

## THE LESSON PRAYER

O Lord, our faith is tried sometimes as was the faith of Hezekiah. Great and strong temptations arise and lay siege to our lives, and our strength seems insufficient to resist them. And the enemy tells us of others whom he has overcome whose strength was as great as ours, and mocks our hope of help from thee. But from this day's lesson our hearts take comfort and courage. "With us is the Lord God to help us, and to fight our battles." Help us to build up about us all the walls of defense and strengthen all our gates; but having done so, may our trust not be in walls or gates, but in thee, who only art able to deliver us. Amen.

## The Lesson Coin Thoughts

## I

Wrong can never come out right; it is on the wrong road.

Nothing save light will dispel darkness.

Only sanitary conditions can hold contagion at bay.

The legions of evil must go down under the supreme good.

## II

"Whereon do ye trust?" is the key-question to every man's character and career.

No man's work can be wholly trustworthy who distrusts God.

No amount of bluster can shake the rock of intelligent belief.

The man who has linked his life to power does not need to brag or boast.

Character can never come from misplaced confidence.

Faith in God is the only faith that will do any good.

## III

Faith, fervor, and fortitude constitute the threefold strength of intelligent enthusiasm.

Enthusiasm is an engine on the track with a full head of steam.

Fanaticism is an engine flying the track with a full head of steam.

Intelligent enthusiasm has achieved the greatest victories in art, music, and literature.

The greatest statesmen, reformers, philanthropists and patriots have been the greatest enthusiasts.

It is only by the flaring light of faith that any man finds his way to power.

## IV

Sennacherib was shortsighted, as all sinners are; the "gods of this world" blind their devotees.

As a politician he tried to create prejudice in the minds of the people.

A corrupt and crafty political leader will lead as many people as he can by *misleading* them.

Sinners have sharp eyes for the weak spots in God's people.

## V

Sennacherib was a fool for daring to match his might against the Almighty.

Many a sinner has been overconfident just before his final overthrow.

Instead of being the culmination of conquest the *finale* of sin is the *finale* of failure.

As sure as God rules righteousness must wax and win.

It is the height of folly for any man to fling his fist in the face of God.

Sin is too shortsighted to see the final triumph of truth.

## VI

The unblushing boldness of wickedness looks like courage, but it is only consummate conceit.

The rashness of wrong is always irrational.

Sennacherib felt strong in himself because he was not man enough to measure the might of God.

No sinner could be brave at the beginning of his career if he could only foresee the failure that is sure to come at the end.

## VII

Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, and other foolish leaders as well as Sennacherib have misjudged the might of Jehovah.

The man who pits his puny power against the Almighty is a pygmy.

He is already retrograding who tries to impede the progress of truth.

A man may fear a drought who sees only the little *pool* at the edge of the sea, but not when his eyes sweep the sea.

"Guided them on every side:" all of God's guidance is *all-sided* guidance.