

## CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

WORLD'S C. E. PRAYER CHAIN, SUBJECT FOR NOVEMBER:—*For our Country.*—Pray for the nation of which you are a citizen, whichever that nation may be, that it may be a God-fearing, law-abiding, Christian land. Pray for every wise effort of the young people to advance true Christian citizenship.

## DAILY READINGS.

First Day—Solomon's riches. 1 Kings iv. 21.

Second Day—Solomon's wisdom. 1 Kings iv. 29, 34.

Third Day—Solomon's temple. 1 Kings viii. 6-13.

Fourth Day—Solomon's prayer. 1 Kings viii. 22-30.

Fifth Day—Solomon's kingdom. 1 Kings ix. 1-5.

Sixth Day—Solomon's sin. 1 Kings xi. 4, 9-13.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC, DEC. 13—WHAT ARE THE TEACHINGS OF SOLOMON'S LIFE AND WRITINGS? 1 Kings iii. 5-15.

## Solomon; or, Grace is Better Than Wisdom.

It is a melancholy sight to look upon a lofty and wide-spreading tree, which has gone on for years increasing in magnificence; but suddenly a blight sweeps across it, its boughs droop, and its leaves wither, and nothing of it is left but a dry and unsightly trunk.

It is melancholy to stand and admire some beautiful building, and then to return in a few years and find that building nothing better than a decayed and tottering ruin.

But much more sad is it to behold a man of exalted rank, and of extraordinary wisdom, and who at one time bade fair to be a true servant of God—it is sad, I say, to see such an one falling into sin, and ending his days, which were once so bright, in gloom and misery.

Such was the case with Solomon. His royal father had taken much pains to bring him up in the fear of God; and his heart seemed at one time to be impressed with true religion; so much so, that it was said of him, that 'he loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David.'

He came to the throne at the age of eighteen, David having given up the kingdom to him in his latter days. And his reign was upon the whole a very peaceable one.

Solomon gave himself up to the great and important work of governing his people. His was a high station, and his task was a most difficult one. But the Lord, in order to fit him for it, made him one of the most gracious officers ever bestowed on man. He appeared to him in a vision of the night, and proposed to give him whatever he should ask. This was a large offer indeed; and Solomon did not abuse it. And what, think you, was the choice of the young Prince? Did he ask for beauty, or health, or long life, or honour, or wealth? No, he felt there was something better even than these. He knew that the office to which he was called was a most arduous one. And therefore he asked for Wisdom. Such a petition could not but be pleasing to God; and He at once declared that the wisdom which he desired should be given him; and, in addition to this, that he should also have riches and honors far beyond those of other kings.

How large was this promise which God made to Solomon—that He would give him whatsoever he should ask! And yet He makes to each one of His believing people a promise equally large. 'Whosoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.' Oh, what gifts the Lord would bestow upon us, did we but ask in simple, earnest faith! If we came with our wants to His throne pleading the name of Christ, we should never be refused, if only we ask for right things and in a right way. Put God often to the trial and you will not find His ear heavy, or His hand slack.

Solomon's history shows that a man may have much wisdom in the head, and yet little or no grace in the heart. He may be wise as to the things of this world, and even thoroughly acquainted with religious truths, and yet have no saving knowledge of Him, Whom to know is 'life eternal.'

But we now leave Solomon; and for a short moment turn our thoughts to One who is far wiser and greater than he was. Think of what Jesus said to the unbelieving Pharisees—'The Queen of the South shall rise up in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it; for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here.'

Blessed are those who come to Him, believe on Him, admire Him, and love Him! Blessed are those who, like Mary, sit at His feet, and listen to His words of wisdom! O God, give me an eye to see, and a heart to feel, the loveliness of the Saviour's character.

## FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL

## International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON XI.—CAUTIONS AGAINST INTemperance.—DECEMBER 18.

(Prov. xxiii. 15-25.)

GOLDEN TEXT.—'For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty.'—Prov. xxiii. 21.

TIME AND PLACE.—About B.C. 1000; at Jerusalem.

