SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

LESSON VI.

Nov. 9, 1884.] [I Kings 10: 1-13.

THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON.

COMMIT TO MEMORY VS. 8, 9.

1. And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to prove him with hard questions.

2. And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones; and when she came to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart.

3. And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not anything hid from the king, which he told her not.

4. And when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built,

5. And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the Lord; there was no more spirit in her.

6. And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom.

7. Howbeit, I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.

8. Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom.

9. Blessed be the Lord thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel; because the Lord loved Israel for ever, therefore, made he thee king, to do judgment and justice.

10. And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones; there came no more such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to King Solomon.

11. And the navy also of Hiram, that brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir great plenty of almug trees, and precious stones.

12. And the king made of the almug trees, pillars for the house of the Lord and for the king's house, harps also and psalteries for singers; there came no such almug trees, nor were seen unto this day.

13. And King Solomon gave unto the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, besides that which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Behold, a greater than Solomon is here."—Matt. 12:42.

HOME READINGS.

M. I Kings 9: 10-28.....Solomon's Allies.
T. I Kings 10: 1-10.....Solomon's Wisdom.
W. I Kings 10: 11-29.....Solomon's Wealth.
Th. Matt. 12: 38-50.....The Queen of the South.
F. Deut. 28: 1-14.....Prosperity to the Obedient.
S. Prov. 2: 1-15.....The Lord Giveth Wisdom.
S. Ps. 33: 1-22.....The Nation whose God is the Lord.

LESSON PLAN.

1. The Queen's Visit. 2. The Queen's Amazement. 3. The Queen's Presents.

Time.—B.C. 992. Place.—Jerusalem.

INTRODUCTORY.

After finishing the temple, Solomon built a magnificent palace for himself (I Kings 9: 10, 24), with an addition known, probably from its material, as the House of the Forest of Lebanon (I Kings 7: 2-8); and adjacent to it a residence for the queen (I Kings 7: 8-12). He also strengthened the fortifications of Jerusalem, and built towers of defence at various points in the kingdom. He opened up lines of commerce by which the wealth of other countries was made to enrich his kingdom. Nor was he more celebrated for his wealth than his wisdom, the fame of which was widely extended. In our lesson we give a striking proof of the grandeur of his court and the impression it made on a contemporary queen, herself familiar with all the splendors of an Oriental monarchy.

LESSON NOTES.

I.—V. 1. SHEBA—a country of Arabia Felix. FAME OF—not political, but religious fame, concerning God and the things of God, morals, etc. HARD QUESTIONS—puzzling inquiries. Sometimes, though not always, about serious and practical matters. V. 2. A VERY GREAT TRAIN—men and camels laden with the products of her country. V. 3. TOLD HER ALL HER QUESTIONS—gave her light on all the subjects of her inquiry, and doubtless removed much of her perplexity. NOT ANYTHING HID—God had given him such wisdom that nothing was too difficult for him. If Solomon could thus help and instruct an inquirer, how much more can Jesus, whose wisdom is so much greater!

II.—V. 4. THE HOUSE—his palace. V. 5. HIS ASCENT—probably a private way from his palace to the temple. NO MORE SPIRIT IN HER—overwhelmed with wonder and admiration. V. 9. BLESSED BE THE LORD THY GOD—yet it is not clear that she saw more in Jehovah than the local god of the Jews, but she may have received fuller instruction. Compare the more full confession of Hiram (2 Chron. 2: 12) and Cyrus (Ez. 1: 1-4). Jewish writers say that she was converted to the worship of the true God. Certainly Solomon honored God, or she would not thus have given him glory.

