

Lesson XIII.

REVIEW, SUPPLEMENTAL LESSONS

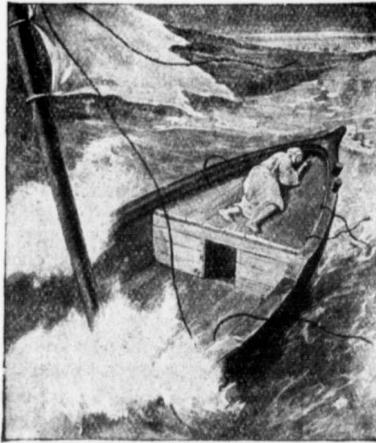
March 29, 1908

BIBLE WORK. SCRIPTURE MEMORY PASSAGES. PRIMARY CATECHISM—QUESTIONS 65-80. SHORTER CATECHISM—QUESTIONS 30-38. SUPPLEMENTAL HYMN, 576, BOOK OF PRAISE. THE QUESTION ON MISSIONS FOR THE QUARTER.

TEMPERANCE LESSON

Proverbs 23 : 29-35—Memory Verse, 31.

Golden Text—At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.—Proverbs 23 : 32.



THE LESSON RETOLD

King Solomon was the wisest man that ever lived. He wrote a book filled with wise sayings, called proverbs. This Book of Proverbs is now a part of the Old Testament. These wise sayings are full of instruction, and full of warning, as well, against everything that is evil. And many, many times Solomon warns men specially against one of the worst evils—the sin of drunkenness. In one place he gives a terrible description of a drunkard returning home after spending a night feasting and drinking with evil companions.

He tells how the poison in the strong drink had taken away all the man's senses, and all his knowledge of what he was doing. He had been knocked and buffeted without being able to protect himself, until he was covered with wounds and bruises, and his eyes were swollen and red, and, altogether, he felt very sick and unhappy.

29 Who hath woe ? who hath sorrow ? who hath contentions ? who hath babbling ? who hath wounds without cause ? who hath redness of eyes ?

30 They that tarry long at the wine ; they that go to seek mixed wine.

31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

35 They have stricken me, *shalt thou say, and I was not sick ; they have beaten me, and I felt it not : when shall I awake ? I will seek it yet again.*

And yet, strange to say, he would not be warned against his evil ways : his love for wine had become such a habit that it had made him a slave to it, and so he went on drinking it and caring for it more and more.

“ But at last ”, said Solomon, “ this beautiful wine that looks so rich and red and sparkling in the glass, biteth like a serpent and stingeth like an adder.” Serpents and adders were two of the most dreaded reptiles of that Eastern country. They often darted out from hidden and unexpected places, and attacked people who had no thought of danger, and the bite of each was poisonous and deadly. So was it with wine. The constant drinking of it, would at first seem harmless. But before a man was aware of it, it would cause his destruction and death.

And drunkenness brings other sins with it. It takes away one's love of what is good and right and his love of truth, until nobody will believe in his word, nor respect him. And Solomon said that it was just as senseless and as dangerous for a man to allow himself to come into such a condition, as for him to try to lie down on the crest of a wave,