ISRAEL UNDER JUDGES.

LESSON IX, FOURTH QUARTER, INTERNATIONAL SERIES, DEC. 2.

Text of the Lesson, Judges ii. 11-23. Commit Verses—Golden Text, Heb. iii, 13—Commentary by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

[Condensed from Lesson Helper Quarterly, by permission of H. S. Hoffman, Philadelphia, publisher.]

In studying the history of Israel it is necessary to keep in mind that the Lord God had chosen them to be a special people unto Himself, above all people upon the face of the earth: an holy people unto the Lord their God, that He might dwell among them, and that they might magnify His name before the nations. He only asked of them a cheerful and whole hearted obedience and submission, promising on His part that they should be made to enjoy the greatest possible temporal prosperity and be the head of all nations, no one being able to stand before them. (Ex. xix, 5, 6; Deut. vii, 6; xxviii, 1-14.) Their history during the forty years that Moses led them is found in the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. We have just been studying their history under the leadership of Joshua, as recorded in the book of Joshua and now we come to their history under the Judges for about 450 years, as recorded in this book.

11. "The children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served Baalim." At least seven times do we find this statement concerning their doing evil in this book (ii, 11; iii, 7, 12; iv, 1; vi, 1; x, 6; xiii, 1), and a reason is given in the preceding verse, that a generation had arisen which knew not the Lord, nor yet the works which He had done for Israel.

12. "They forsook the Lord God of their fathers." Some of Joshua's parting words were: "If ye forsake the Lord and serve strange gods, then will he turn and do you hurt and consume you" (Josh. xxiv, 20), but these words are now forgotten or unheeded; and worse still, the Lord who brought them out of the land of Egypt, and made them a nation and gave them this good land, is forgotten and forsaken.

13. "They forsook the Lord, and served Baal and Ashtaroth." These were the male and female divinities of the nations before mentioned, and their worship was associated with the most cruel and also the most impure practices; the very extreme opposite of that required by the pure and holy and loving God of Israel.

14. "The anger of the Lord was hot against Israel." In the account of this sin written in Ps. cvi, 32-40, it is said the "wrath of the Lord kindled against His people, insomuch that He abhorred His own inheritance, and He gave them into the hand of the heathen." In Jer. xii, 7, concerning a later sin it is written: "I have given the dearly beloved of my soul into the hand of her enemies." It was because of His great love for them that He thus chastened them for their sins, as it is written: "You only have I known of all the families of the earth: therefore I will punish you for all your iniquities." Amos iii, 2.

15. "The hand of the Lord was against them for evil, . . . and they were greatly distressed." The way of the transgressor is hard (Prov. xiii, 15), but they were the redeemed of the Lord and His hand was upon them for evil only to make them see the evil of their ways and turn from it, that He might do them good.

16. "Nevertheless, the Lord raised up judges which delivered them." Nevertheless, He regarded their affliction when He heard their cry; and He remembered for them His covenant (Ps. cvi, 44-46). Do not our hearts say: "O, foolish people, why grieve and turn away from such love? why not abide in such a friend; why not constantly rejoice in such power?" Then a voice whispers: "Thou art the man; Israel's sin is just mine own, and the same God of Israel regards today the cry of the oft erring, oft repenting one, and delivers those who call upon Him, such as call upon Him in truth. Why not abide ever in His love?

17. "Turned quickly out of the way." Although He heard their cry and raised them up judges who delivered them, they soon fell away into sin as bad as ever, and would not hearken to the judges; their hearts seemed fully set in them to do evil. Love seemed lost upon them, and past warnings seemed utterly in vain; they were full of self and sin, and it appeared to be useless to do anything for them; yet He loved them and for His name's sake forgave them and restored them many a time.

18. "The Lord was with the judge." If it were not so the judge could have done nothing. The Lord was with Moses, and Joshua, and David, and the kings who did right in His sight, and the prophets who spoke in His name. And the same Lord says to us to-day: "Lo, I am with you always."

"It repented the Lord." This expression, often used in reference to God, and first found in Gen. vi, 6, refers to God's visible procedure as it appears to us. That God should ever change His mind, or His purpose, or be sorry for anything He does, is simply impossible.

20. "The anger of the Lord." We had the same expression in verse 14, and it is found again in this book in chapters iii, 8; x, 7. It is difficult for us to think of anger without sin, although we are told in one place to be angry and sin not (Eph. iv, 26); however difficult that may be for us, we cannot think of any sin in connection with the Lord's anger or wrath, for He is of purer eyes than to behold evil and cannot look upon iniquity. (Hab. i, 13.) A righteous indignation against false ingratitude and rebellion and slighted love will in some measure describe the anger or wrath of the Lord; but there is much in it that is inscrutable, and only the great day of His wrath when it is come (Rev. vi, 16, 17) will fully show what it means; may we all be hid in that day. (Zeph. ii, 3; Isa. xxvi, 19-21.)

