



LESSON,—SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1908.

Review.

Read Proverbs iv.

Golden Text for the Quarter.

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Prov. iv., 23.

Home Readings.

- Monday, December 21.—I. Chr. xvii., 1-14.
- Tuesday, December 22.—II. Sam. xv., 1-12.
- Wednesday, December 23.—II. Sam. xviii., 24-33.
- Thursday, December 24.—I. Ki. i., 32-40, 50-53.
- Friday, December 25.—I. Ki. iii., 4-15.
- Saturday, December 26.—Prov. iv., 1-13.
- Sunday, December 27.—Prov. iv., 14-27.

FOR THE JUNIOR CLASSES.

To-day we have to review the lessons we have learnt during the past three months, that is, twelve lessons in all. Two of these lessons have been special ones, last Sunday's, which was the Christmas lesson, and three Sundays before that when we had the temperance lesson, so we will leave these two lessons until the last and take up the others, because they are all parts of the same story. Two from twelve leaves ten, just as many lessons as you have fingers, so we may as well check them off on our fingers. First, there is the lesson with a procession in it, the second has a palace in it, the third a cripple, the fourth a prayer, the fifth a bad prince, the sixth a new king, the ninth a wish that came true, and the tenth a building all covered with gold inside. (Go over these again.) Now what we want to find out about first, the procession, is—what was it all about and where was it going; about the palace—who lived in it, and what duty did it make him think of; about the cripple—who was he, and why was he invited to the king's palace; about the prayer—who prayed it; about the bad prince—what was his name, and what did he do; about the sad father—what made him so unhappy; about the shepherd—who is the shepherd, and what he does for his sheep; about the new king—what was his name, and where was he king; about the wish—who wished it and who made it come true; and about the building—where was it built, and why was it so beautiful? Now we will start again at the procession. You all like processions, don't you? There was music at this procession just as there is at the processions you like to see. There were crowds of people and King David led the procession, and do you remember what it was all about, and where they were all going? David had been made King of Israel by God, and now he and all his princes were bringing God's ark up to Jerusalem so that people would come to worship God before it there. He had a tent made to cover it and all the people were very glad because now with God's ark in Jerusalem they would not forget to serve God as they should. Our second lesson we said had a palace in it. Who lived in this palace? Why, the king of course, King David. Did he like his beautiful palace? Yes, he liked it very much, but at last he began to think that he should not be living in such a lovely home while the ark of God was only in a tent. He determined to build a lovely house, too, for God and he told his friend Nathan the prophet about his plan, but did God want him to? No, God said for David to wait and leave the building of this new temple for David's son who should be king after him. God promised David that He would bless and help this son and always remember how David wanted to serve Him. It was in this very same palace that we find the story of our next lesson. We said this next lesson

had a cripple, a lame man, in it. Does anyone remember the story about this poor lame man that David helped?

FOR THE SENIORS.

The lessons for the past quarter include the story contained in the chapters from II. Sam. vi., I. Kings viii., inclusive. The story takes David from the first flush of his gratitude to God for his preservation and elevation to the throne, through his many failures and repentings, through his sins and their inevitable results, but also through his continued upward struggle in faith in God, and closes with the reign of his young son Solomon, full of promise from the training, example and successes of his father, a period in all of something like fifty or sixty years. It might possibly be more interesting to review at this time the lessons of the last half-year, and compare the reigns and characters of Saul, David, and Solomon. Each of them reigning some forty years, gives a total of one hundred and twenty years from the beginning of Saul's reign to the close of Solomon's, the full period of a united kingdom of Israel. Israel rose in these years from a number of scattered and inconsiderable tribes to the period of its greatest extent and power. Sacred history tells here the same story that is continually found in secular: the power that lies in united action, and the sadder lesson that Solomon's reign shows, the decay that comes with luxury, misused power, and the oppression of the poorer classes by the rich. There are very many lessons to be drawn from the lives of these three men, of lost opportunities, of false values in comparing worldly views with God's standard, of struggle and failure in temptation, of manly repentance, and of the great temptations that lie in power and wealth.

C. E. Topic.

Sunday, December 27.—Topic—Foreign missions: The new life of China. Ezek. xxxvii., 1-14.

Junior C. E. Topic.

- Monday, December 21.—All power is His. Dan. vii., 13, 14.
- Tuesday, December 22.—His words to Mary. John xx., 11-18.
- Wednesday, December 23.—His words to the women. Matt. xxviii., 9, 10.
- Thursday, December 24.—His appearance to Peter. Luke xxiv., 33, 34.
- Friday, December 25.—His words to ten apostles. John xx., 19-23.
- Saturday, December 26.—His words to seven disciples. John xxi., 1-14.
- Sunday, December 27.—Topic—Christ's last words to His disciples. Matt. xxviii., 16-20; Mark xvi., 19, 20.

Spiritual Results.

(By the Rev. J. B. Flanagan.)

We shall come fatally short of following the one infallible example of effective teaching if we do not aim always at spiritual results. Christ wasted no time on non-essentials, and never lost sight of the universal needs of the race. To save sinners and edify believers He tirelessly toiled through the brief period of His public ministry. When He ascended to the Father the Holy Spirit came to continue and complete His work. Jesus said He, the Holy Ghost, when He should come, would reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. To seek and to save the lost He lived and taught and suffered on earth, and now offers up His perpetual high-priestly intercessions in heaven. For this the Spirit came to abide in the believer and to work through all the agencies of the Church of God. Success in this atones for many deficiencies. Seek to save. Jesus did; as He succeeded so can you.

Missionary Work in Sunday School.

'Make people see the need.' They 'will' respond when they see it. Half of us do not see the need. Our time is so taken up we cannot read the missionary news as we would like, nor can we be enthused by attending a convention like this. Then 'tell' us about it. Talk to us about the home missionary as if

both you and I loved him and his family. Tell us all about his trials.

Let us subscribe to something 'definite.' Now suppose each class in Sunday school had a little place of their very own to send the money to. Perhaps unite two or three classes. Discuss it often with them. Find out all about it. Suppose they were educating a little Indian boy and he is known to them, as well as your efforts and those of the home missionary and the little Indian himself, can make him known. Let them write to him and he to them. Don't you believe the boys' hearts would be touched and the pennies they gave, because they were given to a definite object, would be real missionary pennies and not just given because mother told them to give them to some misty missionary who lived away off they didn't know nor care where.

Religious News.

The following quotation is from a missionary's report:—

'Leung Sz Po (one of our Christians) has done very faithful service during the year. In fact, for over two years she has, without any remuneration from the Mission, been doing the regular work of a Bible-woman, going daily from home to home, speaking the Gospel to the women of the city. This service is a great joy to her, and she is always cheerful and happy in telling the story of the Saviour's love. She has not much of this world's goods, and sometimes her rice-jar gets pretty low; but she really puts her trust in the Lord, and He never suffers her to lack any good thing. In telling of her work in the meetings she often weeps over the sins of the women of China and the souls of her relatives out of Christ. One day, when out preaching the Gospel in the homes of the women, she was asked: "How much do you receive for your work?" and her reply was: "Nothing; I do it because I love the Lord Jesus." Not a few will agree with her superintendent that such service is bound to make an impression on the minds of the heathen.'

The 'Ta Tung Pao,' a weekly publication for the leaders of Chinese thought and public opinion, was started at the beginning of 1904 by the Rev. W. Arthur Cornaby, of the Wesleyan Mission. It was then a single-folded sheet, but has since grown into a two-penny magazine of thirty-eight pages. For some time it has had 2,500 subscribers among the Chinese officials; all the viceroys and governors of the provinces have taken it in; and of late months it has had a constant reader in Prince Tsai Tse, cousin of the Emperor, who wrote a letter to the editor (August 1) for publication, enclosing his photograph to be reproduced as a frontispiece, and saying he had gained much instruction and inspiration from its articles. And this in regard to a journal which, while dealing with all general topics for the uplift of China, has published some very direct presentations of the claims of God and Christ.

Acknowledgments.

LABRADOR FUND.

- Received for the launch:—Atwood Epworth League, Newry, Ont., \$2.00; Ralph D. Grimmon, Black River Bridge, Ont., \$5.00; Mrs. Lillian Evans, Nutana, Sask., \$2.50; Agnes Glen, Cranford, N.J., \$5.00; Albert Mace, Chandos, Ont., \$5.00; Friends, McAlpine, Ont., \$11.00; Total... \$30.50
- Received for the cots:—Janet Mitchell, Glen Ewen, Sask., \$1.00; Mrs. A. E. Grimmon, Black River Bridge, Ont., \$1.00; Chaswood Sunday School per Mrs. H. C. Taylor, \$3.00; Greta C. McRae, Avonmore, Ont., \$1.00; William A. McRae, Avonmore, Ont., \$1.00; Total \$ 7.00
- Received for the komatik:—
- Muriel May Eckhardt, Unionville... 1.00
- Previously acknowledged for all purposes... \$ 1,427.57
- Total on hand Dec. 1... \$ 1,466.07

Address all subscriptions for Dr. Grenfall's work to 'Witness' Labrador Fund, John Dougall and Son, 'Witness' Office, Montreal, stating with the gift whether it is for launch, komatik, or cots.