

(Continued from first page.)

A letter written to her sister on the night previous was full of loving, pious counsel, but contained no hint of her approaching death. She died for no fault of her own, but having loved God all her life and striven to do His will, she did not fear death now, for she knew that all it could do was to take her to Himself.

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

LESSON VIII.

Aug. 24, 1884.] [2 Sam. 24: 15-25.

THE PLAGUE STAYED.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS. 24, 25.

15. So the Lord sent a pestilence upon Israel from the morning even to the time appointed: and there died of the people from Dan even to Beersheba seventy thousand men. 16. And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough; stay now thine hand. And the angel of the Lord was by the threshing-place of Araunah the Jebusite. 17. And David spake unto the Lord when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly; but these sheep what have they done? Let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house. 18. And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the Lord in the threshing-floor of Araunah, the Jebusite. 19. And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the Lord commanded. 20. And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him; and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground. 21. And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshing-floor of thee, to build an altar unto the Lord, that the plague may be stayed from the people. 22. And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him; behold, here be oxen for burnt-sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood. 23. All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king, and Araunah said unto the king, The Lord thy God accept thee. 24. And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it off thee at a price; neither will I offer burnt-offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshing-floor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. 25. And David built there an altar unto the Lord, and offered burnt-offerings and peace-offerings. So the Lord was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.

GOLDEN TEXT

"So the Lord was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel."—2 Sam. 24: 25.

HOME READINGS.

- M. 2 Sam. 19: 1-30.....The King's Return. T. Ps. 20: 1-9.....The King's Thanksgiving. W. 2 Sam. 20: 1-14.....Three Years' Famine. Th. 2 Sam. 24: 1-14.....David's Sin. F. 2 Sam. 24: 15-25.....The Plague Stayed. Sa. Ps. 18: 31-50.....Mercies Recounted. S. 2 Sam. 23: 1-7.....Last Words.

LESSON PLAN.

1. Wrath against Sin. 2. Repentance and Atonement. 3. Mercy and Deliverance. Time.—B.C. 1017. Place.—Jerusalem.

LESSON NOTES.

I.—V. 15. THE MORNING—of the day on which the prophet came to David. FROM DAN—the most northern extremity of the land. BEERSHEBA—the most southern point. V. 16. STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND—God had sent him to destroy Jerusalem. I Chron. 21: 16. THRESHING-FLOOR OF ARAUNAH—on Mount Moriah, north-east of Zion, and then without the city. II.—V. 17. DAVID SPAKE—see the more full account in I Chron. 21: 15, 17. I HAVE SINNED Compare I Chron. 21: 17. His intercession prevailed, and the Lord said to the angel, "Stay thy hand." V. 18. GAD CAME TO DAVID—by command of the angel of the Lord. I Chron. 21: 18. REAR AN ALTAR—an assurance that his repentance and prayer were accepted. III.—V. 21. TO BUY THE THRESHING-FLOOR—Araunah was willing to give it, but David would not worship God with what cost him nothing. V. 24. FIFTY SHEKELS OF SILVER—about thirty dollars. In I Chron. 21: 25 we read that David "gave for the place six hundred shekels of gold by weight"—about five thousand dollars. Perhaps the price here named was for the threshing floor alone, and the larger price in I Chronicles for the entire landed property of Araunah. V. 25. BUILT THERE AN ALTAR—according to the Lord's command. (See I Chron. 21: 25.) In due time the temple was built there.

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

- 1. That God sometimes sends judgments upon rulers and nations in punishment of their sins. 2. That the true penitent acknowledges his guilt and casts himself on the mercy of God. 3. That God will answer the prayer of the penitent. 4. That it is a sad thought to the true penitent that his sin and folly have brought evil upon others. 5. That God has shown his acceptance of Christ as a sin-offering for us by exalting him to heaven.

LESSON IX.

Aug. 31, 1884.] [Ps. 19: 1-14.

GOD'S WORKS AND WORD.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS. 7-11.

