

The Sunday School Lesson.

SERIES FOR 1896.--FOURTH QUARTER.

Studies in Old Testament History.

CAUTIONS AGAINST INTEMPERANCE.

Lesson XI.—December 13, 1896.

Proverbs xxiii:15-25. (Read Proverbs xxiii:1-35.)

INTRODUCTION.

We have need to be reminded again and again, and we have need to persistently remind the young, of the sorceries of sensualism. Intemperance and sensualism are almost synonymous terms.

W once, when lost in the wilderness, studied our compass; we realized that only one of its thirty-two points directed us straight to rescue and safety.

For the heart to loyally, gladly, always choose the way is for one, however he may be assailed and tried, to know the inward prophecies of heaven.

2. Second Group of Proverbial Exhortations, giving Warning against Intemperance.—vs. 20, 21.

20. Be not among wine bibbers; Among gluttonous eaters of flesh: 21. For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty;

Mr. Gladstone has said somewhere that to perfect that wonder of travel, the locomotive, has not required the expenditure of more mental strength and application than to perfect a violin.

Flutes have been improved, new types of clarinet have been evolved, the harpichord and the spinet have given place to the piano-forte, organs have come to be controlled by electricity—everything, in short, in the way of musical instruments, has tended toward advance in improvement.

3. Third Group of Proverbial Sayings, showing the Way to Noble Life.—vs. 22-25.

22. Harken unto thy father that begat thee, And despise not thy mother when she is old.

23. Buy the truth and sell it not; Yea, wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

What must one pay for wisdom—for the life which means both a perception of truth and a cleaving to it with undying love? What must one pay for wisdom? This is its price: Self mastery, temperance, industry, candor, truth-seeking and truth-speaking.

TEACHERS' HELP. Our lesson—passage is a section of Proverbs which makes the duty and attractions of self-control prominent.

1. First Group of Proverbial Exhortations.—vs. 20, 21. 15. My son, if thine heart be wise, My heart shall be glad, even mine.

TEACHING POINTS. INTRODUCTION.—It is with especial reference to temperance,—which with us means total abstinence from all intoxicants,—that the final lesson from Proverbs is to be applied.

(1.) V. 15-19. PRECEPTS. What better thing can we do than to try and rejoice the heart, the very inner most being, of the teacher we love?

(2.) V. 20, 21. TEMPERANCE. Intemperance is largely a social evil. It is often promoted by thoughtless and wild company.—Look calmly at the inevitable result.

shame or deprivation to any one who is in any way dependent upon you. (3.) V. 22-25. LIVE FOR THE BEST THINGS. Honor your father, and in all right things obey him; honor your mother and believe in her love, after you have passed beyond her daily care.

THE UNIMPROVABLE FIDDLE.

When you come to think of it, says a writer in Chambers' Journal, it was a curious and bewildering circumstance that, in a world and in an age where progress is one of the laws of existence, the violin should be today, not to say to form and essential details, exactly what it was some 300 years ago, but that it is even now a less perfect instrument than it was when the old masters were warming their glue-pots and mixing their varnished wood and chipping out their blocks of wood in the little Italian town of Cremona, now two centuries back.

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