MAY 13.1

THE ALL-SUFFICIENT PLEA.

BY EBEN E. REXFORD.

In thoughtful moments I repeat
The story of the Cross and see
Christ's bleeding hands and mangled feet,
And think, He bore it all for me.
For me, a sinner! and the thought
Is with exultant rapture fraught.

What have I that my hands could bring To offer at the feet of Christ?
Oh, bankrupt heart—not anything!
He whispers that His blood sufficed.
O Christ, my Saviour, can it be You wore the crown of thorns for me?

O Christ! close to Thy bleeding side I come in my unworthiness; Since for my scarlet sins you died And made the shameful burden less, All that I am, or hope to be, Is Thine. I trust it all to Thee!

-Christian Union.

### " CHILDREN TOO VOLATILE."

I have had far more trouble with those who were transplanted into the Church with the sins of twenty or thirty years sticking to their roots, than I have had with those who grow up in the church from an early planeing. I have seen more backsliders at forty than I have at fourteen. Those who commence the earliest, commonly do the best and hold out the longest. The boy-Christian makes the best stian man.

longest. The boy-Christian makes the best Christian man.

As for "volatility," we must do our utmost to guard against hasty steps in making a public profession of faith, either with the young or the old. Sufficient time to test the genuineness of conversion should be required in every case. Parents should be exceedingly watchful in order to decide whether the daily conduct affords satisfactory proof of a change of heart. Bearing in mind that a boy is a boy and not a man, we must simply enquire whether he is a boy who obeys or disobeys Christ's commandments. A boy who has principle enough to speak the truth always and at every cost, who is more afraid to offend God than he is to be laughed at, who would prefer a prayer-meeting to a theatre, and who loves to obey what his mother says, and what his Bible says, gives good evidence of a new heart. Such a germ is apt to grow. The brst place for it to grow is in the soil of Christ's Church, and not among the weeds on the "devil's common."

Childish "volatility" does not disturb me

Church, and not among the weeds on the "devil's common."

Childish "volatility" does not disturb me half as much as the selfishness, ambitions, greed, and sceptical hardness of adult years. Better a heart that believes too easily and too much, than the cast-iron heart that repels truth as a tin roof repeals hailstones. The golden time for choosing Christ and joining Christ, is childhood. Every year after fifteen accumulates difficulties and hindrances. Four-fifths of all sound conversions are under thirty years of age. "Suffer the children to come unto me," and the good mother who sent me the question had better "not for bid her good boy to take his seat among Christ's people. I saw a prayer-meeting of twenty lads last evening, and it made my heart leap to look at this bright-eyed group of boy-Christians.—Evangelist.

### KEEPING IN

Many think that, if a teacher takes one or two classes out of school-hours, or if she stays around the school-house till six o'clock, apply-ing the mental goad to some unfortunate urchin who would better be playing marbles, or chopping down cherry-trees, she must feel an extraordinary interest in her work. What if she does come to school the pext morning an extraordinary interest in her work. What if she does come to school the next morning with those round shoulders rounder than before, those weak eyes weaker than ever, a sallow complexion, and a quernlous, fault-finding temper! Her interest in her work is immense! Four o'clock comes, and, awed by the interested one's baleful example, another teacher, whose whole soul is wild with longing for a glimpse of green fields and a breath of God's pure air, thinks sadly to herself, "I must not leave; it will be thought I am not interested in my work." So she resolutely turns her back upon these pleasant things, and finally goes slowly home, at supper-time, weary and dispirited.

A good teacher should be physically, as well

dispirited.

A good teacher should be physically, as well as mentally and morally excellent. She has no more right to be round-shouldered than she has to be ill-tempered,—no more right to ignore the principles of hygiene, than the principles of grammar. After being in a schoolroom from half-past eight until four. It is as much her duty to refresh her body with pure air and exercise, as it is to eat her supper. She is defrauding her scholars by giving them a part of her power, when she should give them all. Let us make it our pleasure, as well as our duty, to greet our scholars each morning with a bright face and an earnest heart,—with a healthy mind in a healthy body.—A. M. Whicher, in N. E. Journal of Education.

