

THE PLEDGE.

BY W. A. PALLISTER.

The pledge, the pledge, we hail it,
The symbol of the free,
The sign of coming ages,
Of truth and liberty.
The good and true will own it,
The proud and false may scoff,
But 'tis the friend of drunkards,
And strikes their fetters off.

The pledge, with power and blessing,
Like a smiling angel comes,
And pours the light of gladness,
On long benighted homes.
It is a sword of triumph,
'Tis armour 'gainst the foe,
A sure and trusty anchor,
When tempests fiercely blow.

Oh, bravely shall it vanquish
The hosts of alcohol,
And gloriously for ever
The world shall disenthral.
And, as the sea rolls round her,
Her guardian and her slave,
E'en so shall virtue bound her,
The beautiful, the brave.

And she whose peerless beauty
Hath charmed the raging sea,
She who hath tamed the foeman,
And bid the slave go free,
Shall win a nobler triumph,
And do a nobler deed,
When, breaking from her vices,
She stands redeemed and freed!

—National Temperance Hymnal.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON VI. [Nov. 9.]

JOSHUA'S PARTING ADVICE.

Josh. 24. 14-25. Memorize vs. 14, 15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Choose you this day whom ye will serve.—Josh. 24. 15.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Who called the Israelites to Shechem? Joshua. What did he wish to do? To say last words to the people. Why? He was old and ready to die. What did he first tell them? About the goodness of the Lord to them. What did he tell them to put away? Idols. Did some Israelites still worship idols? Yes. Where did they learn to do so? Their fathers learned to do so in Egypt. What did he say they must choose that day? Whom they would serve. Whom did Joshua choose to serve? God. What did the people answer? "The Lord our God will we serve." What did Joshua make with them? A covenant. What is a covenant? A promise made by two. Have we any idols?

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Read about the meeting Joshua called. Josh. 23. 1, 2.
Tues. Find what Joshua said about himself. Josh. 23. 14.
Wed. Read the lesson verses. Josh. 24. 14-25.
Thur. Learn good advice for us. Josh. 23. 11.
Fri. Learn the Golden Text.
Sat. Read about the covenant Joshua made. Joshua 24. 26, 27.
Sun. Find what is given to those who serve God. Prov. 3. 2.

LESSON VII. [Nov. 16.]

THE TIME OF THE JUDGES.

Judg. 2. 7-16. Memorize verses 18, 19.

GOLDEN TEXT.

They cry unto the Lord in their trouble,
and he saveth them out of their distresses.
—Psa. 107. 19.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Where did the people of Israel first learn idolatry? In Egypt. Where did they still learn it? Of the people of Canaan. What did God want Israel to do to idolaters? To drive them out of the land. How long did they keep their promise to serve God? Until Joshua died. What did they then do? They went after the idols of Canaan. What were the names of the idols. Baal and Ashtaroth. What came to them then? Great trouble from their enemies. What did they do? They begged the Lord to help them. What did he do for them? He sent them judges. How did these men help them? They helped them to serve God, and to conquer their enemies. Did they serve God after this? No, they went back to idol worship.

DAILY STEPS.

Mon. Read about the death of Joshua. Josh. 24. 29, 30.
Tues. Find what was done after his death. Judg. 1. 1-4.
Wed. Learn how the people went wrong. Judg. 2. 1-12.
Thur. See how kind the Lord was to them. Judg. 2. 13-16.
Fri. Find how long they were ruled by Judges. Acts 13. 20.
Sat. Learn how foolish the people were. Psa. 106. 43.
Sun. Learn the way out of trouble. Psa. 107. 6.

A BABY SAVED HIM.

A man, on being asked by some companions to go into a saloon and have a drink with them, said:

"I won't drink any to-day, boys."

"What's the matter with you, old man?" asked one. "If you've quit, what's up?"

"Well, boys, I'll tell you. Yesterday

I was in Chicago. I called on a customer of mine down on Clark Street, who keeps a pawn-shop in connection with his other business. While I was there a young man came in, wearing threadbare clothes and looking as hard as they make 'em. He had a little package in his hand. He unwrapped it and handed it to the pawnbroker, saying, 'Give me ten cents.' And what do you suppose it was? It was a pair of baby's shoes, little things with only the buttons a trifle soiled, as though they had been worn only once or twice.

"Where did you get these?" asked the pawnbroker. 'Got 'em at home,' replied the man. 'My wife bought 'em for the baby. Give me ten cents for 'em—I want to get a drink.' 'You had better take 'em back to your wife, the baby will need them,' said the pawnbroker. 'No, she won't; she's dead—baby died last night,' and then the poor fellow laid his head down on the showcase and cried like a child.

"Boys, I have a baby at home, and I'll not take a drink with you to-day."—*Religious Intelligencer.*

THE CAPTAIN INSIDE.

"Mother," asked Freddie the other day, "did you know that there was a little captain inside of me? Grandfather asked me what I meant to be when I grew to be a man, and I told him a soldier. I mean to stand up straight, hold my head up, and look right ahead. Then he said that I was two boys, one outside and one inside; and that unless the inside boy stood straight, held up his head, and looked the right way I never could be a true soldier at all. The inside boy has to drill the outside one, and be the captain."—*Selected.*

In one of the fifty-two sermons of Mr. Wesley, recognized as a part of our doctrinal standard, this section is found:

"Neither may we gain by hurting our neighbour in his body. Therefore we may not sell anything which tends to impair health. Such is, eminently, all that liquid fire commonly called drams, or spirituous liquors. . . . All who sell them in the common way, to any that will buy, are poisoners general. They murder his Majesty's subjects by wholesale, neither does their eye pity or spare. They drive them to hell like sheep. And what is their gain? Is it not the blood of these men? Who then would envy their large estates and sumptuous palaces? A curse is in the midst of them; the curse of God cleaves to the stones, the timber, the furniture of them. The curse of God is in their gardens, their walks, and their groves. It is a fire that burns to the nethermost hell. Blood, blood is there: the foundation, the floor, the walls, the roof, are stained with blood."