21-23. "That I may prove Israel." Because they transgressed His covenant and would not hearken to His voice, therefore the idolatrous nations were left or suffered (margin of v. 23) in the land to prove Israel (comp. iii, 1, 4). Thus the wilderness journeyings were to prove them, to know whether they would love Him with all the heart or not (Deut. viii, 2, 16; xiii, 3); thus He tempted or tried or proved Abraham in the matter of Isaac (Gen. xxii, 1), and thus also He tried or proved Hezekiah in the matter of the ambassadors from Babylon (II Chr. xxxii, 31). An oft repeated lesson of Scripture is, that God wants a tried people who will love and serve Him with all the heart, walking with Him as Enoch did, and following Him fully like Joshua and Caleb; strong in faith, rejoicing to do His will, meditating upon His word day and night, and separate from the idolatrous world. As Israel was chosen to make God's name, so believers today, called out of the world to form the church, which is the body of Christ, are to bear constantly the name of Him who called them to Himself (Acts xv, 15, 16), and for His name's sake (III John 7, R. V., "for the sake of the name"), go forth as His witnesses. The ordinary Christian life is much the same as the history of Israel in the book of Judges, just a constant disobeying, then weeping and repenting, then forgiveness and rest and joy, soon followed by more disobedience and the same circle over and over again. The remedy is to cease from self, lay aside every weight and the sins which do so easily beset us—not try to, but simply do it—and run with patience, looking unto Jesus. (Heb. xii, 1, 2.) There is no need to live the weary round of constant sinning and weeping and repenting.

The Late Rev. Charles Fay, D. D.

At the ripe age of 80 years, the Rev Dr. Fay departed this life on the morning of November 6, in the city of New York. He had arrived there with his anxious wife at the house of his eldest daughter, Mrs. M. F. Peirce, scarcely four days previously, suffering from heart disease. Telegrams summoned six of his grown children from Chicago and Cambridge, Mass., while other relatives came from Brooklyn and New York and Burlington, Vt. The sorrowing group were also joined by a few more friends, so that at the private celebration of the holy communion on the following evening by Rev. Newton Perkins, the body of the revered, loved and honored dead was wholly surrounded by those whom he had best loved. Once more it was made evident that "angels and living saints, and dead, but one communion make."

The remains were then removed to Cambridge, Mass. Most of the relatives accompanied them. There, another daughter, Mrs. Kate F. Stone, welcomed them to a sad hospitality in her home, where he had so often been her beloved guest in recent months and years. And now the sorrowing circle was increased by the early friends of 80 years—(for Cambridge was Dr. Fay's childhood home)—and his sister and brother now also came to take the last farewell. At 11 a. m. Friday, Nov. 9, the funeral services were conducted at Christ church, that city (Rev James F. Spalding, rector) from which he had been christened 80 years before. The accomplished organist of the church of the Advent, Boston, brought his admirable surpliced choir of singers, men and boys, and truly indeed were the services most impressive. At their close, the tender care of his loving children reverently placed the body of their beloved father, by his wife's side in the family lot at Mount Auburn.

