JOB'S GREAT WISDOM.

REV. DR. COURT'S REVIEW OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS.

dition of the Hebrews-Questions For the

Student to Answer. Golden Text: In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy ways

(Prov. iii, 6). The lessons have been in Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Malachi. A brief review of the character of each of these books would form the matter of an instructive talk on the part of the teacher. Job, Preverbannel

Ecclesiastes form the principal part of the canonical "Khochma," or wisdom of the Hebrews. This wisdom may be described as the practical side of religion—the proper conduct of life, granting that God exists and that He takes an interest in human affairs. The beginning of it is "the fear of Jehovah"—due reverence for Him and obcdience to His commands. In this the principle of faith is implied, and faith gives confidence and inspires hope in spite of all

life's perplexities.

The common things of life are good—God's daylight, sleep, food, family love and a contented spirit. Then in the gloom there gleams a ray of light that somehow or other shows that all will be well at last-if not here, yet after the judgment which faith looks forward to. In Job this prac-tical wisdom is illustrated and enforced by the life story of Job, a Bedouin emir or chief, with a great bousehold and great wealth and prosperity. This life story is treated poetically for the most part. The author no doubt intended that satan should he taken as a real, living, personal being, as Job is real and Jehovah is real. The court of Jehovah as the moral governor is represented. Before His throne appear all His angels—sons of God.

Satan—the well known adversary—ap-cears among those holy servants of God. He, too, as accuser, resister, enemy, has his report to give in. Asked if he had noticed righteous Job, quite in the spirit of the mocking fiend he answers yes, but insinuates a doubt as to the sincerity of Job's devotion. Within certain limits satan is suffered to put Job to the test by the loss of his wealth and his children. Yet Job was able to bless God, retaining his faith. Thus it was proved that he served God with an unselfish love. Satan's test having failed to destroy the trust of Job in God, the evil one is suffered to smite Job with a terrible disease. Dire are Job's sufferings, but yet he refuses to curse God and die. Then come the three friends of Job and dispute with him. They argue that Job, in order to be a sufferer above others, must have

been a sinner above others. Each of the three speaks twice, Job replying twice, and then in the third turn one of them drops out as having no more to say. Job replies. Then Elihu, a new speakappears and argues that God often afflicts men in order to improve them by cor-rection and chastisement. Job again replies. At last God speaks out with majesty, and His last word is to demand humble submission to Him who reveals His power and wisdom and love in His works. Job's trials end here. He is vindicated as righteous, while his accusing friends are censured. Finally Job is made doubly prosperous in all his concerns. The teaching is at once deep, lofty and convincing, not clearing up all life's mystery, but showing that trust in God's faithfulness will bring the believer out of all life's trials a conqueror in the end.

The book of Proverbs is a collection of popular sayings, attributed for the most part to King Solomon. A proverb is a condensation of wisdom into a compact form, fitting it for use in everyday life. It is part of the small change, the current coin, of wisdom. Often a simile is the form it Driver says that most of the proverbs in this book "are works of art and bear the impress of the skilled hands which produced them." In I Kings iv, 12, we read

that Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs.

The learned Rabbi Wogue of Paris says that this book contains but 915 verses, and the conclusion that he draws is as follows: "The book of Proverbs appears to be in greater part the work of King Solomon, a work oral at first and perhaps complex, then written and simplified later in part while the author was living, and finally enriched from the time of Hezekiah by the addition of other portions emanating either from Solomon or from other moralists" ("Histoire de la Bible," Paris, 1881, p. 47).

