

The Teachers Monthly

Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, M.A., Editor
Rev. J. M. Duncan, B.D., Associate Editor

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No more delightful six months' course of studies could be imagined than that from January to June, 1904—a sketch of our Lord's life and work on earth from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. These and the lessons for the second six months will be found on a later page.

Every order for our Lesson Helps and Illustrated papers is filled *the same day that it arrives*. But from the middle of December onward, and especially at the Christmas and New Years' holidays, the post office authorities are hard put to, to grapple with the mails. Everyone wants to send things at the same time. It is not surprising if there are delays. Moral—Order your Sabbath School supplies early. Then you will be perfectly sure of no break in receiving them.

SOLOMON

By Rev. Clarence Mackinnon, B.D.

Why is it, that on the shore where lie beautiful pebbles, the casual eye will pass them over, but stop, arrested by some broken fragment of a fossil shell, disclosed in the fissure of a rock?

Because of its living interest. It was once the tenement of a live animal. Obedient to instinct, this plastic organism toiled and died; and the mind reconstructs from the fragment the forgotten story of the past.

So the chapters of the Bible which treat of Solomon's reign, fragmentary as they are, mostly long enumerations of building materials, names of priests and Levites and the officers of the court, glow with strange

interest, when we begin to construct behind them the warm, passionate personality, of whose thought and will they are the partial expression.

Other nations have fabled great monarchs, whose touch could convert to gold, but here is a real king, seemingly happy in that his wishes have but to be uttered that they may be realized: the world lies at his feet. The glory of Solomon is the dream of ambitious youth. What then is its forceful lesson?

"'Tis but the moral of all human tales;
'Tis but the same rehearsal of the past,
First freedom, and then glory; when that
fails,
Wealth, vice, corruption—barbarism at
last."

Never did rosy-fingered Aurora, daughter of the dawn, paint with more hopeful colors the glory of the coming day, than did the noble youth of Solomon give promise of the splendor of his reign. Inheriting a powerful kingdom from his father, acclaimed king by a magnificent popular outburst of patriotism, the Lord came to him in a vision at Gibeon and proffered the request that could be so readily abused, "Ask what I shall give thee." And Solomon replied, "I am but a little child; I know not how to go out or come in. . . . Give therefore Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this Thy so great a people?"

"He was a king who asked for wisdom,
To the end he might be king sufficient."

The prayer was granted. From the knowledge that spoke of the cedar of Lebanon and the hyssop that springeth out of a wall, to the