



of a neglected Cold. BRONCHITIS. LUNGS

BY TAKING CHERRY PECTORAL

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Sabbath School.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Adapted from Palmist's Select Notes.

FOURTH QUARTER.

Lesson X. Dec. 8. I Sam. 17: 26-51.

DAVID AND GOLIATH.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"The battle is the Lord's."—I SAM. 17: 47.

EXPLANATORY.

Vs. 26-40. It is well to mark the moral qualities which David manifested, and which make him a worthy champion, and without which he could not have triumphed, or diminished the value of the victory.

FIRST. MEANNESS AND SELF-GOVERNMENT are seen in his treatment of his older brother's servants.

SECOND. FEARLESSNESS is shown by his going to the front, and by his attacking the combat, overcoming every obstacle.

THIRD. COURAGE was shown in his destroying the lion and the bear which attacked him. These animals were common in Palestine in those days, and bears in some parts are still numerous. The country was then well wooded, and afforded them shelter. They were fierce and strong, and the terror of the shepherd.

FOURTH. FAITH. The slaying of the lion and the bear was also a proof of faith, for the deeds were done at great personal risk, not as mere acts of daring, but in the performance of duty. The manliness of attack is shown by the fact that he was not afraid to fight, but he was set to defend; and "the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." The consciousness of duty strengthened him. He acknowledges that it was God who gave him the strength and courage. And because God had given him strength to do that duty, he was confident that the same God would give him the strength and skill to perform this harder and more dangerous task.

FIFTH. HUMILITY, in that he made no boast of his courage, but attributed his success to the God in whom he trusted. He told the facts in the simplicity of truth; and both the fact of his telling and the method were marks of the absence of self-consciousness and egotism. "It does not appear that he even panned one psalm to celebrate this great event."

SIXTH. WISDOM. David showed the wisdom and manliness of true piety in his interview with the king. It is not strange that Saul should hesitate to permit a young and unknown man to accept a challenge on which the safety of the whole army depended. But he was convinced by two arguments, (1) what God had already done through him, and (2) by seeing that David's plan of attack was the only feasible one.

SEVENTH. GOD COMMON SENSE was shown in his choice of weapons, and his manner of doing it.

DAVID'S WEAPONS. 38. "And Saul armed David with his armor; rather 'apparel.' Probably a special military dress adapted to be worn with armor. This was better for wearing under armor than was David's shepherd dress. Over it was placed the 'helmet of brass' and the 'coat of mail.'"

39. "And he escaped to go;" endeavored to go, but he found this armor a hindrance rather than a help. By making the attempt David showed his courage and confidence in his superiors. An actual trial of the armor showed the king that David could do nothing in that way. "For I have not proven them." He had not used them sufficiently to be able to use them effectively. He did not object to the means, but desired the best means, those which he could use effectively.

40. "He took his staff in his hand." His usual weapon of defence. Eastern shepherds still frequently carry them.

"And he took five smooth stones." These were smooth, so that they would fly the more swiftly and accurately at the mark; and five, so that if one failed others would be at hand. "Out of the brook;" which ran into the main ravine of the valley of Elah. He could not see the king's army, but he could see the king's armor, and he could see the king's hand.

"The sling of the ancient Egyptians, which probably was of the same sort as that of David, was a thong of leather, or string, plaited broad at the middle, and having a loop at one end, by which it was fixed upon and firmly held by the hand; the other extremity terminated in a lash, which escaped from the fingers when the stone was thrown, and when used, the slinger held it two or three times round his body to steady it and to increase the impetus. The sling was a very formidable weapon in a skilled hand. It is also a most ancient weapon used by the Egyptians and sometimes by the Romans. Some men had wonderful skill with it. Seven hundred left-handed Benjaminites could sling at a hair's-breadth, and not miss. There is a well-known story that the women of the Salaric Islands used to put the bread for their boys high up in a tree, and to make them bring it down by slinging. Livy speaks of slingers so expert that they could send stones from a distance through an ordinary chafin or mesh, and not only could strike their enemies in the face but in whatever part of the face they chose." The giant was open to attack only on the forehead; but then he was used in such heavy armor that he could not move with swiftness, and so he could prove a formidable foe only when he was fighting at close quarters. David, on the other hand, was free and could run with swiftness and agility; while using the sling he could begin the attack from a distance, and out of the range of his adversary's weapons. So far, therefore, as weapons were concerned, the advantage was clearly on David's side, provided only he could preserve his precision of aim and steadiness of hand.

