REV. DR. TALMAGE'S SERMON

The Brooklyn Divire's Sunday Sermon,

Subject : "The Plague of Bad Books."

f TEXT: "And the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. And the magician did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs upon the land of Egypt."

—Ex. vili., 6, 7.

There is almost a universal aversion to frogs, and yet with the Egyptian they were honored, they were sacred, and they were objects of worship while alive, and after death they were embalmed, and to-day their remains may be found among the sepulchers of Thekes. These greatures were attractive. of Thebes. These creatures, so attractive once to the Egyptians, at divine belest be came obnoxious and loathsome, and they went croaking and hopping and leaping into the palace of the king, and into the bread tasys and the couches of the people, and ever the overse which now are upilital above. the overs, which now are uplifted above the earth and on the side of chimneys but then were small holes in the earth, with sunker pottery, were filled with frogs when the sekeepers came to look at them. If a man act down to eat a frog alighted on his plate.

If he attempted to put on a shoe it was preoccupied by a frog. If he attempted to put occupied by a frog. If he attempted to put his head upon a pillow it had been taken pos-session of by a frog. Frogs high and low and everywhere; loath-

some irogs, slimy frogs, besieging frogs, in inumerable frogs, great plague of frogs. What made the matter worse the magicians said there was no miracle in this, and they could by sleight of hand produce the same thing, and they seemed to succeed, for by sleight of hand wonders may be wrought. After Moses had thrown down his staff and by miracle it became a serpent, and then he took hold of it and by miracle it again became a staff, the serpent charmers imitated the same thing, and knowing that there were serpents in Egypt which by a peculiar pres-sure on the neck would become as right as a stick of wood, they seemed to change the ser-pent into the staff and then, throwing it pent into the staff, and then, throwing it

down, the staff became the serpent.
So likewise these magicians tried to imitate the plague of frogs, and perhaps by smell of food attracting a great number of them to a certain point, or by shaking them out from a hidden place, the magiciaus sometimes seemed to accomplish the same mira-cle. While these magicians made the plague worse, none of them tried to make it better. "Frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt, and the magicians did so with their enchantment, and brought up frogs upon the

land of Egypt."

Now that plague of frogs has come back upon the earth. It is abroad to-day. It is smitting this nation. It comes in the shape of corrupt literature. These frogs hop into the store, the shop, the office, the banking house, the factory—into the home, into the cellar, into the garret, on the drawing room table, on the shelf of the library. While the lad is reading the bad book the teacher's face is turned the other way. One of these from hops upon the page. While the young woman is reading the foroidden novelette after retiring at night, reading by gastight, one of these frogs leaps upon the page. Indeed they have hopped upon the news stands of the country and the mails at the postoffice shake out in the letter trough her shake out in the letter trough hundreds of them. The plague has taken at different times possession of this country. It is one of the most loathsome, one of the most fright ful, one of the most ghastly of the ten plagues

of our modern cities. There is a vast number of books and newspapers printed and published which ought never to see the light. They are filled with a pestilence that makes the land swelter with a moral epi lemic. The greatest blessing that ever came to this nation is that of an elevated literature, and the greatest scourge has been that of unclean literature. This last has its victims in all occupations and departments. It has helped to fill insane asylums and penitentiaries and almshouses and dens of shame. The bodies of this infec-tion lie in the hospitals and in the graves, while their souls are being tossed over into a lost eternity, an avalanche of horror and

The London plague was nothing to it. That counted its victims by thousands, but this modern pest has already shoveled its millions into the charnel house of the morally dead. The longest rail train that ever ran enough nor large enough to carry the beast-liness and the putrefaction which have been gathered up in bad books and newspapers of this land in the last twenty years. This land in the last twenty years. This laterature of a nation decides the fate of nation. Good bo books, bad morals. Good books, good morals. Bad

I begin with the lowest of all the literature, that which does not even pretend to be respectable—from cover to cover a blotch of leprosy. There are many whose entire business is is to dispose of that kind of literature. They display it before the school-boy on his way home. They get the cata-logues of schools and colleges, take the names and postorice addresses, and send their advertisements, and their circulars, and their pamphiets, and their books to every

one of them.

