The Sabbath-School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Fourth Quarter-Lesson XI.-Dec. 16. DEATH OF SAMSON. - Judg. 16:21-

Golden Text.—Great men are not always wise. - Job 32:9.

We pass over another interval of a century and a quarter, containing several interesting events. There have been many departures from God, and much evil, and yet on the whole there must have been not a little progress toward true religion. This is shown by what is revealed to us in the story of Ruth, and by the general condition of the nation under Samuel, and the marvellous development of the kingdom under

THE PHILISTINE OPPRESSION .-In the Maritime Plain on the southwest of Palestine, between the Mediterranean and the Hills of Judah, lay a very rich country. This country was held by the Philistines. Towards the close of the wild and stormy period of the Judges, the Philistines were the most active and aggressive nation of Palestine. Their cities were restless centres of every form of activity. Their commerce was widely extended. Their skill as smiths and armorers was noted; the strength of their cities attests their success as builders. But they were pre-eminently devoted to war.

This warlike nation had overrun the southwestern part of Israel's possession for 40 years. It was against such an enemy that Samson was raised up.

SAMSON, ISRAEL'S HERO DEFEND-ER.—Samson means sun-like, the sun-hero; or, the destroyer. He was born at Zorah, in the tribe of Dan, close to the country of the Philistimes. His birth was announced by an angel, as if he were to have some special mission. He was miraculously endowed with strength. He tore a lion to pieces with his hands; he carried off the city gates of Gaza; he slew a thousand warriors with the jaw-bone of an ass. Samson's great strength was an endowment from God on condition of his living the life of a Nazarite, "one separated." It required (Num. 6: 2-5) total abstinence from grapes, wine, and all intoxicating liquors; that the hair should go un-(cut; and that all contamination with dead bodies be avoided. It was usually a temporary vow, but Samuel, Samson, and John the Baptist were perpetual Nazarites. The meaning of the vow was probably "entire consecration to God.

Living in a region exposed to the raids of the Philistines, Samson was for 20 years a bulwark against their incursions. He raised no armies; he organized no warfare, but only performed feats of heroism and prowess. He was engaged to marry a young Philistine woman of Timnath. At the seven-days' wedding feast, he gave a riddle, derived from his finding a swarm of bees in the carcass of a lion he had slain. In consequence of this riddle he makes an incursion upon the Philistines. With a gift which might have been of great use, he was yet morally weak. But we must judge of his immoralities by the light of a corrupt age, which had scarcely a rebuke for the kind of sins he committed. He was generally devoted to the cause of his people.

Samson's Fall.—Vers. 21-25. Samson was designed for great things. If he had been true to himself and to God, he might have risen to any height. Four times it is declared that "the Spirit of the Lord came upon him" in connection with his feats of strength. He was powerful because God was specially with him and in him. But from this exalted position he fell. He departed from God, and then "the Lord departed from him."

The cause must be sought in himself. He yielded to his own blind passions, and trampled on the law of his God. Morally, a man falls of his own will. Satan himself cannot hurl him down the heights of virtue against his own will. He did not fall at once. His descent was gradual, and almost imperceptible to himself. He tampered with appetite and gratified his animal desires; and thus gradually he lost his power.

Falling in love with a woman named Delilah, he became infatuated by his passion. The princes of the Philistines determined by means of it to get possession of his person. Delilah, by many temptations and blandishments, learned from Samson the secret of his strength. A moment of weakness disclosed to her the fact that it lay in his hair. Not that his strength really lay in his hair, for this, in fact, had no natural influence upon it one way or the other. His strength arose from his

