

Our Mission Union,

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A Festival.

THROUGH the kindness of friends the Mission Union workers were enabled to give a strawberry festival to the poor people on the evenings of July 7th and 8th. Over 675 women and children were present, and a most enjoyable, and, better than all, a spiritually profitable time was spent. The Committee desires to acknowledge the following contributions toward the festival expenses:—

CASH CONTRIBUTIONS—Friends, \$2 50; E. R., \$1; a friend, \$3 14; Miss S., \$1 75; C. B. P., \$3; Mrs. B., \$1; Mrs. L., 25c; Miss W., \$1; a friend, \$1; Miss McI., 30c; J. J. G., \$2; H. O'B., \$2; W. H. H., \$1 15

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OUR COLUMN FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS.

NUGGETS OF GOLD FROM THE S. S. LESSONS.

By REV. JOHN McEWEN, Secretary S.S. Association of Canada.

[July 19] **Omri and Ahab.** [1 Ks. xvi 23-34.]

Re-read the five-fold method of preparing a lesson—presented in last number of the MISSION UNION,—and keep it in view during the Old Testament course. The last two lessons are loud warnings of history repeating itself in the individual. In the first we have Solomon's wisdom illustrated by his son's folly. Prov. xiii. 20. The wedge of folly has rent the kingdom in two. In the second lesson we have the temporizing of Solomon with the idolatry of his wives (1 Kings xi. 1-13) ripened into revolution and organized idolatry, embodied in (1) a new line of law; (2) new symbols of worship; (3) new sanctuaries; (4) new ministers of worship; (5) new festivals—the Divine is imitated, but God is left out. 1 Kings xiii. 4-10, 33, 34; xiv. 16. This third lesson presents the deepening degradation of a course of sin, enlarging in the volume of its power, and deepening its own channel. This is specially illustrated by the career of Israel. The kingly line of Jeroboam ended with his son. The best of the people in Israel were shocked by the changes in worship, and moved to Judah. The preserving salt being removed, Israel was weakened, and the final overthrow of the people one hundred years earlier than the southern kingdom. Read Hosea's exhortation (Hosea xiv) Omri had great external prosperity, purchasing desirable situations for cities and palaces (v. 20). Ahab, his son (v. 30), imitated Solomon in his worst lines of policy, vs. 31, 32, 33. "Moral weakness was Ahab's undoing." "In

Jezebel we vainly look for one womanly relenting, one gentle weakness to soften the hard lines of more than masculine firmness." She is fierce and sanguine in character, caused by and exhibited in her great devotion to the impure worship of her country. Growing worse and worse, so with the kingdom

[July 26.] **Elijah the Tishbite.** [1 Ks. xvii. 1-16.]

Ahab represents the darkest period of Israel's history; Ichabod was written on every door of the land, even to Elijah there seemed no hope, but in the Lord God of Israel (v. 1).

ELIJAH is in many respects the grandest and most romantic character presented in Israel,—from the hill country of Gilead,—weird in personal appearance—almost savage in dress—like a fire consuming the ungodly—dauntless in spirit—unbending in severity—combined gentleness and sympathy, are shown in all the private relations of life. Make a study of this Bible character with Moses and John the Baptist, as belonging to the same type.

God raises suitable agents for his work in every crisis. Don't fail to ponder Jas. v. 17, 18.

LONG AND DEEP COMMUNION WITH GOD PREPARES FOR WORK.

Moses at Midian 40 years—John Baptist in wilderness. We are so much with each other and so little with God—we build from the roof more than upon the foundations—live by summer brooks rather than by the perennial fountains. Enumerate some reasons for the famine, and the ends sought by it.

GOD'S REVELATIONS AND DIRECTIONS TO THE PROPHET.

Our work is opened up step by step, and gives us our bread day by day. The lesson is an illustration of our daily life. "Thy bread shall be given thee, and water shall be sure."

THE TEST OF FAITH TO THE WIDOW

Entertain the man of God when the king seeks his life. She gives her last loaf—on Elijah's word, that he is a man of God. She is tested by having only the portion for the day. Her faith was rewarded by constant support, by the presence of the man of God—spiritual blessings. All nature is God's minister to His children, His cause, and His own glory. "So the Prophet went and did according to the word of the Lord" v. 5.

A Beautiful Thought.



WHEN you look through a red glass, the whole heavens seem bloody; but through pure uncoloured glass, you receive the clear light that is so refreshing and comfortable to behold. When sin, unpardoned, is between, and we look on God through that, we can perceive nothing but anger in His countenance; but make Christ once the medium, our pure REDEEMER, and through Him, as through clear transparent glass, the beams of God's favourable countenance shine in upon the soul. The Father cannot look upon His well-beloved Son but graciously and pleasingly. Take Christ out, all is terrible; interpose Him, all is full of peace.—Leighton.