

Sabbath School Department.

International Bible Lessons.

THE CHRISTIAN ARMOR.

AUG. 17—Ephes. vi. 10-20.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."—Ephesians vi. 11.

How to Teach the Lesson.

BY REV. E. G. TAYLOR, D.D.

The Christian as a soldier, is a familiar figure in Paul's Epistles. See 1 Cor. ix. 26; 1 Tim. ii. 3, 4; iv. 7. As suggesting one reason for this, see Acts xxviii. 16. He is represented as in actual warfare, against real, and powerful enemies; but provided with complete armor; encouraged to stand; to be strong; and to "fight the good fight of faith." Compare Israel's case (Ex. xvii. 9), who were commanded to fight only when brought out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, and provided with manna and water. So the battle here is not for salvation. That is given. The armor is for the saved man, who is working out the salvation which God has wrought in him.

1. AN EXHORTATION TO STRENGTH (vs. 10): very common in Scripture. (Josh. i. 6, 7, 9; 1 Kings ii. 2; 2 Chron. xxi. 8, etc.) Not in self. See Paul's secret of strength (2 Cor. xii. 10.) We fight God's battle (2 Chron. xx. 15.) Therefore he gives strength. Strength is needed to use the armor. The supply is infinite.

2. OUR ENEMIES (vs. 11, 12). Not physical, but spiritual. Unseen, but real.

1. Satan.—The chief adversary. Powerful, but not omnipotent. Does not come openly, saying, "I am Satan," but uses "wiles" (2 Cor. xi. 14).

2. Evil spirits.—inferior to Satan, yet powerful, mischievous, active, vigilant. Such are principalities, etc. There seems to be an organized kingdom of evil spirits, that are never better pleased than when their existence or immutability is denied.

III. OUR ARMOR (vs. 13-17).—

1. Spiritual.—To meet spiritual foes. Dirk and sword and gun-ship are useless; as are also good resolution and promises.

2. Put it on.—Admiration of it not sufficient.

3. Take the whole.—Leave no part of you uncovered. Refer to Ahab and Goliath. Also to Achilles, in classical stories, invulnerable, except in the heel. Picture an ancient knight, entering the list without his armor.

4. Stand.—Take, and hold your position. Stand, arms and fighting. Be a "minute man," prepared against the "evil day."

5. Two kinds of armor.—Defensive and offensive. The joints must be girded before going to the battle. Only such as have definite fixed views of truth, can do effective fighting. Warn your scholars, against heart-wandering, and hazy doctrinal views. The feet need to be shod, to take firm hold on the way, and to tread down slanders, reproaches, and stinging words. Only one offensive weapon; but it is enough. See how Christ used it in the wilderness (Matt. iii.). Use it as Eleazar did his sword (2 Sam. xxi. 10). Our talk is often weak, but God's word is all-powerful.

6. THE PRAYING SPIRIT (vs. 18-20). This is needed behind the armor. Continual prayer. Earnest, supplicating prayer. Prayer for all saints. Prayers for the preachers of the Word.

Plants Without Roots.

How hard it is to see that the power of life is to be found inside, not outside; in the heart and thoughts, not in the visible actions and show; in the living seed, not in the plant which has not roots! How often do men cultivate the garden of their souls just the other way! How often do we try, and persevere in trying, to make a great show of outer good qualities, without anything within to correspond; just like children who plant blossoms without any roots in the ground to make a pretty show for the hour! We find fault in our lives and we cut off the weed, but we do not root it up; we find something wanting in ourselves, and we supply it not by Divine seed of a heavenly principle, but by copying the deeds that the principles ought to produce.

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VEGETINE

PHILA., Pa., July 8, 1877.

Dear Sir—The great benefit I have received from the use of Vegetine induces me to give my testimony in its favor. For several years my face has been covered with pimples, which caused much annoyance, and, knowing it to be a blood disease, I consulted a number of doctors, and also tried many preparations without obtaining any benefit, until I commenced taking Vegetine, and before I had used the first bottle and found my health much improved, my humor entirely cured.

Yours respectfully,
MISS S. KEEFE,
1130 Carpenter St.

VEGETINE.

REPORTS FROM OTTAWA.

OTTAWA, CANADA, Dec. 31, 1878.

H. R. Stevens, Boston.
Sir—I have used your Vegetine in my family for several years and consider it an invaluable medicine. I most cheerfully recommend its use to those desiring a safe and effectual remedy for diseases of the stomach and impurities of the blood. I may add that I have advocated its use to several of my friends and acquaintances with the most gratifying and satisfactory results.

Very respy yours,
MRS. W. G. HERLEY.

No one can doubt the truthfulness of the above certificate, coming from so responsible and influential parties. Mr. Herley is senior member of the firm of Perley & Pattee, one of the largest and most extensive lumber firms in America.

VEGETINE.

CURED SCROFULA.

PHILA., Pa., July 18, 1877.

H. R. Stevens.
Dear Sir—I can cheerfully recommend your Vegetine as the Great Blood Purifier. I have been afflicted with Scrofula for many years, and have tried many remedies, but have not been able to get rid of it. I keep it constantly on hand to keep my bowels regular, and am constantly recommending it to all whom I hear needing a remedy like yours.

Truly yours,
JOHN McGETTIGAN.

Being personally acquainted with Mr. McGettigan, I can vouch for him as being reliable in his statement, as have sold him Vegetine.

Dr. J. W. ABEL,
Druggist, 1024 Beach St.

VEGETINE

HASTINGS, Minn., Dec. 16, 1878.

H. R. Stevens, Boston.
Dear Sir—I will do all I can in regard to Vegetine, which has been the saving of my life, and I believe thousands of others. It is good for everything. I believe it an all Female Weaknesses and will give life, vigor and strength to both sexes.

Yours with respect,
MRS. SUMNER WALTON.

VEGETINE.

DRUGGIST'S REPORT.

PHILA., July 6, 1877.

H. R. Stevens, Boston, Mass.
We have sold your Vegetine for some years past, and our customers all agree it is being the best and safest Blood Purifier in use. We have sold many articles of the same description, but Vegetine gives the most universal satisfaction. We always recommend it with confidence.

HANSELL BROS.,
Druggists, 1624 Market St.

VEGETINE

Prepared by

H. R. STEVENS, Boston, Mass.

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We do not pretend to offer them to the public as a perfect cure for every disease, which every intelligent mind knows is out of question. We only wish to make known what they positively will do and no more. Therefore we submit this statement to those who are willing at least to try a trial; their judgment we sanguinely await knowing it must be the same as thousands have already given. We wish to inform all that our medicines are prepared with great care, especially for families, and are admirably calculated to preserve health, remove disease and restore nature to its own state that no family should be without them. These medicines are carefully compounded upon scientific principles by those thoroughly acquainted with the medicinal properties of each article used, as well as the effect the combination will have on the system, consequently we feel safe in recommending our medicines with the greatest confidence. It has become an undeniable fact that when the system becomes infected with malignant diseases seated in either the nervous, muscular, or glandular parts of the body, it can only be made healthy by cleansing the blood; and the disorder lets be healed and nature resumes her original standing. A medicine that does not therefore strike at this, the root of all diseases, cannot nor should not have any claim to public attention. The blood is the grand consideration taken and it becomes the duty of the strong as well as the weak and unhealthy, to guard well this part on which so much of our comfort depends. No one should neglect, especially in the spring time, to take a few bottles of No. 2 Bitters and No. 1 Syrup which will extract the water and purify the blood, regulate the bowels, increase the appetite, and renovate the system. Full directions on label and wrapper.

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