between right and wrong.

Then, when God sent His prophets to teach them, they laughed and said, " Do you take us to be children, that need to be taught always what we should do ? You prophets tell us the same thing over and over, and repeat command after command, as if you were teaching lessons to babies."

So, because they would not listen to His messengers, and give up wine and the other evil things they loved, God said that He would teach them now in another way. They, too, would be carried away captive to a foreign land, to live among strangers, and then it should indeed be as they said it was—they should be taught lesson upon lesson and receive one judgment upon another, because