



LESSON VI.—AUGUST 10.

Nadab Abihu — Temperance Lesson.

Leviticus x., 1-11. Commit to memory verses 8-11.

Golden Text.

'Let us watch and be sober.'—I. Thess. v., 6.

Lesson Text.

(1) And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. (2) And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. (3) Then Moses said to Aaron, This is it that the Lord spake, saying, I will be sanctified in them that come nigh me, and before all the people I will be glorified. And Aaron held his peace. (4) And Moses called Mishael and Elzaphan, the sons of Uzziel the uncle of Aaron, and said unto them, Come near, carry your brethren from before the sanctuary out of the camp. (5) So they went near, and carried them in their coats out of the camp; as Moses had said. (6) And Moses said unto Aaron, and unto Eleazer and unto Ithamar, his sons, Uncover not your heads, neither rend your clothes; lest ye die, and lest wrath come upon all the people; but let your brethren, the whole house of Israel, bewail the burning which the Lord hath kindled. (7) And ye shall not go out from the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die; for the anointing oil of the Lord is upon you. And they did according to the word of Moses. (8) And the Lord spake unto Aaron, saying, (9) Do not drink wine nor strong drink, thou, nor thy sons with thee, when ye go into the tabernacle of the congregation, lest ye die; it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations: (10) And that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean; (11) And that ye may teach the children of Israel all the statutes which the Lord hath spoken unto them by the hand of Moses.

Suggestions.

A man's actions gain importance from his position. For instance, an ambassador from one country to another may by careless conduct publicly disgrace his whole country, for he stands as the representative of his country and his deeds, be they good or bad, will be accredited to his country. A man in an ordinary walk of life might do the same things and only bring shame to himself and his own family. The whole nation is judged by the conduct of its representatives abroad. So the kingdom of heaven is judged by its representatives in this world, an unfaithful Christian not only does wrong to his own soul but brings discredit upon the whole kingdom to which he belongs.

From the warning which the Lord God gave to Aaron (Lev. x., 9), it is assumed that Nadab and Abihu must have been under the influence of strong drink when they so presumptuously offered before God the common unhallowed fire instead of that which had been specially blessed.

For this reason, the Lord God took care that the first representatives should understand and that strict obedience and sincerity of purpose were the basal requisites of citizenship. Thus Nadab and Abihu in the Old Testament, Ananias and Sapphira in the New Testament, were suddenly smitten down in fulfilment of unheeded warnings, which God had already given against disobedience and insincerity. God does not smite with sudden death all

the disobedient, unbelieving or insincere persons who presume to claim citizenship in his kingdom. These solitary cases are intended as warnings for all generations, typical of the destruction of the inner life brought about by continual disregard of the voice of conscience. No man who habitually disobeys God knows when he may forever lose the power of even wishing to obey (Hebrews xii., 17). No man who takes strong drink knows just where the line is between moderation and excess; neither does the man who has passed that line know just when he will drink enough to cause his own death or to make him an active agent in some crime which in sober was a direct insult to the Lord God in its insolent carelessness of his decree. A drunken man may be quite unconscious of his actions, nevertheless, the law holds him responsible for them, and no soul can ever get away from its responsibility to God. A man who drinks puts himself into the hands of the devil and knows not what crime he may commit when under its influence. The priests were commanded not to drink wine or strong drink (Exek. xlv., 21; Lev. x., 9). All who have been washed in the precious blood shed for the remission of sins, have been made kings and priests unto God (Rev. i., 5, 6; I. Pet. ii., 5, 9; Isa. lxi., 6). Therefore there cannot be even moderate drinking or occasional taking of a glass of wine by those who have received the remission of their sins and have become citizens of the eternal kingdom and priestly servants of the most High God.

Aaron and his sons were not allowed to mourn publicly for Nadab and Abihu, lest it should seem as though they did not recognize God's perfect justice; but the people were commanded to mourn, that they might be impressed with the solemnity of the occasion and the awfulness of disobedience to God.

The fire of the Lord is his blazing righteousness and purity, which must consume sin. The light of that fire attracts those who wish to get rid of their sins, but drives into deeper darkness those who love darkness rather than light, who love the evil of their own hearts. God's holiness must consume sin and those who cling to sin until it actually becomes part of themselves must be consumed with their sins. We choose our own destiny and each day's choice is irrevocable.

