

life. The power of choice is at once the glory and the peril of our being. But choose we must. Thou and thy seed. Successive generations are so connected that they influence each other. That thou mayest love. The reward of love and obedience is growth of love and knowledge and more fixedness of purpose in serving him. He is thy life. In him find your own immortality. "Dwelling in that land and remembering that it is his, you will learn what it is to have him for your everlasting dwelling-place and home." Thy fathers. Fulfillment of promise long since made.

SEPTEMBER 21.

The Death of Moses.

Deut. 34: 1-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.—The Lord spoke unto Moses face to face.—Exod. 33: 11.

INTRODUCTION.—Between the sin of Moses and his death nearly a year elapsed. Its occurrence before entering Canaan was a penalty indeed for transgression, but it was so ordered as to display God's loving kindness. Once only did he appeal for reversal of the sentence: (Deut. 3: 23-26), but when this was denied he submitted quietly, and never does he appear greater in the unselfishness which distinguished him (Num. 12: 3) than in his cheerful attention to the interests of Israel. Of this, the two chapters preceding our lesson give striking illustration. In his song (chap. 32) there is a faithful picture of the sins of the people, leading to their chastisement, but it especially celebrates his deliverance of them as the ground of confidence in his gracious and holy rule. No tone of personal bitterness or disappointment is in it, while in the blessing (chap. 33) of the tribes "satisfaction is breathed in every line. . . . Nowhere is there a shadow; even on the horizon there is scarcely a cloud." In his calm and ready obedience to prepare for his end (Num. 27: 12-23) his simplicity is sublime.

NOTES.

I. Moses Prepares to Die. Ver. 1-4. Moses went up Apparently alone; not accompanied as was Aaron (Num. 20: 28), by dear and trusted friends. Into Sinai he had gone (Exod. 19: 20; 24: 13; 34: 4) to bring messages from Jehovah; now he goes up, never to return. Nebo, . . . Pisgah. The range was called Abarim (32: 49), of which Nebo was a peak and Pisgah a summit. (Comp. Num. 23: 14) The simplicity of the record corresponds with the complete submission of Moses to God's will. Shewed him. In addition to favorable conditions for clear vision, there may have been special power imparted to his unimpaired sight (ver. 7). Gilead . . . unto Zoar. Beginning with the country north of him, the description proceeds by the west to the south, taking in all Palestine east and west of the Jordan. By the utmost (R. V. "hinder") sea is meant the Mediterranean. Land which I swear. Israel was always reminded that it was their inheritance promised to to their ancestors, who had dwelt in it for a time (Heb. 11: 9) without really owning it, but its possession was made sure by God's oath. Only Caleb and Joshua, of the generation then living, had at all seen it, even in separate portions. Moses was permitted to take it all in at once: see it with thine eyes, no vision in a trance, but in full exercise of his faculties. Plainly this was regarded as a great privilege, and to one who had seen so much, not only of the splendor of Egypt but of the glory of the Lord, the outlook must have been full of satisfaction. Not go over. The penalty for the transgression at Kadesh (Num. 20: 12) could not be revoked. Consequences of sins, even when repeated of and forgiven, often remain incapable of removal; a solemn lesson to us all.

II. Moses Dies and is Buried. Ver. 5-7. In many ways was Moses distinguished, as lawgiver, historian, judge, conqueror, but his highest honor, his most remarkable characteristic was that he was the servant of the Lord (Num. 12: 7), faithful to the last (Heb. 3: 3-5). His unquestioning obedience was exhibited even in the act of dying. How this was brought about we are not told, and conjecture is valueless. According to the word of the Lord is, literally, "at the mouth of the Lord." This has given rise to a rabbinical tradition that he died from a kiss of the Lord. But it doubtless means simply as God had ordered (32: 48-52). Without agency of human hands God buried him in a ravine, in front of the very sanctuary of the abomination of

the Moabites (Num. 25: 1-3). In this way God provided that the place of his burial has continued unknown. The allusion in Jude (ver. 9) to a contention about the body of Moses may refer to the concealment of the grave. Old as he was (ver. 7), he died not from failure of natural powers, but simply and emphatically because it was the will of God. Surely that was dying "unto the Lord" (Rom. 14: 18).

III. Moses Honored. Ver. 8-12. As they did for Aaron (Num. 20: 29), Israel wept for Moses. . . . thirty days. No others were thus honored. The mourning was no doubt sincere, for the people realized as never before how much he had been to them, and they may well have felt that but for their fault he need not have been taken from them (Ps 106: 32). Before closing his . . . work he was permitted to provide his successor, full of . . . wisdom, having received through his hands the special qualifications needed to conduct the people into Canaan. As a prophet, the position of Moses is peculiar: in the intimacy granted him with the Lord whom he knew face to face, in signs and wonders in Egypt, and in the mighty hand which Israel was awed into subjection to his rule.

Religious News.

