

it on hot stones or against the wall of a hot oven. The whole art of baking it consists in turning it over at the right time. If not so turned, one side is raw, the other burnt to a cinder. "How better describe a half-fed people, a half-cultured country, a half-living religion, a half-hearted poli'y?" Strangers; nations such as Assyria and Egypt. Knoweth it not: thinking only of their increased trade, nothing of their lost character as a nation. Gray hairs . . . knoweth it not. Their immorality meant decadence, none the less deadly because unobserved. Testifieth to his face. The nation is humiliated in appeals to outside powers. For all this. Humiliation does not drive them to God. A silly dove; blind to the snare. Without heart; understanding, the heart being considered the organ of wisdom. Egypt . . . Assyria. One time they turn to Egypt, another they appeal to Assyria. Spread my net; to capture and punish them. As their congregation hath heard; in the manner I have proclaimed publicly in Israel.

13-16. Though I have redeemed them. Their sin was all the greater in the light of God's love and care. Howled; in pagan worship. Beds; couches used by the heathen in their "religious" revels. Assemble themselves; Rev. Ver., Margin, "cut themselves." This refers to the practice of laceration, as in the story of Elijah on Mount Carmel. 1 Kgs. 18:28. For corn and wine. Any prayer they make is for material things. Bound; Rev. Ver., "taught." Deceitful bow; "a bow that swerves", or that does not spring back and the arrow falls to the ground. Derision . . . in . . . Egypt. Egypt derides, instead of saving.

LESSON QUESTIONS

1-7 From what book is the Lesson taken? What was Ephraim, and what does it represent? What and where was Samaria? What sins are mentioned in the first verse? Who remembered these sins? Were these sins confined to the people alone? To what occupation does Hosea refer to show the persistent nature of Israel's sin?

8-12 To what article of food is Ephraim likened? What fact in regard to sin is pointed out in the unnoticed grayness? To what bird is Ephraim likened? What nations had Israel trusted in, in place of God? What doom awaits Ephraim?

13-16 What sin does "howling upon their beds" refer to? What return did Israel make to God for

His strengthening of Israel's arms? How is Israel like a deceitful bow?

FOR DISCUSSION

- 1. The relation of temperance to national greatness.
2. Intemperance as the mother of sin.

TEMPERANCE ITEMS

Sir Andrew Clark, the great London physician, made the following startling statement: "I am speaking solemnly and carefully in the presence of truth, and I tell you that I am considerably within the mark when I say to you that, going the round of my hospital ward to-day, seven out of every ten owe their ill health to alcohol."

Horace Greely remarked: "To sell rum for a livelihood is bad enough, but for a whole community to share the responsibility and guilt of such a traffic seems a worse bargain than that of Eve or Judas."

In Ontario, the most populous province of the Dominion, Local Option has brought almost fifty-five per cent. of the municipalities under prohibition. Of the eight hundred and twenty-eight municipalities, four hundred and sixty-three are without the licensed bar. One hundred and twenty-two other municipalities have polled majorities against the traffic, but have failed to poll the required sixty per cent. vote.

Prince Edward Island has prohibition. Nova Scotia has prohibition except in Halifax. New Brunswick has 11 out of 17 counties "dry." Manitoba has 76 out of 143 municipalities, without license.

With now and then a receding wave, the great tide of temperance reform is steadily advancing.

Prove from Scripture—That was is the drunkard's doom.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 34. What is adoption? A. Adoption is an act of God's free grace, whereby we are received into the number, and have a right to all the privileges of the sons of God.

The Question on Missions—6. How do we get the Indian children into our schools? Most of the children come through missionaries and Government officials asking until the parents tire of saying, No. More are coming yearly, because they see the good of the schools, because they have friends there or who have been there.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 195 (Supplemental Lesson); 533; 530, 19 (Ps. Sel.); 529 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 211.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. To what different things does Hosea liken Israel?.....

2. Tell how widespread intemperance was in Israel.....

3. What is meant by a "cake not turned"?.....