



LESSON.—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1907.

Review.

Read Psalm 98.

Golden Text for the Quarter.

Thou crowned the year with thy goodness.
Psa. lxxv. 11.

Home Readings.

Monday, December 23.—Ps. 68, 1-18.
Tuesday, December 24.—Ps. 68, 19-35.
Wednesday, December 25.—Ps. 78, 53-66.
Thursday, December 26.—Ps. 89, 1-18.
Friday, December 27.—Ps. 106, 34-48.
Saturday, December 28.—Ps. 135, 1-21.
Sunday, December 29.—Heb. xi., 29-40.

FOR THE JUNIORS.

Ask questions. Get at what the children remember of the last quarter's lessons, because very frequently the little ones catch at a passing idea, possibly introduced to give the lesson more life, and lose the main point. Moreover, you can only start in teaching from the safe ground of what a child already knows. With the interest that naturally attaches in the mind of a child to other children they will be apt to speak first of the last two lessons, the birth of Jesus, and the boy Samuel. Connect the two by making them understand that both were born in the same country and belonged to the same nation. Speak about how they both understood even when they were still children that God had a great work for them to do.

Of course, we know what Christ's work was, but what did God have for Samuel to do? Samuel lived at a time when his people had no king and were surrounded by a great many enemies. Samuel had to guide and help his people and keep them true to God. He was called a 'judge.' Do you remember any others who were called judges and what they did?

FOR THE SENIORS.

The period of time covered during the lessons of the last quarter is according to the margins of the Bible some 350 years. From the crossing of the Jordan to the settlement of the country in comparative peace at the end of Samuel's administration (leaving out the Christmas and temperance lessons) is covered in ten lessons. Consider what the same time would mean in our own history. It is truly a land of great promise which we have inherited, and the time between the present and its early settlement under Jacques Cartier is of much the same length as the period covered by the quarter's study. We can perhaps better realize the passage of time by this thought. It would be well to take up brief studies of the grand characters, such as Joshua, Caleb, Boaz, Deborah, Ruth, Samuel, and others whom we have come across and consider the qualities that have made them honored through all time. Then take those of less stainless achievement, but still names to be honored, Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Jephtha. Follow these by a consideration of those whose sins or weaknesses hampered their nation, such as Achan, and Eli. It is noticeable that the sins spoken of, Achan's theft and Eli's indulgence, were what we might call small, but the sin that was promptly checked in the one case would have spread disastrously if unnoticed, and the continual weakness in the other brought down destruction on a family that through it richly deserved such punishment, and the loss to Israel for a time of the Ark of God. All through the story of this time it is rather what the people left undone, that is their failure to follow God wholly, that proved their great snare. Had they at any time mustered courage to drive out the enemy instead of meeting them with an easy tolerance, God would have come to their aid.

This is the last Sunday of the closing year, and the Golden Text is a reminder of this. We are accustomed to speak of how wonderfully God guided and kept Israel in all their difficulties, but are inclined, if not in word, certainly in complacent thought, to look back over our own history and think of how much our own hands have wrought. Let us at the close of this year not only thank God for His care during the past twelve months, but also for the wonderful way in which his hand is evident in our whole history. A little race in a little country were the Anglo-Saxons, but to-day they hold a wonderful place in the world, and God has not given us this for nothing.

Junior C. E. Topic.

Sunday, December 29.—Topic—Foreign missions: The coming triumph of the cross: how may we hasten it? Isa. xi., 1-10.

C. E. Topic.

Monday, December 23.—How have I endeavored? Col. iii., 23, 24.
Tuesday, December 24.—Have the Psalms helped me? Ps. 119, 10.
Wednesday, December 25.—Have I learned wisdom? Prov. i., 1-7.
Thursday, December 26.—The prophet's message. Jer. vii., 23.
Friday, December 27.—A lesson from Daniel. Dan. xii., 3.
Saturday, December 28.—A lesson from Solomon. Eccl. xii., 13, 14.
Sunday, December 29.—Topic—Lessons learned from this year's meetings. Ps. 86, 11.

Gifts and the Sunday School.

