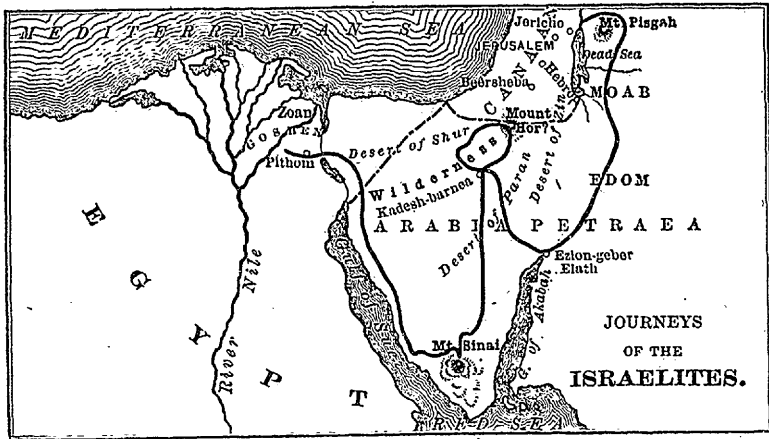


# The Lessons of the Third Quarter, 1895.

**To the Scholar.**—Study the lesson carefully, turning up all the marginal references, and finding answers to the "Test Questions." Then close your Bible and answer in writing the questions on the back of the "Test Questions" without accepting aid from any quarter after you have begun to write. Detach, carefully the half page on which you have written, and send it to your teacher on the day of its date. If you cannot come to Sabbath school on that day, fill out one of the "Excuses for Absence" and send it, with your written answers, to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.



destroyed, or they would destroy the kingdom of God in Israel. If the few who were spared contrary to orders exerted so baleful an influence, what would have been the result if a large body had remained? (3) What the Israelites did was not for themselves alone. "The Israelites' sword wrought a work of mercy for all the countries of the earth to the very end of the world"; on it "the happiness of the human race depended."—*Dr. Arnold.* "If the Jews had failed, the world would have been lost. The true religion would have vanished, the mission of Christ would have been impossible. In these contests, on the fate of one of these nations of Palestine, the happiness of the human race depended."—*Stanley.* The nearest modern example is seen in the contrast between what this country is now in its influence upon the world and what it would have been had the Indians remained the sole inhabitants; and this without pondoning a single injustice or cruelty to the native race. They should have been conquered to civilization and religion only by justice and love, as, in fact, was done in many cases. (4) The Israelites simply executed a lawful sentence against crime. It was no more cruelty than it is for the appointed officers to execute a criminal in our day. (5) "To employ the Israelites in the execution of the fearful sentence was adapted to inspire them with horror of the crimes thus severely punished, and to prevent their intimacy with the surrounding heathen and the contamination which intimacy would have produced."—*Dr. Johnson.* Thus it was that this conquest was necessary to the planting in the world and for the world the love and service of the true God and the purest morality and love toward men.

## HIGHER RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

REV. WM. FARQUHARSON, B. A., CLAUDE, *Vice-Convenor.*

In this department a steady advance is marked during the year. The work, preparatory to the examinations, was taken up by 60 schools, while from 40 others applications were made for diplomas for catechism recitations; so that at least 100 schools participated to some extent in the benefits of the scheme. From these 60 schools came applications for 1,375 examination papers, compared with 932 for last year. The severe storm prevailing through the Dominion on the day appointed for the annual examination, kept many candidates from presenting themselves; yet 385 took part in the examination, as compared with 306 of last year. Of the 385 attempting the examination 266 have been successful, 194 receive diplomas, 57 have been awarded prizes, and 16 have won medals. The interest in the Shorter Catechism steadily increases, as seen in the awarding of 169 diplomas for correct recitation of all the questions, as compared with 124 last year.