



LESSON XIV.—DECEMBER 31.

Review.

Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah, Malachi.

Golden Text.

'Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.—Ps. ciii., 2.

Home Readings.

- M. Luke ii., 1-11. (Christmas.) Joyful news.
 T. Esther iii., 1-11. Haman's plot against the Jews.
 W. Esther viii., 3-8, 15-17. Esther pleading for her life.
 Th. Ezra viii., 21-32. Ezra's journey to Jerusalem.
 F. Neh. i., 1-11. Nehemiah's prayer.
 S. Neh. iv., 7-18. Rebuilding the walls.
 Su. Neh. viii., 1-12. Public reading of the Scriptures.

Lesson Text.

Supt.—1. I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.
 School.—2. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Je-ru'sa-lem.
 3. Je-ru'sa-lem is builded as a city that is compact together:
 4. Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the testimony of Is-ra-el, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord.
 5. For there are set thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of Da'vid.
 6. Pray for the peace of Je-ru'sa-lem: they shall prosper that love thee.
 7. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.
 8. For my brethren and companions' sakes, I will now say, Peace be within thee.
 9. Because of the house of the Lord our God I will seek thy good.

The Bible Class.

'Forget not'—Ps. ix., 17; lxxviii., 10, 11; cvi., 13-15, 21; Isa. xvii., 10, 11; ii., 12, 13; Jer. 11., 32; iii., 21-23; xviii., 14-17; Ezek. xxii., 12; Hos. vi., 6; xii., 6; Deut. iv., 9, 23, 31-39; vi., 12, 17; viii., 11-20; Jud. iii., 7-9; I Sam. xii., 9-11.

LESSON I.—Ps. cxxii.

1. What made the psalmist glad?
2. What is typified by Jerusalem?
3. What is the Golden Text?

LESSON II.—Esther iii., 1-11.

1. What aroused Haman's anger against the Jews?
2. Who were the king and queen at this time? Where did they live?
3. What had the queen to do with the Jews?

LESSON III.—Esther viii., 3-8, 15-17.

1. What did Esther do for her nation?
 2. Why did it require great courage?
 3. What is the feast of Purim?
 4. Is God able to deliver His people out of every difficulty?
- 'Tis the grandest theme in the earth or main;
 'Tis the grandest theme for a mortal strain;
 'Tis the grandest theme—tell the world again,
 Our God is able to deliver thee.
 —W. A. O.

LESSON IV.—Ezra viii., 21-32.

1. How did Ezra prepare for his journey?
2. How did Ezra handle the gold and silver intrusted to him?
3. How did Jehovah answer the special prayers of his people?
4. Does God hear and answer prayer to-day?
5. Did God ever send you anything you prayed for?
6. Do you pray honestly every day? Do you pray earnestly, humbly, and thankfully? This was the way Ezra obtained what he asked from God.

LESSON V.—Psalms lxxxv. and cxxvi.

1. For what does the Psalmist give thanks?

2. What precious promises are given in the two last verses of Psalm cxxvi.?

LESSON VI.—Nehemiah I., 1-11.

1. Of what nationality was Nehemiah? Where did he live?
2. What made him sad, one day?
3. Nehemiah was a very good young man yet he confessed his sins in humility before God; can any one feel satisfied with himself in the light of God's holiness?
4. How did God answer Nehemiah's prayer? (II., 4-9).
 Thou art coming to a king;
 Rich petitions with thee bring;
 For His grace and power are such,
 None can ever ask too much.

LESSON VII.—Nehemiah iv., 7-18.

1. What did Nehemiah go to Jerusalem for?
2. What did the enemies of God's people do?
3. How did the Jews manage to go on with their work?
4. Who protected them?

LESSON VIII.—Neh. viii., 1-12.

1. Who was the learned priest who gathered and copied the Scriptures and read them aloud to the people?
2. Was this an important work?
3. Supposing that your Bible was destroyed—how much of it could you write down from memory?

LESSON IX.—Proverbs xxiii., 29-35.

1. What are the accompaniments of strong drink?
2. If the world were divided into two companies, one composed of those who drink, and the other of those who do not drink, which side would you rather belong to?
3. If you drink or smoke or swear, will it make you noble or great or good?
4. Have you signed the pledge?

Blest are the pure in heart;
 For they shall see our God,
 The secret of the Lord is theirs
 Their soul in Christ's abode.

LESSON X.—Nehemiah xiii., 15-22.