Sow an act, reap a habit;
Sow a habit, reap a character;
Sow a character, reap a destiny.

Home Readings.

Monday, Aug. 4.—Lev. x., 1-11.
Tuesday, Aug. 5.—Exod. xxx., 10.
Wednesday, Aug. 6.—Ezek. xxii., 23-31.
Thursday, Aug. 7.—Ezek. xlv., 15-21.
Friday, Aug. 8.—Gal. v., 16-26.
Saturday, Aug. 9.—I. Cor. iv., 19-27.
Sunday, Aug. 10.—I. Thess. v., 5, 23.

C. E. Topic.

Sunday, Aug. 10.—Topic—A suggestion in addition. II. Pet. i., 4-9.

Junior C. E. Topic.

Mon., Aug. 4.—Attack your obstacles. Josh. vi., 1.
Tues, Aug. 5.—God's promise of victory. Josh. vi., 2.
Wed., Aug. 6.—A lesson in perseverance. Josh. vi., 3.
Thu., Aug. 7.—God's presence leading. Josh. vi., 4.
Fri., Aug. 8.—The cry of faith. Josh. vi., 5.
Sat., Aug. 9.—God gives the victory. John. vi., 20.
Sun., Aug. 10.—Topic—Old Testament miracles. III. Lessons from the fall of Jericho. Josh. vi., 1-5, 20.

Expiring Subscriptions.

Would each subscriber kindly look at the address tag on this paper? If the date thereon is July, 1902, it is time that the renewals were sent in so as to avoid losing a single copy. As renewals always date from the expiry of the old subscriptions, subscribers lose nothing by remitting a little in advance



King Alcohol.

There is a king doth rule the land,
From all he takes his toll;
Destruction follows in his path,
His name 'tis King Alcohol.

He takes the young man in his strength,
With hopes so bright and fair;
Fair prospects wither 'neath his blight
For hope he gives despair.

The mature man with ripened powers,
For country's use and weal;
Lo! manhood shrivels at his touch,
E'en reason's throne doth reel.

The mother's sigh, the orphan's tear,
Attest his ruthless reign;
O'er bleeding hearts he tramples still,
He bears the mark of Cain.

O Thou great God, in whom we trust,
Our refuge and our Tower;
Stay Thou this foul king's onward march,
Stretch forth thine arm with power.

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Business is Business.

A correspondent to the 'Chicago Advocate' gives this instance: 'A bright little boy entered a saloon with pop-corn. The bartender offered to buy a dime's worth of the corn if the little fellow would take his pay in drink. The boy refused, saying that he used his money to buy bread and clothes for himself and his little sister. The saloon-keeper finally bought ten cents' worth of the corn, and the boy started on his way to the door. The keeper of the den called the boy back and gave him three table-spoonfuls of whiskey, mixed with sugar and water, saying as he did so that it was good for colds. The boy's eyes sparkled as he pronounced it "Good," and went on his way. Then this fiend in human shape gave this explanation for his conduct—He said,

"The Prohibition cranks are injuring us, and unless we continue making drunkards out of the young they will soon have them all on their side. If that boy keeps selling corn on this side of the river it won't be three weeks till he will buy drinks of me. They learn easy when young," and he laughed heartily. Then the bleared-eyed monster went on to enumerate how many boys he had taught to drink. One was a six-year-old son of a widow, whom he taught to drink through spite. The mother had prosecuted the saloon-keeper for selling liquor to her husband who died from the effects, and the seller took revenge on the widow's son. He taught him to drink at six, at fourteen he was a confirmed drunkard, and at seventeen he died.'

'How long, O Lord, how long?'

Cigarette Heart.

The following advertisement in a Chicago newspaper made some startling disclosures as to the health of boys:

'Wanted, skin, for skin-grafting, twenty boys; will pay \$3 per person. Dr. Prescott, 110 W. Washington street.'

The case of this advertisement is the lacerated hand of a young man; Dr. Prescott, the physician in charge, decided to graft new skin upon the torn hand. On examining one hundred and eighty applicants, he has not found twenty who are satisfactory. He says 'the number of cigarette hearts found among our boys is appalling.' The boy with the cigarette heart cannot furnish healthy skin for grafting purposes, and the majority of the boy applicants were rejected because of the cigarette heart or consumption resulting from cigarette smoking.