

or without ; and when doing the Lord's hard work ? And one little bit more—just what Zerubbabel and the people in their discouragement needed to know, vs. 9, 10 : the work in hand would be brought to a successful end ; the present beginnings were small—nothing more than a mere laying of founda-

tions ; but the plummet (see *Light from the East*) would finally demonstrate the whole building completed according to God's plan and in God's providence. (The "seven eyes"—see also ch. 3 : 9—represent God's providence).

The Golden Text sums up the teaching.

ADDED HINTS AND HELPS

In this section will be found further assistance under various headings.

Lesson Points

Only those who listen learn the meaning of the heavenly message. v. 1.

The supply of strength from the living Saviour is sufficient for every kind of service. v. 2.

Behind the lips that proclaim, there should be a life ruled by, the gospel. v. 3.

Heaven has an answer for all human questions. v. 4.

He who knows his ignorance is on the path to true wisdom. v. 5.

The arm of the Lord is mightier than the armies of men. v. 6.

No difficulty in the path of duty is so great that it will not disappear before the man of faith. v. 7.

God always gives in overflowing measure. v. 8.

Work commenced with confidence in God will surely be crowned with success. v. 9.

The eyes that see guide the hand that saves. v. 10.

From the Library

The Scripture allusions to the olive are very numerous. It is the first tree, of those now known, mentioned in the Bible, Gen. 8 : 11. Its wealth of nourishment made it a natural candidate for the position of king of trees, Judg. 9 : 8, 9. It is an emblem of peace and prosperity (Ps. 52 : 8 ; 128 : 3) and beauty, Jer. 11 : 16 ; Hos. 14 : 6. The oil is kept in jars, or in large reservoirs hewn out of the rock, or built with great exactness, and well pointed at the joints, or plastered within. It is used extensively as food, and large quantities of soap of most excellent quality are made by boiling it with crude soda.—Hastings' Bible Dictionary.

That the candlestick is all of gold indicates its excellence—the value, in God's sight, of the church, and of living, shining Christians.—Cowles.

Who raised Joseph from the prison, David from the sheepfold, Daniel from slavery, and converted the world by the fishermen and the tentmaker, having Himself first become the Carpenter ? "Wouldst thou become great ? Become little." "Whenever," said Saint Theresa, "I am to receive some singular grace, I first annihilate myself, sink into my own nothingness, so as to seem to myself to be nothing, be capable of nothing."—Pusey.

The sculptor and the chisel are not two, but one ; it is the unit which they make that carves the stone. We are but the chisel to carve God's statues in this world. Unquestionably we must do the work. But the human worker is only the chisel of the great Artist. The artist needs his chisel ; but the chisel can do nothing, produce no beauty, of itself. The artist must seize it, and the chisel lay itself into his hand and be obedient to him. We must yield ourselves altogether to Christ, and let Him use us. Then His power, His wisdom, His skill, His thought, His love, shall flow through our soul, our brain, our heart, our fingers.—Phillips Brooks.

An enthusiastic religious life is not merely the only saving religious life, it is the only religious life that is safe. The defensive energy of character is born out of its own heat. A fiery heart, by the energy of its own heat, creates a self-preserving atmosphere against the devil.—J. H. Jowett.

The duty which falls on the possessor of the power of the Spirit is that of "witnessing." "Ye shall be My witnesses," a testimony for Christ which cannot be given fully till the