

IF WE HAD BUT A DAY.

MARY LOWE BARRON

We should fill all the hours with the sweetest things,
If we had but a day.
We should drink alone at the purest springs
In our upward way.
We should love with a life-time's love in an hour,
If our hours were few.
We should rest, not for dreams, but for fresher power
To be and to do.

We should bind our weary and wanton wills
To the clearest light,
We should keep our eyes on the heavenly hills
If they lay in sight.
We should trample the pride and the discontent
Beneath our feet.
We should love the whatever a good God sent,
With a trust complete.

We should waste no moments in deep regret
If the day were but one;
If what we remember and what we forget
Went out with the sun.
We should be from our clamorous selves set free
To work or to pray,
And to be what our Father would have us be,
If we had but a day.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE PENTATEUCH.

B.C. 1491.] LESSON X. [Sept. 4.
THE COMMANDMENTS; OR, LOVE TOWARD
MAN.

Exod. 20. 12-21. Commit to memory v. 12-17.

- 12 Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
13. Thou shalt not kill.
14. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
15. Thou shalt not steal.
16. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
17. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbor's.
18. And all the people saw the thunders, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking, and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.
19. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.
20. And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.
21. And the people stood afar off: and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. Matt. 22. 39, 40.

OUTLINE.

1. The Law of God, v. 12-17.
2. The Presence of God, v. 18-21.

TIME, PLACE, &c.—See Lesson IX.

EXPLANATION.—Honor—Give respect and obedience. Thy days may be long—The promise of this commandment. Eph. 6. 2. Shalt not kill—"Shalt do no murder." All anger or hatred which may lead to murder is also forbidden. Adultery—Impurity in thought, word, or deed. Not steal—Either by robbing or cheating another. False witness—Saying that which is false: Lying or falsehood is forbidden. Not covet—Desire to have that which belongs to another. They removed—From terror and awe. Speak thou—They felt the need of a mediator, one to stand between them and God. Fear not—The fear of terror is here meant. His fear—The fear of reverence, respect for God and his law.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. The Law of God, v. 12-17.
What is the fifth commandment?
How should parents be honored? What is said in Col. 3. 20?
What is this commandment called in Eph. 6. 2?
What is its promise?
What is the sixth commandment?
What does it forbid? What leads to murder? 1 John 3. 15.
What is the seventh commandment?
What is said in 1 Cor. 6. 19? What is the eighth commandment?
Does this forbid cheating others?
What is the ninth commandment?
What is forbidden in this commandment? Col. 3. 9.

What is the tenth commandment? What is it to covet?

What is Christ's warning against covetousness?

What is the sum of these commandments? GOLDEN TEXT.

2. The Presence of God, v. 18-21.

How did God show his presence in the mount?

How did the people feel?

What did the people ask Moses to do?

Who stands between us and God? 1 Tim. 2. 5.

What did Moses say to the people?

To what should the fear of God lead men?

What did Moses do?

Why did he draw near? Deut. 5. 5.

To what mount may we come? Heb. 12. 18, 22.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this Lesson are we taught—

1. To honor our parents?
2. To tell the truth?
3. To fear the Lord?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What does the fifth commandment require?—Honor to parents. 2. What is the sixth commandment?—"Thou shalt not kill." 3. What is the seventh commandment?—"Thou shalt not commit adultery."

4. What is the eighth commandment?—"Thou shalt not steal." 5. What does the ninth commandment forbid?—Falsehood. 6. What does the tenth commandment forbid?—Coveting what belongs to others.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Righteousness towards men.

B.O. 1491.] LESSON XI. [Sept. 11.
IDOLATRY PUNISHED; OR, FALSE WORSHIP
CONDEMNED.

Exod. 32. 26-35. Commit to memory v. 29, 30.

26. Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the Lord's side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.

27. And he said unto them, Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.

28. And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses, and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

29. For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves to-day to the Lord, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother, that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.

30. And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the Lord: peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.

31. And Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, O, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold!

32. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

33. And the Lord said unto Moses, Who soever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

34. Therefore now go, lead the people unto the place of which I have spoken unto thee: behold, mine Angel shall go before thee: nevertheless in the day when I visit I will visit their sin upon them.

35. And the Lord plagued the people, because they made the calf which Aaron made.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Little children, keep yourselves from idols. 1 John 5. 21.

OUTLINE.

1. The Punishment, v. 26-29.
2. The Prayer, v. 30-35.

TIME.—B.C. 1491, forty days after the giving of the law.

PLACE.—The plain before Mount Sinai.

CONNECTING LINKS.—1. The acceptance of the law by the people. Exod. 24. 1-8. 2. Moses in the mount. Exod. 24. 9-18. 3. The worship of the golden calf. Exod. 32. 1-6. 4. The anger of Moses. Exod. 32. 7-25.

EXPLANATIONS.—In the gate—At the entrance of the encampment. On the Lord's side—Willing to follow God and not idols. Sons of Levi gathered—Perhaps led by the fact of their relationship to Moses. His sword by his side—The sword was kept in a sheath, which hung upon a belt, and was not worn except when needed for use. Slay every man his brother—Rather, every man slay his brother, etc. The meaning is not

that they were to slay every body, nor to seek out their own relatives for slaughter, but to kill all who were leaders in the crime of idolatry, however closely related to themselves. Three thousand—Who were the leaders in the idol-worship. Consecrate—Literally, "fill your hand," that is, "Let your offering to God be the death of his enemies." This was necessary, since the hopes of the world's salvation rested upon keeping Israel pure from idolatry. A blessing—God gave to the tribe of Levi the honor of being his priests. Go up unto the Lord—To Mount Sinai. Atonement—A reconciliation, making peace between the people and God. Blot me—God had said (v. 10.) that he would destroy Israel, and make of Moses a great people, but Moses does not wish to have God's favor unless his people may be spared. Thy book—The names of those accepted before God. Unto the place—Canaan, the promised land. Mine Angel—The divine Being, whose presence was shown in the pillar of cloud. When I visit—That is, God would punish them. Plagued the people—Probably with disease, and the death of many people. They made—They caused Aaron to make it for them.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. The Punishment, v. 26-29.
For what great sin were the people punished? v. 8.

How long was this after God had given them his law?

Where was Moses when this sin was committed? Exod. 24. 18; 32. 15.

What did Moses do when he saw the people's sin? Exod. 32. 19, 20.

What did Moses say to the people in v. 26? Who answered his call?

Why did this tribe come to Moses? What did he command them to do?

Did this mean a slaughter of everybody? [See Explanations.]

How many people were slain? Was this right?

How was this a "consecration" to the Lord? What was promised to them?

What is Christ's requirement in Matt. 10. 37? 2. The Prayer, v. 30-35.

Who prayed for the people? What did he make for their sin?

Who is our atonement? Rom. 5. 11. Why would Moses' prayers avail rather than others? Jas. 5. 16.

How did Moses show earnestness in his prayer? Deut. 9. 18.

What did he ask of God for the people? How did he show his love for the people? v. 32.

What had God offered to do for Moses? v. 10. What book is here meant?

What is said of this book in Rev. 3. 5? What warning against sin did God give in v. 33?

Who did God say would lead the people? In what form did this angel appear? Exod. 14. 19.

What result of sin came upon the people? How did the Lord plague the people? [See Explanations.]

Why is it said that they made the calf? chap. 32. 1.

How did they illustrate Jer. 2. 19? What is the warning of the GOLDEN TEXT?

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where does this lesson show—

1. The duty of decision!
2. The power of prayer?
3. The results of sin?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. How long was Moses in the mount with God?—Forty days. 2. Into what crime were the people led during his absence from them?—Into the worship of an idol. 3. What did Moses say when he saw their crime?—"Who is on the Lord's side?" 4. Who offered themselves?—The tribe of Levi. 5. What was his command to the Levites?—To slay the idolaters. 6. What did Moses then do?—He pleaded with God for their forgiveness.

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