

that was good in her was poured out upon her own son. Lady Blanche Balfour gives a beautiful picture of the mother of Mr. Arthur Balfour and Mr. Gerald Balfour, both members of the British Cabinet, and of how she dealt with her boys: "Of her own personal part in the teaching of her children, her reading of the Bible with them had the first place, and of the few photographs of that time, it is a happy chance that one survives, taken by her second son, showing her seated with her Bible open on her knee, and her children gathered round her. Her daily

lessons in the Bible, usually first after breakfast, were largely conversations, and she knew wonderfully well how to make them interesting. 'You know what boys are'—so I have had this described—'Yet none of them would have missed those readings in the Bible', free, novel, refreshing, yet reverent—so her treatment has been described to me. . . Her authority in her family and household was unquestioned. . . She expected obedience and was for the most part scrupulously obeyed in great and little things both.'

LIGHT FROM THE EAST

By Rev. Professor Ross, D.D., Montreal

PHILISTINES.—They were a Semitic race who originally came from Kaphtor (Amos 9: 7), probably Crete, but who had lived on the border of Egypt before they entered Canaan, where we find them settled in the time of Abraham. In the patriarchal period they were a pastoral people, but at the date of the Exodus they had incorporated many of the clans they had conquered and had become a strong and warlike nation. For ages they were the principal adversary of Israel. Their language* was in all likelihood formed on that of the peoples they had displaced, and,

if we may judge from proper names and coins, it was simply a dialect of Hebrew. The valley of Gerar in Isaac's time was the border of their territory, and, as he kept moving to the south-east, the sphere of Philistine influence grew less marked, and in Rehoboth he was left in peace. As the valley itself has not been certainly identified, none of the wells mentioned here have been discovered, although one in the valley Ru-haibeh, twenty miles south of the probable site of Gerar, is supposed by many to be Rehoboth.

TEACHING HINTS AND HELPS

This section contains teaching material for the various grades in the School and from different points of view.

For Bible Class Teachers

AN ANALYSIS

By Rev. Principal MacVicar, D.D., LL.D., Montreal

King Abimelech anticipated the vicious conduct of the Philistines towards Isaac when he denounced capital punishment against any who should injure this stranger, v. 11. Note:

1. *Isaac's prosperity*, vs. 12-14. This record is very remarkable. An hundred-fold in one year, steady increase in flocks and in everything "until he became very great." This phenomenal affluence was the result of—(a) Diligent industry on his part as an agriculturist and a shepherd. He sowed his fields and cared for his flocks and herds. He acted on the precept in Eccl. 9: 10, and realized

the truth of what is written in Prov. 10: 4; 22: 29. (b) The blessing of the Lord, v. 12. He is the proprietor of all things, Ps. 24: 1; 1 Cor. 10: 26, and the dispenser of riches, 1 Chron. 29: 12; Prov. 10: 22. The Saviour promised temporal gifts to those who seek first His kingdom and righteousness, Matt. 6: 33. These two, human effort and the divine blessing, should go together. As diligence is a commendable virtue, so indolence is an abominable vice leading to many others, such as untruthfulness, ignorance, dishonesty, etc.

2. *The conduct of the Philistines*. It was natural, but not excusable on this account. Isaac's success excited their worst passions. (a) "The Philistines envied him," v. 14. The spirit of envy is despicable and vile. "Envy is the rottenness of the bones," Prov. 14: 30. (See Prov. 27: 4.) For envy