

SCHOLAR'S NOTES.

(From the International Lessons for 1876 by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday-School Union.)

CONNECTED HISTORY.—This lesson is taken from the third division of the Book of Proverbs, which begins with chapter xxii. 17, and has been called the "Words of the Wise." It ends with chapter xxiv. This portion of Proverbs was probably arranged by Solomon from the writings of several wise and good men.

LESSON X.

SEPT. 3.]

INTEMPERANCE.

READ PROV. xxiii. 29,35. RECIPE VS. 31, 32.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Do not drink with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.—Eph. v.: 18. CENTRAL TRUTH.—Drunkards shall not inherit the Kingdom.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—Prov. xxiii. 29-45. 2.—Isa. v. 11-24. W.—Prov. xx. 1-12. Th.—1 Cor. xi. 18-34. F.—Eph. v. 1-21. Sa.—1 Cor. viii. 1-13. S.—Gal. v. 12-24.

TO THE SCHOLAR.—This lesson gives a sad picture of what we never, alas! very often see. Study it prayerfully and resolve, by the grace of God, ever to avoid this great sin, and every temptation which leads to it.

NOTES.—Wine. Wine has made men drunk ever since the days of Noah. There are not less than seven Hebrew words, or names, used in the Old Testament for wine and strong drink. This text very plainly and strongly points out the dangers of wine-drinking.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

Lesson Topics.—(I.) WORKS OF WINE-DRINKING. (II.) DANGERS OF DRUNKARDS.

I. WOES OF WINE-DRINKING. (29.) strifes drink makes men quarrelsome; babbling or trouble; wounds without cause, either wounds a man brings to himself by drink, or that other drunken ones give him; redness of eyes, blurred eyes.—(Stuart.) (30.) wine, the common Hebrew word for all wines; go to—that is into a "wine-house" or saloon; mixed wine, mixed with spices, or several kinds of wine mixed, making them more intoxicating than one kind alone. (31.) Look not, then you will not be tempted by it; moveth itself aright, or "goeth down smoothly."—(Stuart.) (32.) At last, not at first, or it would not be touched; biteth like a serpent, deadly in its effects as the poison of a serpent or an adder, one of the most deadly of serpents. (25.) thine eyes, drunkenness leads to other sins.

I. Questions.—State the title of this lesson. By whom were these warnings given? State the six woes named in v. 29. What class of persons have these? When are we not to look on the wine? Why? What does wine do at last? Why does drinking inevitably lead to other sins?

II. DANGERS OF DRUNKARDS. (34.) midst of the sea—that is, sleeping in a rolling sea, so stupid does drink make a man; top of a mast, as a sailor-boy sleeping at the mast-head, in the peril of his life. (35.) smitten me, you say, but says the drunkard, "I am not sick;" beaten me, so you say, but "I feel no bruises;" seek it yet again, so the drunkard says; "his thirst is terrible and powerful" (a vivid picture of the dangers and progress of the drunkard).—(Stuart.)



II. Questions.—What is said of the drunkard in v. 34? How does this show his stupidity? How does it show the dangers to which he may be exposed? What further description of his senseless state is given? How is the power of his appetite described? Why are persons in even greater danger now from strong drink? How may we be safe from

such dangers? "Once the demon enters, stands within the door, peace, and hope, and gladness, dwell there no more."—Chellis.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—This lesson is from the second appendix to Part IV. of the Book of Proverbs (chap. xxx. being the first appendix), which begins with chap. xxv. Stuart, however, calls it Part VI. He makes Part IV. begin with chap. xxv. and end with chap. xxxi. Chap. xxx. he calls Part V., and chap. xxxi., Part VI. Part IV. of Proverbs was written out by "the men of Hezekiah," who ruled from about 726 B. C. to 698 B. C.

LESSON XI.

SEPTEMBER 10.]

THE EXCELLENT WOMAN. [About 700 B.-C.]

READ PROV. xxxi. 10-31. RECIPE VS. 25, 30.

GOLDEN TEXT.—This woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.—Acts ix.: 36. CENTRAL TRUTH.—A prudent wife is from the Lord.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—Prov. xxxi. 10-31. 2.—Ruth i. 6-22. W.—Lukel. 5-25. Th.—Esth. ii. 5-17. F.—Acts ix. 36-43. Sa.—1 Peter in. 1-6. S.—Gen. xxiv 4-31.