VI. THE ATTACK.—Vs. 41-47. From the north David descended in his shepherd dress to the plain.

B. Y. P. U.

OUR MEMBERS.

The unification of Baptist young people their increased spirituality, their ambition in learning, their interest in religious education, their knowledge of their own history, their interest in missionary activity, their interest in national life.

OUR PRESENT POSITION.

All Young People's Societies of whatever name in Baptist churches and Baptist churches having no special interest in religious education, are invited to unite with us. We are now in the full enjoyment of our own independence.

Kindly address all communications for this office to Rev. C. H. Shaw, Sec'y., 130 Granville St., Halifax, N. S.

Prayer Meeting Topics for Dec. 1-7.

B. Y. P. U. Topic.—"The Model Prayer."—Math. 6: 9-13.

Monday, Dec. 2. No "fall" for the servant—Christ (vs. 4), Isa. xlii. 1-10. Compare Isa. xxiii. 23, 24; Eph. i. 22.

Tuesday, Dec. 3. "When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee" (vs. 2), Isa. xlii. 17-xliii. 9. Compare Job. iiii. 14-17; Ps. xxxvii. 24. Wednesday, Dec. 4. "Blessed be the God of our fathers" (vs. 11), Isa. xlii. 10-28. Compare Hosea xiv. 4; Mic. vii. 18.

Thursday, Dec. 5. "Beside me there is no God" (vs. 8), Isa. xlii. 1-20. Compare Isa. xlv. 5, 22.

Friday, Dec. 6. Cyrus was God's servant for a specific work, Isa. xlv. 21-xlv. 27. Compare 2 Chron. xxxvi. 22, 23; Isa. xlv. 35.

Saturday, Dec. 7. "Who unto him who strives with his Maker" (vs. 9), Isa. xlv. 8-26. Compare Isa. xlv. 12, 16; Rom. ix. 21-24.

MY FAVORITE PROMISE.—In a young people's meeting that we attended a few weeks since, the topic for the evening was "My favorite promise and why it is dear to me," and how refreshing that meeting was. What we want now is for at least fifty (50) of our young people to address us on giving their favorite of the precious promises of Scripture. A class of about sixty are studying the Sacred Literature Course under the leadership of the pastor. These lessons are very interesting and valuable and are pleased to report the good degree of enthusiasm of our class over this work. A number of social rallies are held in anticipation for winter and as the old year draws to a close and a new one is ushered in we trust that our B. Y. P. U. will be the means in the hands of God of bringing some soul into the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father.

R. H. SHAW, Cor.-Sec'y.

Port Louis, N. S.

As it is about six months since our last report, I thought I would write a few lines to let you know our Union is still prospering. Membership 82 active, 8 associate. Our prayer meetings are interesting and profitable. We have organized a Sacred Literature Class with pastor Caldwell as teacher.

Sec'y.

Amherst, N. S.

With a leader so enthusiastic in Bible study as our pastor, Dr. Steele, it is not surprising that we are so successful and the lessons intensely interesting. We do not pretend to settle as we go along all difficult and disputed points but where there are differences of opinion our motto is: "To the law and to the testimony." The classes in the three out stations of our church have been at a disadvantage as we had no associate pastor at the beginning of the course, but now that Rev. Mr. Gaering is with us to assist Dr. Steele, we hope the work from centre to circumference of our church will be so vigorously carried forward that we will retain the high position gained under the leadership of Rev. J. H. McDonald and H. C. M. meeting in the afternoon observed once a month on the evening of our regular church prayer meeting, and a number of our members follow the B. Y. P. U. At the last regular business meeting of our Union it was resolved to appoint a committee to consider and submit to our next business meeting meeting to take its place.