In the possession of these dealers in bad literature were found nine hundred thou-sand names and postoffice addresses, to whom it was thought it might be profitable to send these corrupt things. In the year 1873 there were one hundred and sixty-five establishments engaged in publishing cneap, corrupt literature. From one publishing house there went out twenty different styles of corrupt books. Although over thirty tons of vile literature have been destroyed by the Society for the Suppression of Vice, still there is enough of it left in this country to bring down upon us the just anger of an

In the year 1868 the evil had become so great in this country that the Congress of the United States passed a law forbidding the transmission of bad literature through the United States mails, but there were large loops in that law through which criminals might crawl out, and the law was a dead failure—that law of 1863. But in 1873 another law was passed by the Congress of the United States against the transmission of corrupt literature through the mails—a grand law, a potent law, a Christian law—and under that law multitudes of these scoundrels have been arrested, their property confiscated and they themselves thrown into

the penitentiaries, where they belonged.

Now, my friends, how are we to war against this corrupt literature, and how are the frogs of this Egyptian plague to be slain? First of all by the prompt and inexorable execution of the law. Let all good postmasters, and United States district attempts and detectives and references and postmasters, and United States district at-torneys, and detectives, and reformers con-cert in their action to stop this plagus. When Sir Rowland mill spent his life in try-ing to secure cheap postage not only for England, b_t for all the world, and to open the blessing of the postoffice to all honest business, and to all messages of charity, and kindness, and affection, for all health-ful intercommunication, he did not mean to ful intercommunication, he did not mean to make vice easy or to fill the mail bags of the United States with the scabs of such a

it ought not to be in the power of every bad man who can raise a one-cent stamp for a circular or a two-cent stamp for a letter to blast a man or destroy a home. The postal service of this country must be clean, must be kept clean, and we must all understand that the swift retributions of the United States Government hover over every violation of the letter box.

There are thousan is of men and women in this country, some for personal gain, some through innate depravity, some through spirit of revenge, who wish to use this great avenue of convenience and intelligence for purposes revengeful, salacious and diabolic. Wake up the law. Wake up the penalties. Let every court room on this subject he a sinai thunderous and aflame. Let the convicted offenders be sent for the full term to sing Sing or Harrishure.

Sing Sing or Harrisburg.

I am not talking about what cannot be tone. I am talking now about what is being tone. A great many of the printing presses

that gave themselves entirely to the publica tion of vile literature have been stopped or have gone into business less comoxious What has thrown off, what bus kept off the rail trains of this country for some time hack nearly all the leprous periodicals Phose of us who have been on the rail train have noticel a great change in the last feat months and the last year or two. Why have nearly all those vile periodicals been kept off the rail trains for some time back? Who ef-fected it? These societies for the purification of railroad literature gave warning to the publishers and warning to railroad companies, and warning to conductors, and warnng to newsboys, to keep the infernal stuff

off the trains.

Many of the cities have successfully pro hibited the most of that literature even from going on the news stands. Te for has select upon the publishers and the dealers in impure literature, from the fact that over a thou-sand arrests have been made, and the aggregate time for which the convicted have been sentenced to the prison is over one hundred and ninety years, and from the fact that about two millions of their circulars have been destroyed, and the business is not as

profitable as it used to be.

How have so many of the news stan's of our great cities been purified? How has so much of this inquity been balked? By moral sussion? Oh, no. You might as well go into the jungle of the East Indies and pat a cobra on the neck, and with profound argument try to persuade it that it is morally wrong to bite and to sting and to pois in anything. The only answer to your argument would be an unlifted head and a his and a sharp, reeking tooth struck into your arteries. The only argument for a cobra n a shotgun, and the only argument for these dealers in impure literature is the clutch of the police and the bean soup in a penitentiary. The law! The law! I invoke to con-

Summate the work so grandly begun!

Another way in which we are to drive hack this plague of Egyptian frogs is by filling the minds of our young people with a healthful literature. I do not mean to say that all the books and newspapers in our families ought to be religious books and newspapers, or that every song ought to be sung to the tune of "Old Hundred." I have no sympathy with the attempt to make the young old. I would rather join in a crusade to keep the young young. Boyhood aud girlhood must not be abbreviated. But there are good books, good histories, good biographies, good works of fiction, good books of all styles with which we are to fill the minds of the young, so that there will be no more room for the useless and the vicious than there is room for chaff in a bushel measure which is already filled with Michigan wheat.

