

LESSON VII.—FEBRUARY 18.

Jesus at Jacob's Well.

John iv., 5-26. Memory verses 11-14.
Read John iii., 22 to iv., 45.

Lesson Text.

'Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. (6.) Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. (7.) There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (8.) For the disciples were gone away into the city to buy meat. (9.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. (10.) Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knowest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink, thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. (11.) The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou the living water? (12.) Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? (13.) Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: (14.) But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. (15.) The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. (16.) Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband and come hither. (17.) The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast said: I have no husband: (18.) For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. (19.) The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. (20.) Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. (21.) Jesus saith unto her, Woman believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet in Jerusalem, worship the Father. (22.) Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. (23.) But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. (24.) God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (25.) The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. (26.) Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

Daily Readings.

M. That Rock. Ex. 17: 1-7.
T. With Joy. Isa. 12: 1-6.
W. No Money. Isa. 55: 1-13.
T. Pure River. Rev. 22: 1-10.
F. Say, Come. Rev. 22: 14-19.
S. Two Days. Jn. 4: 27-30, 40.

Golden Text.

'God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.'—John iv., 24.

Suggestions.

As this same lesson was given thirteen months ago, much of it will still be fresh in the minds of those who studied it faithfully at that time. Ask the scholars if they have thought about the Living water since studying this lesson, and what the word has meant in their own lives this past year. Our Lord and his disciples were on their way to Galilee, and, contrary to the usual route of the Jews, went by way of Samaria. As they journeyed they came to

a well near the city of Sychar, and Jesus being weary sat down by the well while the disciples went to the city to buy some food for the midday meal.

As our Lord sat there by the open well, a woman of the country came to draw water. Little did she know as she set out that day for the well that that was to be the most wonderful day of her life. Little did she know that at the well she would meet her Saviour. Perhaps things had been going wrong with her that day and she was tired and longing for something—she did not know what. Perhaps when she saw a Jew, out of the hated nation who thought themselves so superior, she was ready to be abusive and disagreeable. But the kindly request of the Saviour took her by surprise and opened her heart to the gospel.

The gift of God to the world was Jesus Christ himself. He is also the Living water, the satisfier of all the thirsts and longings of the human heart.

The Samaritans had separated from the Jews early in their history and though they worshipped God, their worship was mixed with idolatrous ceremonies. They worshipped in Mount Gerizim which was only a few miles from Jacob's well where Jesus talked with this woman. The woman had tried to turn the conversation. But Jesus talked about God the loving Father, instead of about the forms of religion. Our Lord did not despise the one poor woman who came to him, but took as much trouble to teach her as he would have done for a multitude.

Illustration.

'By every fountain of earthly good Jesus still sits, pointing men to the higher and better things of what it is a hint and a type. By earthly pleasure he would point to heavenly and spiritual joy; by earthly riches he would teach us of treasures in heaven; by earthly love he would point to heavenly love; by earthly desires, to heavenly desires; by earthly activity and business, to zeal and earnestness in the kingdom of God.'

This well was a type of the Samaritan religion. Originally they had the living water of the books of Moses, and drank from them as Jacob and his sons from the living water of the Shechem well. But the water became stagnant. They never went beyond Moses; the well was so filled up with forms and prejudices and the mere letter of the law that the living water was covered up. 'The stagnant well of water, becoming muddy by agitation, and corrupt by lying undisturbed, is inferior for use and gratification, and is not like the running water of the living spring, which continually freshens itself, and runs itself clear, and is always replenishing itself in purity and copiousness, for use and enjoyment.' There is the same danger for us to-day.—From 'Peloubet's Notes,' 1899.

Lesson Hymn.

Thirsting soul by Jacob's well,
Hear the joyful news we tell;
He who weary, waited there,
Scorched beneath the noonday glare
Offers you the gift of God,
On the nations shed abroad
Living water springing up
Like a well of joy and hope.

In the temple hear Him cry,
Every one that thirsts draw nigh,
On the Son of Man believe,
Thus the Holy Ghost receive:
Then, like rivers rolling free,
Shall your life a blessing be,
And the desert waste shall sing
Gladdened by the streams that spring.

