

The Sunday School

BIBLE LESSON.

Abridged from Peloubet's Notes.

Third Quarter, 1905.

JULY TO SEPTEMBER.

Lesson XII—September 17.—Daniel in Babylon.—Daniel 1: 8-20.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself.—Daniel 1: 8.

EXPLANATORY.

I The Book of Daniel.—This book describes the life and teachings of the prophet Daniel, who was a young man of noble descent, and lived in Jerusalem. In the third year of king Jehoiakim he was carried away captive to Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar, and there by his godliness and wisdom rose to high office and great influence. He lived at least till a. c. 535, all through the seventy years' captivity, and died at the age of 85.

II. Daniel's Temptation and Determination.—V. 8. During the first of the Babylonian attacks upon Judah, made by Nebuchadnezzar against Jehoiakim, Daniel was captured, together with three other youths who afterwards escaped unhurt from the fiery furnace. These four, with others were chosen from the captives on a count of their beauty, talents, and noble descent, and were attached to the royal court. There they were to be educated in the Babylonian language and learning, and trained to become trusted officers. This was not an uncommon course, for Eastern despots found that foreigners, brought up under their own eye and wholly dependent upon them, were more loyal than natives who were made bold by many alliances, friendships, and relations.

8. But. This change of name did not produce a change of heart; for Daniel purposed in his heart, literally, "I laid it on his heart," that he would not defile himself with the king's meat. American version, "the king's dainties," rich food such as was served at Nebuchadnezzar's table. He requested of the prince of the eunuchs, Ashpenaz (v. 3), into whose charge they had been committed. He was superintendent of the eunuchs, who had charge of the king's harem and of the education of the king's sons.

What Was Daniel's Power with which he conquered the alluring temptation? A purpose in his heart. A consecrated will. We know he was a man of prayer, and doubtless he sought strength from God to buttress his determination.

III. The Test of Temperance.—Vs. 9-14. A still further temptation to intemperance, in Daniel's case and the case of many a man of modern times, was friendship. Certainly Ashpenaz was kind to him, and doubtless an affection grew up between them. Probably the plea of the prince of the eunuchs was more powerful than all the motives of policy and ambition.

9. God had brought Daniel into favor

NO DIFFERENCE.

Old People Just as Happy as Young.

Age cannot wither nor custom stale the infinite variety of life.

When the right food makes one new each day there seems as much simple happiness when one is old as when young, but bounding health is the requisite and right food produces that.

A happy woman of 77 tells her experience:

"For three years," she says, "I was greatly troubled with a nervous affection of the stomach, which at last brought me to such a condition that I could neither eat nor sleep with any sort of comfort. I grew very despondent and felt that my hold on life was very uncertain. It was difficult for me to find that I could digest. My doctor kept me on a diet of rice for a long time, but it did not seem to give me any strength."

"I am glad that at last I decided to try Grape-Nuts food, for it has done a wonderful work for me. Before I had used up the first package I began to take a new interest in life, and I rapidly increased in health and strength. My stomach has regained its normal tone and in the two years that Grape-Nuts has been my only food, I have not had a sick day. I am 77 years old and Grape-Nuts has restored to me the pleasure of living. I am sorry I did not begin sooner to use it. I cannot praise it too highly." Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich.

There's a reason.
A 10 days trial is sufficient.

and tender love. American version, "made Daniel to find kindness and compassion." Compare Joseph's case Gen. 39: 21.

10. I fear my lord the king. Well might he fear for his life. "He was servant to a king who could execute children before the eyes of their fathers (2 Kings 25: 7; Jer. 39: 6) and in a moment of passion threaten with death the 'wise men' of his country (Dan. 2: 5, 12)." For why ("lest would be the better rendering.") should he see your faces worse looking (American version, "worse looking") than the children which are of your sort? R. V., "the youths of your own age?" "We have merely a condensed summary of what was probably a prolonged argument."

11. Said Daniel to Melzar. Not a proper name, but the melzar, the chief butler or steward, who actually furnished the food.

