

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

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

LESSON III.

JANUARY 20.]

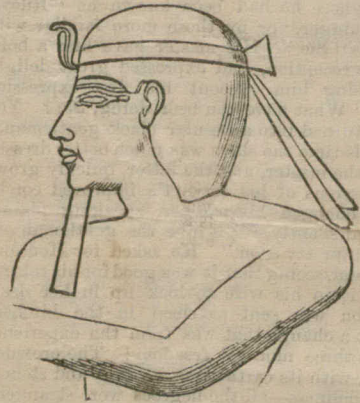
THE COVENANT RENEWED. [About 941 B. C.]

READ 2 Chron. 15: 8-15. RECITE vs. 10-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Be ye strong, therefore, and let not your hands be weak; for your work shall be rewarded.—2 Chron. 15: 7. CENTRAL TRUTH.—The Lord is with you while ye be with him.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—As Asa was returning from his victory over Zerah, the prophet Azariah met him; recalled God's dealings with Judah, and prompted Asa to complete the restoration of the true religion, which he had begun.

NOTES ON PERSONS, PLACES, ETC.—O ded, possibly the same as Iddo (9: 29; 12: 15), but probably another person. The prophet here meant is undoubtedly "Azariah." See v. 1. Mount Ephraim, a range of hills in the territory of Ephraim, between Jerusalem and Shechem. Sim'oon, the territory of Simeon was south of Judah; and hence, to join Israel (the northern kingdom), its people must pass through Judah. Some joined Judah, but most of the tribe appear to have united in idolatry with Israel. Trum-pets—Cor-nets, used in the temple dedication. 2 Chron. 5: 12, 13. The trumpet was probably a straight instrument, the cornet crooked and of horn, though their distinctive character is not well defined.



HEAD OF SHISHAK.

SHISHAK, or Sheshonk I., noted his exploits on the wall of the temple at Karnak by a series of sculptures, from which the head of the king is copied. In the centre of the series appears to be a Jewish face with the inscription found by Champollion, "YUDEH MALIK," "Judah king" or "Judah kingdom."

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I.) THE GREAT MEETING. (II.) THE SOLEMN PLEDGE.

I. THE GREAT MEETING. (3.) ODED, see Notes; PUT AWAY... IDOLS, see 2 Chron. 14: 3-5; CITIES... EPHRAIM, probably cities taken by his father Abijah, 2 Chron. 13: 19. (9.) STRANGERS—that is, Israelites from the northern kingdom, the ten tribes; EPHRAIM, MANASSEH, SIM'ON, see Notes; FELL TO HIM, see 2 Chron. 11: 14. (10.) GATHERED THEMSELVES as commanded by the king, v. 9. (11.) OFFERED UNTO THE LORD, by sacrifices; THE SAME TIME, or "in that day." The Targum adds, "on the feast of weeks, or Pentecost;" OF THE SPILL, taken from the Ethiopians, 2 Chron. 14: 12, 13.

I. QUESTIONS.—Describe Asa's victory over Zerah. What prophet met him? With what message? v. 2. His charge to Asa? v. 7. The effect on Asa? v. 8. What did he remove? From what cities? What did he rebuild? What meeting did he call? v. 9. Who came besides people of Judah and Benjamin? Why did they come? In what year and month of Asa's reign? Near the time of what feast? (See Explanations.) What did they offer? From whom was the spoil taken?

II. THE SOLEMN PLEDGE. (12.) COVENANT, promise, agreement, Ex. 24: 3-8; Jer. 34: 18; TO SWEAR THE LORD, Matt. 23: 37. (13.) PUT TO DEATH, the law condemned idolaters to be slain, Deut. 17: 2-7. (14.) WITH A LOUD VOICE, AND WITH SHOUTING, showing that they made the promise boldly and willingly; TRUMPETS... CORNETS, see Notes. (15.) JUDAH REJOICED, a cheerful serving of the Lord, he was found, see v. 2; THE LORD GAVE THEM REST, so David had rest (2 Sam. 7: 1), and Solomon, 1 King 5: 4; 8: 56.

II. QUESTIONS.—What did the people enter into? Who with? What is a covenant? How fully did they enter into it? State the second condition of the covenant, v. 13. On what founded? How did they confirm their promise? v. 14. In what spirit? v. 15. How fully did they seek the Lord? With what result? Who else had a "rest" under similar circumstances?

What facts in this lesson teach us—

- (1.) That we are to heed a message from the Lord? (2.) That we are to meet for the worship of God? (3.) That we should solemnly promise to serve God? (4.) That we should do this joyfully? (5.) That the Lord will reward those who serve Him faithfully!

