



LESSON II.—JULY 9.

Daniel in Babylon.

May be used as a temperance lesson.
Dan. i., 8-21. Read the whole chapter.
Memory verses 17-20.

Golden Text.

'Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.'—Dan i., 8.

Home Readings.

- July.
3. M.—Daniel 1: 1-7. Captivity.
4. T.—Daniel 1: 8-21. Daniel in Babylon.
5. W.—Gen. 39: 1-6. Prosperity from God.
6. Th.—Psalm 1. The safe way.
7. F.—Prov. 16: 1-9. The upright way.
8. S.—1 Cor. 9: 19-27. Temperate in all things.
9. Su.—Jer. 35: 12-19. The Rechabites honored.

Lesson Text.

Supt.—8. But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

School.—9. Now God had brought Daniel into favor and tender love with the prince of the eunuchs.

10. And the prince of the eunuchs said unto Daniel, I fear my lord the king, who hath appointed your meat and your drink: for why should he see your faces worse liking than the children which are of your sort? then shall ye make me endanger my head to the king.

11. Then said Daniel to Mel'zar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over Daniel, Han-a-ni'ah, Mish'a-el, and Az-ariah.

12. Prove thy servants, I beseech thee, ten days; and let them give us pulse to eat, and water to drink.

13. Then let our countenances be looked upon before thee, and the countenance of the children that eat of the portion of the king's meat; and as thou seest, deal with thy servants.

14. So he consented to them in this matter, and proved them ten days.

15. And at the end of ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which did eat the portion of the king's meat.

16. Thus Mel'zar took away the portion of their meat, and the wine that they should drink; and gave them pulse.

17. As for these four children, God gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams.

18. Now at the end of the days that the king had said he should bring them in, then the prince of the eunuchs brought them in before Neb-u-chad-nez'zar.

19. And the king communed with them; and among them all was found none like Daniel, Han-a-ni'ah, Mish'a-el, and Az-ariah; herefore stood they before the king.

20. And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm.

21. And Daniel continued even unto the first year of king Cyrus.

Lesson Hymn.

Dare to be a Daniel,
Dare to stand alone;
Dare to have a purpose true—
Dare to make it known.

Suggestions.

Among the first captives taken from Judah at the beginning of the seventy years of captivity (B. C. 605), were four youths of noble parentage, Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.

These youths the king Nebuchadnezzar intended to have instructed in all the learning and arts of the Chaldeans. But the court at Babylon was the wicked court of a heathen king, and Daniel resolved that he and his three companions should steadfastly resist the corruptions of the heath-

en. The king ordered meat and wine from his own table to be sent daily to all the youths in training, but Daniel begged the chief steward, Ashpenaz, to give to him and his three friends, the plainest possible food, instead of the defiling wine and the meat which had probably been offered to idols before leaving the king's table.

God had given to Daniel wisdom (Jas. i., 5), and courage and other kindly qualities which brought him into favor with those set over him. But the steward feared to disobey the king in the smallest particular, for the tyrant Nebuchadnezzar would think nothing of ordering a man's head to be cut off for a trifling disobedience. However, Daniel persuaded the Melzar, or steward, to try them with a vegetable diet for ten days, and at the end of that time they were found to have improved greatly and to be in much better condition than the youth who had eaten the king's meat.

Temperance Application.

Those who are in training for athletic sports, college races, etc., are put upon the simplest and most temperate diet, and are required to abstain from all intoxicating liquors. Only thus can the best health, strength, and endurance be found.

Strong drink is one of the most powerful and most visible of temptations; but temptation appeals to every bodily appetite and every wrong feeling of the mind. The question with every young person is, 'What shall rule? What shall be king and sit on the throne of my heart?' Shall passion and appetite control my nature, subdue my conscience, guide my life, and decide my future? Or shall conscience, and reason, and love to God and man control my body, and govern my whole lower nature? What rules the soul decides its quality and its destiny. The only way to be safe against the temptation to strong drink is to subdue all the bodily appetites, and make God our king and his love our life. To yield in one point is to harbor a traitor within the camp.—From 'Peloubet's Notes.'

The Bible Class

'Would not defile himself'—Matt. xv., 11, 18-20; Rev. xxi., 27; Titus 1, 15; I. Cor. viii., 4, 7-13. Jas. iii., 6. I. Cor. iii., 16-17. Rev. iii., 4, 5.

'Wisdom'—Jer. ix., 23, 24; I. Kings iv., 29, 30; Job xxviii., 28; Psa. xxxvii., 30; cxl., 10; Prov. iii., 5-7; I. Cor. i., 18-25, 30; Col. ii., 3, 8-10; iii., 16-17.