NOTES.—This lesson is an alphabetical song. In the Hebrew there are twenty-two verses; the first begins with the first letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the second verse with the second letter, and so on in order to the end of the alphabet. Matthew Henry quaintly calls it "The looking-glass for ladies;" others have named it "The A, B, C, for wives." The writer is not certainly known. Lemuel is called the King of Massa, and Augur (chap. xxx. 1: xxxi. 1), the son of the queen of Massa.—(Stuart.) The topical division given below is suggested by Dr. Zockler in Lange's Commentary.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

Lesson Topics.—(I.) IN THE HOME. (II.) OUTSIDE THE HOME.

I. IN THE HOME. (10.) Who... find in the East such women are rare (Prov. xiv. 14); rubies, or pearls. (11.) safely trust, kept in ignorance, at slavish work, and bought for wives, or married without love to any that friends may select, what could be expected of Eastern women? no need of spoil, because of her industry. (13.) wool... flax, makes garments of these. See v. 19. (14.) like... ships, because she sells her fabrics and brings gains, as merchants' ships do. (15.) riseth... yet night, this early rising is common in Syria. (16.) buyeth it, with her earnings, or by her savings in the home. (17.) girdeth her loins. See v. 25. (18.) perceiveth, knoweth, understandeth, acts carefully; candle goeth not out, either she works, if necessary, by night, or she sees that a lamp is burning all night to protect from robbers. (19.) distaff, a stick or staff to hold flax or wool in spinning. (20.) stretcheth... poor, she gives to the poor and the needy. (21.) not afraid of the snow, for she and her house are warmly clothed. (22.) tapestry... silk... purple, scarlet, purple, tapestry, and embroidery are still the delight of Syrians.

I. Questions.—Who is described in this lesson? What is said of her value? Of her husband? Of her help to him? What is said of her work? Of her diligence? Of her care of her house? Of her use of her earnings? Of her skill in spinning? Of her kindness to the poor? Of her clothing?

II. BEYOND THE HOME. (23.) in the gates—that is, where court is held, and in the market-place. (24.) girdles, some worn by princes were very costly; merchant, literally "the Canaanite"—that is, Phoenician traders. (25.) time to come, fears no trouble or want in future. (30.) favor, grace of manner; feareth the Lord. See Prov. i. 7.

II. Questions.—Where is her husband known? What assemblies are held "in" or near the gates of Eastern cities? How was she known to merchants? Who call her blessed? How does her husband speak of her? Whom does she excel? State the two things that are called vain and deceitful. What kind of character is enduring and to be praised? Where do the works of such a woman prevail her? What lessons may girls now learn from this description? What may boys learn from it? And men?

Illustration.—In all parts of the East women are spoken of as much inferior to men; and Eastern sages mention their ignorance as a thing to be praised. Some count woman's qualities to be four—ignorance, fear, shame, and impurity.—(Roberts.) The Bible, however, honors women, and notices many noble womanly characters, as Sarah, Rachel, Deborah, Jael, Hannah, Ruth, Abigail, Esther, the three Marys, Martha, Dorcas, Lydia, Lois, and many others.

Oh, what makes woman lovely? Virtue, faith And gentleness in suffering, an endurance Through scorn or trial,—these call beauty forth. Give it the stamp celestial, and admit it To sisterhood with angels! —John Brent.

THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHER'S PRAYER.

The leader of Thy flock must be, Shepherd of Israel, led by Thee; The leader of Thy lambs, be fed With thee, O Christ, the living Bread.

Thou, Father, must our spirits bless, Thou, Saviour, be our righteousness, Thou, Holy Spirit, be our light, Ere we can teach one child aright.

Great God, we feel our helplessness! Do Thou our work assist and bless; Oh, breathe upon us from above, And fill our hearts with ardent love;—

Adoring, grateful love to Thee,— If we from bondage are set free,— And yearning love to those still found By Satan's cruel fetters bound.

Oh, make us gentle, patient, kind; Teach us to guide the tender mind, By earnest words of living truth, To Jesus in its early youth.

Oh, make each teacher wise to win Some lambs of Thine Thy fold within, That they, with us, may praise Thy love Forever 'mid Thy flock above.

Bath, England.

EMILY.

—Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good things in possession.—Proverbs xxviii., 16.

ARROWS.

