

The Drunkard's Wife.

In a hospital ward a woman lay
Painfully gasping her life away;
So bruised and beaten you scarce could trace
Womanhood's semblance in form or face.
Yet the hair that over the pillow robed
In a tangled mass was like the locks of gold,
And never a sculpion in any land
Moulded a daintier foot or hand.

Said one who ministered to her need:
"None but a coward could do this deed;
And what bitter fate could have nerved the
arm
That a helpless creature like this could
harm?"

Then the dim eyes, hazy with death's eclipse,
Slowly unlook, and the swollen lips
Murmured faintly: "He loves me well—
My husband—'twas drink—be sure you tell
When he comes to himself—that I forgive;
Poor fellow—for him I would like to live."
A shudder, a moan, as the words were said,
And a drunkard's wife on the couch lay dead.

O fathers, who your daughters rear,
Somebody's daughter is lying here.
O brothers of sisters, come and see
What the fate of your precious one may be.
O man! however you love your home,
Be it palace, or cottage, 'neath heaven's blue
dome,

This demon of drink can enter in;
For law strikes hands and bargains with sin.

You have legalized crime, you have the gold,
Now hand them over, the sons you sold—
Keep pushing them forward. Drink, boys,
drink!

Your fathers are paid for your souls, they
think;

And in the great mart where mammon strives,
Cheapest of all things are human lives.

—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1451] LESSON XII. [SEPT. 16

THE SMITTEN ROCK.

Num. 20.1-13. Memory verses, 7, 8

GOLDEN TEXT.

They drank of that spiritual rock that
followed them; and that Rock was Christ.
1 Cor. 10. 4.

OUTLINE.

1. The rock of Kadesh; Rebellion.
2. The water of Meribah; Rebuke.

TIME.—1451 B.C.

PLACE.—The desert of Zin.

CONNECTING LINKS.—Thirty-seven or
thirty-eight years have passed since the
last lesson. Back and forth through the
desert they have gone, camped in valleys,
camped by mountains, camped by sea. Re-
bellions, mutinies, and idolatries have marked
the course of the years. A whole genera-
tion has passed away, and now we are com-
ing to the closing year of the wanderings.
The lesson begins with the first month of the
last year.

EXPLANATIONS.—*The first month*—The
month Nisan, thirty-nine years after the
Exodus. *When our brethren died*—Referring
to some one of the occasions when God had
visited them with death for their sins. See
Num. 11. 33. *Fell upon their faces*—"He
attitude of prayer. *Glory . . . appeared*—
The usual immediate answer which God
gave to the prayers of Moses. *Take the rod*
—Not a rod, but the rod; the one that he
had in his hand at the bush when God first
appeared to him in Midian. *Speak unto the
rock*—God would thus work a most notice-
able miracle. *He smote*—He disobeyed
God.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The rock of Kadesh; Rebellion.*
How many years have passed since the
last lesson?
How had these years been spent?
Have we ever before studied about these
people at Kadesh?
What is the story of this lesson?

What similar scene had occurred at or
near this very place?

What words in this lesson remind you of
words in the last lesson?

Were these the same people who had re-
belled at Kadesh before?

What does this lesson show of their
memory of God's grace in the past years?

2. *The water of Meribah; Rebuke.*

What was the first act of Moses and Aaron
in the presence of the rebellion?

What gracious answer did God give them?

What rod is meant in ver. 8, "Take the
rod?"

What was the command concerning the
rock?

What difference between this command
and the one in Exod. 17. 5?

How did Moses exceed the instruction
which God gave him?

Name three things in which Moses was
sinful?

What was the penalty which Aaron and
Moses were compelled to pay?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

How hard trials are to bear! We take
God's daily blessings with never a thought,
they are so common. We murmur and rebel
with the first trial, great or small.

Forty years had not taught them to trust
God implicitly. We are not much better
after forty centuries.

How the heart will forget past mercies!
After all, Moses was a man, and not God.
He forgot too.

See God's patience with Israel; see his
bounty; see his love. Can we not be a little
patient with sin?

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Read this lesson till you are sure you
know it.
2. Write a synopsis of it, and compare
that with the book.
3. Make an outline showing (1) God's
character; (2) Moses's character; (3) the
people's character.
4. Compare with the story of the previous
supplies of water given to them.
5. Read the story of the rest of Aaron's
life, and see how the promise of the lesson
was fulfilled.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What memorable event happened at
the second visit to Kadesh? Miriam died
and was buried 2. While the people were
camping what calamity came? A scarcity
of water. 3. What sins were occasioned by
this water famine? The people murmured
and Moses disobeyed. 4. Why were Moses's
words sinful? He assumed power that was
only Christ's. 5. What proof does the Bible
give us that the work and the water were of
Christ? "They drank of that spiritual
rock," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Perversity of
human nature.