Suitable Hymns.

'Yield not to temptation,' 'Stand up, stand up for Jesus,' 'Have courage, my boy, to say no!' 'Loyalty to Christ,' 'Am I a soldier,' 'Who is on the Lord's side?'

C. E. Topic.

July 9.—A good vacation. Mark vi., 7, 12, 13, 30-32.

Junior C. E.

July 9.—How to tell others about God. Acts 17: 22-31.

(A missionary meeting. South America.)

The Teachers' Meeting.

The question arises, 'When should they be held?' I know some think once a month often enough. But, personally, I prefer weekly ones (not 'weakly') for about twenty minutes at the close of the school. Because, in the first place, we have just taught a lesson for our Master, and is it not appropriate to unitedly hand it over to him directly, claiming his promise that 'it shall not return unto him void,' and leaving the results with him? Then, secondly, the teacher who has the trying class, who is tempted to feel discouraged, thinking nothing has been accomplished, who would otherwise go away heavy of heart, will find 'rest in communion,' and encouragement in knowing that she is upheld by the prayers of her fellow workers; so that, instead of the sigh, she will be able to sing with Miss Havergal:

'It is not that I feel less weak, but Thou
Wilt be my strength. It is not that I see
Less sin; but more of pardoning love
with Thee.
And all sufficient grace. Enough! and
now
All fluttering thought is stilled, I only
rest.
And feel that Thou art near, and know
that I am blest.'
—'Faithful Witness.'

**Tobacco Catechism.**

CHAPTER V. — TOBACCO COMPARED WITH ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.

(By Dr. R. H. McDonald, of San Francisco.)

1. Q.—What two substances in common use are the most injurious to health?

A.—Alcohol, in its various forms and combinations; and tobacco, in its different preparations.

2. Q.—State the difference in the effects of alcohol and tobacco.

A.—Alcohol increases the intensity of the vital force at first, and then causes depression. Tobacco first lessens the energy of the vital force, and afterwards produces a corresponding excitement.

3. How, then, do these poisons stand toward each other?

A.—The one, alcohol, as an excitant, and the other, tobacco, as a narcotic or depressant, work into each other's service; tobacco beginning and alcohol completing the ruin.

4. Q.—What have inquirers into the habits of men who have constantly used alcoholic drinks proved?

A.—That their appetites for strong drink were created, and made clamorous by their previous use of tobacco.

5. Q.—Why does tobacco produce such a result?

A.—Because tobacco is so depressing to the person using it that he craves something that shall act as a stimulant.

6. Q.—What report was once given from the State Prison at Auburn, New York?

A.—That five hundred out of every six hundred who were convicted of crime, when under the influence of alcoholic drinks, had, from their own statements, the desire for strong drink aroused in them by the use of tobacco.

7. Q.—What statement does Dr. James C. Jackson make upon this point?

A.—'I have never heard of more than one habitual drunkard who had never used tobacco.'

8. Q.—What is also stated by Dr. Jackson in regard to the use of tobacco by boys, compared with that of alcoholic liquors by them.

A.—That fifty boys are rendered incompetent by the use of tobacco, where one boy has his nervous system deranged by the use of alcoholic liquors.

9. Q.—What is this life?

A.—This life is a warfare. All good men are fighting the devil, all bad men are fighting the Lord.

10. Q.—What is the result of self-indulgence?

A.—Self-indulgence of any kind, tends to develop man's lower nature; and, at the same time, it tends to close up and ruin his higher nature. 'To be carnally minded is death.'—Romans, chapter 8, verse 7. To use tobacco, alcohol, or opium is to be carnally minded.

11. Q.—What is the result of self-denial?

A.—Self-denial of any kind, tends to open and develop man's spiritual and higher nature; and, at the same time, to close up and destroy his selfish animal nature. 'To be spiritually minded is life and peace.'—Romans, chapter 8, verse 6.

Uncle Josiah's Bedtime.

Such headaches as Uncle Josiah had!—And such doctors! Their efforts left the patient worse instead of better. At last, however, a young doctor gave Aunt Polly a prescription which he said was sure to help, if not cure.

Uncle Josiah was a strict temperance man. Not a drop of ardent spirits, as a beverage, had ever passed his lips. He was a man firm of principle—strong and unyielding where his well-trained conscience was concerned. The doctor's prescription was egg-nog. Aunt Polly was to prepare and administer it to Uncle Josiah at his bedtime, when sleep would follow and the headache disappear.

Very grateful the remedy proved, prepared under Aunt Polly's skilful hand. She