

SCHOLAR'S NOTES.

(From the International Lessons for 1876, by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday-School Union.)

LESSON XXVI.

JUNE 27.]

REVIEW—SAMUEL'S PARTING WORDS.

READ I SAM. xii. 20-25.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider how great things he hath done for you.—I Sam. xii. 24. CENTRAL TRUTH.—We are to be faithful unto death.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 1 Sam. xii. 20-25. T. Judg. ii. 6-23. W. Ps. cvi. 34-48. Th. Judg. vii. 1-18. F. Rom. i. 8-25. Sa. Ruth i. 6-22. S. 1 Sam. iii. 1-21.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—In this review notice the repeated sins of Israel, followed by judgments from God, and the frequent repentances, yet final rejection of the Lord in the choice of a king.

ORDER OF EVENTS.—(55.) The Ammonites slain. (56.) Samuel's parting words.

NOTES.—When Israel had chosen Saul to rule in place of Samuel and his sons, and had made him king at Gilgal, Samuel gave the people a parting address, reviewing their sin of idolatry; God's punishments and deliverances under the judges; their rejection of the Lord as King, who would be merciful if they served him; but if they did wickedly, he would destroy them.

TOPICS AND QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW.

A good review of the past twelve lessons may be gained by dividing them into three groups of four lessons each

(I) THE LORD FORSAKEN (Lessons XIV.-XVII.). (II.) THE LORD SOUGHT (Lessons XVIII.-XXI.). (III.) THE LORD REJECTED (Lessons XXII.-XXV.). See also chart on page 60.

1. What promise did Israel make to Joshua? (Lesson XIV.)

Where had they forsaken the Lord? Josh. xxiv. 17.

What were they now to choose? Josh. xxiv. 15.

How did they break this promise to Joshua? (See Lesson XV.)

Into whose hands did the Lord give them? Judg. ii. 14.

Who were raised up to deliver Israel? Judg. ii. 16.

By whom was Gideon called? Where? Who were oppressing Israel at that time? What was Gideon called to do? Judg. vi. 16.

In how many ways was Gideon's army reduced? By whose command?

What did the Lord promise to do with Gideon's three hundred? Judg. vi. 7.

II. What did the Philistines require Samson to do? (Lesson XVIII.)

Upon whom did Samson call? What was his prayer? How answered? Whom did Naomi urge to leave her? (Lesson XIX.)

Whose God did Ruth choose to serve? Of what country was Ruth? To what city of Israel did Ruth and Naomi return?

For what did Hannah pray in the temple? 1 Sam. i. 27.

Who answered her prayer? To whom did she lend her son? For how long? What was her son's name? To whom did Samuel minister? Who called him? How many times? How did he answer the Lord's last call? III. By whom was the ark taken? (Lesson XXI.)

Why was Israel defeated? (See 1 Sam. iii. 13.)

Who fell dead when he heard the sad news? What offering did Samuel make for the people? (Lesson XXIII.)

How did the Lord answer Samuel? What did the people ask of Samuel? (Lesson XXIV.)

Whom did the Lord say they had rejected? In granting their request, of what did he warn the people? Who was chosen king of Israel? (Lesson XXV.)

How did Samuel finally encourage and warn the people? (See Sam. xii. 24, 25.)

LESSON I.

JULY 4.]

THE WORD MADE FLESH.

READ JOHN I. 1-14.—COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 11, 12.

GOLDEN TEXT.—God was manifest in the flesh.—I Tim. iii. 16. CENTRAL TRUTH.—Jesus is the revealer of the Father.

DAILY READINGS.

M. John i. 1-14. T. Prov. viii. 22-36. W. 1 John v. 12-20. Th. John v. 24-38. F. Matt. iii. 1-12. Sa. John iii. 1-21. S. Heb. ii. 9-18.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—Find out who John, the writer of this Gospel, was, when he wrote it, and for what purpose, and in what language. In these verses see how plainly he states that Jesus the Word is God, and that he became also a man to save us and make us the children of God.

HISTORICAL NOTES.—The word.—i. e. Jesus the Christ. The apostle uses this phrase without explaining it, as one well understood by his readers. Similar phrases are found in Psalms, Proverbs, Prophets, and in Hebrews. See Ps xxxiii. 4, 6; cvii. 20; Isa. xl. 8; Jer xxiii. 29; Prov. viii.; Heb. iv. 12, 13; xl. 3. This lesson forms an introduction to this Gospel. Augustine tells of a Greek philosopher who thought these verses should be written in letters of gold.—John—not the writer of this gospel, but John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus. See Luke iii. 1-22.