1. The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork. 2. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. 4. Their line is gone out through all the earth and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun. 5. Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. 6. His going forth is from the end of heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it; and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. 7. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. 8. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. 10. More to be desired are they than gold, yea than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honey-comb. 11. Moreover by them is thy servant warned; and in keeping of them there is great reward. 12. Who can understand his errors? cleanse thou me from secret faults. 13. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me; then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. 14. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name."—Ps. 138: 2.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Ps. 19: 1-14.....God's Works and Word. T. Ps. 138: 1-8.....God's Word Magnified. W. Ps. 8: 1-9.....Glory Above the Heavens. Th. Rom. 1: 18-25....."Clearly Seen." F. Ps. 111: 1-10.....His Commandments Sure. Sa. Ps. 119: 129-144....."Teach me Thy Statutes." S. Col. 3: 1-17.....Richly in all Wisdom.

LESSON PLAN.

1. The Works of God. 2. The Word of God.

LESSON NOTES.

I.—V. 1. THE HEAVENS—the region of the sun, moon and stars. THE GLORY—the wisdom, power, skill and majesty. V. 2. DAY UNTO DAY—each successive day. UTTERETH SPEECH—imparts instruction. V. 3. NO SPEECH—no mouths have sun, moon and stars with which to speak. NOR LANGUAGE—no sounds do they utter. Yet, V. 4. THEIR WORDS—the witnesses which they silently bear to God's wisdom and power go to the ends of the world—speak to all mankind. A TABERNACLE—tent, dwelling-place. (Compare Hab. 3: 11.) V. 5. COMING OUT OF HIS CHAMBER—the sun seems to rise from a bright of repose strong, cheerful and active. V. 6. HIS GOING FORTH—the race he has to run is from the east to the west, the whole sweep of the heavens. THERE IS NOTHING HID—everything that lives feels his quickening influence. Thus the sun illustrates the glory of God and shows forth the divine perfections. II.—V. 7. THE LAW—marginal reading, "doctrine," truth. Six words are here used to describe it, with a corresponding statement of its effect. CONVERTING—turning from the ways of sin to holiness. THE TESTIMONY—the truth to which he bears witness. V. 8. RIGHT—just, proper. ENLIGHTENING THE EYES—giving light and knowledge. V. 9. THE FEAR OF THE LORD—the precepts of piety or religion. V. 10. SWEETER ALSO—more grateful to the heart than the greatest luxury to the palate. V. 11. WARNED—admonished, instructed. (Compare Prov. 6: 22, 23; 1 Tim. 4: 8.) V. 12. SECRET FAULTS—faults unknown to the one who committed them, as well as to the world. V. 13. PRESUMPTUOUS SINS—sins proceeding from self-confidence and pride. THE GREAT TRANSGRESSION—the great guilt of unchecked indulgence of secret faults and of open sins. V. 14. REDEEMER—deliverer of men.

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

- 1. That the works of God make known to us his power, wisdom and glory. 2. That the word of God reveals his will and our duty. 3. That the commandments of God are holy, just and good. 4. That it is our interest as well as our duty to keep them. 5. That we should seek to be kept from secret as well as open sins.

LESSON X.

Sept. 7, 1884.] [Ps. 27: 1-14.

CONFIDENCE IN GOD.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS. 4-5.

1. The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? 2. When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. 3. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war should rise up against me, in this will I be confident. 4. One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. 5. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me

in his pavilion; in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. 6. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the Lord. 7. Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice; have mercy also upon me, and answer me. 8. When thou saidst, Seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, Thy face, Lord, will I seek. 9. Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger; thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. 10. When my father any my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take me up. 11. Teach me thy way, O Lord, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies. 12. Deliver me not over unto the will of mine enemies; for false witnesses are risen up against me, and such as breathe out cruelty. 13. I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. 14. Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart; wait, I say, on the Lord.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"—Ps. 27: 1.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Ps. 27: 1-14.....Confidence in God. T. Ps. 31: 1-24.....Trust in the Lord. W. Ps. 124: 1-8.....The Lord on our Side. Th. Ps. 121: 1-8.....The Lord thy Keeper. F. 1 Pet. 1: 1-9.....The Trial of Faith. Sa. Isa. 41: 8-29....."I Will Help Thee." S. Rom. 8: 28-39.....Confidence and Security.

LESSON PLAN.

1. Light and Salvation. 2. Refuge and Strength. 3. Safety amid Enemies.

LESSON NOTES.