This seems as plausible an account as any that the critics have given. No one can say that Rabbi Wogue is no Hebraist, for he is a professor in the Jewish seminary in Paris. Hebrew wisdom observed human life from a divine standpoint and saw God's providence everywhere. On everything that he sees the wise man passes judgment. Buying and selling, industry and laziness, wealth and poverty, sorrow and gladness, youth and age, wisdom and folly, all are carefully pondered, estimated and made matters of instruction in righteousness. He sees and feels that religion elevates life and is true wisdom-the most precious of attainments

Ecclesiastesis called in Hebrew Koheleth -one that calls men together in order to hear wisdom. The book is attributed to Solomon, the splendid king of Jerusalem, David's royal son. The author intends to represent the experience of Solomon in his search for true wisdom. The book must be taken as a whole. To pick out one verse to found doctrine on is to pervert the pur-

port of the whole. Modern critics, soul sleepers and destructionists have not done justice to this pro-found book. Renan calls the author a gentleman discouraged by the meanness of the times that he lived in and compares his book to a pamphlet by Voltaire. The preacher's comparison of the godless man to a beast has been perverted into a denial of immor-tality. His commendation of natural pleasures has been construed into a recommendation of a merely sensuous life. Even when he refers to God, the future life and a day of judgment men like Driver and Cheyne insinuate that such passages are additions to the original work. Why? Simply because the preacher teaches true religion as the highest good of man. Would any one redeem human life from its vanity, enjoy the good things of God's providence, avoid a cheerless old age and rise above the fear of future judgment, let him "remember his Creator in the days of his youth, fear God and keep God's commandments." This is

clusion of the whole matter." Malachi is placed the last of the books of the English Bible. In the Hebrew Bible the arrangement is the law, or the books of Moses, then the historical books, then the prophets, after which come Psalms, Prov-erbs, Job, Song of Solomon, followed by Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, ending with Chronicles. Mainchi is one of the 12 minor or lesser prophets—not smaller in impor-tance, but smaller in bulk of writing. Mal-achi lived about 400 years before Christ. He exposes the abuses among the priests and

among the people of Israel. Judgment is foretold. He predicts the coming of the Messiah. Judgment looms before him-th-terrible day of the Lord.

Characteristically the last book of the Old Testament ends with the word "curse, while the last word of the New Testamen The Fractical Side of Religion as Shown Is a benediction of grace. Both are from Jehovah, both are manifestations of His In the Words of Afflicted Job-The Eru- essential being, for He is both just and merciful, love itself, yet the avenger of

And now let us give a few hints as to the questions of the review. The lessons of the quarter were 12, as follows: 1. The Afflictions of Job: Job ii, 1-10.

Golden Text: Job i, 21. 2. Afflictions Sanctified: Job v. 17-27. Golden Text: Heb. xii, 6, 8. Job's Appeal to God: Job xxiii, 1-10.

Golden Text: John xiii, 7.
4. Job's Restoration: Job xlii, 1-10. Golden Text: Jas v. 11.

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5. Wisdom's Warning: Prov. i. 20-33. Golden Text: Heb. xii, 25. 6. The Value of Wisdom: Prov. iii, 11-24 Golden Text: Prov. iii, 5. 7. Fruits of Wisdom: Prov. xii, 1-15. Golden Text: Prov. xi. 30.

8. Against Intemperance: Prov. xxiii, 29-85. Golden Text: Prov. xx, 1. 9. The Excellent Woman: Prov. xxxi, 10-31. Golden Text: Prov. xxxi, 30.

10. Reverence and Fidelity: Eccl. v. 1-12. Golden Text: Rom, xii, 1. 11. The Creator Remembered: Eccl. xii, I-7, 13, 14. Golden Text: Eccl. xii, 1. Messiah's Kingdom: Mal. iii, 1-12.
 Golden Text: Mal. iii, 17.

QUESTIONS. 1. What were the Lord's words to satan after the first assault? What did the evil one say? What did he do? How did Job answer his wife when she advised him to forsake God?

2 Who is called happy? Why? What advice is here given? By what promise is this advice commended? What blessings are promised? Auswer—Deliverance in trouble, food in famine, safety in war, secured from slander, preserved from wild beasts, flourishing on earth, dying in old

3. What was Job desiring? How did he believe God would treat him? Did he see God? Was he sure that all was well? How was he to come-out?