Why are fifty per cent. of the criminals in the jails and penitentiaries of the United States to-day under twenty-one years of age? Many of them under seventeen, under sixteen, under fifteen, under fourteen, under thirteen. Walk along one of the corridors of the Tombs prison in New York and look of the Tombs prison in New York and look for yourselves. Bad books, bad newspapers bewitched them as soon as they got out of the cradle. Beware of all those stories which end wrong. Beware of all those books which make the road that ends in perdition seem to end in Paradise. Do not glorify the dirk and the pistol. Do not call the desperado brave or the libertine gallant. Teach our young people that if they go down Teach our young people that if they go down into the swamps and marshes to watch the jack-o'-lanterns dance on the decay and rottenness they will catch the malaria and

"Ob," says some one, "I am a business man, and I have no time to examine what my children read. I have no time to inspect the books that come into my household." If your children were threatened with typhoid fever, would you have time to go for the doctor? Would you have time to go by the doctor? Would you have time to watch the progress of the disease? Would you have time for the funeral? In the presence of my Gcd I warn you of the fact that your children was the second of the fact that your children was the second of the fact that your children was the second of the fact that your children was the second of the fact that your children was the second of the fact that your children was the second of the fact that your children was the second of the fact that your children was the second of the fact that your children was the second of the fact that your children was the second of the s dren are threatened with moral and spirit-ual typhoid, and that unless the thing be funeral of mind, funeral of soul. Three funerals in one day.

My word is to this vast multitude of young people: Do not touch, do not borrow, do not buy a corrupt book or a corrupt picture. A book will decide a man's destiny for good or for evil. The book you read yesterday may have decided you for time and for eter-nity, or it may be a book that may come

into your possessions to morrow.

A good book—who can exaggerate its power? Benjamin Franklin said that his reading of Cotton Mather's "Essays to Do Good" in childhood gave him holy aspira-tions for all the rest of his life. George Law declared that a biography he read in child-nood gave him all his subsequent prosperities. A clergyman, many years ago, passing to the far west, stopped at a hotel. He saw a woman copying something from Doddridge's "Rise and Progress." It seemed that she had borrowed the book, and there were some things she wanted some things she wanted especially to re-

The clergyman had in his sachel a copy of Doddridge's "Rise and Progress," and so he made her a present of it. Thirty years passed on. The clergyman came that way, and he asked where the woman was whom he had seen so long ago. "She lives yonder in that beautiful house." He went there and said to her, "Do you remember me?" She said, "No, I do not." He said, "Do you re-member a man gave you Doddridge's 'Rise and Progress' thirty years ago?" 'Oh, yes: I remember. That book saved my soul. I conned the book to all my neighbors, and they read it as they were converted to God, and we had a revival of religion which swept the read to a revival of religion which swept through the whole community. We built a shurch and called a pastor. You see that spire yonder, don't you? That church was built as the result of that book you gave ne thirty years ago." Oh, the power of a good book! But, alas! for the influence of a good book!

John Angel James, than whom England gever had a bolier minister, stood in his pul-pit at Birmingham and said: "Twenty-five years and a lad loaned to me an intamous pears a to a lad loaned to me an infamous book. He would loan it only fifteen minates, and then I had to give it back, but that book has haunted me like a specter ever time. I have in agony of soul, on my knees before God, prayed that he would obliterate from my soul the memory of it, but I shall barry the damage of it until the day of my leath." The assassin of Sir William Russial dealered that he leath." The assassin of Sir William Rus-iell declared that he got the inspiration for tell declared that he got the inspiration for its crime by reading what was then a new and popular novel, "Jack Sheppard." Homer's "Ilied" made Alexander the war-for. Alexander said so. The story of Alexander made Juitus Coesar and Charles KIL both mea of blood. Have you in your pocket, or in your trunk, or in your desk armusiness a bad boot, a bad picture, a bad pampilet? In God's name I warn you to destroy it.

Another way in which we shall fight back this corrupt literature and kill the frogs of figypt is by rolling over them the Christian Egypt is by rolling over them the Christian printing press, which shall give plenty of healthful reading to all adults. All these men and women are reading men and women. What are you reading? Abstain from all those books which, while they had some good things about them, had also an admixaure of evil. You have read books that had live elements in them—the good and the had. Which stuck to you? The had? The heart of most people is like a sieve, which lets the small particles of gold fall through, but teeps the great cinders. Once in a while there is a mind like a loadstone, which, plunged amid steel and brass filings, gathers up the steel and repels the brass. But it is generally the opposite. If you attempt to plunge through a sence of burrs to get one blackberry, you will get more burrs than blackberries.