We might as well be honest and own that we all do like to shine; and we all may, "for they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament." Look at the great men of Daniel's time. What becomes of them all? But here is Daniel, after 2,500 years hence, he'll be shining brighter than ever.

Many of our prayers are not indited by the Spirit, and it would be bad if we received for answer what we ask. Moses did not get what he asked; and how much better for him to breathe his life out alone on the bosom of his Lord, than to have to go fighting up and down the land with Joshua!

God loved Elijah too well to answer that prayer of his when he lay there under the juniper tree scared out of his life by one bad woman. Elijah was to go up to heaven in a chariot, instead of sneaking out of the world that way.

The world says earnest Christians are mad; if they are, they have an uncommonly good keeper of the way, and a capital asylum at the end.

The Gospel has made these three of my old enemies my friends: Death, the grave, the judgment. I used to be afraid of them, now I have no fears of them. They are my friends. —D. L. Moody.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

TOPICS OF CONVERSATION.

The increase in the circulation of the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY, from March 1st to July 13th, 1876, over the corresponding period of the previous year, is a fraction over SIXTY PER CENT. The time when that increase will be over a hundred per cent. is not far distant. If the late changes in the magazine are approved by its readers, they will assist it greatly by speaking of them to their friends. A good magazine affords many topics of conversation for the home circle. Take the present number of the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY for an example. Count Cavour's history may not be of interest to many, but what a host of recollections and matters for discussion it brings up! "The Story of Ruth" is almost an everyday one. How many are there who, rough and ungainly in appearance and manner, but possessing warm feelings, are misunderstood all their lives through, and pass for much less than they are really worth, because they believe that the good within them should be delved for by those with whom they associate? Perhaps this may account for the fact that the value of a really great man is too often not recognized till after his death, and he whom, afterwards, ages revere, is allowed to live neglected and die disheartened. Had Eli's words been as honest as his affections, he might not have so long been left to sigh, "It might have been." "Trois Pistoles" conjures up many reminiscences and pleasant adventures; and "Forest Fires" can not be read without teaching a most important lesson. How often the simplest lessons must be repeated to become a part of character! Our Lord teaches us to forgive seventy times seven; the four hundred and eighty-ninth forgiving might be of no avail, but the next may pour the "coals of fire" on the offender's head. Then there is "The House at the Bridge;" how pregnant with truth it is!—a truth that must be taught the whole life long; for men have fallen from intemperance at the close of life, who ran almost their whole race without a visible stumble. Conversation on these subjects could well occupy nights, and the young people should be allowed to listen and engage in the conversation. Their own department might also be taken up. It should not be beneath the dignity of the head of the family to devote a short time to "Billed and Made Beautiful," for little Nellie's sake. The father will be as much, or more, benefited by it than Nellie, and before he finishes, there will be a few rays of light entering through the thick tangled labyrinth of business. Out of "How we Move About," "The Elephants," and, best of all, "Our Three Boys," will crop up so many subjects of thought that the long winter's night will end almost before it was thought to have begun, while the puzzles may do for a quieter hour. Then, again, comes the Home Department, and who can arrive at the answer to "Why?" in an evening, or even a month? It is a question which many parents for most of their lives are called upon to consider. Without going further in this subject, we recommend that the magazine be made a topic of conversation, as above suggested, whereby its value may be greatly enhanced and its influence extended. This will assist in furthering the objects of its publication, which are set forth in the Publishers' Department of the last number, as follows: Amongst the objects for which this magazine is published are: to supply to homes a pure and instructive literature, dealing with both fact and fiction; to assist mothers in training their children, and—thus in the most effectual way help to solve the problem of the future of this country; to aid the housekeeper to do her work in the easiest and best manner, and thus make each home it visits more comfortable; to teach the principles of health, that preventable diseases may be avoided; to make home happy for the little folks, by providing them with pleasant reading, pictures, and games; to supply monthly extracts from books sufficient to give the reader remote from libraries a good idea of what is going on in the literary world; and, in a word, to disseminate such literature as will conduce to the welfare of the household from the greatest to the least.—Publishers' Department, New Dominion Monthly.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

NEWFOUNDLAND.—The term of a large number of our Newfoundland subscribers ends with this month. Last mail brought quite a percentage of renewals, but many more are still to come. We hope that our friends there will remit at once so as to prevent any confusion or delay in the receipt of their papers.

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