

SCHOLAR'S NOTES.

(From the International Lessons for 1875, by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday-School Union.)

LESSON XIX.

MAY. 9.]

RUTH AND NAOMI.—About 1200 (?) B. C.

COMMIT TO MEMORY V. 16.—READ RUTH I. 16-22.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God.—Ruth. i. 16.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—We should keep in the footsteps of the flock.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Ruth. i. 16-22. P. 2 Kings ii. 1-3. W. John i. 38-47. Th. Rom. viii. 35-39. F. Acts xxi. 8-19. Sa. Job. xiii. 19-28. S. Lev. xxviii. 10-22.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—Read the story of Naomi's journey into Moab, the death of her husband and her two sons, and her sorrowful return. V. 1-16. Then study the points in the lesson. (See Notes below.)

ORDER OF EVENTS.—(41.) Micah and his idols. (42.) Punishment of the Benjamites. (43.) Ruth and Naomi.

NOTES.—The narratives of Micah and the war on the Benjamites are each in the form of an appendix to the book of Judges, and probably took place not long after the death of Joshua. The interesting events in the life of Ruth and Naomi some think occurred in Gideon's time; others place them early in Eli's forty years' rule.

EXPLANATION.—(16.) Entreat me not, or "be not against me." I will go (see similar resolution of Eltsaba, 2 Kings ii. 2-6); thy God my God, Ruth a Moabitess, chooses the God of Israel. (17.) the Lord do so, a form of oath to confirm her declaration. (18.) steadfastly minded, fixed in her resolution. (19.) Beth-lehem, "house of bread," home of David, birth-place of Jesus. (20.) not Naomi—that is, "pleasant"—but Mara—that is, "bitter." (21.) went out full—that is, with a husband and two sons; home again empty, her husband and two sons dead. (22.) Ruth the Moabitess, having left her own people; barley harvest, this is to explain what follows.

ILLUSTRATION.—I love of Children. In a grove in Palestine a recent traveller found an aged and decayed tree surrounded by several young and thrifty shoots which sprang from the roots of the parent stock and seemed to uphold, embrace, and protect it. So do loving and affectionate children aid and comfort aged and sorrowing parents, as Ruth the troubled Naomi.

TOPICS AND QUESTIONS.

(I.) RUTH'S RESOLVE. (II.) NAOMI'S SORROW.

- I. From what country were Ruth and Naomi going? v. 6. In what town did Naomi and her husband live? v. 1. Of what country was Ruth? Who returned to Moab? v. 14. What did Ruth decide to do? State her answer to Naomi's entreaties. II. What did the people of Bethlehem ask? v. 19. How did Naomi reply? Give the meaning of Naomi and of Mara. How had Naomi been afflicted in Moab? v. 3, 5. How would Ruth's decision comfort her? Why did Ruth make a wise choice?



NAOMI AND RUTH.

LESSON XX.

MAY. 16.]

A PRAYING MOTHER.—About 1225. B. C.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS. 26, 27.—READ I SAM. I. 21-28.

GOLDEN TEXT.—I have lent him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord.—I Sam. i. 28.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—Every burden is to be carried to the Lord.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 1 Sam. i. 21-28. T. Judg. xiii. 8-23. W. Luke ii. 8-24. Th. Num. xxx. 3-16. F. 1 John v. 10-20. Sa. Num. xi. 1-13. S. Gen. xvii. 18-22.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—This and the following six lessons are from the history of Samuel from his birth to his death. To understand vs. 21, 24 read Deut. xii. 5-12 and Josh. xviii. 1.

ORDER OF EVENTS.—(44.) Hannah's prayer NOTES.—Elkanah and Hannah lived in Ramah, in the hill country of Ephraim, probably not far from Shiloh. YEARLY SACRIFICE. There were three yearly Jewish feasts. Ex. xxviii. 14-17. Some think these were not kept in the warlike time of the judges, but that some great feast of the whole family before the Lord was kept in place of them.

