

Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

By the Editor.

Effect of Jonah's Preaching.

Jonah iii. 1-10.

OUR readers will remember that in the 1st chapter of this book we read about Jonah's sin in refusing to do as God had commanded him, and of the trouble he got into through his disobedience. In the lesson we have before us, we learn that God is one who delights to pardon those who repent. Only to think of Jonah's sin, and then remember that God has been so good as to spare his life; and not only so, He now shews Jonah that He freely forgives all the past, and is willing to use him again as a servant. Dear children, is not such a God one whom we ought to love and to serve cheerfully.

Jonah has learned a lesson, and he profits by it. So when God says, "Go to Nineveh, and deliver My message," he obeys at once; and when he enters the great and wicked city, he at once begins to cry out, "Yet forty days and Nineveh shall be overthrown." No doubt some people thought he was crazy, and perhaps some laughed at him at first. But do you suppose Jonah cared for that? Don't you think Jonah felt happier doing God's will in that city of sinners, than he did while walking down the wharf at Joppa, or while in the hold of that ship, or while in the great fish's mouth. I am sure he did. And so will you be happier if you do God's will, even though the work itself may seem hard.

But the Ninevites soon stopped their jeering, and all the people, from the king, down to the poor beggar became sorry for having sinned so much, and God forgave them, and did not destroy the place. They found out, as Jonah had done, that God is ready to forgive. Have you found this out? If not, come to-day and prove God, and you will find that He will forgive you all your sins, and make you happy.

Hezekiah's Good Reign.

2 Kings xviii. 1-12.

ABOUT 75 years after Jonah went to Nineveh, or about 725 years before Jesus was born, there was a king in Jerusalem named Hezekiah, and it is told of him that he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord. Perhaps some of his actions did not please his people, because he took

away their idols, &c., but that which they did not like, was just what God was pleased with. So, dear children, if you do just what God tells you, you must expect to have some of your companions say things against you. If you read the second verse, you will see that Hezekiah's mother is mentioned, and no doubt she was a good woman. How thankful little boys and girls should be for pious mothers.

When Hezekiah was busy clearing away all the idols, &c., he came across a brass serpent which Moses had made by God's command (read Numbers xxi. 4-9). The people were worshipping it, and forgetting the God who had commanded it to be made, so the good king broke it all up, and he called it by a name which means the brass thing. What He meant to teach was, that we must not look to the instruments or men that God uses, but to God who uses them.

We also read that Hezekiah "trusted in the Lord," and that he clave to the Lord. Are you trusting in the Lord? Do you believe in Jesus, of whom that brass serpent was a token or type. John iii. 14, 15.



JONAH PREACHING IN NINEVEH.

Hezekiah's Prayer Answered.

2 Kings xx. 1-17.

THE good king is very sick, and the prophet is sent to tell him to put all his business in

order, for he is to die. At once he turns his attention, not to business, nor to giving orders to his family, but to God. He prays and asks God to spare him. The prophet had not time to get out of the house before God sent him back to tell Hezekiah that he had heard the prayer, and would heal him, and that he would live for fifteen years longer. Hezekiah had powerful enemies, who wanted to take Jerusalem, but God says, "I will defend this city." We thus learn that God hears and answers prayer—that God is not slow in sending answers to prayer—and that God gives even more than we ask for. Do you pray to God? When you pray, do you expect to receive an answer? When God has answered you, are you thankful.

'OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.'

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