VERSE BY VERSE.—V. 15. 'Be wise.'—R.V., 'becometh wise.' 'Heart.'—The heart and the reins (v. 16) were regarded as the seat of the deepest, strongest emotions.

F. 16. 'Shall rejoice.'—The parent, or the teacher, supposed to be speaking here, will rejoice in the increasing wisdom of the pupil.

V. 17. 'Let not thine heart envy.'—That is, be envious because they are free from any restraint, and permitted to do evil things. 'Be thou in the fear of the Lord.'—That is, living in constant remembrance of Him, and of His authority.

V. 18. 'There is an end.'—The R.V. reads, 'there is a reward, and thy hope shall not be cut off.'

V. 19. 'Guide thine heart in the way.'—As life is like a journey, only one way is the right one. We are to be sure that we are in that.

V. 20. 'Be not among wine-bibbers.'—That is, those who are given to wine and use it to excess. 'Eaters of flesh.'—Those who are gluttons. The latter is not so great an evil as the former, because it is not so dangerous to the offender himself, or to others.

V. 21. 'Come to poverty.'—The higher reasons are not mentioned here, only the fact that temporal prosperity must be sacrificed by such habits. 'Drowsiness.'—Such stupor as follows intemperance, and the indolence which it leads to.

V. 23. 'Buy the truth.'—The 'truth, wisdom, instruction and understanding' in this verse, all stand for those spiritual blessings which are above all price, and which once obtained are to be parted with on no terms.

V. 24. 'Shall have joy.'—Joy in his character and life.

THOUGHTS.—Parental instruction, when founded upon the principles of righteousness is binding upon the children, for it is the law of God administered through His instruments. It comes from God and leads back to Him. It is the duty or obligation resting upon parents to impart it to their children, for it is their due. They are weak without it, and must be made strong for the battle of life by the constant reception of wholesome instruction. It must be measured to them according to wisdom. It must be given in season. It must be given in love. It must be given faithfully. Then instruction will not fail to instruct. Then it will be a preventative against evil. It will be a preparatory against temptation. It will be security in a life of virtue. It is the best gift a parent can bestow, for it brings the most satisfactory returns, both to parents and children, and tends to the glory of God.

Parental warning accompanies instruction, and is a part of it. Any foreseen evil may call forth a warning from the devoted loving parent. The warning consists in portraying the horrors of the pathway of sin, as contrasted with the way of wisdom. It affords enlightenment to the unsuspecting youth, while instruction reveals the steps that lead to righteousness and peace. Joined together they afford the youth an opening into the heavenly way, and a protection from the pitfalls of vice.

Parental exhortation pours forth the sentiments of an overflowing heart. Possessed of a knowledge of the truth, and an aversion to sin, the parent is prompt in giving the tender, earnest, faithful exhortation, which if heeded will make the life a blessing both to parent and child. It crowns instruction and warning with emphasis, so that the child must feel that the parent is certainly in favor of what he teaches, and anxious to see the fruits of his labor. It gives evidence of love, the most unselfish, which seeks the truest wealth and happiness for the object of its care, leaving no duty undone that might result in bringing loss or failure. The heart of the parent is engaged for his child even to old age. The father's wisdom and the mother's love are united to secure the welfare of the child. Then there remains no doubt as to the duty of a child to a parent. They can never live acceptably before God without obedience and respect to parents, and when they have done this, they will find their way to God, thus parents are workers together with God.

ILLUSTRATION.—'Drunkenness brings poverty.' A patient confessed to his physician that he drank twelve glasses of brandy a day, to which the doctor said, in surprise, 'Have you any coat at all left to your stomach?' 'I don't know about that,' was the answer, 'but I know I haven't a coat left to my back.'

To advertise a certain brand of whisky, a Scotch distiller propounded the following conundrum with the offer of a prize to the one who first reported an answer: 'Why does whisky resemble a certain bridge across the Ayr?' A poor boy who knew by sad experience sent in this answer, 'Because it leads to the poorhouse, the lunatic asylum, and the cemetery.'