

Notes on the Lessons.

LESSON IX—August 30th, 1896.

Absalom's Defeat and Death. 2 SAM. 18: 9-17, 32, 33.

(Commit to memory verses 32 and 33).

GOLDEN TEXT: "The Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish." Ps. 1: 6.

PROVE THAT—Disobedience to parents is surely punished. Prov. 20: 20.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Quest. 76. *Which is the ninth commandment?* A. The ninth commandment is, Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. 77. *What is required in the ninth commandment?* A. The ninth commandment requireth the maintaining and promoting of truth between man and man, and of our own and our neighbor's good name, especially in witness-bearing.

LESSON HYMNS.—*Children's Hymnal.* Nos. 90, 10, 69, 113.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* David's anxiety for Absalom. 2 Sam. 18: 1-8. *Tuesday.* Absalom's defeat and death. 2 Sam. 18: 9-17. *Wednesday.* David's grief. 2 Sam. 18: 19-33. *Thursday.* David's return. 2 Sam. 19: 9-15. *Friday.* Destruction of the ungodly. Ps. 52. *Saturday.* Honor to parents. Matt. 15: 1-9. *Sabbath.* Counsel to the young. Prov. 4: 14-27. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

EXPOSITORY NOTES.

INTRODUCTORY. No sooner did David learn of Absalom's rebellion than he resolved to leave Jerusalem. Absalom and his army take possession of the city. A council of war was held. It was decided to pursue and attack David. The two armies were drawn up in battle array "in the forest of Ephraim in Mount Gilead, not far from Mahanaim, where David was." Like Gideon, David divided his army into three parts. He gave special instruction to his three generals, saying, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man, even with Absalom." Psalms 3 and 4 are supposed to refer to the first evening and following morning of David's flight. Read chapters 16 to 19. Time, shortly after the last lesson.

LESSON PLAN. I. Absalom's Misfortune. vs. 9-17. II. David's Lament. vs. 32, 33.

I. ABSALOM'S MISFORTUNE. 9. Met "Chanced to meet" (R. V.)—Unexpectedly amid the intricacies of the forest, Absalom saw one of the three wings of David's army. Rode upon a mule—"His mule" (R. V.) Probably David's own royal mule (1 Kings 1: 33). Never thinking for a moment of meeting the enemy on the line of march Absalom was riding in advance of his great army. A great oak—"Terebinth," that is the "turpentine tree which abounds in that region." Caught hold—In the forked boughs of the oak, either by his neck, or, as Josephus stoutly maintains, by his hair, which had been so much his pride. Between the heaven and the earth—"As unworthy of either, as abandoned of both." (M. Henry). Went away—Forsaken even by the dumb creature upon which he rode. The way of the transgressor is hard. 10. A certain man—Name not given, one of the men in David's army. Told Joab—Reported the matter to his superior officer. I saw—What a pitiful sight he beheld! What a mournful tale to relate, the king's son hanging powerless from the branch of a tree. 11. Why didst thou not smite him?—Joab chided the man for not dispatching him. Ten shekels—"He would have rewarded him with ten half-crowns." (M. Henry). A girdle—A captain's commission, "signified by the delivery of a girdle," an important article of dress, usually richly embroidered. 12. Though I should receive—The man expressed a sense of horror at the very thought of Joab's cruel proposal and says, "And I, no; weighing in my palm a thousand of silver I would not put forth my hand against the son of the king." It is a grand thing to find men that cannot be induced to sacrifice principle for any monetary consideration. In our hearing—The man had been present and heard. David's special injunction to his three generals, "Beware that none touch the young man Absalom." To his honor be it said he honored and respected the king's word. 13. I should have wrought falsehood against my own life—"If I had dealt falsely against his life" (R. V.) By killing him on the tree. Wouldest have set thyself against me—"Wouldest have stood aloof" (R. V.)—"Not only was the man faithful to the king, but he was perfectly aware of Joab's unscrupulous character." (Pulpit Com.) 14. Three darts—"Staves." Keil thinks the weapons used were pointed wooden staves. Through the heart—Not to be taken literally but as meaning through the middle of the body. Was yet alive—Absalom was still living. Doubt-