

## Lesson VI.

## WORLD'S TEMPERANCE SUNDAY November 10, 1912

**LESSON SETTING**—This Lesson is from the prophecy of Hosea, the St. John of the Old Testament. He denounces wickedness in high places, the moral and political decay in the Northern Kingdom. Time, about B.C. 740.

**GOLDEN TEXT**—Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that tarry late into the night, till wine inflame them!—Isaiah 5: 11 (Rev. Ver.).

## THE LESSON PASSAGE—Hosea, ch. 7.

1 When I would <sup>1</sup>have healed Israel, then <sup>2</sup>the iniquity of Ephraim <sup>3</sup>was discovered, and the wickedness of Samaria: for they commit falsehood; and the thief <sup>4</sup>cometh in, and the troop of robbers spoileth without.

2 And they consider not in their hearts that I remember all their wickedness: now <sup>5</sup>their own doings have beset them about; they are before my face.

3 They make the king glad with their wickedness, and the princes with their lies.

4 They are all adulterers, <sup>6</sup>as an oven heated by the baker, <sup>7</sup>who ceaseth from raising after he hath kneaded the dough, until it be leavened.

5 <sup>8</sup>In the day of our king the princes <sup>9</sup>have made him sick with bottles of wine; he stretched out his hand with scorers.

6 For they have made ready their heart like an oven, whilst they lie in wait: their baker sleepeth all the night; in the morning it burneth as a flaming fire.

7 They are all hot as an oven, and <sup>10</sup>have devoured their judges; all their kings are fallen: *there is none among them that calleth unto me.*

8 Ephraim, he <sup>11</sup>hath mixed himself among the <sup>12</sup>people; Ephraim is a cake not turned.

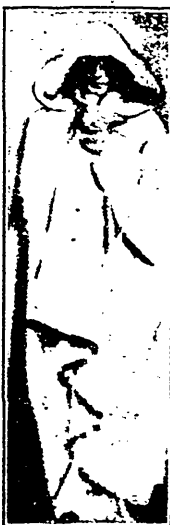
**Revised Version**—<sup>1</sup>heal; <sup>2</sup>is the; <sup>3</sup>Omit was; <sup>4</sup>entereth in; <sup>5</sup>have their doings beset; <sup>6</sup>they are as; <sup>7</sup>he ceaseth to stir the fire, from the kneading of the dough until; <sup>8</sup>On; <sup>9</sup>made themselves sick with the heat of; <sup>10</sup>devour; <sup>11</sup>mixed himself; <sup>12</sup>peoples; <sup>13</sup>and he; <sup>14</sup>it not; <sup>15</sup>does testify; <sup>16</sup>yet they have not returned unto; <sup>17</sup>sought him; <sup>18</sup>And Ephraim is; <sup>19</sup>understanding; <sup>20</sup>unto; <sup>21</sup>wandered; <sup>22</sup>for; <sup>23</sup>trespassed; <sup>24</sup>would redeem; <sup>25</sup>but they howl; <sup>26</sup>Omit and; <sup>27</sup>taught; <sup>28</sup>him that is on high.

**Daily Readings**—(Courtesy I.B.R.A.)—M.—World's Temperance Sunday, Hos. 7: 1-7. T.—World's Temperance Sunday, Hos. 7: 8-16. W.—Defeated through drunkenness, 1 Kgs. 20: 13-21. Th.—False security, Amos 6: 1-7. F.—Be ye sober, 1 Pet. 4: 1-8. S.—For my brother's sake, Rom. 14: 14-21. S.—Equipped, Eph. 6: 10-18.

## THE LESSON EXPLAINED

## I. SOCIAL CORRUPTION.

—1-3. Ephraim; the most important tribe in the Northern Kingdom. It represents here the whole Kingdom of Israel. Discovered. God's effort to heal only revealed the desperate nature of the disease. Samaria; the capital city, standing for the nation. Falsehood... thief... robbers; perjury, theft, highway robbery, all prevalent. They consider not. They sin with a high hand and a light heart: Sin does not matter; God does not know or care. Their own doings have beset them about; as Hosea says in ch. 5: 4, "their doings will not suffer them to turn" (Rev. Ver.). Before my face. God cannot avoid seeing their iniquity. Make the king glad with their wickedness; King Zechariah. The throne itself is guilty, rejoicing in the sin of the nation.



HOSEA: Sargent

4-7. Adulterers; "habitual adulterers". pausing

9 Strangers have devoured his strength, and he knoweth it not; yea, gray hairs are here and there upon him, <sup>13</sup>yet he knoweth <sup>14</sup>not.

10 And the pride of Israel <sup>15</sup>testifieth to his face: <sup>16</sup>and they do not return to the Lord their God, nor <sup>17</sup>seek him for all this.

11 <sup>18</sup>Ephraim also is like a silly dove without <sup>19</sup>heart: they call <sup>20</sup>to Egypt, they go to Assyria.

12 When they shall go, I will spread my net upon them; I will bring them down as the fowls of the heaven; I will chastise them, as their congregation hath heard.

13 Woe unto them! for they have <sup>21</sup>fled from me: destruction unto them! <sup>22</sup>because they have <sup>23</sup>transgressed against me: though I <sup>24</sup>have redeemed them, yet they have spoken lies against me.

14 And they have not cried unto me with their heart, <sup>25</sup>when they howled upon their beds: they assemble themselves for corn and wine, <sup>26</sup>and they rebel against me.

15 Though I have <sup>27</sup>bound and strengthened their arms, yet do they imagine mischief against me.

16 They return, but not to <sup>28</sup>the most High: they are like a deceitful bow: their princes shall fall by the sword for the rage of their tongue: this shall be their derision in the land of Egypt.

only in intervals of sin to prepare for a new outbreak: hence the figure of the oven. Who ceaseth from raising... until it be leavened. The fire only smoulders, while the dough is being leavened. It will soon be kindled again. Even the occasional ceasing from evil is ominous of a greater outbreak. Day of our king; coronation, or birthday, of the king. Made him sick; Rev. Ver., "made themselves sick." With bottles of wine; Rev. Ver., "with the heat of wine." Stretched out his hand; the silly gesture of a drunken man. Scorers; "loose fellows"—makes them boon companions in some revelry. Have made ready... while they lie in wait. Murderous conspiracy is added to their sin. Devoured their judges. Shallum slew Zechariah, and Menahem murdered Shallum, 2 Kgs. 15: 14. All their kings are fallen. Nine were murdered, eight died a natural death. None... that calleth unto me; that is, in truth: sacrifices were still abundant. This was the irony of the situation. Hence, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice", ch. 6: 6.

II. POLITICAL DECAY.—8-12. "Moral decay means political decay. Sins like these are the gangrene of nations." Mixed himself; again a figure from baking. Among the people; the surrounding commercial nations. Their influence had corrupted. Ephraim is a cake not turned. There is in demand in the East a small, flat scone, which is baked by laying