EXPLANATION.—(21.) Elkanah and all his house, the whole family went to worship the Lord; his vow, Hannah made the vow (see v. 11), but his consent was necessary (see Num. xxx. 6, 7). (22.) be weaned, Hebrew mothers nursed their children till full two, and sometimes till three years of age, appear before the Lord, as she had vowed (see v. 11); abide for ever (see v. 28 and Ps. cxlvi. 6). (23.) Lord establish his word, or promise by the priest (see v. 17). (24.) three bullocks, or "a bullock three years old," as the Septuagint reads; Shiloh (see Lesson IX.). (25.) brought the child to Eli, as the Lord's minister. (26.) lent him or "returned him," to the Lord; And he worshipped, or she worshipped; ("Hannah must be meant."—Speaker's Com.)

ILLUSTRATION.—Prayer. Rev. Philip Henry, after praying for two of his children who were very sick, said, "If the Lord will be pleased to grant me this request, I will not say, as beggars at my door used to do, 'I'll never ask any thing of him again,' but he shall hear from me oftener than ever, and I will love God better as long as I live."

TOPICS AND QUESTIONS.

(I.) THE MOTHER AT HOME. (II.) THE MOTHER AT SHILOH. (III.) HER CHILD THE LORD'S.

- I. Where did this praying mother live? (See Notes.) What was her husband's name? Whither did he go every year? v. 21. Why did Hannah remain at home? II. When did she go up to the house of the Lord? To what place? What did she do up with her? What was said of the child? What was her child's name? What offering was made to the Lord for the mother? Why was this offering made? (Compare Lev. xii. 6 and Num. xxviii. 11, 12) III. To whom did she take her child? v. 25. What had she asked of the Lord? What had the Lord given her? How did she show her thankfulness. For how long did she give the child to the Lord?

BLACKBOARD OUTLINE.

H-usband, Elkanah. S-hiloh before the Lord. A-asked for a son. A-bode for ever. N-amed him Samuel. N-other's sacrifice. N-o more sad. U-pright with E-li the priest. A-appeared in the house of the Lord. L-ent to the Lord.

EXTRACTS FROM CHILDREN'S LETTERS.

EAST ZORRA, Ont., March 22. Mr. Editor.—We take the MESSENGER in our Sunday-school. I live in a very pretty place in the country, and I think it is much nicer than it is, or could be, in a town or city. I go to school; I'm going to study hard, that when I grow up I shall be able to do all I can for Temperance. I should think men would be ashamed to drink any more liquor after reading, as they must, those temperance stories in the MESSENGER. But I guess my letter is most too long already, so I must stop, else brother Tom, who is going to copy this for me (because I can't write good enough to send to a paper), will have to "abbreviate," as he calls it; so, good-bye.

LUCY MCKAY (per brother Tom).

EVERSLEY, P. O. King, Ont., March 15. Dear Mr. Editor.—I am a boy of 15 years old. I have now five old rabbits, but in the fall I had seventeen, all my own; and now I have a canary of my own. My father is a farmer, and he takes the MESSENGER and the WITNESS, and likes them both very well; he takes a number of other papers, but he likes them best. JOHN SCOTT. GRAND BEND, P. O., March 17th.

PRINCE EDWARD, March 24. Dear Mr. Dougall.—I am 9 years of age. We have been taking the MESSENGER a year, and so far on the second. I like it very much, and I would like to know if the story of "Daph" is true. We live on the shore of Lake Ontario; it is a very pretty and healthy place. I go to school most every day. I am the only child. FRANKIE EATON.

BROCK, March 28th, 1875. Dear Editor.—I am a little boy 13 years old; I go to school and I am learning to read the Testament, and I hope I shall be a good boy. JOHN HALL THOMPSON.

GREEN HILL, Picou, March 22. Dear Mr. Editor.—I am going to ask three Bible questions: First. What is the middle book of the New Testament? Second. What is the middle book of the

Old Testament. Third. What two chapters are the same. Your little friend.

GEORGE GEDDIE PATTERSON.

BROOKSDALE, March 22nd.

Dear Sir.—Ma saw the WITNESS in a friend's house when she was a girl; she sent for it 8 years ago; I got a few new subscribers, and I send my own 30c to make even money; I will get some more when the roads get good; the sleighing is better now than it has been all winter. Your sincere friend.

MARY ANN.

UPPER MUSQUODOBOIT, Feb. 19th, 1875.