Dr. Fay was born in 1808, in Cambridge, Mass., and was the youngest son of the honorable Judge Samuel P. P. Fay. He graduated from Harvard college in 1829 in the same class with Professor Oliver Wendell Holmes, Rev. James Freeman Clarke, Prof. Benjamin Peirce, Rev. Charles F. Smith, who wrote "My Country 'tis of Thee," and many other notable men. In 1833, he was ordained deacon in St. Paul's church, Burlington, by the late Bishop John H. Hopkins. In the same year he married Miss Charlotte Emily, eldest daughter of the same bishop, her Right Rev. father performing the ceremony likewise in St. Paul's church. During a happy married life of 23 years, nine children were born, seven of whom are now in mature years. Dr. Fay began his life work in Burlington, Vt., in 1833 as assistant teacher to Bishop Hopkins, in the original Vermont Episcopal institute, which was then located at the foot of Church street. He also established St. Paul's church, Vergennes, driving the 20 miles each Saturday, and returning each Monday, (no railroad in Vermont in those days.) On the failure of the institute in 1838, he took St. John's church, Highgate, Vt., for several years, residing there. Thence he was induced by his brother, Mr Howard Fay, to join him in a school for young ladies, at Montpelier, near Macon, Georgia, which had good success. From there Dr. Fay accepted a call to a prominent Episcopal church in New Orleans, La., where he continued two years. About the year 1847, he was once more invited to Vermont, and accepted the rectorship of St. Luke's church, St. Albans, for one of the longest rectorships ever known in that parish. Here also he and his wife conducted a private school. Their pupils were from the larger cities. As their own children were all young, these added duties bore most heavily upon them both, and finally broke down the health of Mrs. Fay, who died here September 23, 1856, æ 39. A noble stained glass window has ornamented the chancel of St. Luke's church, St. Albans ever since, a memorial of her faithful life. He afterward took charge of the church at Brattleboro, Vt., for some time. About the year 1864, Rev. Dr. Fay married Mrs. Sophia White of St. Albans, who has continued congenial to him in her faithful affection and sympathy to the very last, until she has just seen him laid to the rest that while time shall last will not be disturbed. After the death of his first wife, St. Paul's church, Marquette, Michigan, laid claim to Dr. Fay's services and he began his duties there in 1866, and continued them successfully four years. His last move as to residences was to the home in Grand Isle, Vt., whither he went in 1870. Usually he spent his summers here, the hospitalities of himself and his warm hearted wife being ever open to the large demands of an extensive acquaintance and wide family connection. When Dr. Fay moved to Grand Isle, his children were all grown up, and were scattered to Chicago, New York, Cambridge, Mass., and Woodstock, Vt., but they and their friends made the summer pilgrimage to see father and mother almost annually and enjoy with them the beauties of that quiet rural home. During the winter both the "old folks" used to visit the children in their respective homes, and thus was "the golden thread of love" kept bright till the end. They were on their way to Chicago, via New York, when "the summons came, "one shall be taken and the other left" and "friend comes nigher," Be it ours to follow when our time shall come.

T. A. H.

Good Investment for a Small Sum of Money.

In September, 1873, the Equitable Society of New York issued policy No. 84,528 on the life of a resident of Montreal. The policy was for $1000, and the annual premium charged by the Society was $67.36. Premiums were paid for fifteen years, amounting in all to $1,010.40. As the policy was a fifteen year endowment on the Tontine plan, the holder had, a few days ago, the choice of several methods of settlement. He concluded, instead of taking cash, to convert the assurance into a paid-up policy for $3248. He now has nothing more to pay, and his heirs will receive in cash $321 for every $100 paid by him in premiums.

If the policy had been for a larger amount the results would have been correspondingly favorable.

A FLOUR CENTRE.

St. Albans Becomes a Distributing Point for Minneapolis Flour.

[From the Messenger.]

Through the efforts of President Smith of the Central Vermont road, and by virtue of an arrangement perfected by him, St. Albans has become a distributing point for New England for the products of the great flouring mills at Minneapolis. The Central Vermont road, the Canada Atlantic and the Minneapolis producers are now erecting here two large warehouses, one of which is located on Central Vermont land just opposite the rolling mill, and the frame of which will be raised this week. The second building is to be located probably a little farther south. These buildings will be 600x40 feet, one story high, with 18 feet posts, and will have a storing capacity of 10,000 barrels each. This stock will be kept full, and the Minneapolis mill men will be thus able, in case of a blockade in winter or any other emergency, to supply New England buyers directly from St. Albans warehouses. The flour is shipped over the great "Soo" route, the Canada Atlantic taking it from the Canadian Pacific at St. Collipod Junction and bringing it to St. Albans via Rouses Point. Some 25 carloads of this flour are already here awaiting the completion of the first building, which will be pushed rapidly.

One Dollar sent to us this month secures the Weekly Free Press till January 1st, 1890.
Free Press Association,
Publishers.

THE GRAND LIST OF VERMONT.

A Correspondent Inquires Where It Can be Found.

To the Editor of the Free Press:

Can you inform your readers where the average citizen can find in print, ready at hand, the grand list of the State? Formerly, and uniformly, I think, down to and including the year 1853, the grand list by towns and counties, certified by the secretary of State was published with the session laws, and as these laws were very generally distributed to town clerks, justices, notaries and others, any information sought as to the grand list, valuation of real and personal estate, and of the number of polls in any town or county, was easily found and officially certified. But since 1853 there has been no publication as formerly of the grand list with the session laws, and I have never seen in any of the many printed State documents, even the quadrennial appraisal of 1886. If, therefore, any one desires to learn what is the grand list of any town or county, he must find it out as best he can, or by a search warrant.