You cannot afford to read a bad book, You cannot afford to read a bad book, however good you are. You say, "The influence is insignificant." I tell you that the icratch of a pin has sometimes produced lock-jaw. Alas, if through curiosity, as many do, you pry into an evil book, your curiosity as dangerous as that of the man who would take a torch into a gunpowder mill merely to see whether it would really blow up or not. In a menagerie a man put his arm through the bars of a black leopard's cage. The animal's hide looked so seek and bright and beautiful. He just stroked it once. The monster seized him, and he drew forth a hand | THE LESSON OF THE ROSES.

torn and mangled and bleeding.
Oh, touca not the evil even with the faintest stroke! Though it may be glossy and boautiful, touch it not lest you pull forta your sou, torn and bleeding under the clutca of the black leopard. "But," you say, "how an I find out whether a book is good or bad without reading it?" There is always something suspicious about a bad book. I never knew an exception—something suspicious in the index or style of illustration. This yeamous reptile almost always carries a waru-

ing rattle.
The clock strikes midnight. A fair form bends over a romance. The eyes flast fire. The breath is quick and irregular. Occasionally the color dashes to the cheek, and then dies out. The hards tremble as though a guardian spirit were trying to thake the deadly book out of the grasp. How tears fall. She laugus with a shrill voice that drops dead at its own sound. The tweat on her brow is the spray dashed up from the river of death. The clock strikes our, an i the rosy dawn soon after begins to look through the lattice upo: the pale form that looks like a detained specter of the night. Soon in a madhouse she will mistage her ringlets for curling serpeants, and thrussher white hand through the bars of the prison, and smite her head, rubbing it back as though to push the scalp from the skull, thricking: "My brain! my brain!" On, stand off from that! Why will you go sounding your way a nid the reefs and warnng buoys, when there is such a vast ocean

in which you may voyage, all sail set? We see so many books we do not understand what a book is. Stand it on end. Measure it—the height of it, the depth of it, the length of it, the oreadth of it. You cannot do it. Examine the paper and estimate the progress made from the time of the im ons on clay, and then on the bark of rees, and from the bark of trees to papyrus, and from papyrus to the hide of wild beasts. and from the hide of wild beasts on down antil the miracles of our modern paper manlfactories, and then see the paper, oure as an intant's soul, waiting for God's in-

A book! Examine the type of it. Examine the printing of it, an isee the progress from the time waen Solon's laws were written on tak planks, and Hesiod's poems were written on tables of lead, and the Siniatic comman is were written on tables of stone, on down to Hoe's perfecting printing press

A book! It took all the universities of the past, all the martyr fires, all the civilizations, all the battles, all the victories, all the de-leats, all the glooms, all the brightness, all

the centuries to make it possible.

A book! It is the chorus of all ages; it is the drawing room in which kings and queens and orators and poets and historians come out to greet you. If I worshiped anything on earth I would worship that. If I burned incense to any idol I would build an altar to that. Thank God for good books, healthful books, inspiring books, Christian books, books of men, books of women, Book of God. It is with these good books that we are to overcome corrupt literature. Upon the frogs swoop with these eagles. I depend much for the overthrow of iniquitous literature upon the mortality of books. Even good books

Do not have a hard struggle to live.

not call Polybius wrote forty books; only five of them left. Thirty books of Tacitus have perished. Twenty books of Pliny have perperished. Twenty books of Pliny have perished. Livy wrote one hundred and forty books; only thirty-five of them remain. Eschylus wrote one hundred dramas; only seven remain. Euripides wrote over a hundred; only nineteen remain. Vatro wrote the biographies of over seven hundred great Romans. All that wealth of biography has perished. If good and valuable books have such a struggle to live, what must be the late of those that are diseased and corrupt and blastel at the very start! They will die as the frogs when the Lord turned back the plague. The work of Christianization will to on until there will be nothing left but good books, and they will take the supremary of the world. May you and I live to see the