relation to God as a Nazarite; and the preservation of his hair unshorn was the mark and sign of his Nazariteship, and a pledge on the part of God of the continuance of his miraculous physical powers. If he lost this sign of his consecration, he broke his vow, and forfeited the thing signified. God abandoned him, and he was thenceforward no more in this respect than an ordinary man. His treacherous paramour seized the first opportunity of putting his declaration to the test. She shaved his head while he lay sleeping in her lap; and he was instantly arrested by his enemies lying in wait. He is made to reap as he had sown. But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes: instead of putting him to death. Thus, as they thought, preventing any future mischief on his part. To disable a rival, or an enemy by boring out his eyes, has ever been a common expedient in the East. Even to-day it is not unknown. And bound him with fetters of brass: rather, copper. Common prisoners were bound with ropes or thongs. And he did grind in the prison house. This grinding was performed by hand-mills. This task was usually performed by female slaves. To grind corn for others, was, even for a woman, expressed the most degraded and oppressed condition. But it is more probable that Samson was degraded to the state of a beast, and made to turn such a mill as that usually turned by asses or mules. Howbeit the hair of his head began to grow again. And it is implied that his strength grew with it. From the return of his strength with the growth of his hair, we can only understand that he repented, and renewed voluntarily the vows which had been imposed upon him before his birth, and which had been imposed upon him before his birth, and which he had broken. Then the lords of the Philistines gathered them together unto Dagon their god: a sea idol described in 1 Sam. 5.: 4. Our god hath delivered. They regarded the idol as superior to Jehovah. They praised their god. Samson now saw with shame and sorrow how the name of the Lord had been dishonored through his misconduct. Call for Samson that he may make us sport: dance and make music. He was probably known to be an accomplished dancer. The sexes never mingled in the ancient Eastern dance. And they set him between pillars: in full view of the people. He was made to stand there, after the dancing, to receive the jests of

the feasters. SAMSON'S REPENTANCE AND TRI-UMPHANT DEATH.—Vers. 26-31. And Samson said unto the lad. Being blind, a boy was employed to lead him about by the hand. Suffer me that I may feel the pillars. He probably was weary with his dancing. Whereupon the house standeth. It appears that there was a flat roof, from the top of which, as well as under it, spectators could what was being done, and that this roof was mainly supported by two pillars. The lords and principal persons seem to have sat within, under the roof, while the people, to the number of 3,000, stood on the flat roof. And Samson called unto the Lord. This is evidence of his repentance. That I may be at once avenged of the Philistines for my two eyes. It must be borne in mind that the words of Samson are not a mere vindictive imprecation on those who had injured him. If he had had no higher or worthier motive than this, the Lord would not have answered as he did. He makes appeal to God in his representative character, that he would vindicate his own honor. Let me die with the Philistines: I am willing to die, if only I can accomplish this victory. He knows that if his deed be successful, he cannot escape. But he is also ready to die. He is reconciled with his God." Samson no more committed suicide than does a brave general when, with certain death before him, he rushes into the thickest battle, confident that his fall will save his country from a hated foe. And the house fell. When the pillars were removed, the weight of 3,000 people brought the roof down with a fearful crash, and those above fell upon those below, together with the stones and timbers, and a great slaughter was the result, Samson himself perishing under the ruins. Upon the lords. They are mentioned first because their death was of great political significance. The great numbers who perished would have had little effect upon the relations of the Philistines and the Israelites, if among them had not been the leaders. The dead which he slew at his death. If three thousand were on the roof, there were doubtless as many more

below. Eshtaol: a villiage near Zorah. Judged Israel twenty years.

He must have begun his career of

judge quite young, as the Philistine oppression lasted but forty years, and he was born after it began. His office of judge was probably confined to the southwestern part of Caanan, to Dan, and the neighboring tribes.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF SAMSON. God uses even imperfect instruments for accomplishing his end.

Christians, like Samson, are separted from the world, consecrated to

Strength of body or mind or spirit is a blessed gift of God.

When he broke his Nazarite vow he lost his strength, and was taken captive. This was to teach the Israelites that all their strength lay in consecration to Jehovah, and that they had lost it by departing from their vows of allegiance. It teaches us the same lesson.

His weaknesses were providentially overruled so as to exhibit to Israel and to us the folly as well as the sin of such indulgences.

We learn the perils of bad company. Whosoever goes willingly into bad company is already more than half fallen.

Those who are unfaithful to God will most likely prove unfaithful to

Sinful pleasures, like a common Delilah, lodge in our bosoms and tempt us to sin.

The sins of Christians bring dishonor upon God.

God remembers the penitent and hears his prayer. Only by self-sacrifice can the

greatest victories be won.

The Calcutta Missionary Conference has resolved to organize a Temperance League.

The British Women's Temperance Association has now 400 branches and 25,000 members.

Forty-two out of sixty-one places for registering selected by the au thorities in Detroit were in saloons.

The Church of Ireland Temperance Society comprises 100 local associations with over 24,000 members.

Of the recently elected Aldermen of New York, it is said one is a brewer and eleven others are liquor-dealers.



PUBLIC NOTICE. MAILS CLOSING

CITY TIME

ON and after Monday, 26th inst., mails will close as follows;—For St. John, St. Stephen, St. Andrews, Woodstock, Grand Falls, the United States and all points West, at 6 30 A. M.