III.—V. 10. A HUNDRED AND TWENTY TALENTS OF GOLD—at a medium estimate about three million dollars. Compare Ps. 72: 15. SPICES—Arabia Felix was famous for its spices. It is said that their fragrance was borne to sea on the wind and scented by sailors before they saw the land. PRECIOUS STONES—anciently the amethyst and sardonyx were found in Arabia, and the onyx and emerald are common in that country now. Vs. 11, 12. A parenthesis telling us that such articles had been introduced into Jerusalem by commerce. OPHIR—a country rich in the articles here mentioned; whether a part of Arabia or Africa or India is undecided. ALMUG TREES—probably the red sandal-wood. V. 13. ALL HER DESIRE—all the information she wanted, and also an ample return for the presents she had brought.

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

1. That wise rulers are a blessing to a people.
2. That wise rulers are a proof of God's favor to a nation.
3. That wisdom is better than riches and honor.
4. That wisdom is needed for the right use of riches and honor.
5. That we should seek true wisdom from Christ, who is the "Wisdom of God."

COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, Oct. 28, 1884.

The delivery of grain at local markets is said to be slowly increasing and if the roads continue to be good the amount marketed will increase. This is in the face of slightly reduced prices. Barley has been moving very freely of late, but the last few weeks of navigation will be busy ones. The farmers are receiving between 55 and 60 cents a bushel for it generally speaking. There is but little grain going to the eastward from this port and this is not only the case because the margin is small but that everybody has grown tired of doing an unprofitable business. The great feature of this year's produce business, here, has been the immense increase in the export of cheese. There has been to date a total export of about 1,000,000 boxes, and there will probably be 150,000 added to this during the next month, which will about square the American cheese sent out of this port, so that nearly $6,000,000 worth of Canadian cheese has been exported. This makes Montreal second only to New York,—if she does not excel that port—as a cheese exporting port, and Canada one of the greatest cheese-producing countries in the world.

Chicago is about steady this week for wheat, and lower for corn. The quotations are as follows: Wheat; 74⅛ Nov.; 76⅛c Dec.; and 79¼ Jan.: Corn 41⅞c Nov; 38⅝ year.

There is absolutely nothing to say about the local grain market except that it is higher. We quote:—Canada Red Winter, 81c to 82c; White, 81c to 82c; Spring 80c to 83c; Peas, 72½c to 73c. Oats, 31c. Barley, 55c to 65c. Corn, to 69c.

FLOUR.—There is some activity on the market and prices are a little firmer. We quote as follows:—Superior Extra, $4.00 to $4.10; Extra Superfine, $3.87½ to $3.90; Fancy $3.75; Spring Extra $3.75 to $3.80; Superfine, $3.25 to $3.40; Strong Bakers', (Can.) $4.50 to $4.85; Strong Bakers' (American,) $5.00 to $5.50; Fine, $3.00 to $3.15; Middlings, $2.85 to $2.90; Pollards, $2.60 to $2.70; Ontario bags, (bags included) Medium, $2.00 to $2.10; Spring Extra, $1.90 to $1.95; Superfine, $1.60 to $1.70; City Bags, (delivered,) $2.70.

DAIRY PRODUCE. — Cheese is unchanged, with a brisk market, and is quoted as follows: Sept. 11⅛c to 11¾c; August 9⅛c to 10⅛c. Butter is still dull. We quote:—Creamery, 24c to 26½c; Eastern Townships, 18c to 22½c; Western, 14c to 18c.

EGGS, fresh, are selling at 20c to 21c, as to quality.

HOG PRODUCTS are unchanged. We quote:—Western Mess Pork $18.75 to $19.-50; Hams, city cured, 14c to 14½c; Bacon, 13c to 14c; Lard, western in pails, 10⅞c to 11⅛c; do., Canadian, 10⅛c; Tallow, common refined, 7c to 8c.

ASHES are quoted at $4.25 to $4.30, for Pots.

FARMERS' MARKET.

