

fore them until that was found to be practicable which had at first been pronounced impossible." (Green).

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III. TEMPERANCE REWARDED. 17. **God gave**—Their superiority is traced to its true source. Daniel is not egotistical in writing this, for he gives God all the glory of their advancement. Read Exod. 31 : 2, 3 ; 1 Kings 3 : 12 ; Job 32 : 8 ; Jas. 1 : 5, 17. Boys who could refuse to do wrong when there was every temptation to "do in Rome as the Romans do," would not be sluggards at their books. God's blessing came as the result of industrious application. Mere genius will never amount to much unless it is combined with perseverance, self-denial and hard work. A lesson here for our clever scholars and an encouragement to the less gifted.

Knowledge—Compare Moses, (Acts 7 : 22.) Babylon was then the most learned city in the world. They easily surpassed all their classmates.

Visions and dreams—The magi and astrologers prided themselves upon this branch of their learning. But their rules were based upon what are now rightly considered silly fancies, and their interpretations had no real value. Daniel was divinely inspired to receive and interpret visions, and to explain the meaning of dreams sent by God to others as warnings. The greater part of the book is filled with these prophetic disclosures. Compare Joseph (Gen. 40 : 5 ; 41 : 1, 8), Zechariah (2 Chron. 26 : 5).

18. **At the end of the days**—the three years of training (v. 5). The steward handed them over to the prince of the eunuchs, and he brought the whole company of candidates before the king.

19. **The king communed**—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. 32 : 29.

30. **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.

TEMPERANCE LESSONS from Daniel's Early Example, (Peloubet's Notes).

I. VICTORY OVER TEMPTATION.

1. If Daniel could overcome the temptations to which he was exposed, we have no excuse for faltering before ours.

2. Thank God for early Christian training toward God, and duty, and religion.

3. Previous right conduct, and good character formed, is a great means toward the victory over any temptation.

4. God will always open a way of escape to those who put their trust in him.

5. When away from home, among strangers, join yourself to some good Christian companions. Daniel was stronger for his companionship with the three other religious boys.

6. The source of strength is in 'God. Look unto Jesus, who was tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

II. THE DUTY OF TEMPERANCE.

1. One fundamental principle of temperance is not to defile ourselves.

2. Temperance is not merely total abstinence from all that can intoxicate, but from all excess, all wrong use of the appetites, all indulgence in that which defiles or injures the body.

3. It is our duty to care for the health of the body because it is a temple of the Holy Ghost, and an instrument for doing God's work.

4. It is a great help to pledge ourselves openly, and to join with others in opposition to all intemperance.

5. The advantage of temperance has been tested by a multitude of facts.

6. Religion is the true basis of temperance principles and temperance reform.

III. TEMPERANCE, AND ITS ALLIES, THE WAY OF SUCCESS.

1. God's favor to those who love and obey him.

2. Good character, strong, true to principle, upright, overcoming temptation.

3. Amiability, courtesy, wisdom in dealing with others.

4. True religion that trusts in God, and does right under all circumstances.

5. Diligence and faithfulness in study, and preparation for life's work.

6. Temperance, and care for the health of the body.

7. Faithfulness to those whom we serve.

8. God will honor and bless those who honor him.

SUMMARY AND REVIEW.

Our lesson is intended to teach total abstinence from intoxicating liquors. We must not omit to apply the broad principles taught in it to the specific subject assigned for today. After teaching the text of the lesson, let some such outline as the following, taken from Peloubet's Notes, form the skeleton for earnest words on the use of stimulants and narcotics:—