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The Sabbath-School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

First Quarter-Lesson I. — January 1.

RETURNING FROM THE CAPTIVITY.—Ezra 1: 11.

GOLDEN TEXT.—The Lord thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee.—Deut. 30: 3.

Ezra was a Jewish scribe, a Levite, and descendant of Aaron. He lived in Babylon. He was the collector of the books of the Bible, which he edited and revised; the author of 2 Chronicles, Ezra and Nehemiah; and the originator of synagogue worship.

THE CAPTIVITY. In order to understand the condition of affairs at the time of this lesson, it is necessary to briefly review the account of the captivity, covering a period of 70 years.

The First Captivity by Nebuchadnezzar in the last year of his father's reign. It was at this time that Daniel and his friends were carried captive to Babylon, and from this date is to be counted the 70 years of captivity foretold by Jeremiah.

Second Captivity. Nebuchadnezzar again captured the city, sent a great amount of treasures from the palace and the temple to Babylon, with 10,000 of the more important of the people. Among these were the prophet Ezekiel, and the great-grandfather of Mordecai, Queen Esther's cousin.

The Third Captivity was also by Nebuchadnezzar, who, after a siege of a year and a half, in July, 586, completely destroyed the city and temple.

The Cause of the Captivity was the moral condition of the people. Every effort possible—by slighter punishments, by revivals of religion, by prosperity, by prophets, by warnings, and by promises—had been made to save the nation. But they went on in disobedience and idolatry and ungodliness, till nothing less than this exile could restore the nation and save true religion to the world.

THE SEVENTY YEARS' EXILE. The numbers given in the accounts of the siegers were probably heads of families; and many more than these—women, children, servants—were made captive. Those taken away were the leading spirits, the most active and promising in various directions, the flower of the princes, patricians, and priests, skilled mechanics, and once substantial burghers, while the residue were left in the land to keep it from utter ruin.

The condition of the people varied at different times and in different places; but at least in the earlier years, the iron of slavery entered deeply into their souls. They seem to have been settled in colonies here and there over the land, working at all forms of bond service, but allowed free intercourse with each other and retaining their distinct organizations and customs. Gradually, however, matters improved. Some rose to the very highest situations, such as Daniel, who became prime minister; Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who also got high promotion; and afterwards Nehemiah, who became cup-bearer to the king of Persia. Many would be employed as craftsmen or artisans. "Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them." The period of the exile was one of general waking up among the nations. Nebuchadnezzar was building Babylon into a magnificence of architecture beyond any the world had seen.

One result of the exile was in leading them to set increasing value on the spiritual services of religion, instead of upon rituals and forms. Hence God allowed even the city which was the type of heaven, and the most glorious temple dedicated to his worship, to be destroyed when these became a substitute for true religion instead of an aid to it. They had no prophet, sacrifice, incense, temple, and therefore were led to study of the Scriptures and to prayer. The captives were sifted on their return by the call for volunteers, who would naturally be the most religious, the most zealous, and the most vigorous ones. It led to the renewed study of the Sacred Scriptures. It led also to the establishment of the synagogue for social worship and reading of the Scriptures, with its accompanying schools.

The captivity served as a missionary scheme to spread the knowledge of God over the world. It was an aid in preparing the world for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, by having in every large place a body of people who believed the Old Testament, and had places of worship where the Gospel could be preached.

Contact with the great world extended the views and enlarged the sympathies of the nation. They came in contact with new ideas, a new literature, a new language. They could not live so exclusively as in Palestine, but each individual met the individuals of other nations.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE RETURN. In looking over the 70 years of exile, we notice a number of things which tended to prepare the way for the return. There was a providential preparation through a change of government. The first world-kingdom was the Babylonian, by which the Israelites were made captive.

The work of the prophets prepared the way. Ezekiel himself among the captives preached a spiritual religion, requiring a new heart and a new life. Daniel's example and teaching, as the wisest, best, and greatest of men in the kingdom, and holding the highest offices, his faithfulness to his religion, his visions of prophecy, his humble and earnest prayer, must have exerted a powerful influence.

Through these and other influences there was a moral change in the character of the exiles. They had gone into exile on account of their sins; and unless they turned from their sins, there could be no return from exile.

