young man, having a linen ast about his naked body; and ung men laid hold on Him. And the linen cloth, and fled from naked." He had wondered, he that the commentators had said these words, and what they were original tongue; they seemed to mean that people commenced to Christ in haste, and leave Him ly; that there should be calmnd deliberation in all we do. He for a short time in this strain. ed sister then engaged in prayer ery calm and thoughtful manner. ter then spoke for a short time m xiv. 21, quoting other kin. assages. A brother spoke very pon 2 Tim ii. 3, 4, in conjunction

dom. viii. 1. After a long pause, the brethren who had spoken that God would guide the Coun-Parliament aright in all its deli-Another pause ensued, and the brethren on the plathands with one of the sis. d the service was at an end. It nearly an hour and a half. Durs time four prayers were offered. ur addresses given, neither of coupled more than six minutes. I could not help thinking y of our services. Yet I xchange our hearty services on frigid meetings of the

ld not help noticing that "the dage," so called, has affect-Whilst most of the ladies were the old coal-scuttle. ir-scoop bonnets, I only noticed ing lasiy who had not fallen a to the vagaries of modern o it must be. Sharply des of distinction get rubbed om constant friction with the of that larger number who are good, but not so peculiar. Z.

n if I did not believe, as I

v are fundamentally wrong

a stated ministry, the sac-

s, and public praise expressed in

MEASURE A BLESSING.

d the 103rd psalm, and mark how imist bids us " forget not all his s." Some one has said we can-member them all, but we must orget them all—they are too nu-us to keep them all in mind, but keep them all in mind, but keep some of them in mind. e five things, in 3rd, 4th and 5th of this psalm: (1.) "He forh all thine iniquities." (2.) "He th all thy diseases." (3.) "He meth thy life from destruction." He crowneth thee with loving ess and tender mercies." But are very many crowned heads re still not satisfied. God, thereloes more, (5.) "He satisfieth oul. What more can we have than

RK FOR IT .- Ruskin never said a thing than this: "If you want edge you must toil for it.; and if re you must toil for it." Toil is v. Pleasure comes through toil, ot by self-indulgence and indo-When one gets to love work his a happy one. Said a poor man ollyn the other day, with a fameleven to provide for, "If I were a million dollars I should not do much different from what Ido very day, working hour after hour. it a thousand times better than

He has for nearly half a century surrounded by workers, and has e spirit of industry. He loves ork as he loves his food and sleep. happy who has conquered laziness and forever!

ch of the happiness of life depends outward demeanour. We have perienced the charm of genile and us conduct; we have been drawn stibly towards those who are afand sympathetic in their demean-The friendly grasp, the warm mai the cheery tone, the encouragord, the respectful manner, bear hall share in increasing the joy of hile the austere tone, the stern , the sharp and acrid remark, the and indifferent manner, the curt srespectful air, the supercillious ornful bearing are responsible for human distress, despiir, and woe ien transient natures might seem

IN work, and that of the clearest m sinto profitable play quite as he tarm as any where else. Look. get a fair view of the position; wing, sowing, harvesting, and all done at the proper time; never but always drive work ahead. in the evening what you intend to t day. Have your rainy day and ear day work designed beforehand. is bring into requisition the full for compassing the desired end. In study and understand your busiand you will enjoy it and thrive on INTERNATIONAL

## BIBLE LESSONS.

FIRST QUARTER:-STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B. C 445. Lesson III. THE Mission of NEHEMIAH; or, A Zealous Spirit. January 19.

#### EXPLANATORY.

Verse 1. Month Nisan. Called in earlier March and April. Artaxerxes the king. mained twelve years at Jerusalem. He was the first of this name in the Persian annals, and was called Longimanus Fulfilling the duty of cup-bearer, which arch against poison. His office was held in high estimation, as it gave frequent access to the presence of the king. Had from the cheerfulness of his disposition, sence of royalty to look happy. 1. "Those not only that we should recommend his enjoy it with hap y hearts." 2, 3. Why is thy countenance sad ! Four

worn upon the cup-bearer's countenance, temple itself, which might need some reand the king notice a his baggard looks. pair, as seventy years had passed since 3. "In spite of our wills our inmost the dedication. king felt sympathy for his servant's sor. Doctrinal Suggestion: Answer to row, how much more a loving father! 5. "Let not masters despise their servants' griefs, but try to make them easy." -M. Henry. Sore afraid. Dreading lest the wrath of the mighty king, on whose will his position and life depended, might be excited by his infraction of the courtcustoms. Let the king live. The common form of saluting an Oriental mon arcb. The place of my father's sepulchers. This would indicate that Nehemiah came of royal as well as Jewish blood, since only the descendants of David were buried within the walls of Jerusalem. Lieth waste. Though ninety years had now passed since the return of the exiles, Jerusalem was still thinly inhabited. The temple was restored, and the daily sacrifice was maintained, but the city was unwalled, defenseless, and exposed to the contempt of its foes. 6. "If Nehemiah felt such interest in a distant city, which he had never seen, how fervent should be our zeal for Zion, the Church of Christ!

account this thou art asking?" The king perceives that his cup bearer's words hold a request in reserve, and his impulse is to grant it. 7. "See how much for good or evil result may depend upon the momentary mood of one man!" 9. "See, too, how God directs the hearts of kings to aid his cause." Artaxerxes was un. conscious that his will at that instant was one link in the great chain of the world's salvation. So I prayed. A momentary, Black Dress Silk Buttons, silent prayer that he might so shape his request as to find favor. 9. "He that would prevail with men must first learn how to prevail with God."-Terry. 10. " We can pray in secret while surrounded by witnesses, and in the midst of the most pressing duties." 11. "Let us bring temporal as well as spiritual needs and perplexities to the mercy-seat, and talk with God concerning every thing."