Why this so happens, or is so ordered, is hard to understand. Is it to save a few pennies or dollars? Or is it a part and parcel of a wonderful system of repression of all authoritative information as to the products and industries of the State?

It may be that the old custom of printing the grand list with the session laws went out at the same time that the laws of our own Legislature went out of the State, and into a neighboring State to be printed. For you will notice, by the way, that the session laws of 1886 do not bear the imprint of the regulation coat of arms of Vermont, by any means, but the good cow of our coat of arms in this seems a very equivocal cow, and one of the three sheaves of wheat seems slightly inebriated.

Should not Vermont, as a pronounced protective State, print its own laws within its own borders, no matter if it costs a few dollars more?

N.

The only publication of the grand list, available to the average citizen, that we are aware of, is that given in Walton's Register. This gives only the total list of each town, without division into the items of real estate, personal estate and polls. A return to the old practice of an official publication of the grand list with the laws would undoubtedly be generally approved.

The W. C. T. U. National Convention.

To the Editor of the Free Press:

Dear Sir: The *Vermont Standard* copied last week an article from your columns which contained so many errors, that after having carefully examined the records of our conventions, I send the following corrections to both papers.

M. C. Joy,
Secretary, Woodstock W. C. T. U.

First. Besides the objects mentioned in the original work of the W. C. T. U., is another always quite distinctly stated in the constitution of its unions "To secure the legal prohibition and the complete extinction of the liquor traffic." The preamble to the national constitution makes this the *chief* purpose in view. To this all members are pledged "to use all proper means," entire freedom of conscience being allowed unions or individuals as to the interpretation of the adjective "proper." While, therefore, any one may criticise the wisdom or propriety of the present position of the national W. C. T. U. in lending its influence to the prohibition party and the cause of woman suffrage, it gives no ground to the charge that the organization has left its original, or added a new purpose.

Second. Its constitution has had no clause forbidding the discussion of political subjects. In all its conventions this has been more or less done. The one exception is that of 1887, when it was partially prevented by the following by-law passed at the close of the convention of the preceding year:

Hereafter any resolution referring to our attitude toward political parties shall be debated by vote without discussion.

This by-law was repealed early in the convention of the present year, without opposition.

Third.—Mrs. Foster of Iowa, instead of protesting against its repeal, strongly advocated it.

Fourth.—Mrs. Foster's protest against the political position of the national W. C. T. U. was not "denied a hearing." It was with all other memorials referred without reading to the executive committee; these with the replies of that committee, were afterward read in full in the convention and this report adopted by the same. Printed copies of both memorials and replies were also distributed in the convention.

Fifth. The resolution committee was divided upon a resolution declaring any member "disloyal" who should "upon the public platform antagonize the policy of the national W. C. T. U." It was tabled by the convention, both Miss Willard and the executive committee having reaffirmed the freedom of States, unions or individuals in all particulars, except pledge and dues.

M. C. Joy.

West Woodstock, Vt., Nov. 20, 1888.

The writer of the above is of course entitled to her opinion that the alliance of the W. C. T. U. with a political party, and with the woman suffrage movement are not departures from the original purpose of the organization. We, however, do not agree with her. We do not understand that the W. C. T. U. was organized to secure woman suffrage or to help any political party. To the extent that it lends itself to those objects, as it seems to us, it departs from its main purpose; and by such departures it injures instead of helps the cause of temperance and postpones instead of promoting the extinction of the liquor traffic. The other statements to which exception is taken, were based on the reports of the W. C. T. U. convention in the New York daily papers. We accept the secretary's corrections.

Death of Colonel George A. Merrill.

Colonel George A. Merrill of Rutland, died at St. Paul, Minnesota, on Saturday. He was born in 1830, at Plymouth, New Hampshire, and in 1851 located in St. Johnsbury, where he lived 13 years. While there he was on the staff of Governor Erastus Fairbanks, was secretary of civil and military affairs from 1860 to 1861, and was elected representative to Legislature from the town of St. Johnsbury. For a time he was postmaster, and later was collector of internal revenue, and was subsequently superintendent of the Passumpsic road. In 1864 he went to Rutland and was made superintendent of the Burlington and Rutland road, until 1871, when the Central Vermont took possession of that road. He was subsequently connected with the New London Northern and the Passumpsic roads for a short time. For five years from 1876 Colonel Merrill was president of the Howe Scale works. He leaves a widow and six children.

Worth Knowing.

