

## The Seasoning.

"I HAVE brought your dinner, father,"  
The blacksmith's daughter said,  
As she took from her arms a kettle,  
And tilted its shiuling lid,  
"There's not any pie or pudding,  
So I will give you this,"  
And upon his toil worn forehead  
She left a childish kiss.

The blacksmith took off his apron,  
And dined in happy mood,  
Wondering much at the savor,  
Hid in his humble food;  
While all about him were visions,  
Full of prophetic bliss,  
But he never thought of magic  
In his little daughter's kiss.

While she with her kettle swinging  
Merrily trudged away,  
Stopping at sight of a squirrel,  
Catching some wild bird's lay,  
And I thought how many a shadow  
Of life and fate we would miss,  
It always our frugal dinners  
Were seasoned with a kiss.

## Germany and Spain.

IN that part of the Western Pacific, thickly dotted with tropical islands, which is called on the maps "Polynesia," there is a group called the "Carolines." It consists for the most part of small but very fruitful isles, which lie east of the more famous Philippines, and north of the equator and of the large island of New Guinea.

The Carolines were taken possession of by Spanish sailors somewhat more than two centuries ago, and were named after Charles, the then reigning King of Spain, as the Philippines were named after King Philip. The Spanish claim is supposed to derive some additional strength from the fact that the Carolines were granted to Spain by one of the Popes.

But as a matter of fact, the Carolines have never been actually occupied by Spain, nor has Spain ever established settlements or posts upon them. She has claimed them as Spanish possessions, but eleven years ago Germany and England both notified Spain that they did not recognize her claim to the Carolines.

A few weeks ago Germany suddenly announced her intention to annex the island group. Spain thereupon sent one or two vessels thither, with the intention of forestalling Germany, and occupying the Carolines herself. But the Spanish captain delayed landing; meanwhile a German gun-boat arrived, and a German force was landed upon the shores of Yap, or Uap, the most important of the islands.

The news of this event caused intense excitement in Madrid and in other parts of Spain. The old, proud Spanish blood was roused and vented itself in acts of actual violence. A mob in Madrid tore down the coat-of-arms which was fixed on the German embassy, and carrying it to the residence of the Minister of the Interior, burned it in the street in front of the Minister's house.

King Alfonso hastened to his capital, Cabinet-meetings were hurriedly held, and it seemed for a while as if Spain were about to be rash enough to declare war against the mighty German empire. The Spanish revolutionists, moreover, seized the moment of excitement to try to overthrow the monarchy. It looked as if Alfonso must either go to war with the most powerful of European States, or lose his throne.

But soon wiser counsels prevailed, and the whole affair of the Carolines, and the insult to the German coat-of-arms, was transferred to the calmer regions of negotiation and diplomacy.

At the time that this is written, it does not seem likely that war will result from the attempt upon the Carolines.

A quarrel between Germany and Spain recalls the fact, that these two nations have been united in the past by many close ties. At one time, the same sovereign wore the Imperial crown of Germany and the crown of Spain. The countries were often allies in the wars which grew out of the Reformation and the struggle for religious supremacy in Europe; and later were combined against the ambition of Louis the Fourteenth of France.

Still later, it was an attempt of Prussia to place a prince of the Prussian house of Hohenzollern on the throne of Spain in 1870, which afforded the pretext of the great Franco-German war of that year.

Germany is now engaged in a manifest effort to take possession of remote regions of the earth, and to imitate England in planting colonies and establishing naval stations far and wide. In such a career, she has already aroused the jealousy and opposition of England by her attempted settlements on the west coast of Africa, in Zanzibar and in New Guinea, and now she has crossed the path of Spain in the Carolines.

The future of the German ambition in this direction will be watched with keen interest; but it is to be hoped that it will not result, as it has come near doing in the case of the Carolines, in the kindling of a European war. — *Youth's Companion*.