1. What sight distressed Nehemiah on the Sabbath?
2. How did he set to work to keep the Sabbath holy?
3. Will God honor us if we do not honor his day?

LESSON XI.—Malachi I., 6-11; iii., 8-12.

1. How did the priests treat the Lord of the whole earth?
2. What kind of sacrifices did they offer to the All-seeing Jehovah?
3. Why were the people cursed?
4. What were they promised if they would obey God?
5. What has God given to you? (II Cor. iv., 6.)
6. What has the Lord Jesus done for you?
7. What claim has he on your life? (Cor. vi., 20; iii., 23.)

LESSON XII.—Malachi iii., 13, to iv., 6.

1. Are the people who obey God happy?
2. What kind of treasure do the people who spend their life in self-indulgence, lay up for themselves?
3. What promise of the coming Redeemer does this lesson contain?

LESSON XIII.—Isaiah ix., 2-7.

1. What do we celebrate at Christmas time?
2. What were some of the names and attributes of the Saviour foretold by the prophets?
3. Who should receive the most gifts?
4. What Christmas present did God give to the earth? (John iii., 16.)
 He rules the world with truth and grace;
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness,
 And wonders of His love.

Suggestions.

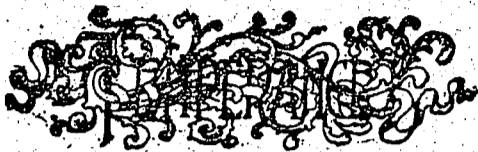
'The half has never yet been told,' 'Hark the voice of Jesus,' 'Stand up for Jesus!' 'There is a gate that stands ajar,' 'Praise the Saviour,' 'He is able to deliver thee,' 'Have courage,' 'I gave my life for thee,' 'Joy to the world' 'It came upon the midnight clear,' 'A few more years shall roll,' 'Peace, perfect peace,' 'Light after darkness.'

Junior C. E.

Dec. 31.—Praise God for His kindness of the past year. Psa. 23: 1-6. (A New Year's meeting.)

C. E. Topic.

Dec. 31.—The heavenly record. Luke 10: 20; Rev. 3: 1-5. (A New Year's meeting.)



Opium Catechism.

(By Dr. R. H. McDonald, of San Francisco.)

CHAPTER IV.—THE OPIUM HABIT.

1. Q.—What is the opium habit?
 A.—People who are constantly drunk with opium are spoken of as having the opium habit.
2. Q.—What is the difference between an opium drunkard and an alcohol drunkard?
 A.—The opium eater shows his drunkenness less, but he must keep drunk all the time, and never have a sober moment.
3. Q.—In what respect is this opium habit worse than alcoholic intemperance?
 A.—When once acquired it can seldom be left off except its unfortunate victim suffers the pain of a thousand deaths, and often the person using it cannot live without it.
4. Q.—Can the opium habit ever be broken off?
 A.—It can be broken off by those who have not used it long or taken it regularly.
5. Q.—What does regular opium intemperance mean?
 A.—It means death, mental, moral, and physical. He who cannot instantly drop the drug is drifting to destruction.
6. Q.—Does the use of liquor attend the opium habit?
 A.—Opium users feel compelled to use stimulants to support the system. Liquor is then taken with the false idea that it builds up the system.
7. Q.—After the soothing effect of opium has passed away what happens?
 A.—A reaction occurs and the victim suffers extreme agony.
8. Q.—What is one feature of the opium habit?
 A.—That the doses of opium must be taken at a certain time and with great regularity.
9. Q.—When the system has adapted itself to the drug what usually happens?
 A.—The patient is then inclined to increase the quantity of opium taken.
10. Q.—What then happens?
 A.—The larger the dose consumed the greater is the demand. The patient suffers intensely, sleeplessness and nausea being increased.
11. Q.—Does the use of opium affect all persons alike?
 A.—No; its effects and power to control are dissimilar, and each has his own time and method of taking the drug.
12. Q.—What is usually the cause of the opium habit?
 A.—Opium is first taken to allay pain, and thus the habit is formed.
13. Q.—What does Dr. F. H. Hubbard say of the opium habit?
 A.—'The victim of opium is bound to a drug from which he derives no benefits, but which slowly deprives him of health and happiness, finally to end in idiocy or premature death.'
 The varieties of effect produced by opium on different constitutions are many. The victims may be known by their pallid faces and peculiar expression of the eye.

Fox and Goose.

'Hullo, Fred!' said Charlie. 'Cold evening!'
 'Yes; we shall have a smartish frost to-night, I reckon.'