

The Christian Messenger.

Bible Lessons for 1881.

FOURTH QUARTER.

Lesson XI.—DECEMBER 11.

THE LAST DAYS OF MOSES.

Deut. xxxii. 44-52.

The time for Moses to die was at hand. He therefore rehearsed the dealings of God with the people for the forty years of their journey.

COMMIT TO MEMORY: Verses 46, 47.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."—Psalm xc. 12.

DAILY HOME READINGS.

- M. Last Days of Moses, Deut. xxxii. 44-52.
T. Final Song of Moses, Deut. xxxii. 1-18.
W. Final Song of Moses, Deut. xxxii. 19-43.
T. Final Blessing of Moses, Deut. xxxiii. 1-29.
F. Death of Moses, Deut. xxxiv. 1-12.
S. Psalm of Moses, Psa. xc. 1-17.
S. The Deliverer's Work Finished, Deut. xxxii. 44-52.

THE DELIVERER'S WORK FINISHED.

LESSON OUTLINE.—I. Last Words from Moses, Vss. 44-47. II. Last Words to Moses, Vss. 48-52.

QUESTIONS.—Vss. 44-47.—To what song does vs. 1 refer? Who assisted in this service of song? What land shall they possess who now honor God? What must be passed before they enter it?

Vss. 48-52.—To what mountain was Moses commanded to go up? Why was Moses to die at this time? (Vs. 51). What were the particulars of this trespass? What was Moses permitted to see? To what extent can Canaan be seen from the top of Mount Nebo?

The borders of the Promised Land were now reached. The Israelites were encamped on the east side of Jordan, opposite Jericho; and the time had come to cross the river and take possession.

After this, Moses wrote a song, or ode, for Israel, in which he magnified God's love and care for them, and warned them against rebellion and disobedience.

NOTES.—I. Last Words, (Vs. 44-47)

Verses 44.—All the words of this song Recorded in this chapter, (vs. 1-43). Moses was warrior, statesman, law giver, prophet, poet. This ode "soars to the loftiest heights, moving amidst the richest abundance of pictures of both present and future; is concise, compressed, pictorial, penetrating, sharp, but full of the holiest solemnity."

not enter the Promised Land, he asked him to appoint his successor; and Jehovah at once named Joshua, and bade Moses lay his hand upon him and give him a charge before the people.

Verses 45, 46.—All these words. Including the series of addresses which make up the Book of Deuteronomy, together with this song. Set your hearts. Moses solemnly bids them to give heed in mind and heart to these closing instructions—to hold them in memory and to obey them—and also to teach them to their children, and to command them to observe them.

II. Last Hours, (Vs. 48-52.) Verses 48, 49.—The selfsame day. The day in which he had rehearsed his song and given this warning, leaving him but time to utter the blessing in the next chapter; a day long to be remembered by the children of Israel.

Verses 50.—Die in the mount. "Behold the goodness and severity of God," (Rom. xi. 22). Goodness in gladdening the heart of Moses with a sight of the fertile and smiling land which Israel should possess; severity in meeting sin, even in this noblest servant, and calling him to die in full physical vigor, while "his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated."

Verses 51.—Because ye trespassed against me. No illustration of the penalty of sin could have made a profounder impression upon the minds of the children of Israel, than this disappointment to their great leader on account of his trespass.

Verses 52.—Thou shalt see the land. With a little knowledge of the principal natural points of interest in Palestine, and a little imagination, one can make the picture for himself. No miracle was wrought to bring the land before Moses.

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Moses was a wise law-giver. He believed in early religious instruction and was, himself, an example of its power. There is but one spotless character presented in Scripture; only one who was absolutely "without sin."

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The best of men have failings; and hasty words may bring a life-long sorrow.

For the Teacher of the Primary Class.

Moses lived 40 years. Moses went to take care of sheep 40 years. The children of Israel were in the wilderness 40 years.

The Bible says that, although Moses was one hundred and twenty years old, his eyes were bright and his body was strong. Moses led the children of Israel very near to Canaan. Our lesson is about "The last days of Moses."

Learn a little prayer that Moses once said about counting the days we have to live? Teach and explain the Golden Text.

—Abridged from the Baptist Teacher.

Youths' Department.

Scripture Enigma. No. 147.

1. In every house my first was found, And rolled and rumbled round and round; And this was woman's work, 'tis said, To fill each mouth with daily bread.

2. My next once propped a pilgrim's head; Once laid a threatening giant dead; Once showed God's help, and power to save; Once a new name to Peter gave.

3. Part of my first will make my whole, True picture of a callous soul! The paradox may make you stare; But of your own hard heart beware!

CURIOUS QUESTIONS. 273. Make a right angled triangle of words as follows:

- 1. A talking bird. 2. Encore. 3. Awkward walking. 4. A hole in the ground. 5. Within. 6. The centre of sheep.

274. Transpose 5 letters, and in accordance with these rhymes, and give the result. We are five comrades singled out From others quite as good, no doubt. First, as we stand, we are a mold, Wherein to fashion forms of gold.

