

Notes on the S. S. Lessons.

By the Editor.

The Sinful Nation.

Isaiah 1: 1-18.

ISAIAH has been called the "Evangelical Prophet," because he says so much of the dear Saviour "who was to come." Our lesson gives us one great reason why it was necessary for Jesus to come down to earth. He came to save sinners, and the lesson to-day tells of a "sinful nation." Perhaps our young readers may think that the prophet is speaking of a nation of heathens, away off in some distant island of the sea; but if you read this chapter carefully, you will find that it was not such a nation, but a people for whom God had done wonderful things. He had delivered them out of bondage.

He had guided them through the great wilderness. He had given them a beautiful country. He had blessed them with many faithful preachers. In fact he had done all He could, as the Bible asks: "What could have been done, that I have not done?" (Isa. 5: 4). And yet after all, they had forsaken—had provoked—had gone away from God. How wicked! How sinful! And yet God says, Why should you be as you are? Why should you let

the disease of sin get worse? Just see how bad they were. God speaks of them as having sick heads, faint hearts, and a body full of wounds. That is the way God describes their miserable condition as sinners. And yet all the time they were pretending to be so very religious. They went to church regularly. They gave into the collections, and they said prayers, but it was all mockery, and God said He was tired of it all. Now, you would expect that after such wickedness God would say, "I will have nothing more to do with you." But "God is Love," and so He says: "Come and let us talk this all over. It is a fact that you are great sinners, and you are dyed with sin, until it looks like an impossibility to get it out; but that which is impossible with man is possible with Me, and I will make you white as snow, and just like wool." Dear children, God says the same thing now to you. And how will He do it?

"What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

The Suffering Saviour.

Isaiah 53: 1-12.

ONLY the blood of Jesus could wash away sin. Now, that means that Jesus must die—must suffer before you and I could be saved. What an awful thought that *our* sins made it necessary for another to suffer—not another man like ourselves,—that would be no use, for all have sinned, and therefore no man could atone for another—but it needed an innocent one to suffer; it needed one whom God could accept in our place, and there was only one person whom God would accept, and that was His own dear Son. And "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" to die for us, and in our

lesson to-day the prophet tells us about this "Suffering Saviour." And to think that when He came to save that sinful nation, instead of being thankful to God, and at once accepting the Son of God, they persecuted, hated, arrested, smote, and at last killed Him. See what our lesson says: He was despised, rejected, stricken, afflicted; and why? Read the 5th verse, and wherever the word "our" appears, put in the word MY. He was wounded for

my transgressions. Dear children, how are you treating this loving Saviour? If you have not believed on Him—if you are not loving Him—you are doing just what the "Sinful Nation" did. You are rejecting Him. You are, by your actions, saying they served Him right when they put Him to death. I am sure when you think of this, you will at once say, "Lord, I must not treat you so. I will love You and obey You." May the Lord help you to do so.

And if you do decide to accept of Jesus as *your* Saviour, you will really be helping, as it were, to bring to pass that which we read in the 11th verse: "He shall see of the travail of His soul, and be satisfied." Oh, dear children, only think of it! By accepting Jesus you give Him satisfaction, and He will also satisfy you.



“OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.”
Edited by ALF. SANDHAM. Published on the first and third Saturday of each month, by the Toronto Willard Tract Depository.—S. R. BRIGGS, Manager.—corner Yonge and Temperance Streets, Toronto, Ont.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES.—PER YEAR—Single copies, 25c.; 10 copies, \$1.50; 25 copies, \$3.00; 100 copies, \$10.00.