Mr. W. H. Morgan merchant, Lake City, Fla., was taken with a severe Cold, attended with a distressing Cough and running into Consumption in its first stages. He tried many so-called popular cough remedies and steadily grew worse. Was reduced in flesh, had difficulty in breathing and was unable to sleep. Finally tried Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption and found immediate relief, and after using about a half dozen bottles found himself well and has had no return of the disease. No other remedy can show so grand a record of cures, as Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption Guaranteed to do just what is claimed for it.—Trial bottles free at Beaupre & Lowrey's Drug Store.

THE EDUCATIONAL BILL.

A Peculiar Feature of It.

To the Editor of the Free Press:

The school bill as it has passed the House contains a provision that towns that have adopted the town system of school shall vote again next spring to see whether they are of the same opinion still and that towns that have not the town system shall be exempt from voting, in fact shall not be allowed to vote on the question. This must seem absurd to every intelligent voter in towns where the town system prevailed. Two years ago last March the town of Richmond adopted the town system after a long discussion, but all were not satisfied, and at the next session of the Legislature the law for voting on the question was changed from five to two years. Last March the question was tried again, the largest number of voters being present that ever attended a March meeting. The town system prevailed by 11 majority. The question entered somewhat into the September election, but a representative in favor of the town system was elected by more than 30 majority. The process of equalizing the school property is now being carried out; one quarter has been paid this summer, and it is expected the three-quarters will be adjusted in three years more. What earthly reason is there in compelling us to go through the ceremony of voting on this question every year. This is the year 1888 instead of 1885. The great majority of the best teachers in the State who have made teaching a life study, are in favor of the town system. The recommendation of the committee appointed by the governor on the question of voting, is more in accordance with the age we live in than that of the committee on education which was adopted by the House.

A.

Richmond, Nov. 23.

MR. MORTON'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Of the Congratulations of the Middlebury College Republican Club.

President Douglas of the Middlebury College Republican club has received the following letter from Hon. Levi P. Morton, who has always taken deep interest in Middlebury college, and only a short time ago to the extent of $10,000:

55 Fifth Avenue, New York,
Nov. 20, 1888.

F. F. Douglas, Esq., President Republican Club, Middlebury, Vermont.

Dear Sir—I beg you will express to the republicans of Middlebury college my sincere thanks for their congratulations and good wishes, and believe me very truly yours.

Levi P. Morton.

Lamoille County Court.

The jury calendar for the December term of Lamoille County Court has six cases: A. F. Whitney vs. B. W. Green; S. M. Camp vs. H. M. Camp; L. P. Poland vs. Joshua Silsby; H. M. McFarland vs. M. E. Smith; H. G. Fancher vs. Frank and Hiram Stearns; O. A. Edgerton vs. Arthur Wilder. It is uncertain if any of these come to trial. The outlook is not very brilliant for an extended term of court.

Shocking Accident at Morristown.

The nine year old son of Fred Hitchcock was killed Oct. 19, by the falling of a tree. The boy went into the woods to carry dinner to his father, who was chopping on L. B. Boynton's lot near Peck's mill, and as a tree was about to fall the boy was told to run, but he ran the wrong way and was instantly killed by the descending tree.

The Democratic Vote Doubled.

The democratic vote in the town of Andover, Vermont, has increased 100 per cent. At the State election in September there was but one democratic vote cast in that town. At the election in November there were two cast. It is not known what made the great change in public sentiment. It will be well for the republicans of Vermont to be vigilant or they may lose the State at the next presidential election.

A Clarendon Farm Quarantined.

The farm of Isaac Tubbs in Clarendon has been quarantined by the selectmen of that town on account of the sickness of the cattle on the farm. They have a lung disease, and 11 out of 16 calves have died.

Evidences of Prosperity.

[From the New England Farmer.]

The Burlington [Weekly] Free Press gives evidence of prosperity and the popular appreciation of its ability by an enlargement of a column on the page.

Renews Her Youth.

Mrs. Phoebe Chesley, Peterson, Clay Co., Iowa, tells the following remarkable story, the truth of which is vouched for by the residents of the town: "I am 75 years old, have been troubled with kidney complaint and lameness for many years; could not dress myself without help. Now I am free from all pain and soreness, and am able to do all my own housework. I owe my thanks to Electric Bitters for having renewed my youth, and removed completely all disease and pain." Try a bottle, only 50c. at Beaupre and Lowrey's Drug Store.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

The Best Salve in the world for Cuts, Bruises, Sores, Ulcers, Salt Rheum, Fever Sores, Tetter, Chapped hands, Chilblains, Corns and all Skin Eruptions, and positively cures Piles or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Beaupre & Lowrey.