

He was afraid that if he granted the request, the king would be angry at the poor appearance they would make, and would put him to death. **Worse liking**—In worse condition, not so plump and cheerful. Compare Job 39: 4; "good liking." **Youths which are of your own age** (R. V.)—the other boys in training with them.

**II. TEMPERANCE TESTED. II. Melzar**—The word means "the steward." The prince of the eunuchs doubtless gave him permission to go to the under officer with his request for a ten days' trial. Daniel's three friends were joined with him in his resolution. **12. Pulse**—beans, peas, etc. The word means vegetables in general. **13.** Apart from any miraculous blessing, plain fare and cold water are more wholesome than rich dainties and alcoholic drinks, however mild. Daniel was not afraid to face the test for he believed in God's laws in nature and in the Bible. God blesses obedience to all his laws and sin leaves its brand on the face of the sinner. Remember Jesus' answer to the First Temptation. (Deut. 8: 3.) **15. Children**—R. V. "youths." **The king's meat**—the word for "meat" means "princely" or "delicate" food, dainties. **16.** The steward was satisfied that there was no danger in granting the request of the youths.

**III. TEMPERANCE REWARDED. 17. God gave them knowledge**—Not only were they "fairer and fatter" in body, but their minds were clearer. This learning and wisdom did not come to them without hard study, but conscientious boys like these would not shirk their tasks. They would ask and re-

ceive God's blessing upon their work, but would never expect any favor if they were idle. Read Acts 7: 22; Ex. 31: 2, 3; 1 Kings 3: 12; Job 32: 8; Jas. 1: 5. **17. Visions and dreams**—Daniel was a prophet and divinely inspired to interpret dreams that God sent as messages to the dreamer. See chs. 2, 4, 5, 7, etc. Compare Joseph: Gen. 40: 5; 41: 1-8. **18. At the end of the days**—The three years (v. 5) during which they had been under training. **19. Communed with them**—Examined them as to their proficiency and ability to fill important positions. **Stood before the king**—were appointed to places of honor and responsibility near the king. Gen. 41: 46; 1 Kings 10: 8; Prov. 22: 29. **20. Magicians**—priestly scribes. They were the learned men of the day, the *Magi*. The "Wise Men" who came to Bethlehem belonged to this class. **Astrologers**—Men who studied the stars, astronomers, but mingling their science with much superstition. The R. V. reads "enchanters," men who professed to predict the future, and influence human life in a mysterious and supernatural manner.

What a noble example these three Hebrew boys, who lived 2,500 years ago, set to the youth of our day. Temperance in its widest meaning includes abstaining from all unnecessary self-indulgence, but the danger we have most to fear lies in the direction of the use of intoxicating liquor and tobacco. You cannot touch either of these without danger. Daniel did not taste *any* of the king's dainties although he might have done it without harm if he had been careful. He took the safe plan of total abstinence.

**To the Scholar.**—Study the lesson carefully, turning up the marginal references and reading the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and try to answer in writing the questions following *without* as *copying aid from any quarter* after you have begun to write. Then bring this leaflet to Sabbath School with you on the day of its date. If you cannot come, fill out the blank and send the leaflet (with the answers written out) to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.

- 1.—How would the king's meat defile Daniel? (5)
- 2.—Why was the prince of the eunuchs unwilling to give him any other food? (4)
- 3.—What test did Daniel propose, and who joined him in it? (4)
- 4.—What was the result? (4)
- 5.—What special favor did God shew them? (4)
- 6.—What was said of them when they stood before the king? (4)

Name .....

Dear Teacher,—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory Questions in the Catechism and Verse in addition to the Golden Text, and I was at church have recited them to I send with this my Weekly Offering of cents.