Dear Mr. Editor.—I am a little boy ten years old; I made the fire at school and got a little money to take your MESSENGER; I like the story about "Daph and Her Charge." We have two horses named Captain and Tim. Tim is a yearling colt; we had Tim tackled twice.

HUGH DEAN.

SELECTIONS.

"Where are you going?" asked a little boy of another, who had slipped on an icy pavement. "Going to get up," was the blunt reply.

There are two reasons why some people don't mind their own business. One is that they haven't any business, and the other is that they haven't any mind.

A correspondent of a paper having described the Ohio as a "sickly stream," the editor appended the remark, "That's so—it is confined to its bed."

Why are sheep the least moral of animals? Because they gambol in their youth, spend much of their time on the turf, many of them are blacklegs, and they all get fleeced at last.

The Paris police discovered a manufactory of begging-letters; not only was there a good sale for them all in various forms, but actually a list of the soft-hearted citizens could be purchased into the bargain.

A little Vermont girl called at a drug store and said, "My mother wants ten cents' worth of jumps." This astonished the clerk. The child insisted that it was jumps she had been sent for; but returned to her mother for further instruction. Very soon she came back and said it was hops she wanted.

A BIG CENT'S WORTH.—A lady in Rose, O., sent a postal card by mail having 1590 words plainly written on it.

A COCKNEY QUESTION.—Hif ha haitch hand ha ho hand ha har hand ha boss hand ha hee don't spell han orse, what does it spell?

A Prussian prefect in the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine was visiting the different localities over which he had authority. On passing through a small village in Lorraine, he asked the old priest to show him over the church, and espied a silver rat in a case over the high altar. He immediately asked what it meant. The good father replied that many years ago the village had been overrun with rats, and as a last resort the people clubbed together and offered a rat in solid silver, life size, to the Virgin, since which time but few vermin had been seen. "Do you mean to say that they believe even to this day that an offering of a silver thing can free the country from vermin?" "I am afraid not," quoth the good father. "Men have grown impious now-a-days, but I am persuaded that if they did believe it, they would ere this time have offered a silver Prussian, life size, at the altar of the Virgin." The prefect looked hard at the old curé turned on his heel, and strode out of the church.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.—According to an arrangement which came into operation on the 1st Sept., 1874, Post Office money orders payable in the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba and British Columbia, for any sum not exceeding four dollars (\$4.00), may be obtained at any money order office in the Dominion, at the rate of two cents for each such order.

TWENTY THOUSAND AGENTS WANTED to obtain one subscriber each to the MESSENGER. We desire to double its circulation during the ensuing nine months, so as to begin the next year with FORTY THOUSAND subscribers on our lists. The very cheap rates now adopted make a very large list necessary, and those who are getting the benefit of them will, we hope, do their best to extend them to others.

JUVENILE RECOMMENDATIONS.

BAYFIELD, 1875. "I's children take the MESSENGER and like it." JOSEPH WELLS.

BASTARD, Jan. 13, 1875. "I am taking the MESSENGER, I like it well, only it don't come often enough. I am going to get some subscribers for it. I think the story of 'Daph and her Charge' is a splendid one." EVA ESTELLA EATON.

"I helped Mama to get up a club of seven for the CANADIAN MESSENGER. I like to read the little stories in it." FRANKIE MERRHAM.

PORT ALBERT, Oct. 1874. "Mother takes the WEEKLY WITNESS and the CANADIAN MESSENGER. I enjoy the Children's Corner very much." CHARLIE W. MURRAY.

BENTWICK, Dec., 1874.

"I took the CANADIAN MESSENGER for two years and brother Henry took it for two more, but we have not had it this year. I could not do without it any longer, so I thought I would send for it." NELSON HARRISON.

PRESCOTT, Dec., 1874.

"I commenced to take the MESSENGER when I was seven years old and took it for three years. Parents do not know how much good it will do their children—it will not only teach them to read, but will get them into the habit of reading." HATTIE BROWN.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

"I take your MESSENGER, and it is a nice paper. There are 42 papers coming at this office, and they like them well." LITTLE FELLOW, Murray Harbor.

HARVEY, Sept., 1874.

"My pa takes the WITNESS, DOMINION MONTHLY and MESSENGER, and I like to read them." ESTELLA WRIGHT.

REV. FRANCIS RAND.

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