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The Sabbath-School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Second Quarter Lesson X.—May 31

DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM FORETOLD.—Luke 21: 20-36.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.—Luke 21: 33.

QUESTIONS BY THE WAY.—V. 7. Matthew 24: 31; Mark 13: 3.

4. As Jesus with his disciples left the temple, they called his attention to the magnificent temple buildings. Jesus' reply was that the time was coming when not one of these stones should be left upon another. They asked "Tell us, when shall these things be, and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" The answer brought encouragement, warning, hope, and courage. It aided their faith. It threw light on their path. It was necessary that they should understand that, though their Master was crucified, that was not the end.

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE.—V. 8-27. Matthew 24: 31; Mark 13: 27.

27. Jesus gave the disciples a glimpse of what was before them. The Immediate Future; the Troubles Times which Preceded the Destruction of Jerusalem. In the earlier verses we see some of the troubles and difficulties in the midst of which they were to lay the foundations of the church. The temple was to be destroyed. This was necessary in order to graft the new religion upon the old.

False Christs would arise, pretensions to royalty, or attack on the Romans, or outward forms would deceive many. Then would come great wars and rumors of wars, and all kinds of disturbance and commotion. The very foundations of society would be upheaved as by an earthquake. Famines and pestilences would follow, with fearful sights and signs. Nature itself would seem to sympathize with the moral upheavals and revolutions. Perhaps no period in the world's history has ever been so marked by these convulsions as that which intervenes between the crucifixion and the destruction of Jerusalem. Between this prophecy and the destruction of Jerusalem there were (1) a great earthquake at Crete A. D. 46 or 47; (2) one at Rome, A. D. 51, (3) one at Apamia in Phrygia, A. D. 53; (4) one at Laodicea in Phrygia, A. D. 60; (5) one in Campania; (6) one in Jerusalem, A. D. 67, described in Josephus (Wars of the Jews, IV. 4, 5). Pompeii was partly destroyed by an earthquake, A. D. 63, and, with Herculaneum, wholly overthrown in August, A. D. 79.

There were to come fierce persecutions, by which some should be slain, others cast into prison and scourged.

Even their own families would turn against them and betray them even to death.

They would be hated by all men, called all manner of names, be social outcasts.

The love of many would wax cold. They were too weak of faith to stand fast against all this opposition. Many even in the church itself would fall away.

Second. The Destruction of Jerusalem, and the End of that Age or Dispensation. When ye shall see Jerusalem compassed by armies, Jesus was probably sitting upon the "exact spot where the famous Tenth Legion of the Roman soldiers who captured Jerusalem were encamped during the siege. The city was magnificent with its palaces, and strong walls, and marble temple with golden roof and pinnacles. It is hard to realize the terrible times which came upon Jerusalem a few years after the death of Christ. The people were treated with horrible cruelty by the Roman authorities. Jerusalem was surrounded by the Roman Legions. Fearful wars and rumors of wars were all over the land. Soon there was civil war in Rome itself. Then the disciples could know that the desolation thereof is nigh. Let them which are in Judea flee to the mountains. These could escape with comparative ease. Jesus practically forbids his disciples to join in the terrible series of revolts. The struggle was hopeless. It would accomplish little, even if successful, and it would give the impression that the Christians were but a sect of these turbulent Jews, and thus hinder the saving work of the gospel. Let them which are in the midst of it (the city) depart out. The city of Jerusalem was twice threatened, once by Cestius Gallus (A. D. 66), who, having drawn up his army before the city, when he might have taken it, but, for no apparent reason, withdrew his army. It may have been at this time that the whole body of the Church of Jerusalem, having been commanded by a divine revelation, removed from the city, and dwelt at a town beyond the Jordan. Two years and a half later (May, A. D. 66), Vespasian retired from Jerusalem, after having conquered its environs. Thus another opportunity was given for obeying Christ's injunction. It is

said that not a single Christian perished in the siege, because all obeyed. These be the days of vengeance, of the divine punishment on account of their sins. All things which are written. The language refers to Old Testament prophecies. But woe unto them, etc., whose sufferings will be aggravated by the distress. Great distress.... and wrath upon this people. The city was crowded by the multitudes which had come up to the passover. Pestilence ensued and famine followed. Led away captive into all nations. A fact which has continued till this day. There are about 8,000,000 Jews in the world, somewhat more than the number in Palestine at the time of Christ. Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles. All sorts of Gentiles have trodden down Jerusalem since then. Until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. By the times, is meant the period allotted for their full evangelization.

