

of the book, and the nature of the proverbs which it contains. The words of our lesson are spoken out of a loving heart, and a full knowledge of the evils warned against. The evils spoken of still exist to-day in great strength, for human nature is the same the world over, and the results warned against then, are just the results which will come to-day to those who refuse to heed the wise words.

Development of the text. Place upon the blackboard the following outline: (a) The Voice of Rejoicing; (b) The Voice of Assurance; (c) The Voice of Warning; (d) The Voice of Exhortation.

In the first two verses of the text we find the conditions which bring rejoicing to the hearts of parents and friends of the young people. In the fifteenth verse we see that rejoicing is conditioned upon the wise purposes of the children, and in the sixteenth verse it is conditioned upon wise speaking. *The Voice of Rejoicing* would be far oftener heard to-day if the young men and women would see to it that their purposes and words were wise ones. Right inner life, right outer actions: these two cause the voice of rejoicing to be heard in the homes and throughout the land.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth verses we hear the *Voice of Assurance*, assuring us of an end of all those things upon which our eyes look, and then cometh the reward. In view of the sure reward which is before those who do "not . . . envy sinners" but who are "in the fear of the Lord all the day long," and with the assuring words, "Thine expectation shall not be cut off," ringing in our ears, let us heed the injunction, "Be wise, and guide thine heart in the way."

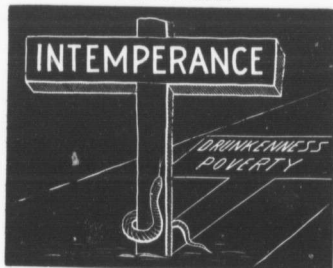
In verses twenty to twenty-two we hear the *Voice of Warning*, warning us against intemperance in eating and drinking, and plainly setting before our eyes the sure result of such intemperance.

In verses twenty-three to twenty-five we have the *Voice of Exhortation*. The precious gem which we are exhorted to buy is the truth, the truth which shall make us free. It is not truth in the abstract that we are to seek, but wisdom or practical truth, instruction or moral discipline, and understanding or the power of discernment. Those who gain these precious things bring rejoicing to the father's heart, and joy to the heart of the mother.

Specific application. Use the thought of the Golden Text for the specific application. Intemperance in eating and drinking brings us to poverty in

temporal, mental, and spiritual things. Such intemperance ends in a diseased body, a dwarfed mind, and a destroyed soul. Impress the thought that these ends are bound up in a life of intemperance, and to one who pursues such a life these results will inevitably come. The only way to avoid the results is to avoid that which causes the results—intemperance. The safe road is that of total abstinence. "Be wise and guide thine heart in the [this] way."

Blackboard.



WISE WORDS.

INTEMPERANCE
IN
EATING AND DRINKING

BRINGS

POVERTY IN TEMPORAL MENTAL SPIRITUAL THINGS.

SURELY THERE IS AN END!

A BODY MIND SPIRIT DISEASED. DWAFFED. DESTROYED.
LOOK WELL TO THE END.

"Be wise . . . guide thine heart in the way."

B. C. 4.]

LESSON XII. THE BIRTH OF CHRIST.

[Dec. 20.]

GOLDEN TEXT. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Luke 2, 10.

Authorized Version.

Matt. 2. 1-12.

[Commit to memory verses 10, 11.]

1 Now when Je'sus was born in Beth'le-hem of Ju-de'a in the days of Her'od the king, behold,

Revised Version.

1 Now when Je'sus was born in Beth'le-hem of Ju-da'a in the days of Her'od the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Je-ru'sa-lem,