

fleeing their character and doom. Even the priest (see Lev. 10 : 9) and the prophet, the religious leaders of the people, are defiled with wine. Swallowing wine they will soon be swallowed up of wine in ruin. Err in vision; not seeing God's will clearly. Stumble in judgment; give wrong decisions. V. 8 gives a revolting picture of drunkenness; vs. 9, 10 the mocking reply of the drunken revellers. The Hebrew words, short, abrupt, reiterated, of v. 10, lend themselves to the mockery:—"Ki tsav la-tsav la-tsav, qav la-qav, la-qav; z'eir sham z'eir sham. In vs. 11-13, Isaiah warns them of the punishment of their sin. They would not listen to God's voice speaking in gentleness; He will now speak to them through foreign conquerors. His invitation to rest they have not heeded; now he will send conflict and destruction.

## DAILY READINGS

M.—World's temperance lesson, Isa. 28 : 1-13. T.—The drunkard's woe, Isa. 5 : 11-24. W.—Revelry denounced, Amos 6 : 1-7. Th.—The way to poverty, Prov. 23 : 15-23. F.—Not in the kingdom, Gal. 5 : 13-26. S.—Swift punishment, Matt. 24 : 42-51. S.—Wise walking, Eph. 5 : 6-21.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 251 ; 217 ; 91 (Ps. Sel.); 256 : 530 ; 528 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 216.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 52.—What are the reasons annexed to the second commandment? A. The reasons annexed to the second commandment are, God's sovereignty over us, his propriety in us, and the zeal he hath to his own worship.

Prove from Scripture—That we should shun strong drink.

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—Of which kingdom was Samaria the capital? Whom was Isaiah warning?

1 How is Samaria here described? On what was it situated? By what surrounded? What was one great sin of its people?

2-4 Whom was God to send against Samaria? To what is their power likened? What was a "first ripe fig"? Why so eagerly eaten? Who would "devour" Samaria?

5, 6 What does the Lord promise to be to the obedient? What will He give to those who judge? To those who fight? What is the crown which He gives?

8-13 Was there drunkenness in Judah as well as in Israel? What persons are specially named? How did the people of Judah receive the prophet's warning?

In what way had God spoken to them? How had they received His message? Through whom would He now speak?

Seniors and the Home Department—Give the date of the lesson. What event in the near future referred to? The cause of this event? Who are pointed to it as a warning?

1-4 Describe the position and appearance of Samaria. Why is Israel called Ephraim? When were its people carried into captivity? By whom? In what city did Isaiah prophesy? Where and in what words did Jesus lament its doom? (Matt. 23 : 37-39.)

5, 6 Explain "that day"; "the residue." Contrast the "crown" spoken of here with that of Ephraim. Where does Paul speak of the Christian's crown? (1 Cor. 9 : 25 ; 2 Tim. 4 : 8.)

8-13 What use does the prophet make of Samaria's sin and doom? How was his warning received? The fate of those who despise reproof? (Prov. 29 : 1.)

Seek Further Questions—By what king was Samaria built? How long did its siege by the Assyrians last?

Topics for Brief Papers—(To be ready on the day of the Lesson)—1. The effects of intemperance on the nation. 2. The responsibility of leaders.

## THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. What crown of gold set with jewels is worth as much as the crown of a noble manhood? This is offered to us. Shall we despise it, or lose it by self-indulgence? Shall we not rather strive to gain it by obedience to God's laws?

2. "Wine in, wit out." The road of life is surely perilous enough without adding to its danger, by losing one's self-control and befogging the judgment through drink.

3. What shall he do who comes after the king? If the priest and the prophet have fallen, then what security is there for any man who tampers with the glass?

4. "Cham-pagne at night, but real pain in the morning," was Gough's sad pun on the joys of the reveller. In the poetic language of Isaiah, "his glorious beauty is a fading flower."

5. Impurity and intemperance go together like the Siamese twins. The bar-room is the breeding-place of blasphemy and sensuality.

6. Many a ship has been lost, not because the captain was drunk, but because he had been drinking, and was not quite at his best when the crisis came.

## FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. What was the cause of Samaria's downfall?.....

2. What instrument did God use to destroy it?.....

3. Name some of the evil effects of using strong drink.....