EXPLANATION.—(1.) In the beginning, before anything was created; from eternity. Word (see Notes). (2.) same, the word; Jesus; with God, not in God, but co-equal with him. (3.) by him, or through him. (4.) was life, source of life; light of men, true light, spiritual life. (5.) darkness, spiritual darkness; comprehended, understood, received. (7.) witness, to point out the light. (8.) that light, Jesus. (9.) true light, divine light; lighteth every man, read, "the true light which cometh in the world lighteth every man." (11.) his own, his own possessions and people. (12.) received him, accepted him in their hearts; power, or the right, the privilege; sons of God, or children of God—i. e., born of God and like him. (13.) not of blood, not merely children of Abraham, as the Jews; nor... the flesh, not of a worldly spirit; nor... of man, no self-righteous merit. (14.) made flesh, Jesus in human form; dwelt among us, for thirty-three years; beheld his glory, in his works.

ILLUSTRATION.—The great scholar Francis Junius once providentially opened his father's Testament and read part of this first chapter of John. He was so struck with the majesty and eloquence of the words that his body shuddered, his mind was amazed, and he was led from that time to love God and delight to study his word.

TOPICS AND QUESTIONS.

(I.) JESUS THE WORD. (II.) JESUS THE CREATOR. (III.) JESUS THE LIFE AND LIGHT.

I. Who wrote this Gospel? When? (About A. D. 90.) Where? [Probably at Ephesus.] For what purpose? (See John xx. 31.) How many accounts of the life of Jesus had already been written? [Three—Matthew's, Mark's, and Luke's.] In what language did John write? [The Greek.] What was in the beginning? Who was the Word? When with God?

II. What was made by the Word? Where is there another account of the creation? Gen. i, ii. What is said in Ps. xxxiii. 6? How can we explain that Christ as well as God the Father made all things? (See Eph. iii. 9.)

III. Who is the light of the world? Who was a witness to that light? How was Jesus treated by his own? What did he give to those who did receive him?

Which verse in this lesson teaches— (1.) That Jesus is divine? (2.) That he was human? (3.) That he can make us the children of God?

—We have no more right to fling an unnecessary shadow over the spirit of these with whom we have to do, than we have to fling a stone and injure them. Yet this flinging shadow is a very common sin, and one to which women are particularly addicted. Oh, what a blessing is a merry, cheerful woman in a household! One whose spirits are not affected by wet days, or little disappointments, or whose milk of human kindness does not sour in the sunshine of prosperity. Such a woman in the darkest hours brightens the house like a little piece of sunny weather. The magnetism of her smile, the electrical brightness of her looks and movements, infect every one. The children go to school with a sense of something great to be achieved; her husband goes into the world in a conqueror's spirit. No matter how people worry and annoy him all day, far off her presence shines, and he whispers to himself, "At home I shall find rest." So day by day she literally renews his strength and energy, and if you know a man with a beaming face, a kind heart and a prosperous business, in nine cases out of ten you will find he has a wife of this kind. For nothing is more certain than that the man who is married must ask his wife for permission to be happy and wealthy.

—A New England pastor, telling of the obstacles to Sunday-school reform in his parish, said: "Two objections are likely to be raised by my people against any plan of improvement proposed, either of which would be fatal to the plan. One is: 'We never tried that in this church.' The other is: 'We tried that once and it didn't go.' These objections are not unknown in other parishes."

THE CHILDREN'S COLUMN.

PRESB. MARCH 21, 1875.

Dear Sir.—I take the MESSENGER; it must be a very good paper, for I never heard any one speak ill of it; everyone who sees it thinks it a nice paper, but some of them will not subscribe; but I think if they knew the true value of it they would.

RIDDLES.

My 1 is in hail, but not in snow. " 2 " " fast, " " slow. " 3 " " low, " " mean. " 4 " " King, " " Queen.

My whole is a bird.

My 1, 3, 6, is a title of honor. " 6, 5, 4, is a color. " 2, 3, 5, is something which people are generally fond of. " 2, 6, 3, 4, 5, is vanity. " 3, 6, 5, is anger.

My whole is an insect. HATTIE BROWN, (aged 12).

I have found the answer to the questions that were in the MESSENGER to-day, and send them to you:— I am a word of eight letters:

My first is in Cow but not in Ox. " second " " Book " " " Paper. " third " " Top " " " High. " fourth " " Luk " " " Pen. " fifth " " Pot " " " Stove. " sixth " " Cat " " " Mouse. " seventh " " Axe " " " Cut. " eighth " " Quick " " " Soor.

My whole is a high mountain. HERBERT L. DOANE.

PRIZES.

The circulation of the MESSENGER has been for the last four numbers, as follows:—

April 15th..... 18,200 May 1st..... 19,300 " 15th..... 19,500 June 1st..... 20,500

This is a pleasant sort of increase, which we hope will continue until the MESSENGER reaches every country neighborhood on this continent.

