

does God promise him? A large family—he is to be father of many nations; also God's special blessing. *He believes.* Is kept waiting for Isaac's birth—his seed does not enter Canaan till 400 years have passed—but his faith never fails.

II. ISAAC SACRIFICED. (Read xvii. 1-18.) Isaac now the only son at home—about twenty-four years old—last heard of when Ishmael sent away. Been the comfort of his father and mother in their old age (verse 2), and devoted to his mother (see xxiv. 67). Now Abraham's faith is "tempted," i.e., tested or tried. Question on the familiar story. See what it teaches about Isaac. He has been trained by his parents in three things—(a) *Worship.* What does Abraham say to the servants? (Verse 5.) Probably he and Isaac have often worshipped together before. Find Abraham, wherever he went, always building altars and worshipping. (See xiii. 18; xxi. 33.) Prayer, praise and sacrifice for sin would be their worship. (b) *Faith.* What question did Isaac ask? Abraham tells him that God will provide the

lamb. Isaac believes, and asks no more. So all through the story—his faith is strong—a worthy son of the "Father of the Faithful." (c) *Obedience.* Faith without works is dead. Isaac shows his trust in God, and trust in his father, by patient submission. How easy for strong young man to resist aged father. But lets himself be bound without a murmur—lets Abraham raise his hand and draw the knife without a word or movement! Had his reward—was himself blessed by God—had long, happy, useful life, died in good old age.

III. LESSONS. Isaac's life a long example of happiness of early training. Was brought up in fear of God. Children may learn two lessons—(1) *Duty of prayer.* Happy home when children taught to pray. Prayer should be regular and earnest, both for selves and others. (2) *Duty of obedience.* To parents—not questioning commands—not arguing if do not understand. To teachers, as those in place of parents. All to be done as a duty to God.

TEXT. *Happy is the man that feareth the Lord.—Quiver.*

NOTES FOR TEACHERS.

LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.—A crowded assembly met in the hall of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec to listen to the Rector of the High School, Dr. John Harper, F.E.I.S. As announced, his subject was "Quebec and Literature," and his lecture was a very complete and interesting sketch of the events connected with the literary society founded by Lord Dalhousie in 1824. Before taking up his subject proper, Dr. Harper combated with much spirit the ridiculous prejudice which leads some people to think that the colonies are barren of great men, and cannot be expected to add to the

highest renown of human intelligence. In this connection he scored a victory against the millionaire Andrew Carnegie, of New York. Afterwards the lecturer gave the history of the Society, doing justice to the founders of the Association; and, referring to the abilities of Chief Justice Sewell, General Baddeley, Admiral Bayfield, Abbie Holmes, J. M. Lemoine, etc., he spoke in the highest terms of the aptitudes of Canadians who, according to him, are called upon to play a brilliant rôle in all the arts and sciences. The original poem in honour of Robert Burns, which the lecturer declaimed with great eloquence,