

A LAMENT FOR SUMMER.

BY W. H. W. TORONTO.

HI how I loathe this sad autumn weather!
Clouds that lower and winds that wail;
The rain and the leaves come down together,
And tell to each other a sorrowful tale.

The beauty of Summer, alas! has perished,
The ghosts of the flowers stand out in the rain
The fairy flowers that we fondly cherished,
But cherished, alas, in vain, in vain!

The wind it wails, it wails forever,
Like a soul in pain and in dread remorse,
Like a murderer vile, whose pain can never
Cease as he thinks of his victim's corpse.

For the Summer now on her bier is lying,
Lying silent and cold and dead;
And the sad rains weep and bewail her
Dying
Over her drear and lowly bed.

Pallid and wan she grew yet fairer
Than in richest wreaths of leafy green;
The hectic flush on her cheek was rarer
Than ever is seen in health, I ween.

Thus all things fair, as they fade, grow dearer,
Dearer and fairer till hope has fled;
We closer clasp, as the hour draws nearer,
That bears them forever away to the dead.

Through the grand old woods, a cathedral hoary,
The organ chant of the winds doth roll,
As if bearing aloft to the realms of glory
On its billows of sound her weary soul.

Through the long-drawn aisles the dirge is swelling,
Orate pro Anima—pray for her soul;
Now *Gloria in excelsis* swelling
In fountains of music its waves do roll.

The clouds like funeral curtains lower
Darkly and heavily round her grave,
And the trailing vines of the summer bower,
Like the plumes of a gloomy catafalque wave.

The fair young spruce, like a beautiful maiden
Heavily draped in weeds of woe—
A sorrowing soul—a nun, grief-laden,
Bears a dread weight at her heart, I know.

The dark-robed cypress, a gloomy friar,
Doth patter his prayers and count his beads;
The sorrowful cedar, a saintly prior,
Doth fold around him his mourning weeds.

The lofty pines toss their plumes so sadly,
And chant aloud their dirge of woe;
Now high and wild rise the notes, and madly
They wail and now are moaning low.

All nature grieves and weeps, bemoaning
The fair, for d Summer, forever fled,
And bends, in her sorrow inly groaning,
Over the bier of the early dead!

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE PENTATEUCH.

B. C. 1452.] LESSON X [Dec. 4.
BALAAM; or, THE DOUBLE-MINDED MAN.
Num. 24. 16-19 *Commit to memory vers* 17-19.

GOLDEN TEXT.

A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways. Jas. 1. 8.

OUTLINE.

1. The King's Prophet, v. 10, 11.
2. The Lord's Prophecy, v. 12-19.

TIME.—B. C. 1452, a few months after the events of the last lesson.

PLACE.—The land of Moab, east of Jordan and the Dead Sea.

CONNECTING LINKS.—1. The conquest of

the Amorites and of Bashan. Num. 21. 11-35. 2. The encampment on the plains of Moab. Num. 22. 1-3. 3. Balak sends for Balaam. Num. 22. 2, 4, 14. 4. The curses turned into blessings. Num. 23. 1-24. 9.

EXPLANATIONS.—(On names of persons and places see Doceptive Index.) Balak's anger—He had supposed that Balaam could give blessings or curses upon whom he chose, and was angry when he found him blessing when he had sent for him to curse. Fleo thou—Go back to thy home in Mesopotamia. The Lord hath kept thee—Balak did not believe in the Lord as the God of all men, but only as the God of Israel. Spake I not—See Num. 22. 18. I cannot go—Balaam as God's prophet had no choice, but was compelled to deliver God's message. Advertise thee—Inform thee. This people—The Israelites. Thy people—The Moabites. Latter days—The prophecy not only extends to the time when Moab was conquered by David, 500 years after Balak's time, but reaches down to the time of Christ and his spiritual kingdom. Whose eyes are open—Open to knowledge of future events. In all this Balaam showed not his own desires, but the controlling power of God, who compelled him to foretell differently from what he would have chosen. I shall see him—Rather, "I see him, but not now; I behold him but not nigh;" a prediction of Christ's coming. Star out of Jacob—The star of Bethlehem, proclaiming Christ. Smo to the corners—"The two sides," is the exact translation. It implies that the one to come shall triumph over all opposition. The predictions in verses 17-19 were fulfilled partly in David's conquest of those lands, but completely in Christ's spiritual rule over all the earth.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. The King's Prophet, v. 10, 11.

What king is here named, and where did he reign? Num. 22. 4.
Who was his prophet?
In what sense was he King Balak's prophet? Num. 22. 5-7

For what purpose had he come?
Why was the king angry with him?
How did he show his anger?
What character is mentioned in the GOLDEN TEXT?

