

Health

Depends upon keeping the blood in a pure condition, free from disease germs, and yet there are very few people who have perfectly pure blood. Hood's Sarsaparilla cleanses, vitalizes and enriches the blood, throwing out the impurities that clog and irritate the system and permits no lodgment of the seeds of disease. Read the following: "I cannot recommend Hood's Sarsaparilla too highly for it has done wonders for me. I was

Sick

and all run down and my health was so poor I could not get out of doors. I was not able to do anything, being troubled with asthma and heart disease. I was nervous and could not sleep nights. I had become completely discouraged when I happened to read an advertisement of Hood's Sarsaparilla and concluded to give it a trial. After taking the first bottle I felt better and since taking five bottles I am so much improved that I feel like a new man. I am now able to do a fair day's work and sleep

Well

at night. My heart does not trouble me and I have realized great relief for asthma. I feel full of courage once more and life seems brighter and worth living. I would recommend Hood's Sarsaparilla to all afflicted as I have been, for I know it will help them. If this statement of facts will be of benefit, you are welcome to use it as you please." HENRY J. WRIGHT, Box 502, Oxford, New York.

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—AND—

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McMURRAY & CO., wish to return their sincere thanks to the public for their generous patronage for the past 17 years they have been in business. And as we have decided to make a change in our business we therefore ask all indebted to us over six months to call at once and settle their accounts before June 1st, and all those whose accounts are standing over one year after that date will be placed in the hands of an attorney for collection. In order to reduce our stock at once we have decided to sell our large stock of Organs, Pianos, Sewing Machines and Fancy Goods at a Great Reduction, as almost all must be sold by July 1st. We have on hand a large stock of Organs manufactured by Karm, Dominio and Doherty, also a number of second hand Organs and Pianos that must be sold regardless of cost, also a very large stock of Sewing Machines, The White, New Home, New Williams, Climax New Ideal, Green and Standard.
Persons wishing any of these will consult their interest by calling and examining them or write for prices. New American Sewing Machine for \$22.50 until all are sold, and if you are not satisfied after 3 months trial we will refund the whole amount paid. Any person wishing a fine piano would do well to call and look over stock over, as this is a chance in a lifetime to purchase one at a very low price.

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The Sabbath-School.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

Third Quarter—Lesson X.—Sept. 6.

DAVID'S LOVE FOR GOD'S HOUSE.—1 Chron. 22: 6-16. Compare Psalm 84. Commit Verses 11-13.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*Blessed are they that dwell in thy house; they will still praising thee.*—Psa. 84: 4.

THE INTERVENING HISTORY.—After the decisive victory described in last lesson, David returned to Jerusalem. But it took some time to unite the northern and southern sections. Then followed several years of peaceful development of the kingdom.

David's early exposures, wars and cares "left him a worn-out man before he was seventy." As his end drew near, his son, Adonijah, then between thirty and forty years old, but totally unfit to be a king, made an attempt to be his father's successor. Joab joined in his plan. But the prophet Nathan succeeded in having Solomon proclaimed king before Adonijah's friends rose from an inauguration feast to which he had invited them. They fled, and Solomon practically took the throne.

DAVID'S UNFINISHED WORK.—Vs. 6-8. David had accomplished nearly all of his heart's desire as to his kingdom. But there was one great work on which he had set his heart which he could not accomplish, and that was the rearing of a temple which should hold up the name of the true God before the nations, and make permanent in his own nation the principles and teachings of the divine religion. Then he called for Solomon.... and charged him. Probably a little before the old king's decease.

It was in my mind, it was my desire and purpose, to build an house, etc. But, God forbade him to build the temple, because, *Thou hast shed much blood, etc.* David is not blamed for his great wars. They were necessary wars, defensive wars, to keep the enemies of true religion from destroying the nation and the religion it represented; or for the necessary punishment and restraint of crime. (1) These wars took up his time. (2) They unfitted him for the best doing of the great work of peace. (3) It was fitting that the temple of the true God for all the world should be a temple of peace. It was intended to proclaim peace, to bring peace, to teach peace to individuals and to nations.

Some must do a work in reform that prevents them from doing other good work. It often happens that the pioneers and those who fight the battles of reform are not the best fitted for the upbuilding of the cause in peace. Some can cut down forests and break up the ground, while others can plant the seed and cultivate the crops.