From the glorious Throne above
Roll the floods of life and love,
And the Lamb His flock shall guide
Where those living waters glide.
Hunger, thirst, and pain are o'er,
Woe and sorrow come no more,
All who will may freely take,
All who drink, their thirst may slake.
—H. L. Hastings, 1880.

C. E. Topic.

Feb. 18.—The sin of liquor-selling; how end it? Hab. 2: 1-17. (Quarterly temperance meeting.)

Junior C. E. Topic.

THE SALOON AND ITS EVILS.

Mon., Feb. 12.—Poison in the cup. Deut. 32: 33.

Tues., Feb. 13.—Evil companions. Prov. 28: 7.

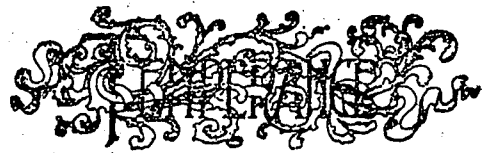
Wed., Feb. 14.—Sorrow. Ps. 32: 10.

Thu., Feb. 15.—Poverty. Prov. 21: 17.

Fri., Feb. 16.—Wickedness. Dan. 5: 4.

Sat., Feb. 17.—Loss of heaven. I Cor. 6: 10.

Sun., Feb. 18.—Topic—Some of the evils that come from the saloon. Hab. 2: 5-8, 12, 15. (Quarterly temperance meeting.)



Alcohol Catechism.

(By R. H. Macdonald, of San Francisco.)

CHAPTER IV.—ADULTERATION OF ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.

1. Q.—What does adulteration mean?

A.—It means the mixing with some cheaper stuff and food, drink, or medicine, so as to make money by selling it at the same price as the pure article would bring.

2. Q.—What is one of the worst acts of those who make intoxicating liquors?

A.—They adulterate the liquors.

3. Q.—Is adulteration always hurtful?

A.—Not always; for when lard is mixed with butter, or water with alcohol, it is only a cheat.

4. Q.—When is adulteration hurtful?

A.—If they adulterate with poisonous or injurious things, such as putting strychnine into beer to make it bitter and save hops, it is a terrible crime.

5. Q.—Who adulterate their liquors?

A.—Brewers, distillers, and wine sellers adulterate liquors sometimes.

6. Q.—How are liquors adulterated?

A.—With poisonous drugs.

7. Q.—Can you give me an example?

A.—A Frenchman advertised to furnish every article to begin a rum shop for twenty-five dollars.

8. Q.—What was in this outfit?

A.—A package of drugs and a quantity of deadly poison called oil of cognac, which would make 100 gallons of what would seem to be the best imported brandy out of the most common whiskey or raw alcohol.

9. Q.—Was this all?

A.—No, he gave rules for making cider without apples, and wine out of cider.

10. Q.—How do we know that alcoholic liquors are adulterated with poisonous drugs?

A.—Chemists know how to separate them into the things they are made from.

11. Q.—What is a poisonous drug?

A.—Any substance that may be used in small or moderate doses as a medicine, but which makes people very sick, and even kills them, if too much is taken.

12. Q.—Why are poisonous drugs used in adulterating liquors?

A.—Because the finest liquors and wines are expensive. By using drugs, they can be made out of cheap whiskey or wine that looks and tastes so much like the real, that few people can tell the difference.

13. Q.—Are only costly liquors adulterated?

A.—No, almost all, even the cheapest kinds, are more or less adulterated. Read Ecclesiastes, 12th Chapter, 14th verse.

A Painful Cure.

One evening a young girl in evening dress was standing by a glass door which opened into the garden from the drawing-room, when her brother, a lad of eighteen, came up to her. He caught her arm, and drew her hastily aside into an alley, where they were hid from the view of the house. Then she noticed how pale his face was, and how wild his eyes, and in much alarm she asked, 'What has happened, Charlie? Oh! where is papa?' 'Be quiet, I tell you. Everybody is well that I know of; it is about myself I want to speak to you.' 'How you have frightened me, Charlie,' said Lizzie