

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOVEMBER 9.

THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON. 1 KINGS 10: 1-13.

Ver. 1.—"The Queen of Sheba," Some think Sheba was in Ethiopia. In both may be found traditions of a visit by the Queen to Solomon; in both, government by queens was not unusual. The expression, "The Queen of the South," used by our Lord will apply to both (S. Matt. 12: 42.) It seems, however, to be generally agreed that Arabia satisfies the conditions of the narrative better than Ethiopia. The name is very similar to the Arabian Sabaea. The gifts the Queen brought were the natural produce of Sabaea, a land famous for balm and myrrh. The (probable) proximity of Ophir to Sabaea affords an explanation of how the rumors concerning Solomon reached her.

The fame concerning the name of the Lord. The account of the temple splendor would excite the Queen's wonder and curiosity. (See 1 Kings 6: 16, 17, 18.) "That My name might be therein;" "an house for the name of the Lord;" "an house unto My name." "To prove with hard questions." The putting and answering questions was a favorite intellectual exercise amongst the Orientals in those days. They were asked for the purpose of testing mental power. The asking questions was a means also in the discovery of truth. The mind of both questioner and answerer was stimulated in the process and made more acute. It is worthy of note here that when our Lord at the age of twelve years was found sitting in the midst of the doctors, he was "both hearing them and asking them questions."

2.—"She came to Jerusalem," etc. A long journey of about 1000 miles. The journey in those days would of course be practically much longer than now. The distance, as it appeared in former times, is expressed in Matt. 12: 42 "She came from the uttermost parts of the earth," (the ends of the earth, Revised Version.) "She commended with him," etc. Not a mere setting verbal puzzles. The words indicate a serious quest for truth, in which she obtained help from Solomon.

4, 5.—Everything excited her wonder. First and principally Solomon's wisdom. For the Scripture account of his wisdom, see 1 Kings 4: 30, 34, where mention is made of his proverbs, his songs, and his knowledge of natural history. Her wonder was next excited by the triumph of architectural and decorative skill in "the house which he had built"—his own palace, evidently. The palace had been thirteen years in building (1 Kings 7: 1.) She wondered at the magnificence and luxury of his court. The description of his "provision for one day" is given in 1 Kings 4: 22, 24 "His ascent." A way called in the Chronicles, "the causeway of the going up," by which the king went from his palace to the temple (1 Chron. 26: 16) "There was no more spirit in her." She was breathless with astonishment.

7.—The Queen of Sheba should be an example to all who doubt the truth of the "glorious things spoken of the city of God." Let those who are incredulous as she was, take a little of the trouble which she underwent, and they will find that the truth has not been told them. Otherwise the Queen of the South will rise in judgment to condemn them.

9.—These words seem to be a recognition of Jehovah as the heathen Queen. We can hardly draw the inference of her conversion from the words of our Lord concerning her. Still there is a ring in the words which warrants us in hoping that she believed in and was accepted by Jehovah, although not belonging to Israel. Such a case had been thought of and prayed for in that great Dedication Prayer, part of which was our lesson last week. The petition seems very appropriate to the Queen of Sheba: "Conspiring a stranger, that is not of Thy people Israel, but cometh out of a far country for Thy name's sake; when he shall come and pray toward this house; hear thou in heaven Thy dwelling-place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for. (1 Kings 8: 41-43)

10-13.—Solomon's yearly revenue of gold was 666 talents (1 Kings 10: 14); so that her present of gold was more than equal to a sixth part of the sum total received by Solomon in a year. According to one estimate the sum would be over a million and a quarter; according to another, about £720,000. "Harps also and psalteries." The harp was a stringed instrument, the national instrument of the Hebrews. The psalter was a modification of the harp. Two classes of gifts to the Queen are mentioned: those which Solomon gave "of his royal bounty," and those which were indited by the Queen. The conclusion of the story is full of suggestion for the imagination.—Abridged from W. M. S. Mag.

BROKEN BONES.