THE FAVORABLE CONDITION OF THE KINGDOM.—Vs. 9, 10. David had brought his kingdom to the most favorable condition for a continued peace. At the time of David's death Israel alone numbered about 6,000,000 souls, as we infer from the 1,300,000 "valiant men that drew the sword." The Philistines, formerly an object of special terror to the Israelites, had lost their independence. Neither was there anything more to be feared from the cruel Amalekites. The possession of the mountainous district of Idumea was secured by garrisons. The land of the Moabites offered great advantages by its rich flocks. All the conquered nations were tributary, and paid heavy taxes. But, what was the principal thing, true fear of God prevailed throughout the land. His name shall be Solomon, which means peaceful. I will give peace and quietness unto Israel in his day. For the fulfillment of this prophecy.

I will establish... his kingdom... forever. This promise, so far as Solomon is concerned, is made conditional on his obedience.

THE QUALITIES NEEDED FOR DOING THE LORD'S WORK.—Vs. 11, 13.

1. God's presence. *The Lord (Jehovah) be with thee.* God will be with us when we live in communion with him, and seek to know and do his will. Every good comes to those who walk with God and enjoy his favor and protection.

2. Readiness to do God's work. His great work was to build the house of the Lord. It was for this purpose that God chose him to be king. God gives us property, or talents or whatever of good he has bestowed upon us, in order that we may aid God's kingdom.

3. Wisdom and understanding. *Only the Lord give thee wisdom and understanding.* For the fulfillment of this prayer see 1 Kings 3: 12; 2 Chronicles 1: 12. No work requires more wisdom than the Lord's work. And only he can give the true wisdom. But he giveth that wisdom liberally to all who ask him. Nor can true wisdom, even for worldly duties, be obtained anywhere else.

4. Obedience to God. *That thou mayest keep the law.* Wisdom and understanding would lead him to

keep the law of the Lord. There is no way to usefulness and success in doing God's work except by a careful obedience to his law. *Then shall thou prosper, if thou takest heed.* God wants to prosper us. He greatly desires our happiness, but he cannot reward disobedience or prosper those who refuse to walk in the only way that can bring true prosperity through holiness. We must fulfil our part of the covenant.

5. Courage. There would be hindrances, enemies, discouragements, delays, and trials, as there always are in doing a good work. But a perfect trust and a courageous heart will surmount them all.

All these qualities are needed in building God's spiritual temple.

PREPARATIONS FOR BUILDING THE TEMPLE.—Vs. 14-17. *Now behold, in my trouble, or amid my troubles and cares. An hundred thousand talents of gold.* A talent is a weight equal to 3,000 shekels, which was the principal unit, as a pound (lb.) is with us. A shekel weighed 224 grains troy, and a talent weighed 117 pounds, 19 pennyweight, 16 grains. There are two ways in which talents of gold may be reckoned. One is to regard a talent as so much weight of gold. In which case a shekel's weight of gold is worth \$9.60, and a talent's weight \$28,800. The 100,000 talents of gold would thus amount to \$2,880,000,000. This added to the thousand thousand talents of silver, each worth \$1,920, or \$1,920,000,000 in all, would make a total of \$4,800,000,000, which seems almost beyond probability. It is possible that the numbers, being designated by letters, often with lines or dots over them, were miscopied. But there is another way of reckoning. It is possible that the talent meant a certain value in silver, whether the amount was accumulated in gold or silver. Take the English pound for an illustration. Originally a pound sterling (£) was equal to a pound of silver. Now, while the name is kept, the value is but one third of a pound of silver, and then the value of the £ is the same whether paid in silver or gold. £1000 paid in silver is the same as £1000 paid in gold, = \$4840; but 1000 pounds of gold are worth \$200,000. Now these talents of gold may be talents' worth of gold valued by the silver standard. 100,000 talents' weight of gold would be equal to \$2,880,000,000. But 100,000 talents' worth of gold would be worth only \$192,000,000. Lange says, "So large a sum gathered and saved by David is not inconceivable, but has its parallel in other high sums of Oriental antiquity. Compare the £34,000 of gold and 500,000 talents of silver which Cyrus seized in the conquest of Athens, the 40,000 talents of uncoined gold and silver which Alexander seized in Susa alone, the 120,000 talents which the same conqueror acquired in Persopolis."

Workmen, ordinary laborers, cunning men, skilled workmen.

In addition to what David had accumulated, large gifts were offered by the princes, officers, and elders of the kingdoms, at a great meeting which David called for the purpose.

