

LESSON I—October 4th, 1896.

Solomon Anointed King. I KINGS I : 28-39.

(Commit to memory verses 28-30).

GOLDEN TEXT: "Keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways." I Kings 2: 3.

PROVE THAT—Those in authority should be respected. I Pet. 2: 13.

SHORTER CATECHISM. Questions 39, 40, 41.

LESSON HYMNS: *Children's Hymnal*—Nos. 16, 22, 57, 69.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* A mother's request. I Kings I: 15-27. *Tuesday.* Solomon anointed king. I Kings I: 28-39. *Wednesday.* A danger averted. I Kings I: 41-49. *Thursday.* David's prayer for Solomon. Ps. 72. *Friday.* A prosperous king. I Chr. 29: 20-30. *Saturday.* The Prince of Peace. Isa. 9: 1-7. *Sabbath.* Everlasting dominion. Dan. 7: 9-14. (*The I. B. R. A. Selections.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Our lessons this Quarter treat of the life and writings of Solomon. The genius of David laid the foundations of the splendor of this reign. Our opening lesson describes the circumstances attending the accession of the new king.

LESSON PLAN. The King's Promise. vs. 28-31. II. The King's Instructions. vs. 32-35. III. The King's Successor. vs. 36-39.

Following the example of Ab'salom, Adoni'jah attempted to snatch the crown from the head of his aged father. He gathered a band of conspirators around him and held a feast at Enro'gel in the valley of Ked'ron, on the East side of Jerusalem. As soon as Nathan the prophet heard of it, knowing that God intended that Solomon should succeed David as king, and that David had solemnly promised that he would secure his succession¹ he immediately told Bathshe'ba, Solomon's mother, who at once informed the king. While she was speaking Nathan came into the royal presence and confirmed her story. Thereupon the king recalled Bathshe'ba, who had retired when Nathan entered, and reassured her that he would keep his promise regarding her son. Notice how beautifully David remembers God's goodness in the past.² Looking back upon unnumbered mercies he has no fear now that any promise will fail. Solomon shall surely be king because God has said so. David then issued his orders for the proclamation of Solomon as king. Sending for Za'dok the High priest, Nathan the prophet, and Bena'iah the commander of the royal guards, he instructed them to place the young prince upon the king's own mule, escort him to Gi'hon, a pool

and probably park, or open space outside the city, and anoint him with the sacred oil³ used only for kings and priests. When the people saw these proceedings they would know that it was not a new rebellion, but David's own command, for the king's mule, whom no one dare ride on pain of death save by the king's permission, the king's guard, the king's priest, and the king's prophet all testified to the loyalty of the parties concerned.⁴ Notice here the devout piety of the brave soldier Bena'iah. He knew that unless God blessed their act it would be productive of little good⁵ and he invokes for the young king the favor of the God of David his father. The good man is always brave and a true soldier fears God. It was done as David commanded. The holy anointing oil, symbol of God's bestowal of necessary gifts and graces, was poured on Solomon's head, and the herald's trumpet proclaimed him king. The people shouted in response "God save king Solomon," till the earth rang again. The conspirators heard it at Enro'gel and the feasters suddenly dispersed, each one to look out for his own safety. Solomon entered the city in triumph, and David in a solemn public assembly gave him his parting charge.

¹ Verse 13. ² Ps. 25: 22; 31: 7; 103: 1. ³ Ex. 30: 23-33. ⁴ I Chr. 29: 23, 26. ⁵ Ps. 127: 1; Jer. 28: 6.

LESSONS. 1. We should faithfully keep our promises. 2. We should remember God's mercies. 3. Without God's blessing no enterprise can succeed. 4. God will bestow all the gifts and graces needed for the performance of duty. 5. Loyalty to the Queen is a Christian duty.