

HOME STUDY LEAFLET.

LESSON 13.

SEPTEMBER 23rd, 1894.

3rd QUARTER.

Daniel's Abstinence. Dan. 1: 8-20.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself." Dan. 1: 8.

COMMIT TO MEMORY verses 8, 9. CHILDREN'S HYMNAL 121, 117, 114, 122.

PROVE THAT—Intemperance excludes from Heaven. 1 Cor. 6: 10.

SHORTER CATECHISM—Quest. 95. To whom is baptism to be administered?

DAILY PORTIONS.

(The Selections of the International Bible Reading Association.)

MONDAY.	TUESDAY.	WEDNESDAY.	THURSDAY.	FRIDAY.	SATURDAY.	SABBATH.
Dan. 1: 8-20	Dan. 1: 1-7	Jer. 35: 1-10	Jer. 35: 12-19	1 Thess. 5: 14-23	Rom. 14: 13-21	1 Cor. 10: 16-23

To the Teacher.—Do not credit any Scholar with having prepared the lesson who does not at least try to answer the questions. Take the leaflet home and assign a value to each answer, announcing the result on the following Sabbath. Take, or send, the Leaflet to absent scholars.

Always bring your Bible and Shorter Catechism to the Sabbath School.

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY.—Daniel was a Hebrew youth of noble lineage, who had been selected with others to be trained for service about the person of the king of Babylon. In thus entering the royal service his foot was placed on the first rung of the ladder of political advancement. All the rewards of ambition were placed within his grasp. He had every inducement to conform to the customs of the court and king. By flattery and cleverness he could have risen as others were rising. But he believed it was better to be right than to be prime minister. He started out with the determination to refuse to do what conscience forbade. No life can fall that begins in this way.

Daniel. He would be about 14 years of age at this time (B. C. 605-3) and died about B. C. 536. So he lived to be at least 85 years old. He was carried away captive by Nebuchadnezzar and saw the exiles under Zerubbabel set out on their return. Give some of the incidents of his eventful life.

LESSON PLAN. I. Temperance Purposed. vs. 8-10. II. Temperance Tested. vs. 11-16. III. Temperance Rewarded. vs. 17-20.

I. TEMPERANCE PURPOSED. 8. Daniel purposed in his heart—This does not mean that he made a secret resolve, but that it was a heart-purpose a firm and fixed resolution. He was a boy that could say "No," and stick to it when laughed at. Defile himself—Did you every think what an expressive word this is? The king's "meat" was not dirty, but doing wrong ~~soiled~~ the heart, and water won't wash it clean again. What alone can? (Ps. 51: 2, 7; 1 John 1: 7; Rev. 1: 5). It would have been wrong for Daniel to eat this food because (1) some kinds of meat used by the king were forbidden in the law (Lev. 11: 33); (2) it was customary for the heathen to offer a part to the gods before bringing it to the table and this was regarded as consecrating all to the idols (Deut. 32: 37, 38), to eat would have been to deny their religion, (1 Cor. 8: 7, 10; 10: 27, 28). Compare Ezek. 4: 13; Hos. 9: 3; and (3) luxurious living enervates the body, dulls the mind and stimulates the passions. (Requested—He is not ashamed to confess his religious scruples to a heathen, but he does it in a kind and winning way. If he had been refused, he would still have done his duty, but as gently as on another occasion afterwards (Dan. 6: 10). B. Favor and compassion (R. V.)—God did the same thing for Joseph (Gen. 39: 21; see 1 Kings 8: 50; Prov. 21: 1), but he will not bring anyone into favor who is rude, selfish, badmannered, deceitful or disobliging. 10. The eunuch was acting under orders and

Published weekly, at 5 cents a year, for the Sabbath School Committee of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, by Rev. T. F. Fotheringham, M. A., St. John, N. B.