There was a process of unification of the nation. The people of Judah met in captivity the descendants of the other ten tribes who had been exiled 150 years before. The most religious ones of all tribes united together. The two rods became one.

In the first year of Cyrus. His first year as sole king at Babylon. Cyrus king of Persia, That the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled. This word was the promise that, after 70 years, the Lord would bring his people back again to Palestine. The Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus. By the direct influence of his Holy Spirit upon the king's mind. Made a proclamation. This was an official document. Put it also in writing.

To preserve it on the records that no mistake or reversal of the decree might occur. The Lord God of Heaven. Hence the controller of all men and affairs. Hath given me all the kingdoms of the earth. Of course this is a somewhat extravagant boast of Cyrus. But he did possess a large part of the most prominent countries. He hath charged me to build him an house at Jerusalem. It is reasonable to conjecture that the king's attention was drawn by Daniel to the prophecy of Isaiah. Who is there among you? The return was to be a volunteer movement, which in all respects was the best both for the purpose of Cyrus and for the new Jewish settlement. Whosoever remaineth in any place where he sojourneth. Literally correct; but the meaning is, "And with regard to all those who remain in any part of the country where they have their temporary abode."

THE RETURN. The three periods of return. In the history of the restoration of the Jews to their own country, the names of three Jewish leaders are prominent: The first Jewish leader was Zerubbabel, who left Babylon when Cyrus came to the throne. The second Jewish leader was Ezra, who went up from Babylon about 80 years after Zerubbabel. The third Jewish leader was Nehemiah, who went up from Susa, or Shushan, in the twelfth year of the same Artaxerxes.

What they took with them. And all they that were about them. Their heathen neighbors and friends. Precious things. Their personal property must have amounted to considerable, for on their arrival at Jerusalem they contributed \$400,000 in gold and silver for the rebuilding of the temple.

The March Home. If we may trust later traditions, the setting out of the Captivity for Palestine was joyous in the extreme. An escort of one thousand cavalry accompanied them, for protection against the desert Arabs, then, as now, given to plunder, and they started to the music of tabrets and flutes.

W. C. T. Union.
OUR MOTTO.—If God be for us, who can be against us.

Scientific Temperance Instruction in our Public Schools.

I feel sure it will be interesting to the readers of this column to peruse a copy of Scientific Temperance Education Law which was enacted last April by the Legislature of Nova Scotia. I believe no better law than this on this subject can be found on any statute book. The people of that Province are to be heartily congratulated upon securing to their children and youth such a boon as this will prove, if all the provisions of the act are carefully enforced, as we trust they will be.

The Legislature of Prince Edward Island also passed a Physiological Temperance Act at its last session, and that Board of Education has adopted the Pathfinder Series of Temperance Text-books. All this is greatly encouraging to White-Ribbons who have worked and prayed long for these results.

But what shall we say of New Brunswick? Although the first of the Maritime Provinces to place Temperance upon the course of study, it now finds itself bringing up the rear. We believe, however, this will not long be the case. While we are deeply grateful that our Board of Education makes this a mandatory study in part of the grades of our schools, we cannot feel satisfied until all the children in all our schools are taught that alcohol, if taken into the system, proves the deadly enemy of the human race, and the only way to escape its ravages is to let it alone everywhere and always.

To this end the Maritime Woman's Christian Temperance Union, at its Convention held in September resolved to petition our Legislature to enact, at its next session, a thorough temperance Education Law. These petitions are now being circulated for signatures throughout the province as far as possible. If any persons, reading this column are willing to assist in this work, and will intimate the same to me, I shall be very glad to forward to them forms for signature.

Mrs. R. A. B. PHILLIPS, Supt. Scientific Temperance Instruction for M. W. C. T. U. Fredericton, Dec. 5th, 1892.

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE MORE THOROUGH STUDY IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOLIC DRINKS AND NARCOTICS ON THE HUMAN SYSTEM.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Council and Assembly as follows:

1. Appropriate instruction shall be given in the public schools as to the nature of alcoholic drinks and narcotics, and special instruction as to their effects upon the human system in connection with the several divisions of the subjects of relative physiology and hygiene, all of which subjects shall be taught as regularly and thoroughly as other branches are taught in said schools.