PRACTICAL HINTS.
God is building a spiritual temple in the world, and also one in the soul of each of his children.
God's temple is best built in peace. Religion flourishes when it builds more than it fights; though both at times are necessary.
Great and long preparations are necessary, and rich and costly gifts, both for the temple in the world and the temple of the soul.
God needs not only the gifts of the rich and great, but the gifts of all. The blessings have come to all. Let all give for the Lord's work.
It is a great privilege to live and labor, to do business, and to make honest gains for this great object.
"And thou mayest add thereto." (v. 14). Great things have been prepared for us, as there were for Solomon,—books, schools, colleges, government, inventions, ideas, etc. Each of us should add thereto, and make the world better.
Building up God's church in the world calls for help from all in the Sunday schools. What if each one in the Sunday schools should do and give even a little!

W. C. T. Union.

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

"A Pathetic Scene."

The touching incident recorded below is taken from an American book, entitled "Prevailing Prayer; or, the Secret of Soul Winning," by R. V. E. Wigle. This incident is an encouraging one for Rescue workers. We never know, beneath the hardest exterior, but the germs of divine truth may lie hidden, the good seed sown by some loving hand, at some time or other, and graciously preserved by the Holy Spirit to bear fruit after many days. Let no one be discouraged by long waiting and patient efforts apparently thrown away, but leave the

results to Him who is "marvellous in working."

A Portland, Oregon, correspondent of the *Interior*, vouches for the truth of the following incident, showing how ready God is to hear and answer prayer. The story is one of much pathos, and is narrated by the physician himself, as follows:

"Let me tell you of an experience of mine that taught me the forgiving power of God's love, more than any one thing in my life. This was before I gave my heart to Christ, while I was still in the darkness of the shadows of the mountains that I had created of scepticism and unbelief. One Sunday evening I was sitting in my office, listening to the church bells ringing for evening service, and studying over a sad case I was then attending. It was a young woman, an inmate of one of those houses that curse this city: she was dying with typhoid fever. Disposition and disease had done their work, and left no hope.

"A rap at my door, and word that 'Nellie was worse.' In a few moments I was at her bedside, almost in the shadow of the stately spire of one of our city churches. With a sign of recognition a poor little hand was held out and laid in mine. 'Doctor, can't you save me?' came from the thin lips. Kindly as I could, I told her there was no help for her on earth; her hope must be in the world to come.

"Through the open windows, borne upon the soft air of autumn, came the music of the organ of the church close by. Soon the singing of a hymn, familiar to childhood, caught her ear, and as she listened, the tears flowed down her cheeks, and at last in the agony of her despair she cried, 'Oh, my God, my God, if I were only a little girl with my mamma again.' It was the wail of a broken heart. I talked earnestly with her, asking that I might send for a clergyman to talk with her and pray for her. 'No, no,' she said, 'please don't leave me, no one can do me any good but you, doctor,' (this time the request came unhesitatingly), 'you pray for me. Please pray that God will forgive all my sins. He will hear you: tell Him how sorry I am, and to please forgive poor, poor Nellie.'

"How could I pray, myself a sinner! but a power like the weight of a thousand words bore me to my knees, and I asked God to forgive this poor dying girl. Prayer brought peace to her heart, while it added to the burden of my own. A few moments' quiet, then I saw the delirium of the fever returning. In her wandering I caught the words, 'Mamma, kiss little Nellie.' I thanked God that even in delirium Nellie was with her mamma again in their quiet, happy country home. No tempter had entered there; the sunshine chased the shadows across the floor; through the open window the gentle breeze brought sounds of rippling brooks, of buttercups and daisies, of singing birds, of cool shadows beneath the forest trees.

"Another change—I saw the end was near. The lips moved, and I bent forward to hear the thin lips repeat:

"Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
If I should die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.
Please, God, bless dear papa and mamma and little Nellie."

"Quiet again. I could almost hear the rustling of the angels' wings as they hovered about that bed. A gentle sigh, a loosening of the clasp that held my hand, and, gentle as the dew fall upon the hillside, her spirit was borne to its Maker.

"I returned to my office, but not to rest. The power that brought peace to Nellie, brought trouble to my soul, and only through prayer in my own silent room did I see the first glimmer of light that grows brighter to me every day. It seems a long distance off, but with the help of God I hope to draw nearer and nearer, until all the shadows are gone and I can see my way to a life bright and clear in the home of God. If our Father in Heaven is so willing to hear the prayer of one poor sinner for another, how much more the prayer of His obedient and trusting child for the sinner!"—*The Sentinel*, London, Eng.

Thankful to B. B. B.

DEAR SIRS,—I am thankful to Burdock Blood Bitters that I am strong and healthy to-day. I suffered from Biliousness and bilious fever so much that I was out of my mind night after night, but I am now entirely cured by the use of two bottles of B. B. B.

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Express from Halifax.....15.50
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Methodist Minister

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