# SCHOLARS' NOTES

From the International Lessons for 1877 by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday-School Union.)

LESSON XVIII.

MAY G.7 THE FAMINE IN SAMARIA. [About 892 B. C.] READ 2 Kings vii. 12-20. RECITE vs. 17, 18.

GOLDEN TEXT.—The things which are possible with men are possible with God.—

CENTRAL TRUTH .- The Lord changes famine into plenty.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—Deut, xxviii. 47-57. T.—2 Kings vi. 24-33. W.—2 Kings vii. 1-11. Th.—Josh. viii 3-22. F.—Judges xx. 29-44, Sa.—Malachi iii. 8-18. S.— 2 Kings vii. 12-20.

2 Kings vii. 12-20.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—Benhadad besieged Samaria, and there was so great a famine that a woman boiled and ate her son. She appealed to the king, who rent his clothes and sent an executioner to behead Elisha. The prophet predicted that upon the next day there would be plenty of food. Four tepers who went out to the syrian camp found that the enemy had fied. They reported the news, and it was told to the king.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—Read from the beginning of Chap-ter VII., so as to understand the prophecy of plenty and the threat of death, both of which we see fulfilled in this

NOTE I.—Meas'-ure (see picture), a seah which was the third part of an ephah, and contained from a peck to a peck and a half. Shek'-el. At this time money was not coined, but weighed, and its value cannot be exactly determined. The later coined shekel weighed a little more than our American half dollar, and was worth from 56 to than our American half dollar, and was worth from 56 to 64 cents. Gate. Oriental gateways are arched overhead, and are favorite places for the transaction of business; the markets are frequently about them. Windows in heaven, sluices, or floodgates, through which barley might "rain or pour down." Com. Gen. vii. 11, viii. 2; Msl. iii. 10.

#### EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I.) THE SEARCH FOR THE BE-SIEGERS. (II.) THE PROMISED PLENTY, (III.) THE THREATENED DEATH.

THREATENED DEATH.

I. THE SEARCH FOR THE BESIGGERS, (12.) THE KING, Jehoram; IN THE NIGHT, as soon as the report was made known to him; HIS SERVANTS, counsellors; TO HIDE THEMSELVES, in order to draw the Israelites into an ambuscade. Comp. Josh. viii. 3-19. (13) whice are left, have escaped starvation; Behold contined—that is to say, "they can only die, as many have dime already, and as all must sooner or later" (Lange); SEND AND SEE, whether they are indeed gone, or only in ambush. (14.) Two charlot horses, two charlots with their horses. (15.) unto Jordan, 32 miles N. E. of Samaria by the directroad to Demascus; vessels, utensils.

I. Ourstions.—How was the flight of the Syrians dis-

ectroad to Damascus; vessels, utensils.

I. Questions.—How was the flight of the Syrians discovered? Tell the story of the four lepers? vs. 3-11. Who brought the tidings to the king? At what time? How did the king account for the sudden disappearance of the besiegers? State the advice of one of his officers. How did the king follow it? How far did the charlots go? What report did they bring back? Why had the Syrians fled in such haste? 2 Kings vii 6. Repeat God's promise as given in Ex. xxiit. 27.

II. THE PROMISED PLENTY. (16.) THE PROPIE, from Samaria; spoiled, plundered the tents, probably obtaining money as well as provisions, see v. 8; measure . . . seekel, see Notes; was sold for, became worth; the word of the Lord, as spoken by Elisha, see v. 1.

II. QUESTIONS.—State the promise of plenty as given by Elisha in v. 2. What did the people do? What did they probably find in the Syrian tents? v.S. What was the value of flour? Of barley? Give their equivalents according to our standards. How does this show that food was abundant? Who turned the famine into plenty? Show from the Scriptures that God feeds all creatures? Ps. exhvii. 7, 9, 14; exxxii, 15, exhv. 15.