275. I am composed of two words. My 1, 7, 6 is what Jesus was. My 6, 2, 8, 9 is what Jesus did. My 5, 7, 2, 3 is what Jesus does. My 3, 4, 8 is what Jesus will do, with us.

Answer to Scripture Enigma. No. 146. 1. Gaza; 2. Enon; 3. Tanus; 4. Hor; 5. Sinai; 6. Emmaus; 7. Moriah; 8. Ararat; 9. Nebo; 10. Ebal.

ANSWERS TO CURIOUS QUESTIONS.

265. Perfected Poetry. So should we live, that every hour May die as dies the natural flower, A self-resolving thing of power.

That every thought and every deed May hold within itself the seed Of future good and future need.

Esteeming sorrow, whose employ Is to develop, not destroy, Far better than a barren joy.

266. Word square: M I T E R I R E N E T E N D S E N D U E R E S E T

- 267. Proverbs xxx. 31. 268. Damascus. 269. Two hundred. 1 Sam. xxx. 21. 270. Babel. 271. Mule. 272. The year 1881.

A Swiss Hero.

"God has his plan For every man."

Whatever may be our views of war, the patriotic defence of a country has, in all ages, received its proper merit of praise.

A soldier's widow lived in a hut, near a Swiss mountain village. Her only child was a poor cripple. Hans was a kind-hearted boy. He loved his mother, and would gladly have helped her to bear the burdens of poverty.

It was at this period that Napoleon Bonaparte was making his power felt throughout Europe. He had decreed that Tyrol should belong to Bavaria, and not to Austria; and sent a French and Bavarian army to accomplish this purpose.

A secret arrangement existed among the Tyrolese, by which the approach of the enemy was to be communicated from village to village by signal fires from one mountain height to another.

The village where Hans and his mother lived was in the direct line of the route the French army would take, and the people were full of anxiety and fear.

"Ah! Hans," she said one evening, "it is well for us now that you can be of little use; they would else make a soldier of you."

"Look around our village—all are busy, all ready to strive for home and fatherland; I am useless."

"My boy, my kind, dear son, you are not useless to me."

"Hush, Hans," said his mother, "these repining thoughts are wrong. You will live to find the truth of our old proverb—

"God has his plan For every man."

Little did Hans think ere a few weeks had passed this truth was to be verified in a remarkable manner.

Easter holidays, the festive time of Switzerland, came. The people lost their fears of invasion in the season. All were busy in the merry-making—all but Hans; he stood alone on the porch of his mountain hut, overlooking the village.

In the evening of Easter, after his usual evening prayer, in which he breathed the wish that the Father of Mercies would, in his good time, afford him some opportunity of being useful to others, he fell into a deep sleep.

He awoke in the night, as if from a dream, under the strong impression that the French and Bavarian army was approaching. He could not shake off this impression; but with the hope of being rid of it, he arose, hastily dressed himself, and strolled up the mountain-path.

Hans saw instantly the plot and the danger. The secret of the signal pile had been revealed to the enemy; a party had been sent forward to destroy it; the army was marching to attack the village.

The two soldiers, whose backs were then turned to the pile, waiting the arrival of their comrades, were seized with fear; but they soon saw that there was no foe in ambush—naught but a single youth running down the mountain path.

The people with their arms were mustered thick and fast. All was consternation. The inquiry was everywhere heard, "Who lighted the pile?" "It was I," said at last a faint, almost expiring voice.

"Take me to my mother," said he; "at last I have not been useless." They stooped to lift him. "What is this? he has been shot. It is true; Hans, the cripple, has saved us."

"God has his plan For every man."

You see he had it for me, though we did not know what it was." Hans did not recover from his wound, but lived long enough to know that he had been of use to his village and the country.

Great emergencies like these which met Hans cannot exist in the history of all. To all, however, the Tyrolese motto may speak, and all will experience its truth.

SPOTTING.—A Western detective kept for many years a scrap book, in which he pasted accounts of crimes in which rewards were offered for the arrest of the criminals.

Turning over the leaves of this volume a short time ago, he checked off all the cases in which the fugitives had been caught, and found that a surprising number was still at large.

One night he observed that a roisterer in a bar-room had a peculiarly flattened finger. That was a mark to John Ott, who committed a murder at Tazewell, Ill., in 1869, and for whose arrest an offer of \$1,000 still held good.

A FLOWER.—A correspondent relates that the husband of a poor German woman who had suffered a relapse in her illness through the excitement caused in her by the passage of President Garfield's funeral cortege under her window, going to view the remains at the Capitol, brought back to his wife a bud that he caught as it loosened and fell from Queen Victoria's lovely wreath on the casket.

It bloomed by her bedside, disclosing a dove in the centre, and the poor woman, calling it the Christ flower sent from the dead President to heal her, began to mend immediately. It was an orchid, the Espirito Santo, and as they are usually sold at the price of twenty dollars a blossom, it gives one an idea of the royal prodigality of the wreath.—Examiner.