

HOME MISSION.

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| Rec'd from Earltown. | \$8 00 |
| “ Hopewell, W. L. E. R. | 18 00 |
| “ Saltsprings, | 132 00 |
| “ Newton, Cape Breton, | 2 50 |
| “ St. Phillip's, Westville, | 22 00 |
| “ Stellarton, | 15-22 |
| “ West Branch, R. John, | 60 00 |

JAMES HISLOP,

Sept. 19, 1876.

S. S. LESSONS.

Notes on International Sabbath School Lessons, by Rev. F. N. and M. A. Paloubet.

LESSON XII. SEPTEMBER 17, 1876.

A GODLY LIFE. ECCLESIASTES [2: 1-14

(B. C. 977.)

1 Remember, etc. Youth is not only the season of enjoyment, but of religion cheerfulness and joy are to be cherished, the pleasures of life are to be enjoyed, sorrow and pain are to be banished, but the whole conduct in reference to these things is to be regulated by the remembrance of the Creator, (1) of the intimate relation in which the creature stands to him, (2) of the blessings which he has received from him, (3) of the duties which he owes to him, and (4) of the judgment appointed by him, into which he is to be brought.

2. When the preacher speaks of “the sun, the light, the moon, and the stars being darkened,” he probably means this as a general and introductory statement of the pains and miseries of age.

3. The general representation is that of the decay of a house, or rather of a household establishment.

4. Doors shut. It seems best to understand this of the lips, which are elsewhere called doors in the Scripture. The meaning is that the old man seldom opens his mouth to eat or speak.

5. The verse which describes the aged man as “afraid of that which is high, and his fears shall be in the way,” applies clearly to the difficulty which he experiences in making any ascents, as well as to the timidity which the consciousness of his infirm condition compels him to exhibit when he walks abroad into the public ways, which is particularly the case in the narrow streets of the East, where the comparative security of raised footpaths is not afforded.

6. Silver cord, etc. The “silver cord” is supposed to denote that resplendent white cord (the spinal marrow) which passes through the entire length of the backbone, and which, medical writers inform us, is much liable to be relaxed and weakened in old age, or a part thereof altogether broken in its functions, producing those paralytic affections, the tremors and debilities to which the aged are particularly liable.

7. So death resolves us into our first principles. Man is a ray of heaven united with a clod of earth.

8. The idea denoted by this frequent word is transitoriness, swift passing away, rather than nothingness.

9, 10. The most probable view is that verses 9 and 10 are an inserted prose note by some other hand, intended to call special attention to the weighty concluding words that follow from the original author.

11. They are of use as goads to excite to duty, and as nails to fix and render constant such as are desultory.

12. My son is equivalent to “my scholar.” The design of this sentiment seems to be satisfied with a few good books of the wise, rather than to perplex themselves with reading many books or making new ones.

13. The meaning may be thus expressed: My discourse have come to an end. I have nothing more to say except this, the most important thing which can be said: Fear God etc.

The root of religion is the fear of God.
The rule of religion is the law of God.

LESSON I. OCTOBER 1, 1876.

STEPHEN'S DEFENCE. ACTS 7. 1-19.

(A. D. 33.)

1. The high-priest, as president of the council and chief magistrate of the nation, interrogates the prisoner, Are these things so? namely, those alleged by his accusers.

2. Men, brethren. The literal meaning of the Greek is, Ye men, who are my brethren and fathers.

3. Get thee out, etc. His countrymen and his kindred were idolaters. (Josh. 24: 2.)

5. And he gave to him during his life no inheritance in it, no actual possession, but a promise only that his posterity should occupy it at some future period.

6. Four hundred years, in agreement with Gen. 15: 13; but there and here a round number, since in Ex. 12: 40 “the sojourning of Israel who dwelt in Egypt” is said to be four hundred and thirty years.