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Sunday School Lesson.

LESSON III.-JANUARY 30, 1881.

SIMEON AND THE CHILD JESUS. -Luke 2: 25.38.

I.—Two Aged Saints.

Simeon is the central figure in the narrative, and Anna comes in at the end and gives a finishing touch to St. Luke's picture of the deeply interest-ing incident recorded. We are not told that Simeon was an old man, but that he was is plainly implied; and of Anna we are expressly informed that she was "a widow about four score and four years." These two persons do not seem to have been in any way related to or connected with each other. They are brought together in the narrative as two independent witnesses to the Messiahship of the infant then being presented in the temple in accordance with the Jewish law and usage. Simeon and Anna had, however, much in common. They were both "just and devout;" were both "waiting for the consolation of Israel;" and were both endowed with the special prophetic gifts of the Holy Spirit. Anna was called a "prophetess," and that Simeon was a prophet we have abundant evidence in the Lesson. The restoration of this gift to Israel in the person of these two aged saints, and of Zacharias, Elizabeth and Mary, was one of the signs of the coming of Christ. We are told of Simeon that " he came by (better in) the Spirit into the temple;" and of Anna that she 'departed not from the Temple." She may have been employed in some office about the Temple, and had a room allotted as her lodging somewhere within its precincts. She served God with fastings and prayer night and day;" Simeon "was just and devout." If you would have an old age like that of Simeon and Anna, you must begin to serve the Lord while you are young. Thus your piety and general character will mellow as the years go by, and your old age shall

long summer's day. We see that even in the darkest times God is never without his faithful witnesses. Just as in Elijah's time there were seven thousand who had not bowed the knee to Baal, and in Malachi's time they that feared the Lord spake often one to another, so was it in the days when Christ came, and His disciples were no doubt gathered largely from those who were thus prepared for His coming. Let us be encouraged to think that by God's grace and mercy there are always, and everywhere, good people to be found beneath the surface of what may seem to be an entirely corrupt and worldly society.

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ding the influence of its sanctity upon

the world with all the gentleness and

blessedness of the setting sun after a

II .- Simeon's Prayer and Prediction. Moved by a special inspiration of

the temple at the time Joseph and Mary were presenting their child to the officiating priest. It had been previously revealed to him that he should not die till he had seen the Messiah (verse 26). What a happy moment it was when his hopes and expectations were fulfilled we see from his ecstatic prayer (verse 20). What a sublime spectacle! How full of spiritual lessons for us all. It is revealed to us in a more glorious sense even than to Simeon, that we need not see death till we have seen the Lord Christ, and realized him to be our personal salvation. Every child may experience all this. We shall all have to see death sooner or later; but we can look that "king of terrors" in the face with calmness if we have first seen Christ in the true sense. And we may have eyes of faith to see Him for the asking. What a blessed thing to be able to say, "Mine eyes have seen Thy salvation;" not simply as a spectacle to be gazed upon, or as a provision for the world, but in its adaptation to our own case-so as to experience-so as to be saved. This was evidently the first thought in Simeon's mind; the babe he was holding in his arms was his Saviour born to save him, in due time to die to save him. It is this per sonal appropriation of Christ which enables us to see the Lord's salvation in its true sense. These utterances of the aged saint filled rhe minds of Joseph and Mary with wonder (verse 33). Then the venerable man addressed them, and pronounced his benediction on them (verse 34); but to Mary he had to announce tidings that were not all joyous. There are four distinct | for everything-and as eating is one of

predictions in his words (verse 34, 35). 1. "Jesus Christ would be set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel." He probably had in his mind the words of Isaiah (chap. viii, 14, 15). This is quite in accordance with Jesus' own words (chap. xx. 17, 18). To reject Christ as the Jews did, is to fall into deeper condemnation and eternal perdition, to receive Him is to rise to newness of life here and eternal life bereafter.

