

must practise the virtue of temperance? What effect did their abstinence have upon the physical condition of the young men in our lesson? Explain what Ignatius means when he speaks of being God's athlete, and remind the scholars of Paul's words about pressing toward the mark. The Christian who is to bend every effort toward the service of God cannot afford to be anything else than temperate in all things. Show the need for a definite purpose emphasized in the Golden Text.

Lesson XII.

THE FIERY FURNACE

September 16, 1917

Daniel 3:16-27. Study Daniel, ch. 3. Scripture Memory Verses.

GOLDEN TEXT—When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.—Isaiah 43:2.

16 Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'negu, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we ¹ are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

19 Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'negu: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace ² one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20 And he commanded ³ the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'negu, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 Then these men were bound in their ⁴ coats, their ⁵ hoseen, and their ⁶ hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Sha'drach, Me'shach,

Revised Version—¹ have no need; ² omit one; ³ certain mighty; ⁴ hoseen; ⁵ tunics; ⁶ mantles; ⁷ haste: he spake; ⁸ aspect; ⁹ a son of the gods; ¹⁰ furnace: he spake: ¹¹ Most High; ¹² out; ¹³ satraps, the deputies and the governors; ¹⁴ that the fire had no power upon their bodies; ¹⁵ the; ¹⁶ had the smell of fire.

LESSON PLAN

- I. A Bold Answer, 16-18.
- II. The Fiery Furnace, 19-23.
- III. The Wonderful Deliverance, 24-27.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I.B.R. Association, Mr. S. C. Bailey, Hon. Secretary, 56 Old Bailey, London, England.)

M.—The fiery furnace, Dan. 3:1-12. T.—The fiery furnace, Dan. 3:13-18. W.—The fiery furnace, Dan. 3:19-30. Th.—God's promise of safety, Isa. 43:1-7. F.—Sufferings for conscience sake, 2 Cor. 11:22-30. S.—Suffering for Christ's sake, Heb. 11:32-40. S.—Rejoicing in suffering, 1 Peter 4:12-19.

Primary Catechism—Ques. 46. *What was done*

and Abed'negu.

23 And these three men, Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'negu, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

24 Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in ⁷ haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the ⁸ form of the fourth is like ⁹ the Son of God.

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery ¹⁰ furnace, and spake, and said, Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'negu, ye servants of the ¹¹ most high God, come forth, and come *hither*. Then Sha'drach, Me'shach, and Abed'negu, came forth ¹² of the midst of the fire.

27 And the ¹³ princes, governors, and captains, and the king's counsellors, being gathered together, saw these men, ¹⁴ upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was ¹⁵ an hair of their head singed, neither were their ⁴ coats changed, nor ¹⁶ the smell of fire had passed on them.

with the body of Jesus after his death on the cross? A. The body of Jesus was taken by his friends and laid in a tomb, or grave.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 21-38.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise: Memory Hymn—Primary, 17; Junior, 96 (Ps. Sel.), 275, 278, 95, 282.

Special Scripture Reading—Matt. 12:1-13; given also in Departmental Graded Teacher's Quarterlies. (To be read responsively or in concert by the whole School.)

Hymn for Opening Worship—Hymn 181, Book of Praise; given also in Departmental Graded Quarterlies.

Lantern Slides—For Lesson, B. 942, The Fiery Furnace (Jones). For Question on Missions, H.M. 843, Hospital, Wakaw. (Slides are obtained from the Presbyterian Lantern Slide Department, 96 Queen St. East, Toronto.)

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

Time and Place—Nebuchadnezzar's reign extended from B.C. 604 to B.C. 561; Babylon.

Connecting Links—Sometime after our last lesson, Nebuchadnezzar had a disquieting dream. He demanded of his wise men that they repeat the dream to him, and offer an interpretation of it. Their failure resulted in his condemning them to death. As Daniel and his companions were involved in this

condemnation, they turned to God in prayer. Their prayer was answered by a revelation to Daniel, in a vision, of the king's dream. Daniel asked to be brought before the king, and told him the dream, giving the interpretation of it. The chapter from which our lesson to-day is taken relates how the king set up in a plain near Babylon a great golden image. He calls together all the high officials of his kingdom to be present at the dedication