The country roads are getting very bad in many places and farmers are prevented from coming to the city in such large numbers as might be the case were there better roads to travel on. The markets are pretty well supplied with nearly all kinds of seasonable produce, and prices are generally without change. Oats, potatoes, onions beets, turnips, cabbages and celery are all plentiful and cheap. There is still a pretty large supply of inferior apples, but good fruit is held at firmer rates. Good tub butter and fresh laid eggs are advancing in price; dressed hogs are getting more plentiful and lower priced; dead poultry is also plentiful, but the prices of good turkeys, geese and ducks keep pretty high. The hay market is fairly supplied at former rates. Oats are 75c to 90c per bag; peas, 90c to $1.00 per bushel; beans $1.50 to $1.80 do; potatoes 40c to 50c per bag; turnips, carrots, beets and onions 30c to 50c per bushel; cabbages 10c to 30c per dozen heads; butter 15c to 35c per lb; eggs 20c to 35c per dozen; apples $1.00 to $3.00 per barrel; pears $8.00 to $11.00 do; dressed hogs 7½c to 8¼c per lb.; mutton quarter 7c to 9c do; young turkeys $1.00 to $1.75 the pair; dead geese $1.40 to $2.00 do; fowls 50c to 75c do; spring chickens 35c to 60c do; ducks 75c to $1.00 do; hay $6.00 to $8.50 per 100 bundles.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

The market is still overstocked with common and inferior butchers' cattle, but prime beeves are rather scarce this week and bring higher prices, while several of the best city butchers say that they are unable to get suitable beef "critters" in order to furnish their customers with the kind of meat they want. Pretty good fat cows and fair-conditioned steers sell at from 3½c to 3¾c per lb. and common dry cows at $20 to $30 each, or 2½c to 3c do. Small two-year olds in fair condition sell at about $20 each, or a little over 3c per lb. and leanish small stock at from $8 to $15 each, or from 2c to 2½c per lb. Sheep and lambs are in fair supply at former rates, selling at from $3 to $5 aach, lamb at from $2 to $4 each. Hogs are in fair supply at from 5½c to 6c per lb. The supply of good milch cows has been small of late, but still enough to meet the demand.

NEW YORK, Oct. 27, 1884.

GRAIN.—Wheat, 83½c Nov.; 86c Dec.; 87½c Jan; 95⅜c May. Corn, 52½c October; 55½c Nov; 50⅝c Dec.; 48¼c Jan. Rye, quiet, 63½c. Oats in fair demand, 31½c Oct.; 31½c Nov., 32 Dec. Barley, Canada No. 2. 76½c. Pease nominal.

FLOUR.—The quotations are as follows: Superfine, $2.40 to $2.65; Low Extra, $2.96 to $3.30; Clears, $3.70 to $4.65; Straight (full stock), $5.00 to $5.75; Patent, $4.60 to $6 00. Winter Wheat — Superfine, $2.60 to $2.90; Low Extra, $3.10 to $3.40; Clears (R. and A.), $3.90 to $4.05; Straight (R. and A.), $4.15 to $5.25; Patent, $4.20 to $5.40; Straight (White Wheat), $4.25 to $5.25; Low Extra (City Mill), $3.10 to $3.50; West India, sacks, $3.90 to $4.10; barrels, West India, $4.65; Patent, $4.90 to $5.45; South America, $4.45 to $4.60; Patent, $4.90 to $5.55. Southern Flour—Extra $3.25 to $4.50; Family, $4.75 to $5.25; Patent, $5.30 to $5.85. Rye Flour—Fine to superfine, $2.75 to $3.80.

MEALS.—Cornmeal, $3.40 to $3.50 in brls; oatmeal, $5.00 to $5.90 per brl.

SEEDS. — Dull. Clover 8c to 8½c; Timothy, $1.45 to $1.55; Linseed $1.00 to $1.80.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter—we quote creamery, ordinary to select 19c to 31c. Half firkins, ordinary to best 21c to 28c; Welsh tubs 18c to 25c; Western ordinary factory, to choice imitation creamery, 9c to 24c. Cheese, state factory, ordinary to fall cream, 5c to 12½c. Ohio flats, fair to choice, 6c to 11c; Skims ⅛c to 3c.

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