

Our Story.

LOSING HER HOLD.

THE school master and his wife, after morning meeting was over, took their way as usual down Prout's Lane, and across the hill homeward. The path was narrow; the dominie walked first. He made a remark at long intervals to his wife behind him, but without looking back. "Squire wasn't out. Reckon his lumbago's worse?" "S likely."

was at home. Then he yawned drearily, and fell asleep in his chair in the sun. How much of his time he spent in yawning and sleeping! Yet thirty years ago Daniel Holmes was an eager teacher, keeping well abreast with the knowledge and ideas of his time, living in the world of books, newspapers, music and pictures. She, too, had been a live woman then. But they had come out of town into this village, and set themselves to scrape together money to buy this farm. What was this change that had come to them? Had they been really spinning their grave clothes out of selfishness?

neatly in her basket, and the drawer upstairs which held her fine shroud is empty.—Congregationalist.

IV. NEW TESTAMENT LIGHT.—How was the promise fulfilled in reference to the house and kingdom of David? (Luke i. 32, 33; Acts ii. 29, 30). Is David's kingdom in Christ much more glorious than any temporal kingdom? Was this answer to David's prayer a great deal better than any temple or prosperity David could have had in his lifetime? What texts speak of Christ as a great king? (Eph. i. 20, 22; Phil. ii. 9-11; Rev. xix. 16). Where is his kingdom? Repeat some exhortations to thanksgiving. (Eph. v. 20; Phil. iv. 6; Col. iii. 15-17; 1 Thess. v. 18; Heb. xiii. 15, James i. 9.) Why should we give thanks? Will a thankful spirit make us happy?

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Sabbath School Work.

LESSON HELPS.

LESSON III, October 20, 1889.

DAVID'S THANKSGIVING PRAYER.

2 Sam. vii. 18-29.

COMMIT VERSES 28-29.

GOLDEN TEXT.—In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.—1 Thess. v. 18.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

God's wonderful goodness calls for thankfulness and praise.

DAILY READINGS.

- M. 2 Sam. vii. 1-17. Tu. 2 Sam. vii. 18-29. W. 1 Chron. xvii. 1-15. Th. 1 Chron. xvii. 16-27. F. Ps. ii. 1-12. Sa. Ps. lxxxi. 1-20. Su. Luke i. 32, 33, 68-79.

TIME.—Probably not long after B.C. 1042, the date of our last lesson.

PLACE.—Jerusalem, the city of David, the religious capital of the nation.

DAVID.—Aged 44, in the fourteenth year of his reign.

PROPHETS.—Nathan, now first mentioned; and Gad, the prophet of the exile.

PSALMS.—The Messianic Psalms, such as ii, xvi, xxii, xlv, cx, cxviii.

PARALLEL ACCOUNT.—1 Chron. xvii. 16-27.

DAVID'S DESIRE.—David, when settled in his kingdom in peace, desired to build a temple for God's worship (vii. 1-2).

GOD'S PROMISE.—But God knew that it was not best for David to do this. Other work must be done first. Besides, David was a man of war, but God's house must be a temple of peace (1 Chron. xxii. 8; xxviii. 3). Hence God promised him that his son should build the temple, and that the kingdom should remain in his family forever. David was also permitted to make great preparations for the temple (1 Chron. xxviii. 1-9). This promise was fulfilled in the kingdom of Christ, "David's greater son" (Luke i. 32, 33; Acts ii. 28-31).

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—18. Then went King David in to the tabernacle. And sat, probably upon his heels, in the oriental method of reverence before superiors. 22. Whosoever thou art great, goodness and love are the highest greatness. 23. Great things and terrible: such as the plagues upon Egypt, the crossing of the Red Sea, the giving of the Law, the conquest of Canaan. 25. Concerning his house, his descendants, as the English say "the house of Tudor."

SUBJECTS FOR FURTHER STUDY AND SPECIAL REPORTS.—David's great desire.—Why it was refused.—What God promised instead.—God's answers often better than the things prayed for.—How the promise to David has been fulfilled.—Thankfulness.—The things for which David gave thanks.—The everlasting kingdom.

QUESTIONS. REVIEW.—What great event in David's kingdom was the subject of our last lesson? Why did David want the ark at Jerusalem?

INTRODUCTION.—How long had David been king at the time of our present lesson? Give the date and place. Where else is this lesson recorded? Have you read the previous verses of this chapter.