III. THE THREATENED DEATH. (17.) THE LORD, the captain (Speaker's), or adjutant (Keil); on whose hand the leaned, implying age or infirmity in the king (Speaker's); in the gare, gateway; had said, see v. 2. (19.) windows in heaven, see Notes; see it, the abundance promised. (20.) Pell out, happened; trode upon him he was unable to restrain the crowd in the rush after pro-

isions.

III. Questions...State the lord's question and Elisha's prediction to him? v. 2. [Notice that the repetition, vs. 17-19, makes this very emphatic.] To what did the king appoint the lord? By whom was he killed? How? How had he shown his unbelief? State how Elisha's prediction was exactly fulfilled. Mention a similar instance of unbelief on the part of the israelites. Ps. 1xxviii. 19-21. What offer is given to us of spiritual food? John. vi. 35. What shall be the punishment of unbelief? Mark xvi. 16.

What facts in this lesson teach us

(1.) That God can put his enemies to flight?
(2.) That he provides for his people?
(3.) That it is a great sin to disbelieve his promises?



" MEASURES" OF THE EAST,

LESSON XIX.

JEHU THE KING [About 884 B. C.] READ 2 Kings x. 20-31. RECITE vs. 28-29.

GOLDEN TEXT.—But Jehn took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart—2 Kings x. 31.

CENTRAL TRUTH .- Godliness is patient uance in well-doing.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—1 Kings xviii. 17-40. T.— Judg. xvi. 21-31. W.—Ezra vi. 3-12. Th.—1 Kings xii 25-33. F.—2 Kings xiii. 1-11. Sa.—Deut iv. 25-40. S.—2 Kings x. 20-31.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—Benhadad II., the "king Syria" referred to in several of the preceding lessons,d and Hazael succeeded him. Jehoram, or Joram, king or Istael, in alliance with Ahaziah, king of Judah, fough against Hazael, was wounded and returned to Jezreel, there he was killed by Jehu, who had been anointed king at Elisha's command. Jehu also caused Jezebel and seventy of Ahab's sons, together with all his kindred, to be slain; he then destroyed the worship of Baal in Is-

notes.—Je'-hu (Jehovah is he—i.e., is God), the tenth king and the founder of the fifth dynasty of Israel; son of Jehoshaphat and grandson of Nimshi (2 Kings ix. 2); was with Ahab when he took Naboth's vineyard (2 Kings ix. 25); anointed and proclaimed king at Ramoth-Gilead, drove to Jezreel; shot Jehoram dead; trampled Jezebel under his horses' feet, slew all Ahab's kindred; destroyed Baal-worship, but not the golden calves, reigned twenty-eightyears, and was buried in Samaria. Fes'-try the robe-chamber either of the temple of Baal or of the royal palace. Fest'-ments, the sacred robes used in worship. Je-hon'-a-dab (Jehovah incites), son of Rechab, founder of the order of the Rechablies, whose members did not drink wine, build houses, nor plant vineyards. Jez. xxxv. 6, 7. Im'-ages. Dean Stanley suggests that these were figures of the Phenician divinities carved in wood and set on pillars; while the image they "brake down" was of stone, and perhaps erected in front of the temple.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

ON TOPICS.—(I.) THE BAAL-WORSHIPPERS GATH
(II.) BAAL DESTROYED. (III.) THE GOLDEN

I. THE BAAL WORSHIPPERS GATHERED. (20. I. THE BAAL WORSHIPPERS GATHERED. (20.) Solemn assembly, such as the Israelites were commanded to hold for Jehovah's worship (Lev. xxiii. 36, Num. xxix. 35, 36) (21.) Nor a Man. THAT CAMENOT, they were threatened with death if they stayed away. v 19; FROM ONE END TO ANOTHER. "brimful" (Speaker's), "full from wall to wall" (Lange); VESTRY ... VESTRY ... WESTRY ... VESTRY .

I. Questrions —What did Jehu say to the people? How had Ahab served Baal? I Kings xvi. 30-33. Whom did Jehu order to be called together? For what purpose? What did he threaten to those who absented themselves? What was his secret motive? In how great numbers did the Baal-worshippers assemble? Who went with Jehu? How did he keep out all the servants of the Lord? Why would not this excite sussisten?