B. C. R., Cor.-Sec.

Harper's Magazine

IN 1898.

Articles, a new novel by William Black, written with all the author's well-known charm of manner, will begin in the December Number, 1898, and continue until May. A new novel by George de Maurier, entitled "The Martian," will also begin during the year. It is not too much to say that no novel has ever been awaited with such great expectation as this successor to "Trilby."

Recollections of Joan of Arc will continue and will relate the story of the failure and martyrdom of the Maid of Orleans. Other important articles in the year will be: "The Martyr," by Mark Twain, under the title, "Tom Sawyer, Detective"; a humorous tale part taken called "Two Normans from Muddlety," by Langdon Elwell; and also a story by Octave Thanet, Richard Harding Davis, Mary E. Wilkins, Julian Ralph, Brander Matthews, Owen Wister, and other well-known writers.

Professor Woodrow Wilson will contribute six papers on George Washington and his times, with illustrations by Howard Pyle. Poulton Biglow's history of The German Struggle for Liberty, illustrated by R. Caton Woodville, will be continued through the winter. Two papers on St. Clair's defeat and the Battle of Tippecanoe, by Theodore Reid, with graphic illustrations will be presented during the year.

The character of the MAGAZINE during 1898 will be a series of articles by Caspar W. Whitney, describing his trip to 2300 miles into the unexplored Barren Grounds of British North America in pursuit of wood-bison and musk-oxen. Mr. Whitney's series will have the added interest of being illustrated from photographs taken by himself.

The volume of the MAGAZINE begins with the Numbers for June and December of each year. When no time is mentioned, subscriptions will begin with Number current at the time of receipt of order.

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What we considered one of the best lectures, probably the best ever listened to here, was delivered in the market

hall by Rev. W. W. Weeks, of Moncton, N. B., and under the auspices of the B. Y. P. U. Subject: "Our Union."

Each sign's a prayer. Our strong desires, like supplications, rise Unto the ear of him before whose eyes All hearts lie bare.

With blinded eyes Ofttimes, and faltering outstretched hands we plead When, seeming to our prayer he gives no heed.

Then in surges, We hear his voice From out the gloom, so softly, sweetly, say 'Come unto me, dear heart I am the way.' And we rejoice.

Our Father's face Filling with brightness all our shadowed way; Our glad hearts cry, "Dear Lord through night or day We'll trust thy grace,

Till all our ways Merge in the path, that through the peary gate Leads to thy throne, where all thy ransomed wait, Prayer changed to praise."

ABSENT.

She never said "Lost is my dearest one;" The phrase, "Not living," would have hushed her song Of faith. How could his silent voyage seem long When, at whose joyless life had no begun.

Said, "Absent" with a smile which meant the sun Was only dimmed by clouds? Then, if a throng Of painful thoughts pressed hard, it made him strong To think how he would wish life's duties done.

In her sweet face, where grief had left its seat, A tender gladness dawned, as years took flight, And brought the meeting near. Nor did she dream That from her trusting heart there shone a light.

For eyes too weak to bear the large gleam That led her on, as stam redeem the night.

—Mrs. T. W. Higginson.

The chill winds scatter, as they pass, The sore leaves on the yellow grass, And, underneath the dull gray skies, A bluebird through the orchard flies, Still keeping, though no song he sings, The heavenly notes of his wings.

O soul of mine! The autumn light Gleams pale! How near thy time of flight! What matters it that silenced long Has been thy May-times rapturous song, Hast thou not kept, through all life brings, Unerained the brightness of thy wings?

—Martin Douglas, in "Harper's Bazar."

If you wish to know whether you are a Christian, it is of yourself whether in and for the love of God you seek to make happy those about you by smiles and pleasant sayings. Are you a comfortable person to live with? Are you pleasant to have about?—Gal. 5: 22.

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