B.C. 1451] LESSON XIII. [SEPT. 23

DEATH AND BURIAL OF MOSES.

Deut. 34. 1-12. Memory verse, 5-7

GOLDEN TEXT.

The path of the just is as the shining light,
that shineth more and more unto the perfect
day. Prov. 4. 18.

OUTLINE.

1. The Prophet's vision.
2. The Prophet's Death.
3. The Prophet's Memorial.

TIME.—1451 B.C.

PLACE.—Mount Nebo.

CONNECTING LINKS.—After the incidents
of the last lesson Moses prepared to march
to Canaan, not northward through the south
country, but almost eastward through the
mountains of Edom. The march was begun,
and a request sent on to the king of Edom for
a friendly alliance. It was refused, and
the host was compelled to make a long de-
tour. At the middle of the year, at mount
Hor, Aaron died. The six months which
followed were of great moment to this people.
The great typical presentation of the cruci-
fied Christ, the brazen serpent, was erected
during this time. Forced marches were
made, the law was once more rehearsed,
battles were fought, the people were num-
bered, and at last they are in full sight of
the promised land. Then Moses bade them
farewell.

EXPLANATIONS.—*The utmost sea*—The far-
thest point visible on the Mediterranean.
The south—The south country, now often

called by writers by the name in Hebrew,
The Negeb. I have caused thee to see it—
Some think this was a mountain; others think
that the mountain was so high and the air
so clear that a man with good vision could
easily see it. *According to the word of the
Lord* God had told him at the water of
Meribah that for his sin he should not enter
Canaan. *He bade him* That is, God
buried him; how or where no man knows.
This is one of the secrets of history. *Fall
of the spirit of wisdom*—That is, with a rich
endowment of practical wisdom for govern-
ing.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The Prophet's Vision.*

What was the vision which God gave
Moses?

Why did he give him such a vision?

Why did he not allow him to enter the
land?

How much of it was he permitted to see?

Was the vision miraculous, or could the
land as described be seen from this sum-
mit?

Were the regions which Moses saw called
by the names here given when he saw
them?

To whom had this land been promised?
What comfort was there for Moses in this
vision?

2. *The Prophet's Death.*

When had God spoken the word to which
allusion is made in ver. 5?

What is meant by "this day" in ver. 6?

Did Moses die?

What belief of the Jews is alluded to by
Jude in the epistle?

What view have some people taken about
Moses's departure?

Was Moses ever seen again in the body?

What two remarkable things are said
concerning his condition at the time of
his death?

3. *The Prophet's memorial.*

What was the first memorial of Moses?

What is the second here given?

How long was Moses remembered in Jew-
ish history?

How was he regarded in Christ's time?

What memorial of him has endured even
to our day?

What was his character?

What place should we give him in the roll
of the world's great men?

Can ver. 10 be truly said of him to-day in
its broadest application?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Think of what one sin cost Moses. Think
too of God's great kindness to him after all
his work was done. It was better that an-
other should do the fighting.

His work has remained through the ages?
Will yours?

His work remains to-day. Why?

Notice, Moses did not know the Lord face
to face. No man can thus know God on this
earth. The Lord knew him face to face.
God made this man his intimate friend.
Why not you?

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Review the life of Moses.
2. Study the locality of this mountain
range.
3. Draw an outline of the territory he was
shown.
4. Recall the things mentioned in ver. 11.
5. Find who is the probable author of this
chapter.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Where did Moses die? In Mount
Nebo, east from Jericho. 2. What sight
was given him from this mountain top? Of
the whole promised land. 3. What memo-
rial did the people give him? They wept
for him thirty days. 4. What memorial did
the historian give him? There arose not a
prophet like him. 5. What sentiment of
Solomon did his life exemplify? "The
path of the just," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The power of
rectitude.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

12 What is the providence of God? The
providence of God is the preservation of all
his creatures, his care for all their wants,
and his rule over all their actions.
Acts xvii. 28. In him we live and move
and have our being.
Hebrews i. 3; Nehemiah ix. 6; Psalm ciii.
10; Psalm cxlv. 16; 1 Timothy vi. 15.

It is good to begin well, but better
to end well.

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