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FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL.

International S. S. Lesson.

Lesson XI,—The Wheat and the Tables — Malich 13 (Matt. xiii; 24-30, 30-44)

GOLDEN TEXT.—"He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man. '-Matt. xiii. 37.

TIME AND PLACE.—Summer, A.D., 28. The shores of the Sea of Galilee.

LESSON OUTLINE.-I. The Sower of Good Seed, 21 36. 11. The Sower of Tares, 25 27, 39. 411. The Final Separation, 28 30, 40, 43.

INTROLUCTION—Up to the time of our present lesson Christ's preaching had been chiefly confined to a simple proclamation: The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. The Sermon on the Mount afforded some interpretation of the principles of that Kingdom. He now begins to speak to the people in parables, in which many features of His Kingdom, especially such as were likely to encounter opposition and prejudice, are unfolded. Some of the reasons why this method of teaching was resorted to are given in this chapter in answer to the question of the disciples. The great parable of the sower is found in the first section of the chapter, with the explanation of it which our Lord gave to His disciples.

VERSE BY VERSE.-V. 21. "Parable."-A fictitions story, true to nature, teaching a spiritual truth. "Kingdom of Heaven "-Here it means that new order of things which Christ came to establish, which was to be ruled by the principles of Heaven.

V. 25. "While men alept."—While men are ignorant, or careless of the secret efforts of the enemy. "Tares."—A species of plant closely resembling wheat, the seed of which is poisonens.

V. 26. "Then appeared the tares."—That is, the tares were distinguished from the wheat.

N. 29. "Lest ye root up the wheat also." The tares and the wheat were so much alike, that until the harvest they could not be distinguished, and the roots would be often intertwined.

V. 37. "Good seed."—Christians, the children of the Kingdom. So called because they bring forth good fruit, and are the means of making others good. "The Son of man"—Jesus Christ, who is also the Son of God, the Lord of the harvest.

V. 38. "Children of the wicked one." - That is, children of Satan.

V 39. "The harvest is the end of the world." The age, or dispensation, which ends at the judgment day.

V. 40. " Gathered and burned in the fire."-Representing the intensity of the punishment and the certainty of it.

V. 42. "Gnashing of teeth."-Expressing the most intense suffering.

V. 43. Shall shine forth as the sun. Light as a symbol of pay and clear apprehension of the truth. Now the light is not clear, then it will shine out with unobstructed glory, both m and from the saints.

Thus ours. -The Seeds. The seed sown is a matter of supreme moment. This determines what the harvest shall be.

"Nawing the seed of a lingering pain, Sowing the seed of a maddened brain, Sowing the seed of a tarnished name, Sowing the seed of eternal shaine."

We need not ask "what shall the harvest be '. The seed itself is a prophecy of the harvest. "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall be also reap."

Be careful about the character of the seed. John Williams on reaching Erromanga threw out a mass of banana pulp as worthloss refuse, but there was one good banana seed in the corrupt pile, and from it aprung a banana tree, the progenitor of all the bananas of the isles of the Pacific What a blessing that one good seed!