

S. S. LESSONS.

Select Notes on International S. S. Lessons,
by the Rev. F. N. and M. A. Peloubet.

LESSON XI. MARCH 18, 1877.

THE SPIRIT ON ELISHA.—2 Kings 2: 13-25.

13, 14. He took up, also, the mantle of Elisha. So, as Elisha took up the prophet's mantle and turned his steps homeward, he gave proof of his faith in the pledge he had received by repeating Elijah's wonder that he might recross the Jordan.

15. The sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho. Literally, "which were at Jericho opposite."

16. Let them go and seek thy master. Yet these men could not realize the stupendous wonder that had taken place. Elijah had not died; he was still in the body; he was taken up by the winds; might he not be cast down again in some place where he might stand in need of their assistance?

17. They sought three days. Fifty men searched three fruitless days and then returned. Let us hope this result helped them to loftier and more just views of what Elijah's translation signified.

19. And the men of the city said unto Elisha. Perhaps it was the authorities who, in the name of the city, addressed themselves to Elisha, who now stood at the head of the prophets, and whose affable disposition had inspired them with confidence.

20. Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. He heard them, and desired them to bring him a new dish.

21. The spring of the waters. Modern travelers speak of a fine spring yet flowing near Jericho, which may be the one here spoken of.

23. And he went up from thence unto Bethel. This, it will be recollected, was a seat of the worship of one of Jeroboam's golden calves, the inhabitants of which were therefore doubtless very corrupt in their religious notions and services.

24. Cursed them in the name of the Lord. On this one occasion only do we find Elisha a minister of vengeance. Perhaps it was necessary to show, at the outset of his career as a prophet, that he too, like Elijah, could wield the terrors of God's judgments.

LESSON I, APRIL 1, 1877.

THE OIL INCREASED.—2 Kings 4: 1-7.

1. Now, a certain woman. The Jews have a notion that the husband of this woman was

no other than Obadiah, the well-known attendant of Ahab's household; and they suppose that the debt was incurred while he maintained the Lord's prophets in a cave.

2. Hath not anything... save a pot of oil. Or cruet of oil. This comprising her whole stock of domestic utensils, he directs her to borrow empty vessels not a few; then, secluding herself with her children, she was to pour oil from her cruse into the borrowed vessels, and selling the oil, discharge the debt, and then maintain herself and family with the remainder.

3. Go borrow. The command of the prophet puts her faith to the test in a double sense. He told her to borrow all the vessels she could of her neighbors, and then to pour out from her vessel of oil into those she had thus borrowed until she had filled them all.

4. Shut the door upon thee. Let us note also that this was a home scene, adapted for the best home influences. "When thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thyself, and thy sons, and shalt pour out unto all those vessels," etc.—none present save thyself, thy sons, and God; and the door shut.

6. And the oil stayed. She put her own limit to what she received. Everything she brought to receive the oil in was filled. And so will it ever be with us. God gives us all the blessings it is possible for us to receive.

7. Of the rest. The woman would not make use of that which had come into her hands by the interference of the prophet, without asking directions from him.

LESSON II. APRIL 8, 1877.

THE SHUNAMMITE'S SON. 2 Kings 4: 25-37.

25. So he went and came unto the man of God. Without mentioning to her husband the death of the child, the believing Shunammite brings the body into the chamber prepared for Elisha, lays it on his bed, requests her husband to send an ass with a lad to lead and drive it, on which she should ride (as is still customary in the East), and hastens to the man of God on Carmel, not once intimating the object of her journey to her inquiring husband, in order to lose no time, nor allow herself to be diverted from her purpose by his possible objections, or to waver in her confidence in the wonder-working power of the prophet.

26. It is well. She answered, "It is well;" but at the same time she rushes up the "hill" and seizes the prophet by his feet.

27. She caught him by the feet, etc. The falling down, clasping the feet, etc., are actions witnessed every day in the East.

28. Did I desire a son of my Lord? Thou didst promise him to me of thine own accord.