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Direct importation from Belgium:
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Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists.

The Sabbath-School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

First Quarter-Lesson II.—January 8.

REBUILDING THE TEMPLE.

—Exra 3:1-13.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*They praised the Lord, because the foundation of the house of the Lord was laid.*—Exra 3:11.

THE SETTLEMENT of the returned exiles in Palestine. The 50,000 exiles, after their long hard march from Babylon, a journey 500 to 700 miles according to the route they took, and occupying at least four months, reached Jerusalem the last of July. They found the city in ruins, as it had lain for 50 years since its complete destruction by Nebuchadnezzar. The immediate vicinity seems to have been restored to them, but on every side the heathen or the mongrel population had encroached.

REBUILDING THE ALTAR.—Vers. 1-3, 6. And when the seventh month was come; that is, the seventh month of the Jewish year, Tishri, corresponding to parts of our September and October. This month was remarkable for including three feasts; The Feast of Trumpets on the first day, of Atonement on the 10th, and of Tabernacles from the 15th to the 22nd. In the cities surrounding Jerusalem. The people gathered themselves together. As one man. With one spirit, one aim and purpose. Then stood up. Arose and went at the work. Jeshua. The high priest. Built the altar. Restored the old altar of burnt offerings. The temple was in ruins, and the first thing renewed was the altar. Burnt offerings... as it is written. These burnt offerings were for sin as symbols of atonement. Their first need of all returning wanderers is forgiveness and deep repentance. They set the altar upon his bases. They built the new altar upon the foundations of the old one. Build your new altars on the old foundations, your new forms on the old principles. For fear was upon them. The fear of the tribes or nations around them, their enemies, did not induce them to take arms, or to erect fortifications, but to prepare an altar and offer sacrifices, by which they put themselves under protection of Almighty God. Apprehensions of danger should stir us up to duty. The real reason for many of our trials and dangers is to lead us nearer to God. Burnt offerings morning and evenings. The regular daily sacrifice commanded by Moses. Regular worship was instituted on an altar, surrounded by desolation and ruins. And it was as acceptable as the same worship amid the gleaming marble and gold of Solomon's temple. Why? Because it was the best they had. But if Solomon had lived in a palace of cedars, and then left God's altars to smoke amid desolation, his worship would not have been acceptable. A church or a Sunday-school can be very successful in a barn, or cave, or log hut, if that is the best place they can have; but not if men put every convenience in their homes and use them in their business, and leave their church work to be done amid the greatest disadvantages.

RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS.—Vers. 4-6. The feast of tabernacles. The Jewish national thanksgiving day, at the close of the harvest. It lasted seven days; and during those days, they were commanded to dwell in booths made of the boughs of trees. And afterward offered the continual burnt offering. After the sacrifices of the feast of tabernacles, the usual order of daily sacrifices was continued. Of the new moons. At the beginning of each month. Set feasts. The other festivals of the year, as the Passover, Pentecost. Consecrated. Set apart as holy times. Freewill offering. On occasions of special thanksgivings or needs.

PREPARATIONS FOR BUILDING THE TEMPLE.—Vers. 6, 7. From the first day. Thus aroused, they immediately began to prepare for building the temple. They gave money also. Their own workmen were paid in money. Masons... carpenters. The choice workers in these trades had been carried captive. Hence there would be such among those who returned. The money paid out may have come partly from the regular taxes, but chiefly from the gifts of the people. Those who remained in Babylonia had given liberally. Free gifts are always the best gifts. The heart is enlarged. The feelings of gratitude and loyalty to God are strengthened. It costs something to build a temple, to repair a church, to support a minister, to run a Sunday-school, or to do anything else that is commendable in this world. And having a share in the expenses is quite as important in church work as taking part in praying and praising and exhorting. And meat. Food. And oil. Olive-oil, used as we do butter. Them of Zidon... Tyre. Those who cut the cedars of Lebanon, and floated them by sea to Joppa,

now Jaffa, the sea-port of Jerusalem. According to the grant. A permission to build the temple, and of necessity, therefore, to trade for timber wherewith to build it.

LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS. In the second year. Of their return, B. C. 535. In the second month. Zif, the month of "blossom," corresponding to our May. Jeshua, the high priest. And all. Not only priests, but all those who returned, joined in this work. And appointed the Levites. Those left of the tribe of Levi, including priests. Twenty year old and upward. All went to work who were well grown and able. To set forward. To superintend and direct. Jeshua. Not the high priest of ver. 2, but the head of one of the two Levitical houses, as Kadmiel was of the other. Sons of Judah. A third Levitical family uniting in the work with the other two. The first important thing in life and in religion is to lay deep and strong foundations of the right kind. The foundation of character, of a true life, of pure religion, is Jesus Christ. The builders, i. e., Jeshua and Zerubbabel, who were at the head of affairs. Priests in their apparel, with trumpets like our church-bells, for summoning assemblies and joyful announcements. The sons of Asaph. One of the great choir leaders of David's time. Cymbals, musical instruments very like those in use among us under the same name. After the ordinance of David. David first organized choirs and music for the temple services. And they sang... by course, alternately or responsively. He is good, etc. These words first appear as the doxology at the close of the psalm written by David, and sung at the bringing of the ark to Jerusalem. And all the people shouted with a great shout. To express with all the intenseness possible their joy. Many... ancient men. These must have been at least 60 or 70 years old, for the temple was destroyed 61 years before, 20 years after the first captivity. Wept with a loud voice. The weeping was not because the new temple was smaller than the first, for it was at least one-third larger in every dimension; but in magnificence of structure and adornment it promised little in comparison. The ark of the covenant, the sacred fire on the altar, the Urim and Thummim, were absent. All the associations that gathered around the old temple were wanting in the new. Many shouted... for joy. The younger were joyful that they had any temple.