A doctor should of course be sent for in most cases, as it is difficult to determine the character of the fracture of an arm-bone, especially in the case of children—their bones are not yet brittle—may be like that of a green twig, partly bent and partly

brok. In this case, if the arm can be straightened without much, if any pain to the child, the parent may himself bring the parts into place, keep them so with splints and bandages, and otherwise support the arm. A broken bone heals of itself almost as readily as a cut muscle. Rest—absolute rest, no movement of the fractured surface on each other—is the main thing; but if the fracture is in two or more places, or the bone is broken into small pieces, or a jagged end is thrust into the flesh, the doctor, of course, should be called. If the hand or foot has been badly crushed, immerse it in quite warm water, and keep it there till the doctor comes. Perhaps he may conclude to let it remain until the inflammation has subsided—two or three days—before he extracts the broken bits. Hot water has wonderful power to relieve pain, reduce inflammation, and promote healing. Hands have thus been saved for quite good service which had been crushed under a trip hammer. In the case of a broken leg, don't lift up the wounded person. The jagged ends of the bone may badly lacerate the flesh. Get some do or from its hinges—or something of the kind—and let the person draw himself on to it, and into such a posture as he may find least painful. In this case, too, absolute rest of the parts is the one condition of cure. Of late years the plaster of paris bandage has, to a large extent, taken the place of splints. It is vastly superior every way, and with it the person may sooner be allowed the use of his limbs.—Youth's Companion.

POINTS FOR NURSES.

In selecting the sick room one is often guided by necessity rather than choice, but all things equal, the one most isolated from the rest of the house, provided it is sunny and airy, is the one to be chosen. This will be found best, not only in case of infectious diseases, but in all sickness, for the sake of quiet for the patient. It is not possible to lay down any rules as to any furniture, carpets and curtains. The one thing to do is to make the room comfortable and cheerful. This is imperative and actually necessary many times to the recovery of the patient. In cases of diphtheria and infectious fevers all upholstered furniture, hanging curtains and carpets should at once be removed. Use disinfectants freely and allow no direct communication with the rest of the house.

USEFUL HINTS.

Children playing with matches lately kindled fires in Michigan which destroyed a barn and school-house, the latter worth \$2,000.

A putrid carcass polluting the air of a pasture will spoil not only the milk of the cows running there, but also the entire contents of the vat in which the tainted milk is poured at the factory.

Before winter begins the older sheep should be separated and fed a little extra, so as to get them in condition for the butcher. There is no profit in sheep over six years old, except to feed and kill.

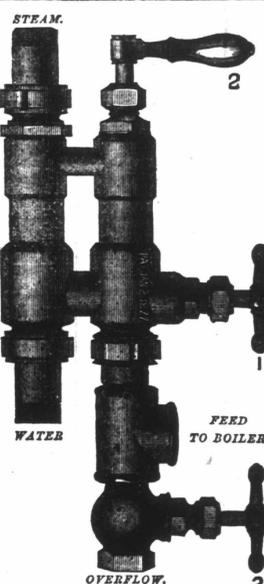
For apple pies, pare tart apples, slice the quarters thin. Make a rich paste; cover with one layer of apples; drop bits of butter over them; sprinkle thickly with sugar and a dust of flour; add layers until pie-dish full; bake slowly. This is apple pie in perfection. So says a farmer's wife.

Full plowing is a good means of destroying much vermin. The troat will kill millions that are thus exposed to its power. Only the heavier soils should be plowed in the Fall, as the fine particles of light soil may be blown away if plowed in the fall. These fine particles are the most valuable portion.—N. Y. Her.

No Pullman car is permitted to enter the State of Michigan if lighted by oil lamps. The provision is a wise one and might very properly be extended to Canada. If a car lighted by wax candles turns over, the candles go out, whereas if the overboard car is lighted by oil lamps the horror of the occasion is greatly increased and the passengers are subjected to the additional risk of being burned alive.—Toronto Telegram.

The weakness of sickness, of invalidism brings with it a sensitiveness to details in surrounding. Pleasure and pain are more easily aroused than when in health, therefore all possible effort should be made to have the sick room cleansed and bright, the nurse neat and cheery, and the food not only nourishing, but invitingly prepared. Sickness is an affliction of which we can more often relieve ourselves than we are apt to think.—Western Ad.

In 1820 two hills of an area of about eight hundred acres of almost no agricultural value, on the property of Lord Cawdor in Scotland, were planted with fir and other trees, and after successive thinnings, the sale of which realized large sums, the remainder of the wood was sold off for the sum of £16,000. The sums realized for the wood on this waste land during the fifty years are stated to be equal per acre to the return from the best arable land in the country.—Phil. Ledger.



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