

Writing.

On the wings of proud ambition
We may soar to lofty height,
On the page of worldly honour
Oft we strive our names to write;
But the blows of adverse fortune,
Soon have dashed them to the ground,
Till of hopes once fondly cherished,
Not a vestige now is found.

Or, with pencil and with paper,
Write our thoughts that men may read,
And with impulse, good or evil,
Sow the good or evil seed;
Or, upon the solid marble,
Write our names with skilful hand,
Chisel words, that through the ages
Of enduring years shall stand.

Still we're writing, though unconscious,
Every hour an every day
And it either helps or hinders,
As we traverse life's rough way.
Every sinful thought we cherish,
Every idle word we say,
Stamps its impress, deep and lasting,
On our heart, or molds our clay.

What you've written, "you have written,"
Spend not time in vain regret;
Life was given thee for labour,
Use it not to pine and fret.
From the ashes of past failures
Rise to better life and true;
Live, that through succeeding ages
Angels may write good of you.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

B.C. 1444] LESSON VI. [Nov. 11

CALEB'S INHERITANCE.

Josh. 14. 5-15. Memory verses, 10, 12

GOLDEN TEXT.

Trust in the Lord, and do good: so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Psa. 37. 3.

OUTLINE.

- 1. Caleb.
2. His inheritance.

TIME.—1444 B.C.

PLACE.—Gilgal.

CONNECTING LINKS.—Seven full years have passed. They have been years of war. Great victories have crowned the efforts of Israel's commander. At Ebal and Geriz in the magnificent service of the reviving of the law of God, as written by Moses, has once more committed the people to absolute allegiance to God, and the time for the peaceful possession of the promised inheritance draws nigh. Our lesson is an incident of these closing days.

EXPLANATIONS.—Divided the land—That is, precluded it out among the tribes as God ordered. In mine heart—That is, in his mind; it was a matter of intellect, not of affect on. How . . . melt—That is, to be filled with abject fear. Wholly followed—That is, was willing to entirely trust God's word, and to advance them into Canaan. This mountain—Hebron is the highest point of southern Palestine.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. Caleb. To what command of the Lord is reference made in ver 5? Num. 35. 2. Why did the children of Judah come to Joshua in Gilgal? To what historical fact does Caleb allude in his speech? What was Caleb's character? How old was he when he made the request in this lesson? What kind of a request did he make? What would necessarily come to him if his request were granted? How different was Caleb's self-seeking from that of most men!
2. His Inheritance. Who had first promised Caleb his inheritance? Why did Moses make this promise? What had Caleb said concerning the land when he spoke for the spies? Num. 13. 31. What spirit did he then display?

What spirit does he now display? Had this part of Canaan been left unconquered? Josh. 10. 36. How can you explain the reference here and Caleb's action? Did Caleb succeed in his enterprise? Josh. 15. 13, 14. Where have we heard before of the three men here mentioned? Search in Numbers. In what respects was Caleb's inheritance a symbol of our heavenly inheritance?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Notice, Caleb was patriotic for all the years of earnest he fought for others. He was patient he waited his time till everything was settled. He was humble. "The Lord will be with me," was his plea. He was invincible: at eighty-five years he asked the hardest work which had yet been done. He was pious: "The Lord hath kept me alive."

Notice, he sought no easy gift from the pursuit of his leader. He wanted no sine cure. He was willing to work for what he was to have. He appealed with perfect confidence to his record. Learn from Caleb fearlessness, uprightness, and godliness.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

- This is one of the important lessons, be sure it is so many years in time after the lesson. In studying,
1. How many years have passed since the defeat at Ai.
2. Find what has occurred in those years. This makes it necessary to learn the named places of the battles, of the services that occurred, or the settlements that were made, etc.
3. Locate the inheritance which Caleb claimed.
4. Find all the passages that you can which refer to Hebron. Gen. 13. 18; 23. 2. Num. 13. 22; Josh. 10. 36; 2 Sam. 2. 1, etc.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

- 1. Who came to Joshua with a request for an inheritance? Caleb, one of the spies.
2. On what did he base his request? On the promise made by Moses.
3. Why did Moses promise Caleb an inheritance? Because he wholly followed God.
4. What was the nature of the work which his request involved? Difficult and dangerous.
5. What was the only help he said he needed? That the Lord would be with him.
6. What is the lesson that Caleb's example and success should teach us? "Trust in the Lord," etc.
DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The service of God.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

7. Into what state did the fall bring mankind? Into a state of sin and misery. Romans v. 12. Through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin; and so death passed unto all men, for that all sinned.