SUBJECT: THANKSGIVING FOR GOD'S MERCIES.

I. THE DESIRE OF THE HEART.—Where did David live? In what kind of a palace? (v. 2; v. 11) In what kind of a place was the ark? (v. 2, 1 Chron. xv. 1, 2.) What did David desire to do? Ought our churches to be better than our private houses? Why? Was this desire of David's right? Should we have like earnest desires for the kingdom of God?

II. THE PROMISE OF GOD.—Who revealed God's Word to David? (v. 4.) Was David's desire granted? (vs. 12, 13.) Why not? (1 Chron. xxviii. 3.) What three things did God promise him instead? (1) v. 11; (2) vs. 12, 13; (3) vs. 16, 24. Were these things better than what David had asked for? Does God often answer our prayers thus, when we sincerely ask for what is not best for us? (Eph. iii. 20.) Who built the temple? What preparations did David make for it? (1 Chron. xxix. 1-9.) Was the temple thus much more magnificent than it would have been had David built it when he proposed to?

III. THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER (vs. 18, 29).—How did God's goodness make David feel? How many things do you find in these verses for which David gave thanks? Is what we thank God most for a test of our character? Why did God do these things for David? (v. 21.) Does God love to give us good things? What had God done for David's people in the past? (v. 23.) Name some of them. What are some of the great things God has done for us? For what did David pray?

THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

The first company was organized October 4th, 1883, in the Sunday school of the Free College church, Glasgow. It consisted of twenty-eight boys and three teachers. What led to its organization? Chiefly, the fact alluded to in my previous article, that boys at fifteen become "too big" as they think for the school, and also that when they remain they are often unmanageable, a source of great anxiety and without much reverence for God and man. To remedy these evils, if possible, the first company of the Boys' Brigade was organized. The military idea was adopted as attractive to the boys and fitted to teach them "habits of obedience, reverence, discipline and self-respect—habits which would form the best foundation on which to build up a healthy Christian manhood."

In the organization there are three distinct units: 1. The company is the detachment connected with each church or school. Its members are members of the school, and it is under the control of the church officers. Its local designation is by number, according to the order of formation. The age of members in Scotland is twelve to seventeen years, though we have said twelve to eighteen. 2. The battalion includes all companies in a given town or district. We preferred to start with the idea that if other companies were organized in San Francisco a battalion would include only those in the same denomination, so we speak of the Westminster Battalion. 3. The brigade includes the whole organization.

The commissioned officers of a company are young men. The non-commissioned are selected from the boys. If uniform is chosen it has generally consisted of cap and belt. Two weekly meetings are held—one for drill from September to March; the other a Bible class or prayer-meeting throughout the year. Of course it will be seen that there is room for great development in plans and methods. Many of the companies have boys' reading rooms, athletic clubs, etc., but these are not necessary and come only as the need is felt.

The Brigade has had a remarkable growth and is being rapidly extended. It has attracted the attention of distinguished men, lay and clerical, and received their cordial endorsement at public meetings. The headquarters of the Brigade are in Glasgow, where last January they reported ninety-four companies, 315 officers and 4,300 boys. At the annual inspection in 1888 of the Glasgow Battalion, Major General Gildea, of the British army, was inspecting officer and 2,781 boys were in line.

But the great aim of the Brigade is to make many Christian boys. Its object is thus stated in its constitution: "The object of the Brigade shall be the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys, and the promotion of habits of reverence, self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manhood." In the words of its Secretary: "We make a point of acknowledging God in everything, of putting Christ at the head of everything and in trying to do it in such a way that a boy will always feel that the religious element in the work is a pleasure and not a bore." And again: "The ultimate success of the Boys' Brigade will depend on the spirit which animates the work, and on the high Christian aims of the movement being kept persistently in view. If a company be officered by men who are thoroughly in earnest—men who have an intense sympathy with boy life, who love their boys and who are prepared to make any personal sacrifice for the sake of the boys—it can hardly fail to succeed and to become a source of satisfaction and pleasure to the officers, and a means of much help and blessing to the boys enrolled in its ranks."—Occident.

BEAUTY and truth, and all that these contain, Drop not like ripened fruit about our feet: We climb to them through years of sweat and pain; Without long struggle none did e'er attain The downward look from quiet's blessed seat. —Lowell.

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