He was afraid that if he granted the request, the king would be angry at the poor appearance they would make, and would put him to death. **Worse liking**—In worse condition, not so plump and cheerful. Compare Job 39: 4; "good liking." **Youths which are of your own age** (R. V.)—the other boys in training with them.

II. TEMPERANCE TESTED. II. Melzar—The word means "the steward." The prince of the eunuchs doubtless gave him permission to go to the under officer with his request for a ten days' trial. Daniel's three friends were joined with him in his resolution. **12. Pulse**—beans, peas, etc. The word means vegetables in general. **13.** Apart from any miraculous blessing, plain fare and cold water are more wholesome than rich dainties and alcoholic drinks, however mild. Daniel was not afraid to face the test for he believed in God's laws in nature and in the Bible. God blesses obedience to all his laws and sin leaves its brand on the face of the sinner. Remember Jesus' answer to the First Temptation. (Deut. 8: 3.) **15. Children**—R. V. "youths." **The king's meat**—the word for "meat" means "princely" or "delicate" food, dainties. **16.** The steward was satisfied that there was no danger in granting the request of the youths.

III. TEMPERANCE REWARDED. 17. God gave them knowledge—Not only were they "fairer and fatter" in body, but their minds were clearer. This learning and wisdom did not come to them without hard study, but conscientious boys like these would not shirk their tasks. They would ask and re-

ceive God's blessing upon their work, but would never expect any favor if they were idle. Read Acts 7: 22; Ex. 31: 2, 3; 1 Kings 3: 1, 2; Job 32: 8; Jas. 1: 5. **17. Visions and dreams**—Daniel was a prophet and divinely inspired to interpret dreams that God sent as messages to the dreamer. See chs. 2, 4, 5, 7, etc. Compare Joseph: Gen. 40: 5; 41: 1-8. **18. At the end of the days**—The three years (v. 5) during which they had been under training. **19. Communed with them**—Examined them as to their proficiency and ability to fill important positions. **Stood before the king**—were appointed to places of honor and responsibility near the king. Gen. 41: 46; 1 Kings 10: 8; Prov. 22: 29. **20. Magicians**—priestly scribes. They were the learned men of the day, the *Magi*. The "Wise Men" who came to Bethlehem belonged to this class. **Astrologers**—Men who studied the stars, astronomers, but mingling their science with much superstition. The R. V. reads "enchanters," men who professed to predict the future, and influence human life in a mysterious and supernatural manner.

What a noble example these three Hebrew boys, who lived 2,500 years ago, set to the youth of our day. Temperance in its widest meaning includes abstaining from all unnecessary self-indulgence, but the danger we have most to fear lies in the direction of the use of intoxicating liquor and tobacco. You cannot touch either of these without danger. Daniel did not taste *any* of the king's dainties although he might have done it without harm if he had been careful. He took the safe plan of total abstinence.

- To the Scholar.**—Study the lesson carefully, turning up the marginal references and reading the "Daily Portions." Then close your Bible and try to answer in writing the questions following *without* as *copying aid from any quarter* after you have begun to write. Then bring this leaflet to Sabbath School with you on the day of its date. If you cannot come, fill out the blank and send the leaflet (with the answers written out) to your teacher by some friend, or by mail, and you will receive credit for the work done as if you had been present. If your excuse is satisfactory, you will not lose in record of attendance.
- 1.—How would the king's meat defile Daniel? (5)
 - 2.—Why was the prince of the eunuchs unwilling to give him any other food? (4)
 - 3.—What test did Daniel propose, and who joined him in it? (4)
 - 4.—What was the result? (4)
 - 5.—What special favor did God shew them? (4)
 - 6.—What was said of them when they stood before the king? (4)

Name

Dear Teacher,—Please excuse my absence from Sabbath School to-day, I cannot come because I have read the "Daily Portions" and answered the questions as well as I could. I have committed to memory Questions in the Catechism and Verse in addition to the Golden Text, and I was at church have recited them to I send with this my Weekly Offering of cents.