ILLUSTRATIONS.—Worth of God's promises. Promises

are like bonds—their value depends upon the worth of the signer. If a beggar sign a bond for \$10,000, who esteems it better than blank paper? But if a man of estate bind himself to pay it, then it is looked upon as so much real estate. God hath made rich promises, and is able to perform them Satan against fidelity. When Faith would lay hold on the promises, Satan rappeth her on the fingers, as it were, and seeks to beat her off.—Trapp.

JANUARY 27.]

LESSON IV.

JEHO'SHAPHAT'S PROSPERITY. [About 914-910 B. C.]

READ 2 Chron. 17: 1-10. RECITE vs. 3-6.

GOLDEN TEXT.—And they taught in Judah, and had the book of the law of the Lord with them, and went about throughout all the cities of Judah, and taught the people.—2 Chron. 17: 9. CENTRAL TRUTH.—The Lord prospers His true servants.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—After renewing the covenant with Jehovah, Asa removed his mother from being queen because of her idolatry; was attacked by Baasha, king of Israel; made a league with Benhadad, king of Syria; was reproved by Hanani, the prophet, whom he cast into prison; died of "disease in his feet" (gout); succeeded by his son Jehoshaphat. During Asa's reign of forty-one years in Judah, five kings ruled in Israel: Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Omri, and Ahab.

NOTE ON PERSONS.—Je-hosh-a-phat, fourth king of Judah, reigned twenty-five years, 914-889 B. C.; of good character for piety, but fell into sin by an alliance with wicked Ahab; his son married a daughter of Ahab and Jezebel; had wars with Moab; the famous Moabite Stone verifies this history. Ba-a'-lin, plural of Baal, the sun-god. Prin'-ces, Le'-vites, priests, princes were chief court-officers; Levites sons of Levi; priests were Levites who were sons of Aaron. Ben-ha'-il, O-ba-d'-ah, Zech-a'-ri-ah, Neh-a-ni'-ah, Ne-than'-iel, Mi-cha'-ah, She-m-a'-ah, Zeb-a-d'-ah, As-a-hel, She-mir'-a-moth, Je-hoi'-athan, Ad-o-ni'-jah, To-bi'-jah, Tob'-ad-o-ni'-jah, E-liah'-ama, Je-ho'-ram; nothing further is known of these men.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I.) ESTABLISHED OF THE LORD. (II.) ESTABLISHED RELIGIOUS TEACHING.

I. ESTABLISHED OF THE LORD. (1.) STRENGTHENED HIMSELF, by fortifying his cities and raising an army; ISRAEL—that is, the ten tribes. (2.) FENCED CITIES, fortified or walled cities; SET GARRISONS, or "governors," see 1 Kings 4: 7, or more probably "military posts," see 1 Chron. 11: 16. (3.) FIRST WAYS, the ways of David before his public sins; BAALIM, see Notes and picture. (4.) DOINGS OF ISRAEL, as the worship of calves, Baal and the groves. 1 Kings 16: 31-33. (5.) PRESENTS, free-will gifts in addition to regular taxes. (6.) LIFTED UP IN THE WAYS OF THE LORD, not pride of heart, but was encouraged in the ways of the Lord; HIGH PLACES, GROVES, 2 Chron. 15: 16, 17.

I. QUESTIONS.—Who were kings of Israel while Asa was king of Judah? Who succeeded Asa? How long did Jehoshaphat reign? What was his character? His first act as king? v. 1. Against whom? How did he strengthen his kingdom? v. 2. Who was with him? Why? The meaning of "first ways"? Of Baalim? Whom did he seek? Whose doings did he not follow? What did the Lord do for him? What did Judah bring him? What did he have in abundance? In whose ways was he lifted up? The meaning of "lifted up"? What did he take away?

II. ESTABLISHED RELIGIOUS TEACHING.—(7.) PRINCES, BENHAL, etc., see Notes; TO TEACH, the law of the Lord, see v. 9. (9.) BOOK OF THE LAW, probably the Pentateuch or five books of Moses. (10.) FELL UPON, "was on all the kingdoms," 1 Chron. 29: 30.

II. QUESTIONS.—What did the king do to promote religion? From how many classes did he select his teachers? Name the three classes. How many chief teachers of the princes were sent? Of the Levites? Of the priests? What were they to teach? Where? To whom? What fell on the kingdoms about Judah? Why? The result to Jehoshaphat?