## Talmage on Tobacco.

AN eminent physician, for a long while superintendent of the insane asylum at Northampton, Mass., says: "Fully half of the patients who have come to our asylum for treatment are the victims of tobacco." It is a sad thing, my brother, to damage the mind, and any man of common sense knows that the nervous system immediately acts upon the brain. More than that, nearly all reformers will tell you that it tends to drunkenness, that it creates unnatural thirst. There are those who use this narcotic who do not drink, but nearly all who drink use the narcotic. It was long ago demonstrated that a man cannot permanently reform from strong drink unless he gives up tobacco. In nearly all the cases where men having been reformed have fallen back, it has been shown they first touched tobacco and then surrendered to intoxicants. The broad avenue leading down to the drunkard's grave and the drunkard's hell is strewn thick with tobacco leaves. What did Benjamin Franklin say? "I never saw a well man in the exercise of common sense, who would say that tobacco did him any good." What did Thomas Jefferson say when arguing against the culture of tobacco? He said: "It is a culture productive of infinite wretchedness." Horace Greeley said of it: "If those men must smoke, let them take the horse-shed." There are ministers of religion to-day indulging in narcotics,

## DYING BY INCHES,

and they do not know what is the matter with them. I might in a word give my own experience. It took ten cigars to make a sermon. I got very nervous. One day I awakened to the outrage I was inflicting upon myself. I was about to change settlements, and a generous wholesale tobacconist in

Philadelphia said if I would only come to Philadelphia he would, all the rest of my life, provide me with cigars free of charge. I said to myself: If in these war times when cigars are so costly and my salary is small, I smoke more than I ought to, what would I do if I had gratuitous and illimitable supply? And then and there, twenty-four years ago, I quit once and forever. It made a new man of me, and though I have since then done as much hard work as anyone, I have had the best health God ever blessed a man with. A minister of religion cannot afford to smoke. Put into my hands the moneys wasted in tobacco in the United States of America and I will clothe, feed and shelter all the suffering poor on this continent. The American churches give \$1,000,000 a year for the evangelization of the heathen, and American Christians expend \$5,000,000 in tobacco.

Now, I stand this morning not only in the presence of my God, to whom I must give an account for what I say to-day, but I stand in the presence of a great multitude of

## YOUNG MEN

who are forming their habits. Between 17 and 23 there are tens of thousands of young men damaging their lives irretrievably by tobacco. You either use very good tobacco or cheap tobacco. If you use cheap tobacco I will tell you why it is cheap. It is a mixture of burdock, lamp-black, sawdust, colts-foot, plaitain, leaves, fuller's earth, lime, salt, alum, and a little tobacco. You cannot afford, my young brother, to take such a mess as that between your lips. If on the other hand, you use costly tobacco, let me say I do not think you can afford it. You take that which you expend and will expend, if you keep the habit all your life, and put it aside and it will buy you a farm to make you comfortable in the afternoon of life. A merchant of New York gave this testimony:—"In early life I smoked six cigars a day, at 6½ cents each—they averaged that. I thought to myself one day, I'll just put aside all the money I am consuming in cigars and all I would consume if I kept on in the habit, and I will see what it will come to by compound interest." And he gives this tremendous statistic: "Last July completed thirty-nine years since, by the grace of God, I was emancipated from

## THE FILTHY HABIT,

and the saving amounted to the enormous sum of \$29,102.03 by compound interest. We lived in the city, but the children, who had learned something of the enjoyment of country life from the annual visits to their grandparents, longed for a home among the green fields, and I found a very pleasant place in the country for sale. The cigar money now came into requisition, and I found it amounted to a sufficient sum to purchase the place, and it is mine. Now, boys, you take your choice—smoking without a home or a home without smoking."

"EVERY day," says Bishop Hall, "is a little life, and our whole life is but a day repeated; whence it is that old Jacob numbered his life by days, and Moses desired to be taught this point of holy arithmetic, to number not his years, but his days. Those, therefore, that dare lose a day are dangerously prodigal; and those that dare mispend it, desperat."