For St. John, Newcastle, Chatham, Nova Scotia, P. E. Island, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, &c., at 12.00 A. M.

For St. John, St. Stephen, Woodstock, and the United States, at 3.00 P. M.

English mail will close every Monday night via New York at 8,30 and every Friday via Halifax at 11.30 A. M.

AT Hotel and street letter boxes will be served at 11.30 a. m. and 10.30 P. M. served at 11.30 a m. and 10.30 p. M. P. McPEAKE,

Post Office, Fredericton, Nov. 24th, 1888.

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WEST VIRGINIA. G W P, Jesse Jones, Wolf Creek, Monroe Co.

GS, Rev. J Edgar Wilson, Union Mon-

roe Co.

Place of Meeting, Bivisions, Numbers Night of Meeting, and name of Deputies.

St. Stephen; Howard, 1; Friday; S. Webber; Milltown, St Stephen; Wilberforce, 3; Monday. H. McAllister.

Market Building, St. John; Gurney, 5; Thurs day; John P. Bell. Market Building, St. John; Gurney, 5; Thurs day; JohnP.Bell.
Orange Hall Portland; Portland, 7; Monday; A. Y. Paterson.
Market Building, St. John; Albion, 14; Monday; EA Everett.
Gagetown; Queens, 21; Saturday; H. J. DeVeber.
Chatham; Northumberland, 37; Friday; G. Stothart.
St. John; Mariners and Mechanics, 38; Tuesday; John Kinney.
Hillsboro, Albert Co.; Albert, 39; Wednesday; John I Steeves
Sackville, West. Co.; Sackville, 40; Tuesday
J. C. Harper.
Richibucto, Kent Co.; Richibucto, 42; Wednesday; A. Haines.
Newcastle; Newcastle, 45; Thursday; Jas. Falconer.
Point de Bute, West. Co. Westmorland, 50; Thursday; Jas. W. Colpitts.
Hopewell Hill, Albert Co; Golden Rule, 51
Tuesday; L, R. Moore, enfield, Charlotte Co.; Safeguard, 58; Saturday; H C Trynor.
Cambridge, Queen's Co., Johnston, 62; Saturday; George S. Wilson,
Dalhousie; Dalhouse, 64; Monday; G. Haddow Baie Verte; Baie Verte, 65; Wednesday; R. Goodwin.
Dover, West. Co.; Dover. 70; Saturday;

Upper Gagetown, Queens Co.; Oxford, 130,; Saturday; James E. Coy. Benton, Carleton Co.; Garibaldi, 151; A. F

Saturday; James E. Cov.
Benton, Carleton Co.; Garibaldi, 151; A. F. Campbell.
St. Martins, St. John Co; St. Martins, 164
Tuesday; Samuel Osborn
Moncton; Moncton, 183; Monday; F. W. Steeves
Douglas, York Cc.; Dunphy's W. O. Farmers
190; Saturday; Arthur W. Ross.
Salisbury, West. Co, Crystal Stream, 191
Monday; C. A. Beck.
South Bay, St. John Co.; Lime Rock, 207
Monday; Wm. Roxborough,
Milford, St. John Co.; Everett, 238; Tuesday
Greo. H. Waring.
Mor ton; Intercolonial 243; Friday; MissVena Fawcett
Victoria Mills, West. Co.; Victoria, 245; Thurs
day; A. J. Main.
Baillie, St. James, Char. Co.; Baillie, 248; Wednesday; John A. Robinson.
Weldford, Kent. Co; Harcourt, 249; Saturday;
H. Wathen.
Portland; Valley, 250; Tuesday; J. Fowler.
Butternut Ridge, King's Co.; Havelock 251
Friday; E. Keith.
Petitcodiac, West. Co.; Petitcodiac, 252 Tuesday D. A. Jonah.
Lewis Mountain, West. Co.; Sunnyside, 253
Saturday; John Lounsbury.
Millstream, Kings Co. Britannia, 255!; Saturday
C. W. Weyman.
Little Ridge, Char. Co.; Spreading Oak, 256;
Tuesday; A. F. Matheson.
Fredericton; Lanedowne, 257; Thursday; H. H
Pitts.