2. " He was also to be a sign which should be spoken against." The (chap. vii. 14). The whole record of use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. our Saviour's ministry is a fulfilment of the prediction. That He was Immanuel, the Son of God incarnate, was the special sign which met with the most deadly opposition of the Jews and for assuming and claiming to be that, they accused Him of blasphemy

and put Him to death. 3. "Mary's own soul was to be pierced with a sword." "Words which predicted the poignant agonized feelings of the mother when she heard the contradiction of sinners against her 2 ins

immaculate son, saw Him hanged, and heard Him taunted upon the cross. Wounds of the mind are often said in all languages, to be inflicted by 'arrows' and 'swords.'"

4. "By the mission of Christ the thoughts of many would be revealed." This was abundantly fulfilled in our Lord's personal ministry; it brought out the latent good that lay beneath the surface in publicans and sinners; and also the latent evil that lay underneath the external righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. This is the case with His gospel always and everywhere. (Heb. iv. 12)-W. M. Sunday School Mag.

The House and Farm.

In iring cakes it will be well to dip the knife often into cold water.

Prepare all tools for garden or farm, and do it now, lest delay-the great enemy of the farmer—may prevent such preparation at a later day.

Look out for caterpillar eggs on trees (now easily discerned) and destroy them. This is one of the most economical things, in its results, which the fruit-raiser can do in the cold win-

Are your stock carefully and kindly shielded from the severe cold? considerate, wise farmer will care for his berds and flocks, protecting them from chills of winter, as certainly as he does the members of his family.

Protect all trees and plants in orchard or garden from intruding animals of all kinds. Be careful that the young twigs are not "browsed." Tramp the snow around the roots of trees and shrubs so as to prevent damage from mice and rabbits.

Never let children go to bed with cold feet. Indeed, they should never be allowed to sit in the house with wet or cold feet. Many a child has died of croup whose life might have been preserved by a little attention to its feet.

The healthy properties of onions have never been fully understood. Lung and liver complaints are certainly benefited, often cured, by a free consumption of onions, either cooked or raw. Colds yield to them like magic. Don't be atraid of them. Taken at night all offense will be wanting by morning, and the good effects will amply compensate for the trifling annoyance. Taken regularly they pro-mote the health of the lungs and the digestive organs.

The most practical suggestion yet made toward economizing the use of coals seems to be in the use of solid bottoms in ordinary fire-grates. It has been asserted, and indeed proved, that in any fire-grate, Lot exceedingly small, a plate of iron placed upon the bars will nearly halve the consumption of coal, and also reduce the smoke and keep up a cheerful, free-burning fire. Quite sufficient air will enter through the Holy Spirit (verse 27) he came into the front bars, and all poking should be avoided, and the fire will continue until all the coal is consumed, which will be done without leaving much ash or dust. Any housekeeper can try the experiment. A sheet of iron to fit easily into the grate will cost but a quarter of a dollar, and the coal bin will not need to be replenished so frequently.

" EAT SLOWER."

A respectable elderly lady patient went to London to consult the very highest medical authority about her dyspepsia, and its accompanying ailments. She waited patiently for her turn, entered the awful presence, told her pitiful story, and put out her furred and creased tongue.

The doctor listened, and said, "Um Ah! Yes! Just so!" Then he looked profoundly, awfully wise. " Now, doctor, what shall I do? I! have tried everything, and nothing does me any good. Can you do any

thing to help me?". "Yes, madam, you must eat slower.' She waited for her prescription, but the doctor did not write, and was evidently expecting her to go. He thought she might be hard of hearing, and spoke louder : " Eat slower !"

By an involuntary, but slight movement of his right hand she saw there was nothing to do but pay the fee. The two guineas dropped and she sad-

ly left the presence. Two guineas for two words! But they are richly worth the money. Eat slower" 18 very wise and very important counsel. There is a time the most important things of our mortal life, the time we take to do it rightly is of very great importance.

Good health is impossible when the blood is impure, or when it is thin and cold. Under such conditions one dieease after another is developed. Boils, pimples, headache, neuralgia, rheumatism, etc., are the result of impure blood, and the wisest course is to make thought is again taken from Isaiah the blood pure, rich and warm by the

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