I.—V. 1. MY LIGHT—darkness is the emblem of doubt, distress, trouble and sorrow; light of the opposite of these. John 8: 12; 14: 46. STRENGTH—affording security against violence. OF WHOM SHALL I BE AFRAID—compare Rom. 8: 31, 33, 34. V. 2. TO EAT UP MY FLESH—like ravening wolves or lions. (Compare Job 19: 22; Ps. 43: 4.) V. 3. IN THIS—in such an extremity I will calmly trust in God. II.—V. 4. ONE THING—one main object. DWELL—All God's children love their Father's house. THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD—Ps. 110: 3; Zech. 9: 17. TO INQUIRE—seek instruction. V. 5. HIDE—defend, protect, in his own abode and in the most retired and private part of it. There I am safe. Ps. 31: 20; 61: 4. UPON A ROCK—in Palestine towers for defence were built on high rocks. Ps. 61: 2. V. 7. HEAR, O LORD—thus far the Psalmist has used only the language of faith. Now, as he thinks of his own weakness, he turns to prayer for help. V. 8. THY FACE—thy favor. Ps. 103: 4. III.—V. 9. HIDE NOT THY FACE—fear not away to displeasure. (Compare Ps. 1: 6; 22: 24.) V. 10. WILL TAKE ME UP—God is a sorer and better friend than earthly parents are or can be. V. 11. THY WAY—of providence. Ps. 25: 4. 5. A PLAIN PATH—teach me how to act so as to escape from my foes. V. 12. BREATHE OUT CRUELTY—compare Acts 9: 1. V. 13. UNLESS I HAD BELIEVED—but for his faith in God he would have lost all courage. V. 14. WAIT—Isa. 40: 31.

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

- 1. That the Lord is the Light of his people, to direct them in doubt and to comfort them in sorrow. 2. That he is a stronghold and protection to them that trust in him, their shelter and their salvation. 3. That he will cause them to triumph over their enemies. 4. That they should love his house and offer him "sacrifices of joy." 5. That past mercies and deliverances should encourage them to expect future blessings.

DISINTERESTED BENEVOLENCE.

A disinterested and remarkably intelligent form of benevolence is that of our friend "Agricola," who has again sent a large sum of money for the distribution of this and other publications in quarters that they do not reach. This mode of doing it, we are told, common in the case of political papers. Candidates, and those who hope to be candidates, contractors and those who hope to be contractors, electioneers and those who hope to be officials, will make it their business to see that their party paper finds its way into the houses of those whose votes they wish to catch, and will often spend a good deal of money to secure this end. The non-partizan paper, however, has fewer friends of that sort. Those who do give it a helping hand are the true patriots, who, with no selfish end, desire to bless the country which has blessed them and which they love. The gift by "Agricola" of \$173 for the "sowing of seed" will be faithfully and diligently used.

SUPPOSE.

Suppose that all members of the congregation should do what some will probably do next Sabbath, i.e., stay at home for some trifling reason. Result, empty pews. Suppose that you should neglect store bills and other business debts as you frequently neglect your church dues and offerings and missionary obligations. Result, loss of credit; lawsuits.

On the other hand, suppose that all members of the congregation should do next Sabbath what Mr. and Mrs. — always do, i.e., get to church, rain or shine, hot or cold, headache (!) or no headache. Result, pews filled full; galleries occupied; hearty service, music and responses "as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder, and as the voice of harpers harping with their harps."

Happy parson. Happy people. Suppose that every one should treat religious duty like any kind of secular duty; that he should be careful and painstaking in all religious obligations—Sabbath school work, work in various Church organizations, attention to the holy communion, watchfulness over God's children, etc., etc. Result a live church; a godly people; shining lights; living epistles; many "good confessions witnessed before men."

Suppose that you really do give for religious and charitable purposes in proportion to your income. The Bible plainly teaches that we should give one tenth, but say one-twentieth of what you have to spend for living purposes; and, further, suppose that you give with some little sacrifice, i.e., fewer cigars; fewer buttons on your kid gloves; lower heels on your boots; less crushed strawberry on the hats; fewer dainties on the table, if needful—sacrifice somewhere in order to give to God's work. Result, overflowing treasury; mission promoted, charities helped, and good work set forward.

Please take these matters into consideration, and suppose you try to be faithful, honest and earnest, not only in your dealings with men but with God.—Earnest Worker.

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