

6. The Covenant of Office.

To be repeated by the elect officers and teachers:

"I do solemnly devote myself, in the fear and by the favor of God, to my Sunday-school work. I will study my Bible thoroughly, and strive to govern and to teach my scholars intelligently and faithfully. I will endeavor to be a loyal and exemplary member of my church, and an example to my scholars in the use of the means of grace. I will counsel spiritually with my scholars at home and elsewhere, and will give such portion of my time as is possible to my Sunday-school duties. I will strive to be punctual and present at school and at all meetings of teachers. In the presence of God and His people, and by the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen."

Benediction by Congregation:

The Lord bless thee and keep thee;

The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee;

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

7. Closing Hymn.



A Dozen "Dont's" for Superintendent.s

- Don't forget to open school promptly.
- Don't forget to urge church attendance.
- Don't be late. Better fifteen minutes early.
- Don't be noisy, nor permit your school to be.
- Don't scold. Better use a few praise words.
- Don't disturb the teachers during lesson study.
- Don't get discouraged. No use; it doesn't pay.
- Don't prolong the session beyond the allotted time.
- Don't let the review occupy longer than seven minutes.
- Don't neglect the Sunday-school prayer meeting monthly.
- Don't miss a greeting to the teachers as each one enters the room.
- Don't omit a "good-bye" hand-shake as the teachers pass out.—*Kentucky S. S. Union.*

Notes and Suggestions on the
International Lessons.

By Rev. Wray R. Smith.

LESSON 10.—SEPTEMBER 4, 1898.

The Death of Elisha.

Lesson Text: 2 Kings 13: 14-25. Memory Verses: 20, 21.
(Read the whole chapter.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."—*Psa. 116: 15.*

DAILY READINGS.—Monday: 2 Kings 13: 1-9. Tuesday: 2 Kings 13: 14-25. Wednesday: Deut. 34. Thursday: Isa. 53: 13-17. Friday: Phil. 1: 12-24. Saturday: 2 Cor. 5: 1-10. Sunday: Psa. 37: 23-37.

The Heart of the Lesson.

There is no monitor so eloquent as the death-bed. Few can contemplate it unmoved and uninstructed. A fellow-being about to die, to sever all the ties which bind him to earth, whom the censure or the praise of men now influence but little, about to close his eyes forever upon the world and appear before God, to become a dweller in the unseen land of

spirits and enter upon his everlasting destiny: witnessing one so situated must ever be a scene full of solemnity, and as instructive as it is solemn; but especially so when it is the death-bed of one whose name is great in the earth—who has exercised a mighty influence upon the minds and destinies of his fellow-men, but is now about to depart for ever from that stage on which he has acted so prominent a part to become a tenant of the silent tomb.

Shakespeare says of one of his characters, nothing so became his life as the manner in which he closed it. No death-bed scene can be more instructive and impressive than that of the prophet Elisha, peacefully awaiting his departure after an eventful period of sixty-three years of faithful service. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Precious in its present effect. Joseph in prison, Jeremiah in the pit, Daniel in the lion's den, and now Elisha on his death-bed, were each the most important person in the realm in which they lived. The greatness of these men had its origin in their communion and fellowship with God.

Joash, the young king of Israel, who "had departed not from all the sins of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat," now, that Elisha was dying, seemed to think Israel's last hope was departing; so he hastened to the bedside of the man of God and fell down and wept, uttering the same words that Elisha had spoken when Elijah was taken away, "My father, my father; the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof." Both kings and common people are slow to realize that the strength of any nation consists in the strong faith and godly lives of the people that are in it.

When Captain Urquhart, of the Cameron Highlanders, fell mortally wounded at the storming of the zareba, his only thought was of the foe, and he exclaimed to his men, "Never mind me, lads; go on."

One thought filled the mind of the king and the prophet. Syria, their fierce enemy, was gradually destroying the country, and against Syria one final effort must be made. The prophet bade the young king "open the windows eastward," and take a bow and arrow and shoot. The king pulled the bowstring and sent the arrow flying to its mark. It was a symbolic action. Virgil represents Turnus as giving the signal of attack by throwing a spear:—"Who first," he cried, "with me the foe will dare?" Then hurled a dart, the signal of the war."

When Alexander the Great arrived on the coasts of Ionia, Justin says he threw a dart into the country of the Persians. The prophet commanded the king to strike the ground. Phlegmatic and indolent he struck it but three times. Had he struck five or six times the Syrians had been consumed. Joash missed his opportunity. A noble career was set before him, but he was too blind to see it, and too weak to improve it. The widow with her oil jars acted to better purpose, and so her faith was rewarded. The sin of this age in religion and business enterprise is like that of Joash, a lack of thoroughness.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints." Precious in its after influence. There is a wonderful power wielded by a living man, your friend, companion, and counsellor, constantly present with you, not only in the great crises of life, but in every concern of it.

Elisha's power and influence did not cease with his death. One day a man was being buried in the tomb where Elisha's body lay. A band of Moabites approached; the corpse was hastily pushed into the cell; it came in contact with the prophet's bones, and the touch revived it, and the man came out and ran after them. No more is told of this posthumous