How did this character apply to Balaam? [ANS. He wanted to serve God, yet obtain Balak's honor and money.]
What is said about him in 2 Per. 2. 15? [Read carefully his history in Num. 22. 23, and 24, and see how "unstable" and fickle was his character.]
What was his end? Num. 31. 8.

2. The Lord's Prophecy, v. 12-19.

How did Balaam answer Balak?
When had Balaam said this before? Num. 22. 18.
Did this show that Balaam was obedient in heart to God's will?
What did it show? [See Explanations.]
What did Balaam prophesy in v. 17?
To whom did this prophecy refer?
When would the prophet see him? Rev. 1. 7.
What is said in Job 19. 23-27?
What star is here meant? (See Matt. 2:2; Rev. 22. 16.)

What were Balaam's predictions concerning the conquests of Israel?
In whom are all those prophecies fulfilled? Dan. 7. 13, 14.
Whose kingdom is here meant? May we belong to this kingdom?

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

- Where in this lesson do we learn—
1. That the double-minded are apt to fail?
 2. That man cannot resist God's power?
 3. That Christ shall conquer all his foes?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

(For the entire school.) 1. Who was Balaam? A prophet of Mesopotamia. 2. Who sent for him? Balak the king of Moab. 3. What did he wish Balaam to do? To curse Israel. 4. What did God compel Balaam to do? To bless Israel. 5. What did he foretell? The triumph of God's people.
DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION. Prophetic inspiration.

B. C. 1451.] LESSON XI. [Dec. 11.
LAST DAYS OF MOSES; or, NUMBERED DAYS.
Deut. 32. 44-52. *Commit to memory vers.* 46, 47.

GOLDEN TEXT.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Psa 90. 12.

OUTLINE.

1. Last Words, v. 44-47.
2. Last Hours, v. 48-52.

TIME.—B. C. 1451.

PLACE.—The camp of Israel in the plains of Moab, opposite Jericho and Mount Nebo, near the north eastern shores of the Dead Sea.

CONNECTING LINKS.—1. The iniquity of Israel with the Moabites. Num. 25. 2. The vengeance upon Midian. Num. 31. 3. The inheritance of the two tribes and a half. Num. 32. 4. The last words of Moses, Deut. 32. 1-43.

EXPLANATIONS.—This song—The farewell ode, contained in Deut. 33. Hoshea—Also called Joshua, Moses' successor in leading the Israelites. Set your hearts—Be fixed in purpose of obedience. Your life—Long life, both to individuals and nations, depended upon keeping the law. The land—Canaan or Palastine. Overagamat Jericho—Opposite Jericho, across Jordan. Gathered unto thy people—That is, among the dead. Treasured—In disobeying God's command to speak to the rock, instead of striking it. Sanctified me not—In not giving to God the glory of the miracle. Num. 20. 10.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

1. Last Words, v. 44-47.

What song is here referred to?
When was it delivered, and to whom?
Who was with Moses in giving it?
By what other name is "Hoshea" known? Exod. 33. 11.

What did Joshua do after the death of Moses? Duet. 34. 9.

What command did Moses give to the people? In what respect is the law our life? Lev. 18. 5.

What and is here referred to?
What is the promise and the command in Duet. 5. 1?

What is the exhortation of the GOLDEN TEXT?

2. Last Hours, 48-52.

When did God speak to Moses? How old was he at this time? Duet, 34. 7.
What did God command him to do?
Where was this mountain?
By what other name was it called? Duet. 34. 1.

What did Moses see from this mountain? Duet, 34. 1-3.
For what other purpose was Moses to ascend the mountain?

What happened to him there? Deut. 34. 5.
What is the warning of Deut. 32. 29?
Why was not Moses permitted to enter the land of promise?

What was the sin of Moses? Num. 20. 8-12.
What is said of the character and greatness of Moses in Deut. 34. 10.

Wher is our privilege greater than his? Matt. 11. 11.

Where was Moses buried? Deut. 34. 6.
When was Moses seen again on the earth? Matt. 17. 3.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where does this lesson teach—

1. That obedience to God gives long life?
2. That our sin causes the loss of great blessings?
3. That God calls his saints home to heaven?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

(For the entire school.) 1. How far did Moses lead the children of Israel? To the border of Canaan. 2. Why could he not enter the land? Because he had sinned. 3. What was he permitted to do? To look upon the promised land. 4. From what place did he look upon the land? From Mount Nebo or Pisgab. 5. What was the end of Moses? He died in the Mount. 6. What was his age? One hundred and twenty years.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION—God's requirement of obedience.

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