4. Was Job abased at God's rebuke? Was God angry with Job's friends? What were they told to do? How was Job at

D'ARCY & BINGHAM, Attorneys at Law, Rooms 1, 2 and 8, D'Arcy Building, 144 State street. Special attention given to busi-ness in the supreme and circuit courts of the state. 211 5. Where does wisdom cry out? Why does wisdom address the crowd? the three classes addressed. Which of them is worst? Does the door remain open forever? What is the slaying of the disobedient and unbelieving? Can any harm befall a Christian?

6. Whom does the Lord love? To correct one to make one better-is that good? Who is the happy man? What is the value of Describe her paths. Tell how wisdom's teachings are life to the soul. Why does the wise man walk safely? Is sweet sleep a blessing?

7. Whom does God favor? Tell what you remember of the state and prospects of the wicked. How does a good man treat his horse? What is the wise man's reward? What a wicked man's?

8. Describe the woes of the drunkard. What stings like an adder? What strange things do drunken men see? When drunk, does a man know or feel when he gets hurt? Tell the best way to avoid becoming a

drunkard. Are you an abstainer?

9. What value does the wise man put on a good woman? Describe her industry, her wise and winning words, her good name at home and her praise from God. What is deceitful? What is vain? Whose works praise the worker?

10. In prayer what should one guard against? Why? Is it well to vow and not perform? Tell what the greedy man gets. Whose sleep is sweet? How do riches bring

11 Why should the young be careful to keep the Creator in mind? How is a life of piety best begun in youth? What is the nclusion of the whole matter? Why should we heed God's commands?

12. What messenger was to come before Messiah? For what does Messiah come? What will He do to the priests? How will street, up stairs. the wicked be dealt with? What kind of a land will that be that honors God?

RELIGIOUS BRIEFS.

Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott, pastor of Plymouth church, Brooklyn, and successor of Dr. Henry Ward Beecher, is a tall, siender man, who looks as



though his health were frail. He is strong and active, however, and does an immense amount of hard work. In addition to his many duties as pastor of Brook lyn's famous church, he is the editor of The Christian Union, Under his pastorate there has been no falling off in the membership of REV. DR. LYMAN ABBOTT. Plymouth church

a fact that speaks most eloquently in Dr. Abbott's favor, for much was naturally expected of the man who stepped into Henry Ward Beecher's pulpit. He has a hand-some residence on Willow street, Brooklyn. where his sermons and literary work are In the British islands in 1800 there were

15,000,000 people, and only 96 works on theology were published during that year. The population today is about 30,000,000, but last year there were 528 works on the-

Emperor William is reported as having cut down the court preachers to six min-

A Methodist missionary in South Africa, the Rev. Thomas Cook, reports that he traveled in six months that he was there 20,000 miles, preached 220 sermons and was instrumental in bringing in 6,000 converted

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In Zaba, Hungary, 650 persons are reported to have become Protestants because they prefer their own language in worship. Professor Thayer of Harvard says that the discovery of the spurious gospel of St. Peter consigns such speculations about the gospels as make up the staple of books like 'Supernatural Religion' to the museum of Biblical antiquities."

The Presbyterian church in Japan has 6 resbyteries, 73 churches and 10,908 mem-

There are 27,000 different editions of the Bible in the British museum, the titles filling 242 pages of a special catalogue. An Anglican bishop is credited with the statement that 1,000 benefices in England

keep changing hand by simony. The Birmingham police have reduced lunday traders in that city from 3,500 to 50.

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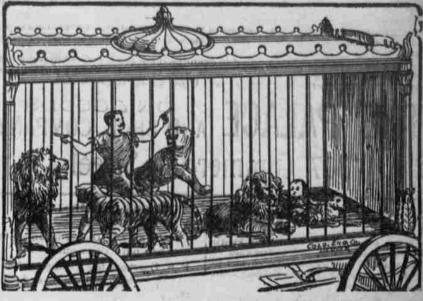
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