

God had told him that because of those sins they would suffer much, enemies would distress them, they would lose their property and at last be carried into captivity. So he tells them that those woes should come upon them if they would not be warned and repent of their sins. Our lesson begins with the Golden Text "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning that they may follow strong drink." Those who do that make strong drink their god. It is the first thing that they think of and rise up early to get it, and think more of it than anything else all day. Isaiah says woe to those who do that, they have already gone into captivity, they are bound round with its chains. In another verse Isaiah says "woe unto them that call evil good and good evil;" he means by that that people will be punished who give good names to bad things. He says woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight. Those who think too much of themselves are self-conceited. Wine makes people like that. Drunkards often think they are safe when they are in great danger. Again Isaiah says woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine and men of strength to mingle strong drink. They think they are mighty and can do great things when they are drinking, but all the time the habit is growing upon them, and soon it becomes mightier than they.

V. APPLICATION: We have a temperance lesson to-day, about the woes of intemperance. Let us first see what intemperance means. When we talk about intemperance we generally mean, the use of too much wine or strong drink, but we can be intemperate in eating, in speaking, in our play, and in many other ways as well as in drinking. To be temperate in all things is the right way. To have control over ourselves, that is, when we have had

as much of anything as is good for us, although we should like more, to be able to say "No." When we want to go anywhere where we think it would be better for us not to go, to be able to say, "I will not." We must be masters of self or self will get master of us. Isaiah says, woes will come upon those people who are intemperate,



who allow self to be the master. But in our lesson he especially says woe to those who allow wine and strong drink to control them, to be their master. (Have symbol of Bible with "Isaiah" printed on top of page, wine-glass and bottle and pin on board, or draw them on board). This master is such a bad one, does so much harm and causes so much misery in the world, that we have to be very careful to keep away from it. The best way is not to have anything to do with it. Although the red wine looks very pretty in the wine-glass, beware! there is danger in it, don't touch it. Many people begin by taking a little, and then go on taking more, and a little more, and by and by they get to love it and feel that they cannot do without it. It becomes their master, and when it is too late they find out what a cruel master it is, for it binds them in chains and makes slaves of them. Then come the woes to themselves and all those about them. Many woes, but the worst one is that this sin keeps them away from God. Let us be careful of the little beginnings and when temptations come ask God to help us to overcome them and keep us close to himself. Make a chain and write "slaves" in it, make a heart and write "away from God" in it.

VARIETY.

Do not get into ruts. Do not always do the same thing in the same way. The material out of which a Sunday school session is made is about the same Sunday after Sunday, singing—prayer—lesson study—reports, etc.,—and yet variety is possible. A good housewife who was proud, (and justly), of her apple pies, which she prepared in a variety of ways used to say to her guests, "Will you have some of my apple pie? I have it open-faced, cross-bar, and cover-lid; just take your choice." It was all apple pie but in different forms. Study new ways of doing things, and especially of presenting the truth.—(Selected).