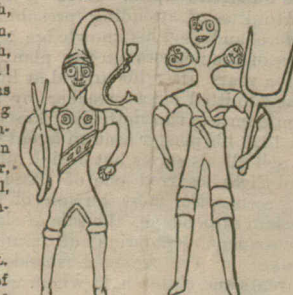
What facts in this lesson teach us—

- (1.) That prosperity is of the Lord? (2.) That blessings should give his people courage? (3.) That the Lord's law is to be taught to the people? (4.) That the fear of the Lord is a protection against enemies?

ILLUSTRATIONS.—Prosperity. How safe. "In the midst of pleasures and enjoyments let me still feel, like the Psalmist, that the best of all is to draw near unto Thee. Break also the snares with which Satan endeavors to make a prey of my soul."—Gothold.

"Prosperity," says Lord Bacon, "is the blessing of the Old Testament. How many eminent saints from being poor became rich, as Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, David, Daniel! Adversity seems to be the blessing of the New Testament, as we see in the apostles Peter, James, John, Paul, and our Lord himself."

FORMS OF BAAL.—These forms of this god are copied from old Carthaginian and Phoenician coins as given in Cresser's Symbolik. There are many other forms also found on these old coins; one has a hideous face, the lower parts resembling a hand; a shield in one hand and a sword in the other.



BAAL-IMAGES.

CAMPAIGN NOTES.

JOHN DOUGALL & SON—DEAR SIRS,—We succeeded in finding the accompanying answers to Bible questions published in the MESSENGER during 1877. We trust you will continue to publish Bible questions. The Sunday-school lessons by Edwin W. Rice are admired and highly prized here. Hope you will have the ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND subscribers for which you have asked. I think there will be a larger club from Thompson, I. C. R., this year. A. S. R. Thompson, I. C. R., N. S.

VALE COLLIERY, Dec. 31st, 1877.

JOHN DOUGALL & SONS—DEAR SIRS,—I did not mention in my last letter that I received my skates in due time. But I did and I assure you I am well pleased with them. I did not expect to get such a pair of skates for such a few names as I sent you, nor did I expect that you were going to send me a blank form and the number of other papers which you sent me to canvass for. But as I saw you went to so much trouble in mailing my skates, at such a price, 75c, if I am not mistaken, and also the mailing of the papers, I thought I would do what I could to show you that I was not ungrateful for what you did for me, and I got a few more names (as you will see) for your NORTHERN MESSENGER. F. A. A.

ALTHOUGH THE MESSENGER circulation is increasing rapidly it does not at present look as if it were to have 100,000 by the end of the campaign. But still much may be done by unanimous effort. If each reader of this paragraph would obtain one new subscriber there would be no doubt of the HUNDRED THOUSAND.

EPPS'S COCOA—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING. "By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—Civil Service Gazette.—Sold only in Packets labelled—"JAMES EPPS & Co., Homeopathic Chemists, London, Eng."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

VENOR'S ALMANAC MAY BE PURCHASED from all book stores, or will be sent post free by the publishers for 20c a copy.

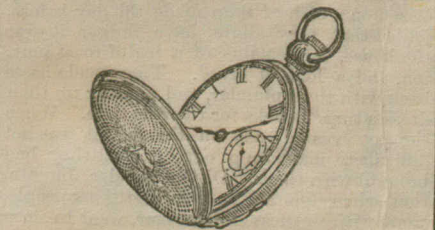
SUPPLEMENTARY PRIZE LIST.

We have received letters from a few workers saying that they do not care about the Skates, are not anxious for a cash commission and would like some other prize. One little girl tells us that there is not a pond within ten miles of her place, and a gentleman that he has but one leg, and therefore the Skates would not suit. On the presumption that there are others somewhat similarly situated, the following supplementary prize list (which, in every case, gives the worker the advantage of the wholesale price of the goods mentioned) is submitted.

Any person sending in one new subscriber to the WEEKLY WITNESS, at \$1.10, or four new subscribers to the MESSENGER, at 90c each (and stating that it is for a picture), will receive a chromo of Earl Dufferin, or the Countess of Dufferin, as may be preferred, size 11 x 14 inches. Anyone sending in two new subscribers to the WEEKLY WITNESS, or eight for the NORTHERN MESSENGER, or one new subscriber to the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY, at \$2 (and stating they are working for the pictures), will receive the pair of chromos, which will make very nice ornaments.

A GOLD LOCKET will be given to any person who sends in \$6 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS publications.

A GENUINE SILVER HUNTING-CASE WALTHAM WATCH, Plain-Jewelled, and commonly retailed at \$20. A good time-keeper.



One of these very popular Watches will be sent to every person sending in \$60 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS.

FOR GIRLS ONLY.



GOLD AND JEWELLED RINGS.