Against every bad pamphlet send a good phlet; against every unclean picture send an innocent picture; against every scur-silous sonz send a Christian song; against svery bad book send a good book; and then it will be as it was in ancient Toledo, where the Toletum missals were kept by the saints in six churches, and the sacrilegious Romans demanded that those missals be destroyed, and that the Roman missals be substituted; and the war came on, and I am glad to say that the whole matter having been referred to champions, the champion of the Toleium missals with one blow brought down the

Shampion of the Roman missals.
So it will be in our day. The good literature, the Christian literature, in its cham-pionship for God, and the truth, will bring flown the evil literature in its championship for the devil. I feel tingling to the tips of my fingers and through all the nerves of my body, and all the depths of my soul, the pody, and all the depths of my soul, the pertainty of our friumph. Cheer up, oh, non and women who are toiling for the purification of society! Toil with your faces in the sunlight. "If God be for us, who, who can be against us?"

Lady Hester Stanhope was the daughter of the third Earl of Stanhope, and after her searest friends had died she went to the far east, took possession of a deserted convent. threw up fortresses amid the mountains of Lebanon, opened the castle to the poor, and the wretched, and the sick who would come n. She made her castle a home for the unfortunate. She was a devout Christian woman. She was waiting for the coming of the Lord. She expected that the Lord would lescend in person, and she thought upon it intil it was too much for her reason. In the nagnificent stables of her palace she had two norses groomed and bridled and saddled and taparisoned and all ready for the day in which her Lord should descend, and be on me of them and she on the other should start or Jerusalem, the city of the Great King.
It was a fanaticism and a delusion; but there
was romance, and there was splendor, and
there was thrilling expectation in the dream! Ah, my friends, we need no earthly pal-lreys groomed and saddled and bridled and saparisoned for our Lord when He shall sparisoned for our Lord when He shall some. The horse is ready in the equerry of seaven, and the imperial rider is ready to nount. "And I saw, and behold a white sorse, and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him; and he went forth conquering and to conquer. And the armies which were in heaven followed Him on white horses and on His vesture and m His thirth were written. King of kings. n His thigh were written, King of kings, and Lord of lords." Horse men of Heaven, nount! Cavalry of God, ride on! Charge! charge! until they shall be hurled back on their haunches—the black horse of famine, and the red back of and the red horse of carnage, and the pale torse of death. Jesus forever!

Electricity Catches Elephants.

A novel application of electricity has recently been made in elephant catching. At a recent capture of forty of these animals, when the last of their unwieldy breast, the wall, "How can I live with bodies had passed the entrance into the Khedda, the signal for barring their exit word spoken, by means of an electric wire. It is only a short time since petroleum superseded native vegetable oils for lighting throughout the bazars and villages of India. Electricity is now taking the place both of petroleum or coal gas in the great spinning factories, for which it is peculiarly suited in a hot climate owing to its coolness and absence of smell .- London Times.

The number of good hairdressers' has greatly increased. Perfect care of the hair and scalp, skilful trimming of bangs and good coifing are as necessary bangs a were in the days when most of the elder hairdressers learned their trade.

They blossomed on every side. Great trails of "Gloire de Dijon" finng themselves over the cottage walls, laden with pinky buds and pearly blooms, with hearts of delicate gold, coiled up like shells. Clusters of fragile white ones, whose tiny buds flushed with! eager auticipation of full fledged li e, peeped in at the windows, nesting among their thick foliage. Stanlards stood, stately and fair, serenely sweet, 1 somewhat formal; and, in the borders and Serving. upon every side, great bushes of oldfushioned crimson and white and pink and moss roses made the summer ar rich with rare fragrance of bad and full blownflower. Beneath them traile the little yellow Scotch briar, massed w th tiny golden balls, and wide-spread fended. single stars, among prickles and olive hued foliage; while, near the gate, the sweet briar threw out its pale fragile open hearted flowers among its perfumed leaves. The garden would not contain their wealth, it spread out over tangled hedge and rural lane, un profitably bordered with bramble and briar, where wreaths might toss themselves unheeded in the soft breeze, above the grass, enamelled with blue speedwell and daisy and buttercup and ragwort and vetch.

Petals of those which had flunted their day, wafted slowly down, hardly distinguishable from the new-born white butterflies that spread their yet mo st wings to dry in the sun, ere they could commence their joyous flight. "It was the time of roses-we placked them as we passed."