## LESSON NOTES.

## FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE KINGS AND PROPHETS.  
B.C. 713.] LESSON XI. [Dec. 13.

## THE SUFFERING SAVIOUR.

Isa. 53. 1-12. Commit to mem. vs. 4-6.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.—Isa. 53. 6.

## CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus Christ by his life, sufferings, and death has made atonement for the sins of the world.

## DAILY READINGS.

M. Isa. 52. 1-15. Th. Matt. 8. 5-17.  
Tu. Isa. 53. 1-12. F. Mark 15. 1-25.  
W. John 12. 23-41. Sa. Mark 15. 26-47.  
Su. Rev. 5. 1-14.

TIME.—Written probably in the last half of the reign of Hezekiah, B.C. 713-698, more than seven centuries before it was fulfilled.

INTRODUCTION.—This chapter is a wonderful prophecy of Christ, and was fulfilled in him, and only in him. In the last lesson we studied about the sinfulness of man; in this we consider God's great remedy for sin.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. The prophet looks at the distant future when Christ should appear, and speaks of it as if present before him. *Who hath believed?*—That is, few at first. *Our report*—That the son of God, the Messiah had come, to save the world. *The arm*—The symbol of power. 2. *Grow as a tender plant*—That is small and easily destroyed. *Root, etc.*—A shoot from the root of a decayed tree. The house of David, from which Christ sprang, was then in a very lowly condition. *No form*—No beautiful appearance. Not referring to Christ's bodily appearance, but to his state, so different from the outward circumstances of glory which the Jews expected to surround their Messiah. 4. *He hath borne our griefs*—Christ did this by his healings (Matt. 8. 17), his sympathy, and all the ways in which Christianity lessens the sorrows of men. 5. *He was wounded for our transgressions*—All his sufferings were for our sake, to make atonement for our sin. 6. *All we like sheep*—We have wandered into forbidden and dangerous paths of sin, like sheep without a shepherd. 8. *Taken from prison and from judgment*—Or justice; rather, he was taken away by oppression, and the forms of justice. *Who shall declare his generation*—His family line. He was cut off without children, and with but few spiritual children. His life seemed extinct, but it was not (see v. 10). 9. *He made his grave, etc.*—He was crucified as a criminal, and appointed to a criminal's grave, but his body was delivered over to the rich man, Joseph of Arimathea (Matt. 27. 57-60). 10. *It pleased the Lord*—This was not merely the work of wicked men, but was a part of God's plan for the salvation of men. *He shall see his seed*—His spiritual children, to whom he gives spiritual life. *Prolong his days*—He was raised from the dead, and ever liveth. 11. *Trawl*—Toil with pain. *And be satisfied*—Because so many will be saved by him. *Justify*—Forgive and make holy. *Many*—Countless numbers will be saved. 12. *A portion with the great*—He shall be among conquerors, the greatest of all.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The prophecy as a whole—when written.—Its fulfilment in Christ.—Christ as despised and rejected—why?—How Christ bears our griefs.—How he bore our sins.—The necessity of the atonement.—How the atonement saves us from sin.—The fulfilment of the prophecy in vs. 7-9.—Christ's seed.—The success of the work of Christ in the world.—Many saved.

## QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—When was this chapter written? How many years down the future is the prophet looking in this vision? Where in the book of Isaiah does this prophecy really begin? (Isa. 52. 13.)

## SUBJECT: SALVATION THROUGH A SUFFERING SAVIOUR.

I. THE SAVIOUR AS HE FIRST APPEARED TO MEN (vs. 1-3).—How was the Saviour received at first? What "report" is referred to? Who asks this question? What is the answer? What is meant by "the arm of the Lord?" Like what did Christ first seem to men? How did the Jews expect the Messiah would come? What were his