

three friends came to be in Babylon. Was it their choice? No, God put them there, and he was there to teach them what to do. Tell that the people in Babylon worshiped idols, and Daniel had been taught to worship God. Tell what the king's command was about, the food for these boys, why he wanted them well nourished, and what temptation there was to like this life of luxury.

God's Command. Explain that the meat and wine from the king's table had been first offered in sacrifice to idols, and Daniel thought God would not be pleased if he ate it. Then, some of the kinds of meat were such as God had forbidden the Jews to eat. Daniel did not want to disobey the king, but he felt that he must obey God, and so he asked the chief officer to give him and his friends pulse (vegetables) to eat. Show that Daniel did not do this to please himself, but to please God. Do we refuse rich and unwholesome food lest we may displease God?



The Wisdom of a Right Choice. Show how much better it was for these boys, even in worldly ways, to obey God. Wine and rich foods destroy the stomach; they make the mind dull and heavy. Tell how fast these boys who minded God learned, and how pleased

the king was when they were brought before him.

Practical Truth for us. God wants his boys and girls to be strong in body and in soul. Teach that weak children will not be likely to make strong men and women. Tell what some of the things are which weaken—eating rich food, candy, nuts, etc.; reading bad books; playing too much; any thing in which we choose our pleasure before God's. Daniel chose to mind God, and God rewarded him richly. Shall we not all make this choice?

Lesson Word-Pictures.

A young man in a great city! O how great! What walls, towers, palaces, gardens! A young man too in the king's household! What brilliant courtiers, luxurious living, fascinating temptations! A young man, too, far away from his home, far from the associations of a true, godly worship and thrown among idolaters! Will he save himself from defilement? What will Daniel do? His young Hebrew companions, what course will they take? A snare lies waiting to trip them at the very outset, a snare spread out three times a day, its lines stretched in the very table on which lies their food. Daniel shakes his head at the splendid dishes, at the costly wines. He turns his back upon them. They may have been defiled by some act of consecration to a heathen deity. They cannot build up his body into the greatest strength. He says, "I will speak about this to the prince of the eunuchs." Bold, loyal, royal Daniel! The two are talking. What does Daniel propose? "Pulse to eat and water to drink!" The eunuch's countenance falls. Such meager diet! What will the king say when he looks at four skeletons? "Prove thy servants ten days," is Daniel's plea. How the eunuch must have watched those four faces from day to day! Ah, what tints of health the pulse and water painted in those countenances! The days go by. How knowledge and skill come down into the hearts from which reverence and love ascend to God, while to Daniel is given the golden key unlocking the mysterious gates of Dream-world. At last comes the day of preservation to the great king. There they are, the four Hebrews ranged before

the throne. From one to the other, move the searching eyes of the great monarch. Do the exiles tremble? Will they stand the test? The prince of the eunuchs too is waiting anxiously the result. Ah, whom God has searched and approved need not fear Babylon's king. Go forward to waiting honors, Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Nebuchadnezzar approves of you.

LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY, 1886.

- FEB. 7. The Fiery Furnace. Dan. 3. 16-28.
 FEB. 14. The Handwriting on the Wall. Dan. 5. 1-12, and 25-28.
 FEB. 21. The Second Temple. Ezra 1. 1-4, and 3. 8-13.
 FEB. 28. Nehemiah's Prayer. Neh. 1. 1-11.

Notes on Normal Work.

—The examination questions for the first year's course of study [in the Assembly Normal Union were sent out during October to over twelve hundred enrolled students, who have taken the course either as individuals or in normal classes during the past year. This is additional to the six hundred who have taken the course and the examination at the various Assemblies during the summer.

—We receive reports of normal classes pursuing the studies of the A. N. U. in many sections of the country. One class of fifty students in Columbus, Ohio, has been under the charge of Rev. A. N. Craft; another, of thirty-five enrolled members in Worcester, Mass., has been conducted by Mr. H. D. Barber; and we have the report of a class in Vashon, Washington Territory, organized by Rev. R. B. Dilworth, whose face and voice are well known at Chautauqua. These are but a few out of many that might be named.

—A normal class of nearly two hundred members has been organized in Plainfield, N. J. Every Sunday-school in the city is represented in its membership. It has undertaken the Institute Course of the A. N. U., and proposes to complete the twelve lessons, six on the Bible and six on Sunday-school work, in seven evenings. Its teachers are Rev. J. L. Hurlbut and Prof. R. S. Holmes.

—The second year's class of the A. N. U. is composed only of such as have already taken the first year's course, or have graduated in the Normal Department of some Sunday-school Assembly. Its members are therefore limited; but at our time of writing (October 28, 1885) it already includes about two hundred names. Any normal graduate of Chautauqua or any other Assembly who desires to join can send his name and fifty cents fee to Dr. J. L. Hurlbut, at the office of the JOURNAL, and the lesson-leaflets will be sent to him.

—We would like to have five thousand students in the new class of the first year in the A. N. U. now being organized. Write to Dr. J. L. Hurlbut, at the office of the JOURNAL, for the circular of information.