The high-tide of Christmas joy sweeps over the Sunday school as over the home at this blissful and blessed period of the year. In some schools the children receive beautiful gifts from the Christmas tree, and both teachers and scholars exchange more or less costly tokens of regard. It would seem as if the spirit of Christmas were better illustrated if some portion of the festival were devoted to giving instead of to receiving. Children need training in self-denial, and in that practical generosity which makes it easy to give to those who are not in the immediate circle of kindred and not in the range of vision. Our Sunday School children ought to have the rare pleasure of making others happy in the Christmas season. There are thousands of little ones in the great cities, thousands of others in remote rural communities away from the railroad, to whom the gift of a book, a doll, a knife or a box of candy at Christmas means many times more than it can to young people and children who are almost encumbered with the gifts of Santa Claus.—'Christian Intelligencer.'

The Great Gift.

(By Anna Searle, in the 'Christian Intelligencer'.)

A little child before you stands,
And she would tell you how,
Long years ago, in Bethlehem's town,
The shepherds low did bow
Before a Child, a wondrous child,
The Child of holy birth,
Who came the gospel news to bring
To waiting souls on earth.

The Child himself was God's great gift—
A gift of love so vast
That hearts are living still its joy,
Though centuries have passed.
And that is why, when His birthday comes,
Our hearts are filled with cheer,
And gifts of love are sent about
To dear ones far and near.

That's why we're here to-day
With faces full of glee,
To receive from the hand of love
The gifts upon our tree.
Dear Father, in Thy home above,
We would lift our hearts away.
And to Thee we would bring ourselves
To be Thy gifts this day.

Religious Notes.

The following is the imposing list of heathen customs, formerly prevalent in India and sanctioned by Hinduism, but abolished or reformed by Great Britain. It is worth noting again to see what Hinduism naturally involves:

1. Murder of Parents:
 - (a) By Suttee.
 - (b) By exposure on the banks of rivers.
 - (c) By burial alive. Case in Jodhpore territory, 1860.
2. Murder of Children:
 - (a) By dedication to the Ganges, to be devoured by crocodiles.
 - (b) By Rajpoot infanticide, West of India, Punjab, East of India.
3. Human Sacrifices:
 - (a) Temple sacrifices.
 - (b) By wild tribes—Meriahs of the Khonds.
4. Suicide:
 - (a) Crushing by idol cars.
 - (b) Devotees drowning themselves in rivers.
 - (c) Devotees casting themselves from precipices.
 - (d) Leaping into wells—widows.
 - (e) By Traga.
5. Voluntary Torment:
 - (a) By hook-swinging.
 - (b) By thigh-piercing.
 - (c) By tongue-extraction.
 - (d) Bloody and injurious ordeals.
 - (e) Cutting off the noses of women.
7. Slavery:
 - (a) Hereditary predial slavery.
 - (b) Domestic slavery.
 - (c) Importation of slaves from Africa.
8. Extortions:
 - (a) By Dharana.
 - (b) By Traga.
9. Religious Intolerance:
 - (a) Prevention of propagation of Christianity.
 - (b) Calling upon the Christian soldiers to fire salutes at heathen festivals, etc., etc.
 - (c) Saluting gods on official papers.
 - (d) Managing affairs of idol temples.
10. Support of Caste by Law:
 - (a) Exclusion of low castes from offices.
 - (b) Exemption of high castes from appearing to give evidence.
 - (c) Disparagement of low caste.

A Roarin' Trade.

The orders are fairly pouring in for the Xmas 'Pictorial' from boys (and some girls, too) all over Canada. Indeed, it is next to impossible to keep pace with the demand. Many a girl who might not like to sell a monthly supply could easily get orders among her friends for thirty-six of the Christmas issue,—nothing nicer as Xmas cards—and so earn that fine passepartout outfit (Dennison's) that we have added to our list on purpose for such a call. Any mother would value such a gift and a couple of brothers could work together and secure it in a few hours. That is only one of the many premiums on our new and enlarged list. Send in your order at once. We start you with six—you get a premium even for as small an order as that—and we send you all necessary information. Don't lose a day in sending for your supply, as they are 'going like hot cakes,' to use our boys' favorite expression. If you are in a hurry for your premium send along money in full at ten cents each and we will despatch your 'Pictorials' and premium at once—20 for a watch, 5 for a chain, 36 for passepartout outfit, 18 for No. 1 camera, 36 for No. 2 camera, 10 for a jolly game, 'Din,' 18 for a fine box of paints, etc., etc., etc.
Address, John Dougall & Son, agents for the 'Canadian Pictorial,' 'Witness' Block, Montreal.
N.B.—Montreal boys may freely take advantage of these offers but must call at 'Witness' office for supplies and must be prepared to pay half price on what they take, premium to be received on payment of balance.