Fredericton; Landowne, 257; Thursday; H. H. Pitts.
River Charlo, Rest. Co.; Charlo, 259; Thursday;
J. H. Galbraith.
teeves' Mountain, West. Co.; Mountain Rose
260; Saturday; R. Lutz, Sr.
Hamp'son, King's Co.; Spring, 262; Monday

Pamprion, King's Co., Spring, C Jarnes Pomroy Ridge, Char. Co.; Mayflewer, 263 Thursday; W. Moulton. Scotch Ridg, Char. Co.; Iona, 264; Wednesday; D. M. Sinclair. Oak Hill, Char Co.; Oak, 265; Thursday; Harry E' Grimmer.
Tower Hill, Char. Co.; Wills, 266; Saturday.
S. S. Smith.
2d Falls, St. George Char. Co.; Stewart, 269

G W P, F W Flanders, Wilmot Flat.
G S, H F Smart, 28 S Main St., Racine.
WISCONSIN.
G W P, Mary E. Lunn, 109 8th Street Rachine.
G S, John C Lunn, 727 Villa Street, Rachine.
CALIFORNIA.
G W P, Stephen Bowers, San Buenaventure.
G W P, Stephen Bowers, San Buenaventure.
G S, E J Tuggey, 1358\(\frac{1}{2}\) Stephenson St., San Francisco.
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TENNESSEE.
G W P,
G S, E B Caldwell, Athens.
MARYLAND, JR.
G W P, Gabriel Height, 616 N Spring
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TENNESSEE.
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G W P, John Alexander, Columbia.
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G W P, E M Vick, Crabbe Street, Portsmouth.
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Gibson, York Co.; Gibson. 306; Friday; J.
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Portland, N. B.; Silver, 308; Friday
Rev. J. Spencer.
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309; Monday; R W Dinsmore
Waterside, Parish of Harvey, Albert Co
Gladstone No. 311; Friday; Rev. S. O
Moore.

Waterside, Parish of Harvey, Albert Co Gladstone No. 311; Friday; Rev. S. C Moore.
Kingsclear, York Co.; Kingsclear, 315; Wednesday; Isaac Kilburn, Deputy,
Buetouche, Kent Co; Buctouche, No. 317
Tuesday; Wm. Wry.
Mount Middleton, Kings Co.; Mount Middleton, 318; Friday; Joseph Chapman.
McKenzie Corner, Carleton Co., McKenzie Corner Livision 319 Friday; Jas. Forest.
Stylesville, Westmorland Co.; Mapleville, 320
Saturday; James McFarlane.
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BMonday; A. W. Bent.
Clark's Corner, Queens Co; Clark's Corner, 325
Thursday; Isaac H. Carle.
Fredericton, No. 2 Gordon, No. 326; Wednesday, Sergt. Major McKenzie.
Smith's Corner, Walker's W. O, Kent Co.
Olive Branch 327 Saturday, Ephraim Wheten
Berry Mills West Co. Millville, 328, Monday
John T. Prince.
Blackville, Northumberland Co.; Blackville,
329; Wednesday; E. W. Gaynor;
Black Brook, North. Co; Silver Stream, 330;
Wednesday; Wm. Tait.
Tattagouche, Gloucester Co; Forest Home,
331; Thursday, Richard Bell.
Bathurst, Gloucester Co;; Ever Onward, 332,
"Monday, Dr. Wm. P. Bishop.
Dalhousie Junction, Restigouche Co., Maple
Green; 333; Wednesday, Wm. Jamison.
Little River, Buctouche, Kent Co. Forest
View No. Co 334: Monday, Chas. E. Hicks.
Upper Woodstock, Jubilee 335, Wednesday,
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Napan, North Co., Napan, No. 336 Thursday
Alex Dickson.
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Mapleton, Albert Co., Mapleton, No. 339, Tues day. J A M Colpitts.

Boiestown, North. Co. Boiestown, No. 341, Wednesday; Rev Thos. Allen.

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Moncton, Bulmer, No. 343, Sattleday; James M. Murray, deputy.

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St. John, Excelsior, No. 346, Tuesday, Robert Wills.

Baie Verte; Baie Verte, 65; Wednesday; R. Goodwin.

Dover, West. Co.; Dover. 70; Saturday; Alfred E. Steeves.

Carleton, St. John; Granitz Rock, 77; Tuesday; John C. Thomas.

Derby, North. Co.; Nelson, Monday; J. Betts 99
Douglastown, North. Co.; Calledonia, 126; Tueday; J. Henderson.

Collina Corner, Kings Co.; Collina, 129; Thurs day: Jacob I. Keirstead.