

Lesson XIII.

REVIEW, SUPPLEMENTAL LESSONS

March 28, 1909

TO MAKE READY FOR THE REVIEW—Revise your Supplemental Bible Work, Scripture Memory Passages, Shorter Catechism (Questions 1 to 11), and the Question on Missions for the Quarter.

TEMPERANCE LESSON

LESSON SETTING—Solomon, the third king of Israel, who succeeded David about B. C. 970 and reigned until about B. C. 930, was famed far and near for his wisdom. He gathered together a large number of proverbs, that is, short, pointed sayings relating to human life and character. Many of these were written by Solomon himself. His collection of proverbs, along with some others, make up the Book of Proverbs, from which the Lesson for to-day is taken. It gives a true and vivid description of the evil effects of strong drink, which show it to be one of the worst foes of the human race.

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

Memorize vs. 29, 30. **THE LESSON PASSAGE**—Prov. 23: 29-35.

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.

Revised Version—1 complaining; 2 out; 3 its; 4 goeth down smoothly; 5 things; 6 froward; 7 hurt.

Daily Readings—(Courtesy, I.B.R.A.)—M.—Temperance Lesson, Prov. 23: 29-35. T.—The way to poverty, Prov. 23: 15-25. W.—A source of woe, Isa. 5: 11-24. Th.—Drink and defeat, 1 Kgs. 20: 13-21. F.—Avoid bad company! Matt. 24: 42-51. S.—Shut out! Gal. 5: 13-23. S.—Works of darkness, Eph. 5: 6-20.

THE LESSON EXPLAINED

THE DRUNKARD'S PHOTOGRAPH.—Look at the photograph of the drunkard, from life, features by feature, in vs. 29, 30. He is full of pains, so that he cries out, "Oh!" (woe) and "Alas!" (sorrow). Some of his pains are in his body, for everybody knows that drink makes those who use it sick and miserable. But far worse are the pains in the mind of the drunkard. He is tormented by the thought of what a fool he has been, to waste his time and money and strength on the abominable stuff that is destroying him, body and soul.

The drunkard is a quarrelsome man (contentions), for the fiery drink goes to his brain, and robs him of all control of his temper. He is ready straight off to speak the hot word and strike the hasty blow, and often he gets back what he gives.

One frequently hears complaining (Rev. Ver. for "babbling") from the drunkard's lips. He has not enough food, his clothes are poor and ragged, his house is often without a fire in the winter, because he has spent all his money on drink. He cannot get work, for no employer can depend upon him; and he loses the respect of all about him;—no wonder the drunkard complains.

The drunkard hath wounds, and not honorable wounds, either, such as men receive in fighting for their country, but hurts and bruises resulting from brawls, when the wine was in and the wit was out. "Darkness of eyes" (Rev. Ver. Margin for redness of eyes) is another of the drunkard's troubles. Disipation robs him of his keen eyesight, and makes him unfit for work.

And the drunkard looks like this photograph because he will tarry long at the wine and go to seek mixed wine. He has the cure in his own

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, shall 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.

hands. It is to turn his back on the accursed drink, never to use it again.

THE DRUNKARD'S WARNING.—Many a warning bell is ringing in the drunkard's ears to keep him from shipwreck through drink. These bells are ever saying to him, **Look not thou upon the wine, v. 31.** History tells him of ruin that drink has brought to nations and to individuals. Science tells of the harm that drink does to the body. Law passes sentence on the multitude of crimes caused by drink. Experience declares in its loudest tones, that drink is the source of untold suffering and misery. If the drunkard would be saved, or if we would be kept from becoming drunkards, these warning bells must be heeded.

THE DRUNKARD'S SUFFERINGS.—The drunkard's sufferings are terrible, and they are sure to come upon him, unless he gives up his drink. V. 32 of the Lesson Passage likens these sufferings to the bite of a serpent or the sting of an adder. As these venomous creatures lurk in some secret place and dart out on the unwary passer-by, so does drink pour its worst poison into the very blood of its victim. There is another picture of the drunkard's sufferings in v. 33. He sees strange things (Rev. Ver.). He is sometimes seized by delirium tremens, in which he beholds visions of all sorts of horrible creatures ready to take hold of him.

THE DRUNKARD'S BONDAGE.—The drunkard is a slave, and drink is his master, and a cruel master at that. It makes its poor victim do all sorts of foolish and perilous things. Under its influence he is like one who lieth down in . . . the sea, or upon the top of a mast (v. 34), as if these places were a bed. Foolhardy things to do, surely, are these, but not more