Third Vision. The Coming of the Son of Man. The times beginning at Christ's death and ending with the destruction of Jerusalem witnessed one real second coming of the Son of Man. In each of the first three Gospels Jesus is reported as saying that that Generation should not pass away before the Son of man should appear in the clouds with great power and glory.

1. This period was a second coming, a return to earth and to his church after his death. This was absolutely necessary to the work of the apostles in building up the church. They could not found it on a dead Christ. The first rays of his coming began at the resurrection, appeared more fully in the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and became a completed coming, or phase of his coming, when the old dispensation passed away at the destruction of Jerusalem, and the new dispensation took its place.

2. This coming was personal, he promised to abide with the church. "Lo, I am with you always."

3. It was preceded by great judgments such as are here described.

4. The gospel was first preached to all nations. So Paul says in Romans 1: 8, and in Colossians 1: 6, 23.

5. Thus we see that the expectation of the immediate coming of their Lord was not a mistake of the apostles.

6. They could not tell the hour, because they did not know the manner of his coming, nor understand its full meaning.

Fourth Vision. The Coming of the Son of Man.—Vs. 25-27. There shall be signs in the sun and in the moon. These verses seem to have a look beyond the destruction of Jerusalem to the final coming of the Son of man, though applicable to both events. The sea and the waves roaring express vividly the wild commotions among the people, political and social agitations. Then shall they see the Son of man coming. All these things must necessarily precede the coming of the Son of man. In a cloud, amid all this commotion and upheaval, with power and great glory. Only power divine can bring the kingdom of God.

PROMISES OF COMFORT AND HOPE.—Vs. 28-33, also 18 and 19; Matthew 24: 13, 14. The promised coming of Christ is a great joy. Then look up, take courage, do not despair when you see these troubles and commotions, but see in them the sign and proof that your redemption draweth nigh, your deliverance from evil, the success of your work, the uplifting of the truth, the gospel, the kingdom you preach. The greater the commotion, the stronger the sign that the good time is near at hand. The fig tree and all the trees; when they now shoot forth, you know.... that summer.... is at hand. It is a natural and necessary sign. Know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand. The commotions were produced by the working of the kingdom of God upon a wicked world. My words shall not pass away. They were fulfilled in the return of Christ, and in the destruction of Jerusalem, and therefore are certain to be in the days to come.

W. C. T. Union.

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

Student's Social.

The usual annual entertainment for the students of the Normal School, was given last Thursday evening, by the ladies of the W. C. T. U. A goodly number were present. After the opening exercises, Mrs. L. W. Johnston, president, welcomed the students and assured them that the W. C. T. U. had always and would continue to have a kindly interest in the Normal students. Mrs. Phillips' address bet g a resume of the progress of Scientific Temperance work was particularly good. It will be found in the column this week. Dr. McLeod gave a racy and agreeable address, recalling the memories of his own teaching days,

and impressing upon the students the importance of instruction in temperance to the children who may come under their care. Mrs. Gill spoke of the blight of intemperance, as she frequently saw it in her evangelistic visits to the jail and in the city. The pledge was read by the Secretary, Mrs. Sampson, and the students invited to sign it, which was generally responded to particularly noticeable that two young men led the way.

The musical part of the entertainment, was by no means the least. T. U. entertainments, was the presiding musical genius. The selections were excellent. There were duets and solos and choruses, all of which were well rendered, and received hearty applause. At the close refreshments were handed round, and social conversation was freely participated in. A rising vote of thanks to the W. C. T. U. was tendered by the Normal students. After the singing of Auld Lang Syne, the pleasant evening closed.