Such instruction regarding physiological and hygienic laws and the effects of alcoholic drinks and narcotics shall be given orally from a suitable textbook in the hands of the teacher to pupils unable to read, and such instruction shall be given to all others with text-books in the hands of the pupils and from text-books as well graded to the capacities of the pupils as other text-books are, and such instruction shall be given as aforesaid, in all public schools in the Province to all grades.

2. The text-books to be used for instruction required to be given by the preceding sections of this Act shall be prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction, who shall notify the secretaries of the respective Boards of Trustees and of the School Boards of the several incorporated towns and cities within the Province of the choice of the text-books so selected by them as aforesaid, and said text-books used in the primary or intermediate grades shall give at least one fourth of their space to the consideration of the nature and effects of alcoholic drinks and narcotics; and the text books used in the higher grades shall contain at least twenty pages of matter relating to this subject.

It shall be the duty of school officers and school inspectors to report to the Council of Public Instruction any failure on the part of the Trustees or the teachers of the schools under their control, to carry out the provisions of this Act. Upon its being shown to the Council of Public Instruction either by such school inspectors or school officers or any rate payer that any teacher or trustees have failed to carry out the provisions of this Act any such failure shall be deemed sufficient cause for withholding wholly or in part, from any such teachers or trustees Provincial and County grants.

NOTE.—Examination of teachers.

A previous Statute that required all teachers before receiving certificates to be examined for all the studies they are required to teach, will require examinations in the branch specified by this Act.

Keep Minard's Liniment in the House.

You need not cough all night and disturb your friends; there is no occasion for you running the risk of contracting inflammation of the lungs or consumption, while you can get Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. This medicine cures coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs, and all throat and chest troubles. It promotes a free and easy expectoration, which immediately relieves the throat and lungs from viscid phlegm.

Their gentle action and good effect on the system really make them a perfect little pill. They please those who use them. Carter's Little Liver Pills may well be termed "Perfection."

GIVES GOOD APPETITE.

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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TRAINS WILL LEAVE ST. JOHN.

Express for Campbellton, Pugwash, Pictou and Halifax.....7.00
Express for Halifax.....13.30
Express for Sussex.....16.30
Through express for Pt. du Chene, Quebec, Montreal and Chicago.....16.55

A parlor car runs each way on express trains leaving St. John at 7.00 o'clock and Halifax at 7.00 o'clock.
Passengers from St. John for Quebec and Montreal take through sleeping cars at Moncton at 19.40 o'clock.

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN.

Express from Sussex.....8.25
Express from Chicago, Quebec and Montreal (Monday excepted).....10.25
Express from Pt. du Chene & Moncton.....10.25
Express from Halifax, Campbellton and Pictou.....11.00
Express from Halifax and Sydney.....22.30

The trains of the Intercolonial Railway between Montreal and Halifax are lighted by electricity and heated by steam from the locomotive.
All trains are run by Eastern Standard time.

D. POTTINGER, Chief Superintendent.
Railway Office, Moncton, N. B., 29th June, 1892.

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The coach colors in all the usual shades. The varnish in one and half gallon tins, different qualities.

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NOW Landing per schooner Estella R—1621 Pieces Terra Cotta Pipe—4 and 1 inch.
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Walnut Parlor Suits in Gold and Crimson Embossed Plush, \$39.00
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Silver Cake Basket, 4.25
A fine assortment of Reed and Fancy Rookers from \$2.50 upwards. Large stock of Fancy Goods at 20 per cent. discount. Grand Bargain Counters for the Holiday Trade.

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This preparation is well known throughout the country as a safe and reliable cathartic and

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For Coughs, Colds & LaGrippe, A little night and morning will soon break them up.

For Dyspepsia, It will give immediate relief.

For Irregularities of the Bowels, Nothing can be found to excel, as it causes no griping nor pain.

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It is an invigorator of the whole system, whereby a regular and healthy circulation is maintained, has been well tested already, and will do all we say of it. Only 50 cents a bottle—\$5.50 per dozen.

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