Shall we weight our pleasure in the ovely flowers by the thought of how trail and short-lived is their beauty? by memories of sweet small hands that have gathered stores of them east whi'e, and that now lie, pale and quiet for ever, though the roses bloom again as fair as before? Ah, no, no! These joys are meant to be joys for ever, to remin lus that Heaven has roses vet sweeter and fairer than these:-that the little hands we love are plucking I. The King's Plans: them maybe even now, in joy that knows no fading. These roses are sweet even when withered and dead; we gather them up in brown heaps, and in winter weather; so the memory of those other bads should be enshrined in tender hearts to make pleasant the path to the black river, and radiant golden gate beyond.

Roses! How lovely they are upon childhood's cheeks, in maiden's blush, on the withered cheek of honored age; they harmonize equally with the flaxen curl, the nut-brown tress, the silverhued band; they are welcome in the stately palace parterre, in the homely gardens, on the lonely untrimmed The whole disposing thereof is the hedge. Who is there that does not Lord (Prov. 16:33). to adorn her dainty dress: the village maiden plucks one to carry with her prayer-book to church. The worldworn, storm-tossed man puts a sweet bud into his button hole to refresh himself as he toil in the close city streets; and the child pulls his baby fingers full, and carries his pinafore girl is decked with them for her ball the bride is crowned with them for her bridal; the strong man lays them on the pillow of the fading invalid to cheer the fainting soul, the bereaved strews them on the mound which marks the resting-place of the beloved

one gone before. They never come amiss, in gaiety or in gloom, among songs or among sighs; to youth or to yearning age. Carry a bunch of them through the low quarters of a busy town, and see how children, with longing eyes, will

shyly venture to beg "Missus, will you give me a flower?" Take a posy to the hospital where pain and guffering lie drearily on each side, and see the weary eyes brighten for a moment as you lay the cool fragrance in the hot feeble fingers. "They mind me of the place I lived in when I was a girl,' ome one is almost sure to observe.

Have a basket full in your hand when you enter the busy shop in the heart of a town, and notice how the civil shop-walker is almost certain to and fetch him (13). linger a moment, after placing your The kings...saying, Let us break ten with blindness, which accordingly chair, to remark upon them; and the their bands as under (Psa. 2: 2, 3). girl who serves you will, with the The king's word hath power (Eccl. 8: smallest encouragement, say she sup-

of holiday makers from manufacturing districts, and should you cut a few for II. Shrewd Strategy: some pallidhard worked man or woman, you will be repaid with such a the city about (14). glow of gratitude, as goes far to prove Set thee an ambush for the city behind your benefaction has been the crowning

joy of an unfrequent pleasure. Has all this no tale to tell, no simple word to teach? The wealth of roses comes but once a year—gather them while ye may—"old time is still a fly-Yes, gather them. The power of giving pleasure comes but seldom too, yet the life that gives no pleasure would be as incomplete as the year in which no roses bloom. Meagre in-deed must be that existence which never owns the power of giving pleasure; but it must seize the opportunity when it can, for "old time is still a flying." There is nothing more sad than to stand by the grave of one who will never be missed by those he has left behind; who leaves no one the poorer, no one the drearier, no one the less happy for his loss, to whom has been said the solemn words "Cut it down, why cumbreth it the ground?" Far less sad the streaming eye, the heaving

out him!" If our existence is blessed like the was given, instantaneously and without a rose-tree, with health and beauty and vigor and admiration, will you hug all these delights to your own bosoms, nor give out the fragrance of your enjoy-ment far and wide to those who cannot share in it, nor own the like?

> ONB secret act of self-denial, one sacrifice of inclination to duty, is worth all the mere good thoughts. warm feelings, passionate prayers, in which idle people indulge themselves.
>
> —J. H. Newman.
>
> Fear not: for are more (16).
>
> There is a greater.

The fastest English trains are those

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON. SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1831. Elisha's Defenders.

LESSON TEXT.

@ Kings 6: 8-18. Memory verses: 15-17.)

LESSON PLAN. TOPIC OF THE QUARTER: Sinning GOLDEN TEXT FOR THE QUARTER:

LESSON TOPIO: God's Servant De-

1. Human Wisdom Baffled, LESSON OUTLINE: Vs. 8 12.

Vs. 8 12.

2. Worldly Power Exerted vs. 13-15. 2. D vine Defense Illus-trated, vs. 16-18. GOLDEN TEXT: Fear not: for they

that be wi h us are more than they that be with them .- 2 Kings 6: 16.