Address by Mrs. R. Phillips, given at the Students social.

In February 1884, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, of F'lon., gave their first entertainment to the students of the Normal School. The members of the Union have been "At Home" to the Normal students one evening each term for these twelve years. About 1,600 young men and women have signed the temperance pledge at these socials.

One object the Union had in view in extending courtesies to the coming teachers of the province was to become acquainted with them and to prove our interest in, and sympathy for them and their chosen profession; we desired also to present the total abstinence pledge for signatures. Our primary object however was to secure their aid in bringing temperance teaching into our public schools. For some time we had been putting forth effort in this direction with little success however. We decided that, although there was no law making temperance teaching compulsory, neither was their one prohibiting it therefore we would appeal personally to the teachers to seize every opportunity to make known the truth concerning the injurious effects of alcohol upon the physical, intellectual and moral nature of mankind; not only to their pupils, but to parents and all with whom they come in contact. Now, however the conditions are changed. On April 5th, 1893, our legislature enacted an excellent Temperance Education law, and through the efforts of our worthy chief Sup't. of Education (to whom we are deeply grateful) ample time has been accorded the subject in the course of study, and highly approved textbooks have been prescribed. Although the original necessity of these socials does not now exist, it is our intention to continue them. We do not purpose to forego the pleasure and privilege of meeting our young friends in this room. That any one present will ignore the subject of temperance or give it small quarter in their schools we do not believe. But we all know there are two ways of teaching as well as of doing other things. There is a I-have-to-do-it sort of method, and a I-love-to-do-it manner of doing school room work. It is the latter method we bespeak for the subject of temperance. Give to it of your very best, put your souls into it. Prepare your lessons thoroughly and make them so intensely interesting that your very sleepless pupils will wake up and the entire class be enthused. If the Inspector fail, upon repeated visits, to call for this subject gently remind him that there is no branch taught to which your pupils more heartily respond than that of Physiological temperance. When parents, trustees, etc., call, treat them to a temperance lesson. In this way a double good is often accomplished, a rich, though unexpected harvest reaped. Believe in the subject? magnify it! make much of it! Apology is utterly uncalled for. We are hearing much of Prohibition Conventions and Prohibition candidates for Dominion parliament, that we may gain a prohibitory liquor law. Let the boys now in school become so thoroughly indoctrinated in "The reasons for total abstinence drawn from a knowledge of the nature of alcohol and all narcotics, and from their effects upon the human system," that prohibition candidates will be a plus quantity instead of a minus as at present, and these elected will bear the test, proving themselves men whom big salaries, portfolios or whatever pressure, political or otherwise is brought to bear cannot cause them to swerve from their allegiance to the principles of prohibition for the country and total abstinence for the individual.

Many a one can say, I am a man that hath griefs, but the Spirit comforteth me. I am a man that knoweth not the way, but the Spirit leadeth me.

Woman's Christian Temperance Union Employment Bureau.

The W. C. T. U. of Fredericton has opened an Employment Bureau in their Coffee Rooms.

Young women from the country desiring domestic service would do well to call at these rooms where they may be assured of a kindly interest in their welfare by the presiding matron of this department. Be sure and call at the W. C. T. U., Coffee Rooms, York street, Fredericton.

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18 SUMMER ARRANGEMENT. 1895

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TRAINS WILL LEAVE ST. JOHN.

Express for Campbellton, Pugwash, Pictou and Halifax.....7.00

Express for Halifax.....13.10

Express for Quebec and Montreal.....16.30

Express for Sussex.....16.49

Passengers from St. John for Quebec and Montreal take through sleeping car at Moncton at 19.30 o'clock.

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN.

Express from Sussex.....8.30

Express from Montreal and Quebec (Monday excepted).....10.30

Express from Moncton (daily).....10.30

Express from Halifax.....15.50

Express from Halifax, Campbellton and Pictou.....18.30

Accommodation from Moncton.....24.30

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BOILESTOWN, N. B. June 6th 18

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E. BELL, Methodist Minister

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