This is a present exclusively for girls (little or grown-up) for those who intend to present the prize to their lady friends. The Gold Keeper shown in the centre of the engraving retails at \$2, and will be mailed to anyone sending us \$5 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS. The Gold Ring with eight pearls and six stones retails at \$4; it will be mailed to anyone who sends \$10 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS. The Gold Ring with three pearls and six stones retails at \$5; it will be mailed to anyone sending \$13 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS. If the competitors prefer they can obtain rings of greater value on equally advantageous terms. For example, if they send \$50 in new subscriptions, they would receive by return mail a ring which they would have to pay \$20 for at any retail store; and such a ring would be a pretty good one. A lady in sending for any of these rings should send a piece of paper or thread the size of her finger, so that one to fit may be obtained.

THE GREAT

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Pool's Signal Service Barometer.

This Barometer is of very early invention and will detect and indicate any change in the weather twelve to forty-eight hours in advance. It tells what kind of storm is approaching and from what quarter it comes. Many farmers plan their work according to its predictions. There is an accurate thermometer attached, which alone is worth the price of the combination. This is sold retail by the General Agents, Messrs. Ostell & Co, Montreal, for \$2. One will be sent to every person sending \$36 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS.

A Handsome

PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM

which retails at \$2.25, will be mailed to all who send \$7 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS.



FUN FOR THE WINTER EVENINGS.

A MAGIC LANTERN with twelve slides will be mailed to all who send \$10 in new subscriptions to the WITNESS PUBLICATIONS.

THE WITNESS PUBLICATIONS are: The DAILY WITNESS, price \$3.00; the WEEKLY WITNESS, price \$1.10; the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY, price \$2.00; the MESSENGER, price 30c; L'AGRICOLTEUR, price \$1.00.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

DO NOT FORGET THEM! Every letter must be marked "In competition," or otherwise express the intention to compete for one or more of these prizes. No names are entered on our subscription lists unless the money accompanies the order. You can obtain sample copies, directions for working and any other information at any time by writing to JOHN DOUGALL & SON, WITNESS OFFICE, MONTREAL.

THE CLUB RATES FOR THE MESSENGER are, when sent to one address, as follows:—1 copy, 30c; 10 copies, \$2.50; 25 copies, \$6; 50 copies, \$11.50; 100 copies, \$22; 1,000 copies, \$200, J. DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

DESERVEDLY POPULAR.—That deservedly popular and increasingly attractive, thoroughly Canadian periodical—the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY—has made its December visit to thousands of Canadian homes, freighted with just such reading as should be supplied to every home in the land. This last number for 1877 is, decidedly the best yet published, being greatly enlarged in size, improved in appearance, and still more worthy of that extensive and largely increasing circulation secured by this periodical. We are pleased to learn that the extent of public favor and support bestowed upon this monthly, warrant the liberal and enterprising publishers in enlarging the size, and still improving their periodical, which, even in its smaller dimensions and less attractive outfit was a credit to Canada. The NEW DOMINION MONTHLY may, with confidence, be placed on the table of every dwelling; every member of the family may have access to its pages, and all will be better for it. In whatever home this desirable monthly may yet be a stranger, its introduction for the coming year would prove a profitable New Year's gift. How could a couple of dollars be better invested than by securing a regular monthly supply of choice reading for the whole family. The enterprising publishers deserve well of the community for their liberality and indefatigable exertions in fostering Canadian literature and enterprise, and bringing within the reach of all so desirable a periodical.—North Ontario Observer, Port Perry, Dec. 27th, 1877.

NEW FEATURES AND GREAT IMPROVEMENTS have been added to the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY. Amongst the more notable articles in the January number are:—one on "Public Speaking," by Mr. George Murray, Montreal; a paper "Nineteenth Century Progress," by Mr. S. E. Dawson, Montreal; a review of the life of that Prince of Humbugs, Cagliostro, by Mr. C. W. A. Dedrickson. There is also a Young Folks' Department, full of interest; a Home Department for mothers in particular and everybody in general; a Chess Department, which is skillfully conducted by Mr. E. Ascher, Montreal; a Draught Department, by Mr. Andrew Whyte, Bolton Forest, Quebec. This magazine is making most rapid strides into the public favor. The price is 20c per single copy, or \$2 a year. JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Montreal, are the publishers, to whom orders may be sent.

THE NORTHERN MESSENGER is printed and published on the 1st and 15th of every month, at Nos. 35 and 37 Bonaventure street, Montreal, by JOHN DOUGALL & SON, composed of John Dougall, of New York and John Redpath Dougall and J. D. Dougall, of Montreal.