Two have been received **WATERVILLE, N. B.**, recently by letter. Six were received by baptism last Sunday. Others are asking to "Go with him all the way." Half of the good accomplished cannot be here reported. Evangelist Welden has been with us a little over two weeks. We all love the man and his work. The writer regards him as a most safe and true yoke-fellow; spirit-filled, wise and sound. No crowding the pastor, no religious tricks, no slang. We all want him again.

Alma, Aug. 22.

F. N. ATKINSON.

The W. M. A. Society of the 1st Harvey church in reviewing the year's work, find many reasons for gratitude to our Heavenly Father for mercies bestowed as well as humiliation on our part, because of failures and faults which have been manifest even to ourselves. We are thankful to be able to report only one regular meeting missed in the year, that in March. Through sickness and other reasons, we are sorry to say that we did not reach our banner figures financially last year. We raised \$56.07. \$30.63 for F. M. and \$25.44 for H. M. We also have a Mission Band which is doing good work. Raised this year \$17 and over. This Society observed "Crusade Day" canvassing the field for new members, a number were secured, two of these belonging to Midway, an outlying section and have done good work. This Society made our President, Mrs. Fletcher, a life member. The average attendance is good and the interest well maintained. At our last meeting we had the pleasure of having Miss Cosman with us, also the President of the Albert Aid Society, and other visitors. Since filling out blanks, Mrs. G. A. Coonan, the present Secretary, requested the Society to accept her resignation which was done, and Mrs. J. Bishop was appointed Secretary for the ensuing year. Feeling that there can be no work so dear to the Master's heart as the work of missions, it is our desire to be more earnest in our endeavors and prayers in the coming year.

MRS. G. A. COONAN, Sec'y.

Prof. Thomas W. Todd, principal of Nora Springs Seminary, Iowa, was recently offered the chair oratory in Drake University, Des Moines, but the trustees at Nora Springs would not let him go. Prof. Todd is a son of Rev. F. S. Todd, formerly a pastor at Oak Bay, N. B., and a grandson of the late Rev. Thomas Todd. We are glad to note his success in the west.

The American Baptist Missionary Union rejoice in the largest additions by baptism for

several years. Sixteen thousand two hundred and eighty-three converts have been baptized on the foreign field during the past year. God is evidently blessing the missions of our American brethren, and calling them on to larger responsibility.

Baptists in Syria and Palestine have an excellent worker in Rev. Said Jureidini who has his chief station at Beirut. He goes out on extensive evangelistic tours preaching the gospel to the people in his native tongue. At Nablous, in Palestine, Mr. Youhannah El Karey preaches regularly to congregations at five different stations and with his wife conducts a flourishing school.

Evangelist H. A. McLean HOPEWELL, N. B. came to my assistance August 10th, and on the 21st five candidates were baptized at Albert. We have others received and expect to administer the ordinance again next Lord's day. A deep work of grace is in progress.

F. D. DAVIDSON.

The Baptists of this place **OAK BAY,** are quite active at present we **CHARLOTTE CO.** trust in our Master's work. Souls moved by God's grace are being saved. The church is manifesting the true spirit of unity. Congregations large and the Maps of the Tabernacle are doing good here as many come because of being very much interested. I pray God to pour out his Holy Spirit upon us. Prayer meetings are excellent now.

H. D. WORDEN.

Through the power of our **LEDGE DUFFERIN,** loving Lord this church and **CHARLOTTE CO.** pastor and deacons are nobly and ably as well doing all they can, we trust for the Master's kingdom. We received one here into the church by letter, Sabbath, August 24th. Every good one added to the church adds strength to the numbers and strength to the witnesses. The church had the pleasure of hearing Rev. H. F. Adams one Sabbath afternoon. He spoke beautifully and strongly on many facts. Our Maps on Tabernacle are drawing people here.

August 25th.

H. D. WORDEN.

The Lord's work continues **ROLLING DAM,** rolling onward and upward **CHARLOTTE CO.** by Sovereign grace, and people are on the move from sin to grace, from death unto life and from darkness into light. It was my privilege once more of late to visit the beautiful waters of this place and bury by baptism in Christ's likeness six happy souls and receive them into the church. Others are to follow. Our Tabernacle maps are appreciated by all here and our church is packed on five Sabbaths. The Lord is graciously blessing his word.

August 25th.

H. D. WORDEN.

The work in this part of the **1ST GRAND LAKE** Lord's vineyard is going on as usual. Our services are well attended, and the spirit of God is with us. Although we are not able to report anything special in the work, yet we have much to thank our heavenly Father for. During the past few weeks we have very greatly improved the appearance of our place of worship. We have had it sheathed and painted. It now looks bright and cheerful, and we pray God may richly bless us in our future work.

August 25th.

F. P. DRESSER.

A recent note from Rev. S. D. Ervine, now at San Jacinto, R. D., California, dated August 18th says: