

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. The tender, gentle, and loving spirit is best fitted to warn men of their danger?
2. We must do right, although we stand alone in it.
3. God has a great harvest of good for us all.
4. Many waste their opportunities till it is too late.
5. Opportunities for good are lost by sin and by neglect.
6. The reason any are lost is because they will not repent and serve God.
7. Punishment is the certain fruit of sin.
8. God warns us because he loves us.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

6. What great prophet began to prophesy at the time of our last lesson? **ANS.** The prophet Jeremiah. 7. How long did he prophesy? **ANS.** More than 40 years, from the time of Josiah till after the destruction of Jerusalem, B.C. 586. 8. What was the character of the people? **ANS.** They broke all the commandments, and worshipped idols instead of God. 9. What punishment was threatened? **ANS.** The destruction of their country. 10. What mournful words did they utter? **ANS.** (Repeat the Golden Text.)

B.C. 604] LESSON III. [Jan. 17

THE FAITHFUL RECHABITES.

Jer. 35. 12-19. Commit vs. 18, 19.

GOLDEN TEXT.

For unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's commandment.—Jer. 35. 14.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Obedience and temperance the way to a long and happy life.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Jer. 35. 1-11. Tu. Jer. 35. 12-19. W. Prov. 3. 1-18. Th. Prov. 1. 8, 9; 6. 20-23; 30. 17. F. Prov. 23. 29-35. Sa. Eph. 6. 1-12. Su. Gal. 5. 16-26.

TIME.—B.C. 604-5, fourth year of Jehoiakim.

PLACE.—Jerusalem, in one of the courts of the temple.

RULES.—Jehoiakim, king of Judah, B.C. 609-598. Nebuchadnezzar, son of emperor of Babylon, now commander of the Chaldean army in Judah, becomes emperor, B.C. 604.

CIRCUMSTANCES.—A few years pass away since the warnings in our last lesson. The end is drawing near. Nebuchadnezzar's army is devastating Judah and approaching Jerusalem; but the people have grown worse and worse. And now Jeremiah makes one more effort to persuade them to a better life.

JEREMIAH'S OBJECT-LESSON.—See Jer. 35. 1-11. The Rechabites came into Jerusalem because Nebuchadnezzar with his fierce soldiers was destroying the country. Here they still lived in tents. Jeremiah takes them into a frequented court of the temple, and placing wine before them, asks them to drink. They refuse because Jonadab 275 years before had so commanded. So, says Jeremiah, you should obey God your father.

THEIR REWARD.—(1) Rechabites continue to exist to the present day. (2) Some joined the tribe of Levi, and continued to serve in their temple. (3) Every true temperance person is a spiritual descendant; such have always existed.

SUBJECTS FOR HOME STUDY.—The people growing worse.—The devastations of Nebuchadnezzar's army.—The Rechabites, their history.—Their belief and practice.—How Jeremiah tested them.—The lesson the Israelites should learn from them.—The lessons of obedience we should learn.—The lesson of temperance.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—How long a time between this lesson and the last? What evil had Jeremiah foretold in that lesson as the punishment of the people's sins? Had his warnings begun to be fulfilled? Who was devastating the country at this time? (Jer. 35. 11.) Who was king of Israel?

SUBJECT: OBEDIENCE AND TEMPERANCE.

I. THE RECHABITES.—Give some account of the history of the Rechabites? Where did the Rechabites live? What were their peculiar beliefs and practices? (Jer. 35. 6-10.)

II. JEREMIAH'S OBJECT-LESSON OF OBEDIENCE (vs. 12-15).—Why did these Rechabites come into Jerusalem to live for a time? (Jer. 35. 11.) Where did Jeremiah take them? (Jer. 35. 3, 4.) What did he offer them? (Jer. 35. 5.) Did they yield to the temptation? (Jer. 35. 6.) What reason did they give? Was all this done publicly? What did Jeremiah teach the people by this?

III. REWARDS AND PUNISHMENTS vs. 16-19).—How were the Israelites punished for their disobedience? What reward did God promise the Rechabites for their obedience? Has it been fulfilled?

IV. APPLICATION TO OBEDIENCE.—(1) How does this apply to our obedience to God? What reasons can you give why we should obey God perfectly? (2) Apply it to obedience to parents. (3) To obedience to the laws of our country. In what ways are we tempted to disobey? What is the punishment of disobedience to God? (Matt. 25. 46; Ezek. 18. 20.) To parents? (Prov. 30. 17.) To country? What is the reward of obedience to God? (Prov. 3. 1-4; 1 Tim. 4. 8.) To parents? (Exod. 20. 12; Prov. 1. 8, 9; 6. 20-22.) To country?

V. APPLICATION TO TEMPERANCE.—Why did the Rechabites drink no wine or strong drink? What temptations have we to use strong drink? What reason for total abstinence do you find in the Bible?

LESSONS FROM THE RECHABITES.

I. Obedience.—(1) The duty of obedience; (2) The tests of obedience in daily life; (3) The reasons for obedience to God's commands; what God has done for us, his messengers, his providence, the rewards of obedience, and the punishment of disobedience.

Obedience.—(1) To God; (2) To parents; (3) To laws of our country; (4) Of country to laws of God.

Temperance.—(1) An example of temperance; (2) Resisting temptations; (3) The reasons for temperance; (4) The rewards of temperance.

Reasons for Temperance.—Required by obedience (1) To God's word; (2) To the law of love; (3) To science; (4) To reason; (5) To experience.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

11. What peculiar people lived among the Israelites? **ANS.** The Rechabites. 12. What did Jeremiah do with some of them? **ANS.** He offered them wine to drink. 13. Why did they refuse? **ANS.** Because their founder commanded them not to drink wine or strong drink. 14. What did Jeremiah teach by this? **ANS.** That the Israelites should obey God. 15. What lessons may we learn? **ANS.** Obedience to God and man, and total abstinence from all that can intoxicate.

A Question for a Lawyer.

At the time Hopu, a young Sandwich Islander, was in this country, he spent an evening in company where an infidel lawyer tried to puzzle him with difficult questions. At length Hopu said: "I am a poor heathen boy. It is not strange that my blunders in English should amuse you. But soon there will be a larger meeting than this. We shall all be there. They will ask us only one question, namely, 'Do you love the Lord Jesus Christ?' Now, sir, I think I can say yes. What will you say, sir?" When he had stopped all present were silent. At length the lawyer said that as the evening was far gone, they had better conclude it with prayer, and proposed that the native should pray. He did so; and as he poured out his heart to God, the lawyer could not conceal his feelings. Tears started from his eyes and he sobbed aloud. All present wept, too, and when they separated, the words, "What will you say, sir?" followed the lawyer home, and did not leave him till they brought him to the Saviour.—*Word of Life.*

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