DAILY HOME READINGS:

- 1 Tim. 4:8.

M .- 2 Kings 6: 8-18. Elisha's defenders. T .- 2 Ki gs 2:1-12. The chariot of I-racl.

W .- Psa. 68:1-19. The chariots of God. T.-Psa. 34: 1-22. The saints de-

fended. F.-Zech. 6:1-8. Vision of the chariots. S .- Matt. 6: 19-34. Preser ation

assured. S .- Matt. 18 : 1-11. The saints' defenders.

LESSON ANALYSIS. I. HUMAN WISDOM BAFFLED.

In such and such a place shall be my camp (8). Boast not thyself of to-morrow (Prov.

entomb them in china jars for delight In that night Belshazzar....was slain 27:1). (Dan. 5 : 30). Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years (Luke 12: 19).

Go to now, ye that say, To-day or tomorrow we will (Jas. 4:13). II. The King's Perplexity: The king of Syria was sore troubled

for this thing (11). I have dreamed a dream, and there is noce that can interpret it (Gen. 41:15).

Lord (Prov. 16:33). love them? The princess calls a knot Thou knowest not what a day may bring forth (Prov. 27:1). The king's thoughts troubled him (Dan. 5:6).

III. The King's Antagonist: Elisha....telleth....that thou speakest in thy bedchamber (12).

Ahab said, Is it thou, thou troubler of Israel? (1 Kings 18: Ahab said, ... Hast thou foun my enemy? (1 Kings 21: 20). .. Hat thou found me, O A poor wise man . . . delivered the city

John said unto him, It is not lawful for thee (Matt. 14: 4).

1. "He took counsel with his servcess: (2) Seeking Israel's de cat .-(1) Syria and Israel at war; (2) Man (probably not Gehazi). and God in antagonism.

2. "The man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware."
(1) An alert prophet; (2) An attentive king -(1) God's knowledge: (2) Elisha's ut erances; (3) Jehoram's rescue.

IL WORLDLY POWER EXERTED.

I. Kingly Orders: Go and see where he is, that I send

oses the country is looking very love- The king's commandment was urgent (Dan. 3: 22). Should your garden lie in the track They were not afraid of the king's commandment (Heb. 11: 23).

> They came by night, and compassed it (Josh. 8: 2).

The people gat them by stealth ... into the city (2 Sam. 19: 3). When they come out,... we shall take them alive (2 Kings 7: 12). The ambushment was behind them (2

Chron. 13: 13). III. Mighty Hosts: An host with horses and chariots was round about (15). Ben-hadad . . . gathered all his host to-gether (1 Kings 20: 1).

It was a great host, like the host of God (1 Chron. 12: 22). There is no king saved by the multi-tude of an host (Psa. 33: 16).

may send and fetch him." (1) The prophet's offense; (2) The king's wrath; (3) The soldiers' pursuit; (4) The Lord's legions. 2. "They came by night, and com-passed the city about." (1) Ad-

ness; (3) Beleaguered citizens; (4) Unseen defenders. 3. "Alas, my master! how shall we do?" (1) Lamentation; (2) Inquiry. (1) A visible peril; (2) A serious alarm; (3) A hopeless inquiry.

III. DIVINE DEFENSE ILLUSTRATED. I. Defense Assured: Fear not: for they that be with us There is a greater with us than with

him (2 Chron. 32: 7). places where women go in Boston, Mass., running between Euston and Edinburgh, Through the waters, I will be with II. Defense Displayed: He saw: and, behold, the mountain was full (17).

It came between the camp of Egyp and the camp of Israel (Exod. 14

The Lord had made the ... Syrians to hear a noise (2 Kings 7: 6). Lo, I see four men ...in the midst on the fire (Dan. 3: 25).

All the doors were opened; and every one's bands were loosed (Acts 16: 26) III. Defense Realized:

Smite this pe ple, I pray thee... And he smote them (18). Godliness is profitable unto all things. He hath triumphed gloriously (Exod God is my high tower, the God of my

mercy (Psa. 59, 17). My God ... hath shut the lions' mouths (Dan. 6: 22). Thou. . . didst purchase unto God with thy blood Rev. 5:9).