B.C. 1444] LESSON VII. [Nov. 18

HELPING ONE ANOTHER.

Josh. 21. 43-45; 22. 1-9. Mem. verses, 1-4.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. Gal. 6. 2.

OUTLINE.

- 1. Rest.
2. Reward.

TIME.—1444 B.C.

PLACE.—Shiloh.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The narrative of events between the last and the present lessons is concerned with the dividing of the whole land between the various tribes, the erection of the tabernacle at Shiloh, the naming and setting up of the cities of refuge, and the distribution of the Levites throughout the country. It is the era of settlement, and was made memorable by the skill and energy with which the great successor of Moses accomplished it.

EXPLANATIONS.—Unto their fathers—That is, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. Swore—Promised. Have not left your brethren—These two and a half tribes, whose home was east of the Jordan, had passed the river with the rest and aided in the conquest. Get ye into your tents—Rather, go to your allotted inheritance east of the Jordan. Keep his commandments—These were already written, and called the book of the law. Much riches—Probably booty, from the spoiling of the inhabitants of the land.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. Rest. What was the land which God had promised to their fathers? Gen. 13. 14, 15; 15. 18, etc. What does ver. 41 show as to the completeness of their conquest? Did the Israelites utterly expel the Canaanites from the land? How, then, could they have rest and peace? See Judg. 2. 28, 30, 33, 35. What other reference to their happy condition in these early years can you find beside ver. 45? Read chap. 23. What does this happy condition show as to their obedience to God? What was the one condition for their lasting prosperity? Who first broke the compact? Judg. 2. 10-14.

- 2. Reward. On which side of the Jordan was the country that received this rest? Had the country on the other side of the Jordan been conquered? Deut. 4. 46-49. What tribes had received this east country as their possession? Why had they not already settled it? What was the reward which they received? Was the condition imposed at Jericho, that no spoil be taken, kept up through all the war? Give authority for your answer. What was the last commandment which Joshua gave them before sending them away? How many warriors had they furnished for the joint army? Josh. 4. 12, 13.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Rest after toil is the divine law for men. But the toil must come first. The idle man does not know what rest means. There can be no heaven till after earth. No salvation, save out of sin. Work here, rest in heaven. Pain here, joy in heaven. Temptation here, eternal purity in heaven. Learn also the lesson of Christian hopefulness. Remember, it is only "a cup of cold water" that Christ asks.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. Find where these last headquarters of the people were. Locate the place upon a map. See what other important occurrences happened here. Josh. 18. 1; Sam. 1. 3; 2. 14; 3. 21.
2. Find a prophecy that connects this name with Christ.
3. Study Heb. chaps 3 and 4, to see what the writer says about the Christian's rest.
4. Find in the geographical relation of the inheritance of these eastern tribes to the western a reason for ver. 5.
5. What political danger did this geographical position make imminent? Read carefully chap. 22. 10-34.
6. Commit to memory the GOLDEN TEXT and the memory verses.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

- 1. How much of the promised land did God give to Israel? All that he had promised.
2. What was the political position of Israel in the land? They were stronger than their enemies.
3. By whose aid had the western tribes won their possessions? Of the tribes from east of Jordan.
4. What reward did they receive for their fidelity? Half of all the spoil.
5. What word of commendation did Joshua give them? Ye have kept the commandment of God.
6. What practical Christian duty had these tribes fulfilled? "Bear ye one another's," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Brotherly kindness.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

8. What is the sinfulness of that state? The want of original righteousness, and the depravity of our nature, through which it has become inclined only to evil. Romans v. 12. Through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners. Romans iii. 10. There is none righteous, no, not one. [Matthew vii. 11; Luke xi. 13.]

It is strange how easily we can tell our brother what he ought to do, and yet when the case comes to be our own, do precisely what we had rebuked him for doing.

Our best opportunities are nearest us.

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