II. BAAL DESTROYED. (24.) APPOINTED, station II. BAAL DESTROYED. (24.) APPOINTED, stationed, HIS LIFE: .. FOR THE LIFE OF HIM, his own life shall be taken in place of the one who escapes. Compare 1 Kings xx. 39. (25.) GUARD. CAPTAINS. the roya body-guard; GO IN, they seem to have been stationed at the gates; CITY OF THE HOUSE OF BAAL, the stronghold (Lange) or the inner temple, (26.) INAGES, see Notes, HOUSE OF BAAL, the temple built by Ahab. I Kings xvi. 32; DRAUGHT HOUSE, a dunghill, See Ezra vi. 11; Dan. ii. 5: iii. 29. (28.) BAAL, Baal-worship.

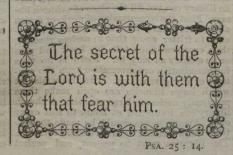
II. QUESTIONS.—State the command Jehu gave to his soldiers? What penalty did he threaten if any escaped? Relate the story of the massacre. What was done with the images? With the image of Baal? With the house? What was the result of this action

GOLDEN CALVES SPARED. (29.) SINS OF JEROBOAN, who set up golden calves at Bethel and Dan see I Kings xii. 28-33. (30.) THY CHILDREN . ON THE THRONE OF ISRAEL, Jehu's family ruled Israel for more than 100 years, until his great-great-grandson was assas sinated. 2 Kings xv. 10.

III. Questions.—What idols did Jehu spare? Whose sins did he imitate? State God's promise to him. How was it fulfilled? Give the names of his successors on the throne 2 Kings xiii. 1, 9; xiv. 10; xv. 8. What shows that he was not at heart a godly man, and that his evil deeds were punished? Hosea i. 4.

What facts in this lesson teach us-

(1.) That severe measures are sometimes necessary to destroy irreligion?
(2.) That men are willing to destroy idols they nate if they may keep those they love?
(3.) That men may fight on God's side and yet not



Too Expensive.—In the average church of New England cities, if a man pays \$25 yearly for an average pew seating five persons, the average cost is five cents a sitting at each service. It would seem as if the church had reached about the lowest working figure But some think the five-centchurch-sitting too expensive. A city pastor informed the writer that men in his congregation, occupying nice upholstered pews which cost them 25 cents a quarter for each sitting (\$5 a year per pew), made stout opposition at the parish meeting to any increase in that burdensome rate of one cent a sitting at each public service, and, after the debate, proceeded to refresh their homeward walk with cigars,—quality not stated.—

Scribner's Magazine. Too Expensive.-In the average church of

EPPS'S COCOA.—Some time since, in a series of articles in these columns upon food, we spoke in terms of unqualified praise of Messrs. Epps & C., 's "Prepared Cocoa." The opinion we then expressed as to its purity and nutritious qualities has been fully endorsed by the public, as shown in its increased and steadily increasing consumption. We believe that Messrs. Epps's manufactories are now the largest of the kind in the three kingdoms, and the total quantity of "Prepared Cocoa" consumed at the present time approaches four millions of pounds annually. This result is not surprising. The dietetic preperties of native cocoa are well-known, but in the form prepared by Messrs. Epps, Homeopathic Chemists, they are rendered additionally valuable, both on account of their increased nutritive power and digestible character. We rejoice to see the high opinion we originally held to have been so generally confirmed, and we again congratulate Messrs. Epps or the sound and valuable addition they have made to our not over lengthy list of dietetic foods. —Civil Service Gazette.

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When the Body and Brain are well balanced, the stomach is capable of restoring the waste; but when the brain is large in proportion, the stomach is inspable of supplying it; in other words the expenditure is apable of supplying it; in other words the expenditure is on large for the income. Here ites the cause of so much uniffering from Diseases of the Heart, Liver, Ntomach and uniffering from Diseases of the Heart, Liver, Ntomach and chings, which is produced by taxing the nervous system to language, which is produced by taxing the nervous system to hitself is the only preparation known which imparts this ditality directly, and consequently the power to overcome itsease.

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