

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

The lessons of the quarter are very rich and fruitful in lessons for individuals and nations, which means for us, both as individuals and as citizens, for the nation is but the sum of the individuals. Some of these lessons are the following:

1. *Forsaking the House of God, leads to forsaking God.*—Jeroboam persuaded the people that they could worship as well at Bethel and Dan, as at Jerusalem; that it was too far to go to the latter place. They were led to forget God, and finally to ruin.

A young man may persuade himself or others, that the church is too far away, that we can worship just as well in the ease and comfort of home, or amid the beauties of nature, by mountain, stream, or sea, but the result, more or less often, is forgetting God, and sometimes temporal as well as eternal ruin by sin.

2. *Great is the responsibility of leadership.*—The expression most often used about Jeroboam, who first kept Israel away from the House of God, is, "Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin." What an unenviable way in which to have one's name transmitted to posterity.

Few can exert influence on so large a scale, but all have influence, more or less, and he who leads a companion in any measure away from God, must bear, in God's sight, a measure of the guilt of "Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin."

3. *It is an evil thing when Christian people intermarry with the Godless and bad.*—Ahab married Jezebel, a Zidonian princess, a worshipper of idols; and her own wickedness and that to which she stirred up the people, and especially her husband, brought the three years' drought upon the land, and was one of the means of hurrying the nation to its sad end, the captivity from which it never returned.

The history of such marriages is usually a sad one, from a moral and spiritual standpoint. While there are exceptions, as a rule the godless side of the house drags the other down to its own level. The reason is plain. One whose love for man or woman, who hates

and rejects Christ, is strong enough to lead them to give that one the chief place in the heart, has not much of God there, and that little is likely to grow rapidly less. How can two loves dwell together except they be agreed, and how can one truly love God supremely, and give the chief human love of the heart to that which dislikes and dishonors and rejects God.

4 Nations like individuals, prosper, or otherwise, as they follow or turn away from God. It is well, not only that the individual lives of a nation be pure, but that the national life, the laws and government, the doings of the nation as a nation, be pure. At present our Dominion, Canada, allows the traffic in strong drink, and makes money out of it, by getting a revenue from it. The coming Plebiscite, 29th September, is to decide whether she will continue it, or abolish it.

May our country, in this regard, decide to do better than in the past, and our land be freed from the bitter fruits of the traffic, and the curse of the blood-money that comes from it.

5. The *chief end* of nations, as of "man," is to glorify God. When they cease to do that they must pass away and give place to others. All the great world powers of past ages have passed away. They honored not God. Our own British Empire is going on from strength to strength. She is better serving God's purposes in the world than any other nation that ever went before her. None other ever did so much in establishing righteousness and justice and liberty in the earth; and so long as she continues in the paths of righteousness, that righteousness will exalt her.

6. Both the loving patience and the justice of God are strikingly set forth in the history of the ten tribes. God bore with them for years, for over two centuries, sending them his servants, the prophets, to warn and entreat. And only at last, when all seemed in vain, he forsook them.

Some of the truths taught by the separate lessons, are in the following from our SENIOR QUARTERLY.