12. Give us pulse to eat. "Rather, vegetable food in general; there is no reason for restricting the Hebrew word used to leguminous fruits, such as beans and peas, which is what the term 'pulse' properly denotes." And water to drink. "Water is best." Pindar's famous sentence has been approved by all wise men.

IV. The Results of Temperance.—Vs. 15-21. Temperance never fears tests; it is intemperance, and the liquor-dealers who foster it, that are afraid to be investigated. No one would become a drunkard if, before taking the first glass, he could be brought to see the contrast between an intemperate and an abstemious life. It is always just such a contrast as was shown by Daniel and his comrades.

First Results of Temperance: Beauty, Strength, Health. 15. Their countenance appeared fairer and (R. V. inserts "they were") fatter in flesh. As one of the first of modern chemists has said, there is, in nine quarts of alcohol, less food than can be spread on the end of a table knife. Nor is it a source of strength. For, alike in Africa and India, in the Arctic and Antarctic, and by great labor employers in the temperate zones, and by distinct experiments with navvies in gangs and soldiers on the march, it is matter of proof that those can labor best, both physically and mentally, in whom the cold is not intensified by the weakening reaction from artificial stimulant, and in whom the sun's fierceness has no 'alcoholic ally within the brain.' Nor is it a source of health; for the lives of total abstainers are now known to be more valuable in on insurance than other lives and not a few very eminent living physicians have testified that the daily use of it, even in quantities conventionally deemed moderate, not only 'causes some of the most fearful and dangerous maladies,' but even 'injures the body and diminishes the mental powers, to an extent of which few people are aware.'

16. Thus Melzar (R. V., "So the steward") took away . . . their meat (American version, "dainties,") and the wine. The Hebrew verb implies continuous action; he kept taking away the delicacies and wine, and giving them vegetable food.

Second Result of Temperance: Mental Power. 17. As to these four children, R. V., "youths." This Hebrew word is applied to Joseph at the age of seventeen, to Benjamin at the age of thirty, to Reboam's young counselors at the age of about forty. These four were probably about sixteen years old. God gave them, as a reward for their right living, knowledge and skill (intelligence) in all learning (literature) and wisdom (science). The "science" of Babylonians, however, "except in so far as it took cognizance of the actual facts of astronomy, was in reality nothing but the systematized superstition." Daniel, moreover, had something more than the wisest Babylonian—direct spiritual insight into the hidden things of God, understanding in all visions and dreams. The most conspicuous illustration of this power, his interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, occupies the next chapter.

Third Result of Temperance: Position and Influence. 18. Now at the end of the days. The three years of v. 5, fixed by the king for the training of all the young captives.

19. Commanded Simply "talked." Therefore stood they before the king. These four young men, because of their manifest superiority, were selected to become Nebuchadnezzar's personal attendants, high and powerful officers in the kingdom.

20. In all matters of wisdom and understanding. In everything which requires peculiar wisdom to understand and explain. He found them ten times better. "Better counsellors better informed." The following chapter illustrates Daniel's vast superiority to all the magicians and astrologers. The precise meaning of these terms is little understood. Perhaps magicians—the sacred scribes, skilled in interpretations of mystic writings, and astrologers (i. e., 'enchanters')—Babylonian philosophers and astronomers, who interpret the stars.

Fourth Result of Temperance: A Long Life. 21. And Daniel continued. Simple words, but full of meaning. "Amid all the intrigues indigenous at all times in dynasties of Oriental despotism, and amid the envy towards a foreign captive in high office as a



king's counselor, amid all the trouble incidental to the insanity of the king and the murder of two of his successors, in that whole critical period for his people, Daniel continued." Even unto the first year of king Cyrus. B. C. 538, when Cyrus, having conquered Babylon, issued his edict for the rebuilding of the temple. Even beyond that important date Daniel lived (Dan. 10: 1), so that he had seventy years of public service, and reached an age of at least eighty-five.