OPPOSITION AND DELAY.—The temple, whose foundations were so joyously laid, was not completed till 20 years later, B. C. 515, just 70 years after its destruction. Immediately after the foundations were laid, there arose a sharp and persistent opposition from the surrounding people. The race of mongrel Jews and heathen from the far east, as mongrel in religion as in race, from whom descended the Samaritans, desired to unite with the returned Jewish exiles in building the temple. They were peremptorily refused. This made them bitter enemies of the Jews. They wrote slanderous letters to Persia, and succeeded in having the permission to build rescinded, and the work stopped by force for 14 years.

W. E. T. Union.

OUR MOTTO.—If God be for us, who can be against us.

Prohibition and Woman Suffrage.

WORDS OF SYMPATHY AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM MRS. YEOMANS, THE WELL KNOWN CRUSADER.

To the Editor of the Templar:

DEAR SIR,—I read The Templar from week to week with increasing interest. I rejoice in the advanced step you have taken on the prohibition line, having long since despaired of either political power espousing the cause of prohibition unless the temperance men stood shoulder to shoulder in defence of their homes. I am fully convinced that the temperance element of this country constitutes a majority; that even if they do not form a new party, their influence withheld from the old ranks would constitute a balance of power for the side that would champion the cause of prohibition.

When I was in England a few years ago, I was informed that the Good Templars in one constituency resolved to support no man who would not pledge himself for local option. They had done so before, but had failed to carry out their resolution. This time their would be no surrender. Accordingly they met in their hall soon after the opening of the polls, talked the matter over, and as Nehemiah the old reformer said, strengthened each other's hands. The forenoon passed away, the battle meanwhile waxing hotter and hotter. Some one had noticed that not a temperance man

had been seen at the hustings. What could it mean? Someone said it had been reported that those fanatics would not vote for any man unless he pledged himself for temperance. Is it possible that they are now carrying out their ideas? Oh! nonsense, was the response, they have pledged themselves that way a score of times and always broke their word at the last. However one of the candidates took the hint, he hastened to the lodge room and on entering it, a sight met him that would cause any aspiring candidate to dance for joy, here was actually a balance of power. He bowed graciously to the company and enquired, "Why! gentlemen, what are you doing here? What keeps you away from the polls?" One of the sturdy number replied, "We are just waiting to see which candidate will come to our terms." "Your terms?" he responded, "Pray tell me what they are?" "To support Sir Lawson's Bill, of course, which empowers each elector to say whether the public house shall be opened over against his home." The candidate responded, "Gentlemen, that is the most reasonable request in the world, I now pledge myself most solemnly to stand by Sir Wilfred's Bill."

They gave him a hearty cheer, and went in a body to the polls, and together cast in their votes and secured his election, thus acting the part of free and independent electors. A grand illustration of the sentiment expressing the power of the ballot, which comes down still as snow flakes fall upon the sod, but executes the free men's will as lightning do the will of God.

I would that every Christian temperance man would go and do likewise. I learn that the temperance women of Manitoba are petitioning for suffrage. I am glad of this. Manitoba in many respects is taking the lead, and we of Ontario will have to look well to our laurels or we will be eclipsed. I was very tardy in falling in line on this question. Miss Willard used to say to me, good naturedly, "Oh! you will come inching along yet, see if you don't." And now I am at high water mark on the question.

While very grateful to the Ontario Legislature for municipal suffrage, I cannot understand why a woman should be a widow or an old maid as a necessary qualification for voting. It is a poor rule that don't work both ways. Let there be a new regulation that no man shall hereafter be allowed to vote unless he be a widower or an old bachelor. We women are very grateful to Mr. Walters for advocating our cause. If he has not been successful, he has at least drawn out the sentiments of the government on the question. Some of the members treated the matter sneeringly, others possessing better balanced minds, have treated it with respect.

Sir Oliver Mowat maintained the dignity and courtesy which has always characterized him. In replying to the petition presented by the ladies, he admitted that their arguments were unanswerable, that women as a class were morally better than men. He hoped to see his way clear some time in the future to favor their request, but at present did not see the country ready for that question.

Now will Sir Oliver tell us what will constitute a readiness? Must the men of the country get up to the same altitude as the women, or must the women descend to a level with the men? You know, Mr. Editor, the female mind is somewhat obtuse. We need a little enlightening just here. In conclusion I would say, give honor to whom honor is due. Sir Oliver has steered the ship of state so successfully for the last twenty years, and let us hope as a culminating act of his political career, he will give us, if it is in his power, prohibition for Ontario.

LETITIA YEOMANS,
19 Metcalf St., Toronto.

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GENTLEMEN,—I think your valuable medicine cannot be equalled, because of the benefit I derived from it. After suffering from headache and loss of appetite for nearly three years I tried B. B. with great success. It gave me relief at once, and now I enjoy good health.

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Passengers from St. John for Quebec and Montreal take through sleeping cars at Moncton at 12.40 o'clock.

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D. POTTINGER,
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Railway Office,
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And every species of disease arising from disordered LIVER, KIDNEY, STOMACH, BOWELS OR BLOOD.
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