We have now subscribers in most of the United States, and the circulation is rapidly increasing in regions where the paper was before unknown. For this advance we have especially to thank the friends of Sunday-schools in various quarters, and persons who are anxious for the promotion of good literature in their own neighborhoods, as well as a great multitude of children who have made canvassing for the MESSENGER a specialty.

As we wish to have a circulation of 30,000 before the summer is out we wish to organize all our young readers for a summer campaign, to last during the months of July, August and September. During the holidays every one will do what he or she can to get us new subscribers and send us the money for them. We want all to work for the good of their neighbors, and we will give to those who do best the following prizes:—

To the boy or girl who sends us before the first of October the money for the largest number of subscribers... \$25.00 To the second largest..... 15.00 To the third largest..... 10.00 To the fourth largest a work-box or writing-desk furnished, worth..... 8.00 To the next ten on the list a work-box or writing desk, varying in value from \$7 to \$2..... \$32.00 To the next ten a book each, worth \$1, 10.00 \$100.00

The above rate of increase, showing a growth of two thousand three hundred in six weeks, would bring us, without any special inducement, up to more than 26,500 by the first of October—so that with these prizes there is every prospect of reaching the 30,000 if not a much higher figure.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.—According to an arrangement which came into operation on the 1st Sept., 1874, Post Office money orders payable in the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and British Columbia, for any sum not exceeding four dollars (\$4.00), may be obtained at any money order office in the Dominion, at the rate of two cents for each such order.

—A scholar's comment on an irregular teacher: "I ain't a-comin' no more after to-day. I ain't a goin' to be turned over to any fellow as turns up. I like to have a teacher as belongs to you."

DEATH-BED REPENTANCE.—I don't ask you to take my poor words about the brevity and uncertainty of life. Ask any commercial man whose kind of business necessitates that he calculate the length of human life—ask him in his business what he thinks of the uncertainty of human existence. "Oh," says one man, "I shall repent on my sick bed." Will you? The last sickness, as far as I have observed, is generally divided into two parts. The first half of that final sickness is spent in the expectation of getting well, in the discussion of doctors, and the different kinds of medicine; the last half in delirium or in stupidity, or a consternation which prohibits religious thoughts, so that I take it that the poorest place on earth for a man to repent of sin and prepare for Heaven is on his death-bed.—Talnage.

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THE ALTERED RATES OF SUBSCRIPTION

to the WITNESS, owing to the new postal law which requires the publishers to prepay postage, are as follows:—

Daily Witness..... \$3.00 per annum. To Ministers actually in charge of congregations, and teachers actually in charge of schools..... \$2.50 per annum Montreal Witness (Tri-weekly) \$2 per annum.

To Ministers and teachers as above..... \$1.50 per annum Weekly Witness..... \$1.10 per annum To Ministers, &c., &c..... 85 cents per annum

It will be seen that in the case of the DAILY and TRI-WEEKLY we have determined to pay the postage ourselves, making these editions, the former \$1.20 less to subscribers than hitherto and the other 60 cents less. We regret that we cannot do the same for the WEEKLY at present, but promise to do so if our friends can raise our circulation to 35,000 subscribers, double our present circulation, which would be required to cover the deficiency which the reduction of ten cents would involve. The reduction to teachers and ministers will, of course, have to be less, as their rates for the DAILY and TRI-WEEKLY were as low as possible already. We have, however, added a special rate for ministers and teachers for the WEEKLY also. Any present subscriber can, however, get the WEEKLY WITNESS for one dollar postpaid, by securing us a new subscriber. An old subscriber remitting for a new one along with his own can get the two for two dollars, or if he sends the new subscriber on of \$1 before his own runs out, he will have his own paper continued a month. With this great reduction in cost we hope our readers will become more than ever interested in extending the circulation of the WITNESS.

The new rates for the MESSENGER are: 1 copy..... \$ 0.30 10 copies..... 2.50 25 copies..... 6.00 50 copies..... 11.50 100 copies..... 22.00 1,000 copies..... 200.00 Surplus copies for distribution as tract, 12 dozen for \$1.

The new rates for the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY, on the other hand, are somewhat higher than before, as some improvements in get-up are to be introduced. They are as follows:

1 copy..... \$1.50 10 copies..... 12.00 25 copies..... 25.00

THE DOMINION will be clubbed with the WITNESS at \$1.25, instead of \$1, as heretofore.

The new rates come into force this day, but except in the case of subscriptions received after this date the postage will not be pre-paid by us until after October first, when the new law comes fully into force.

J. DOUGALL & SON, Publishers.

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