4, 5. Make request. Literally, "On what

5. 6. That thou wouldest send me. The opportune moment, watched for during four months, had now arrived, and he instantly steps in with his request. 12. " Success consists in tact to know opportunities, and courage to seize them." Notice in this request, 1. Its boldness in () and after MONDAY, the 18th November risking the displeasure of a king. 2. Its carefulness and wisdom in expression, 3. Its precision and directness. 4. Its unselfishness in asking nothing but toil and trouble for himself. 5. Its submissiveness to the will of his master. I3. "As Nehemiah came to the king, so let us come to the King of kings." That I may build it. His prayer was not for ease, but for a chance to do hard work for God, in the face of idleness around and opposition without. 14. "Let our aspira-Gen. Supt. Gov't Railways. tions be to do for others, rather than to en-

joy for ourselves." The queen also. The principal wife of the king, whose name according to Ctesias, was Damaspia. Her presence may bave been mentioned as being unusual, or, more likely, because her influence was favorable to Nehemiah's request. For how long. The king valued his faithful servant too highly to consent to his long absence from the court. 15. "It is well when one makes his services valuable and his presence desirable to others." Set him a time. His leave of absence was probably extended afterward, Scripture Abib, the first month of the for in chapter 5, 14, we read that Nehe-Jewish year, corresponding to parts of miah was appointed governor, and re-

7, 8. Governor. The term here used is almost the same word with pacha, which or "the long-handed," a title which may is still the title of a subordinate ruler of have referred either to his personal ap- a province. Beyond the river. That is, pearance or to the extent of his domin- on the western side of the Euphrates. In ions, the largest of any land on earth. He the past these officials had been unfriendsucceeded his father Xerxes, though a ly to the Jews, and had interposed many younger son, by assassinating one older obstacles to the rebuilding of the temple. brother during the absence of another, Nehemiah wisely obtains the sanction of and then usurping the throne. He was an authority so high as to silence all weak and irresolute, though friendly to their opposition, and even compel their the Jews, and, on the whole, just in his assistance. Convey me over. Each ruler rule, which was one of the longest among was to provide conveyance through his the Persian kings. Took up the wine own jurisdiction, and forward him on his way. His route of travel was to the was Nehemiah's office at the court. He Euphrates river, by which he would travel had charge of the king's wines, attended up the stream probably to Tiphsah, seven first pouring a little wine into his own through the province of Syria to Jerusahand and tasting it, to guard the mon- lem. The king's forest. Probably a park or inclosed garden, located in Palestine perhaps at Mount Lebanon, and set apart for royal uses; though it may refer to all not been beforetime sad. Literally, "I the forest land of the province, as being was not accustomed to be sad." Perhaps under the special charge of an officer to prevent their destruction. Trees have E. WOODBURN. but more likely because the etiquette of always been highly valued and carefully the Persian court required all in the pre- preserved in the East. Palace which ap pertained to the house. A palace or castle who serve kings must suit their manners connected with the temple; by some supto the royal will." 2. "Our King desires posed to be the royal dwelling of Solo\_ mon, by others the fortress adjoining the service by happy faces, but that we should temple, afterward known as the tower Antonia. The house that I shall enter into. Variously interpreted as referring either months of mourning and fasting had to Nehemiah's own residence, or to the

thoughts and feelings are stamped upon Golden Text: The God of heaven he our faces." Characte, writes its tell-tale, will prosper us; therefore we his servants lines on every brow. 4. "If a heathen will arise and build. Neh. 2, 20.

The next lesson is Neh. 4, 7-18.

The human mind needs the kindling of great faith, an inspiring love and worship, to set its spiritual mechanism at work. Give it motive power and it will overcome temptation and achieve seem ingly impossible results. Christ does not begin at the dury but at the faith end.

The events of to-day make us look forward to what will happen to-morrow; those of yesterday carry our views into

Bishop Taylor beautifully remarks ' Prayer is the key to open the day, and the bolt to shut the night. But as the clouds drop the early dew and the evening dew upon the grass, yet it would not spring and grow green by that constant and double falling of the dew, unless some great shower at certain seasons did supply the rest; so the customary devotion of prayer twice a day is the falling of the early and latter dew. But if you will increase and flourish in works of grace empty the great clouds sometimes, and let them fall in a full shower of prayer, Choose out seasons when prayer shall overflow like Jordon in time of barvest."

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