A man who knows a great deal about flower culture gave this advice to a girl who complained that she could not rear any kind of plant, although she was always patronizing the florist and investing in ferns and palms. "I'll tell you what may be the matter. The plants you buy have only just been re-potted or transplanted. They look sturdy in the florist's shop, but if he were to keep them in the window a day, or two they would droop and die, just as they do with you. What they need is darkness and coolness, not heat and light. Give them a chance in some cool, dark place to sink their roots into the soil and become accustomed to the new earth and the new pot. Also try the plan of putting ferns and palms in the cellar now and then, to give them a rest. They need it, just as we do at times."

A wise, tender and opportune dealing with souls is sure to be successful. It is the high privilege and pressing duty of private Christians as well as of ordained ministers. It is, however, too much of an unused power at the present day. It must find ample exercise in the home and in the community if the fall and winter campaign for Christ projected by our church is to produce the fullest possible results. Observe signs and conditions, and seize all favorable opportunities for bringing the unsaved into his kingdom.

"Hey, mister!" yelled the urchin, as Gubbins rushed up with his arms full of packages. "What's that?" "Saidnug jo nervous traveller, stopping to examine his bundles. 'What have I lost?' 'About two minutes,' replied the boy, dodging out of the way."

He: "I think every woman is entitled to be considered man's equal." She: "Well, if she is willing to bring herself down to his level, I don't see why she shouldn't be allowed to pose as his equal."

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SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST

HOMESTEAD REGULATIONS.

ANY even numbered section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the North West Provinces, excepting 8 and 26, not reserved, may be homesteaded upon by any person who is the sole head of the family, or any member of a family, or any male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section, of 160 acres, more or less.

Entry may be made personally at the local land office for the district in which the land to be taken is situated, or if the homesteader desires he may, on application to the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, the Commissioner of Immigration, Winnipeg, or the local agent for the district in which the land is situated, receive authority for some one to make entry for him.

HOMESTEAD DUTIES: A settler who has been granted an entry for a homestead is required to perform the conditions connected therewith under one of the following plans:

(1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year during the term of three years.

(2) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of any person who is eligible to make a homestead entry under the provisions of this Act, resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for by such person as a homestead, the requirements of this Act as to residence prior to obtaining patent may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.

(3) If the settler has his permanent residence upon farming land owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead, the requirements of this Act as to residence may be satisfied by residence upon the said land.

APPLICATION FOR PATENT should be made at the end of three years, before the Local Agent, sub-Agent or the Homestead Inspector.

Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa, of his intention to do so.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy of the Minister of Interior.



UPPER CANADA COLLEGE

FOUNDED IN 1829

Toronto, Ont.

PRINCIPAL, HENRY W. AUDFN, M. A. Cambridge, late Sixth Form Master at Fettes College, Edinburgh.

The College will reopen for the Autumn term on Wednesday, Sept. 13th, 1905, at 10 a. m. Separate Preparatory Department for boys between the ages of 9 and 13, with separate staff and equipment. 50 acres of grounds. Separate infirmary with physician and trained nurse. Courses for University, Royal Military College and Business. Every facility for cultivation of sports and athletics. Examinations for Entrance Scholarships, Saturday, Sept. 16th, 1905. Special Scholarships for sons of old pupils.

For Calendar and all particulars address THE BURSAR, UPPER CANADA COLLEGE, Toronto, Ont. [Sd 20]

WANTED

For the Schools at Wolfville.

1. A man and his wife for Steward and Matron of "College Residence," the boarding house of College students.

2. A head cook for Acadia Seminary.

3. Two women to have the care of rooms in College Residence and the Academy Home.

4. Ten young women to work in dining rooms and kitchens of Acadia Seminary, Horton Academy and College Residence.

5. One man servant for the Seminary, to have charge of fires and do all sorts of general work.

Write the undersigned for full particulars, stating what position you will accept.

A. COHOON,

Sec'y. Executive Committee.

