

of Ahaz" and the shadow slowly stealing across it. "Shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees?" asks Isaiah. "Let the shadow return backward," is the request. There is a prophet's cry going heavenward, and watch the shadow? Slowly, steadily, it steals backward! But who are these strange men, with faces browned by the sun, with robes that travel has stained, who ride one day through Jerusalem's proud gate-way? With eyes that curiously watch every novelty in the streets, they ride on until they reach the gate-way of the king's palace and there halt. These strangers, they are from Babylon. The king's son has sent them, and they bring words of congratulation to Hezekiah upon his wonderful recovery and offer a gift from their master. Was the king flattered and thrown off his guard? Did he think, "Babylon may be a great city, but Jerusalem under Hezekiah is great also?" He shows his treasures, silver, gold, spices—all things. And what covetous eyes they may have set on all these accumulations! They are gone now, riding away from the proud little city on its rocky throne to great Babylon of the North. They go and Isaiah comes. Who are these men? From what country? What have they seen? And then comes the prediction that the city of the strangers shall one day absorb all these treasures. Looking afar, he saw a band of captives filing out of Jerusalem, and among the conquerors may have been descendants of the very men whose covetous eyes feasted on the treasures that Hezekiah displayed.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *God Answers True Prayer.* To be taught: 1.) That pain and trouble come to the good. 2.) That God hears every cry for help, and answers. 3.) That the life which God gives ought to be given to him.

1. Ask about the good King Hezekiah. Tell that half of his reign has passed, and now he is very sick. Talk about sickness, and help children to imagine the scene in the king's palace at Jerusalem when the good king was so ill and about to die. Every child will remember how the whole country was stirred about General Grant when he lay on his death-bed. Tell that there was great anxiety now in the kingdom of Judah, and every one was watching and hoping for good news. Picture the coming of Isaiah. Surely he will bring some good word from the Lord. Give his message, talk about the sorrow and dismay his words bring. Teach that sickness and trouble are not sent as a punishment for sin, but that they come to all, and will prove the best teachers if we see God's hand in them.



2. Use symbol. Show picture of a high-priest offering incense, and explain the use of the censer. Tell what Hezekiah did. He wanted to live longer to serve God. His prayer was not a selfish one. He had served God while in health, and now he had courage to ask God to let him live longer and finish the good work begun in his kingdom. Talk about different kinds of prayer. Tell that God knows which are true prayers from a true heart, and always answers them in the best way. Teach that we should not be discouraged if God does not give just what we ask, since he is sure to give the right thing.

3. Tell what God gave to Hezekiah in answer to his prayer—fifteen years more of life. Did the fifteen

years belong to Hezekiah? Show that all our years are God's gift, and that we should use every one of them for him. Ask how Hezekiah could use his time for the Lord. Help children to tell things that he could do to help make the world better. Have children a work to do as well as kings? Light a tiny taper; place it by the side of a tall candle, and show that if the taper burns all it can it is doing just as much as the candle. Tell the story of Hezekiah's vanity and the punishment that followed, unless thoughts already presented crowd it out. It is not wise to attempt too much in teaching a lesson.

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



The blackboard to-day calls attention to the mistake of King Hezekiah in allowing his pride to make a display of his treasure. Let us each take a lesson from this to the necessity of guarding the heart carefully and constantly against the entrance of pride. The shield of humility should ever be before each heart.

FREELY OPEN THE HEART TO GOD IN TIME OF TROUBLE.

THE PRAYER OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS ACCEPTABLE.

IMMEDIATE ANSWER FOR IMMEDIATE NEED.

LESSONS FOR DECEMBER, 1885.

DEC. 6. The Sinful Nation. Isa. 1. 1-18.

DEC. 13. The Suffering Saviour. Isa. 53. 1-12.

DEC. 20. The Gracious Invitation. Isa. 55. 1-11.

DEC. 27. Fourth Quarterly Review.

Book Notices.

Prayer and Its Remarkable Answers. Being a Statement of Facts in the Light of Reason and Revelation. By William W. Patton, D.D., LL.D. New York: Funk & Wagnalls. This is the twentieth edition of this work and has two supplementary chapters; one on "The Credulity of Skepticism," and the other on "The Relations of Science to Revealed Religion." The book is a reverent description of the theory of prayer, with numerous examples cited of answers to prayers offered.

Cholera: Its History, Cause, and Prevention. By Ezra A. Bartlett, M.D. Albany, N. Y.: H. H. Belder. It may be rather late in the season to speak of the cholera, but this little book contains some valuable information on the subject, and has some sensible hints in reference to the prevention and treatment of the disease.