1. "They that be with us are more than they that be with them." Visible host against us; (2) Invisible hosts for us; (3) Great hosts again tus; (4) Greater hosts for

2. "Open his eyes, that he may see." (1) Spiritual vision absent: (2) Spiritual vision sought; 3 Spiritual vision gaine !.

3. 'The mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." (1 A central ersonage (2) An encircling throng.—(1) Defenseless men; (2) Invincible hosts.

LESSON BIBLE READING.

ANGELIC DEFENDERS. Competent defenders (Psa. 103: 20). Encamp about the saints (Psa. : 34-7). Represent them before God (Matt. 18:10.

Minister to them (Heb. 1:14). Extirpate the wicked (Matt. 13: 41-43). Assisted Hagar (Gen. 16:7-9; 21:14-Led from Egypt (Num. 20:16).

Defended from fire (Dan. 3: 26-28). Shut the lions' months (Dan. 6:21) 22).

Liberated Peter (Acts 12:5-11). Protecting Jesus (Matt. 2:13, 19;4; 11:26:53). Gather saints to glory (Luke 16: 22).

LESSON SURROUNDINGS. INTERVENING EVENTS. - The only event recorded in the narrative is the miracle of the recovered ax-head, when the sons of the prophets were hewing wood on the bank of the Jordan. When this took place, is uncertain. As intimated already, this lesson probably relers to a period before the healing of Naaman, possibly before the raising of

the Shunammite's son. . PLACES -Among the places attacked in the predatory campaigns of the king of Syria, Dothan ("Two Wells") alone s named. It was a small town ten or twelve miles north of Samaria, on a little hill south of the I lain of Esdraelon. The name still remains. Compare Geneses 37: 17, and the spocryphal

Book of Judith, 4:6. TIME.-In B. C. 891 or 892, possibly Davis accepts B. C. 852-850 as the date of these predatory war. As alreay intimated, the usual dates the in margin of our reference Bibles are unsat-

sfactory. Persons .- Ben-hadad (II.), king of Syria; his officers, one of his servants ants." (1) Seeking Syria's see in particular: Joram (or Jeboram), king of Israel; Elisha, and his servant

INCIDENTS .- The king of Syria wages war against Israel, but Elisha several times warns the king of the designs of the Syrians. The Syrian king suspects treachery among his servants, but one of them tells him that Elisha reveals his plans. Finding that the prophet is 3. "Elisha....telleth the king of at Dothan, the Syrian king sends an Israel." (1) The king's dilemma; army thither. Early in the morning, (2) The prophet's help; (3) The the servant of Elisha discovers the host enemy's defeat; (4) The Lord's of enemies. Elisha, when the servant utters his fears, tells him that their defenders are yet more numerous; he asks the Lord to open the eyes of the young man, who then sees the mountain full of horses and chariots of fire. Elisha prays that the Syrians be smit-

The Otahejte Orange.

Orange blossoms are among the most expensive, the most beautiful, fragrant and desirable of all flowers it is possible for one to possess. They have a delicate beauty and fragrance which commend them to every one. Among the new varieties of oranges that have been recently introduced from Japan and other countries, there is one dwarf free-flowering variety which is suitable for pot culture, and which will with any one, prove one of the most desirable pot plants it is possible to possess. We refer to the Japanese Otaheite. While it will grow three or four feet high and branch freely, it is not an uncommon thing to see little cutting plants five or six inches in height full of bloom and even bearing one or two medium size oranges. The fruit at their best are not more than half the The king of Assyria sent....a great size of an ordinary orange, but are ver army unto Jerusalem (2 Kings 18: bright and beautiful in color and de size of an ordinary orange, but are very licious in quality, but it is for its flowers more than its fruit which commends it to general cultivation. When it blooms it is so full that it seems to be all flowers. The pure, waxy-white 1. "Go and see where he is, that 1 blossoms, emitting a delicate, yet powerful fragrance, which is surpassed by

The plant is of the easiest culture, says the Mayflower, and will always thrive well in any decent situation if passed the city about." (1) Ad. given an ordina y size pot of good vancing hosts; (2) Favoring dark. soil. It is not liable to be attacked by insects, except by the scale, which is a very rare pest among house plants, and one of the easiest to get rid of, as a slight sponging of soapand water, or a little brushing with an old tooth-brush, will free the plant of them. One of the best evidences of the value of the Otaheite Orange is the great de-mand for it. It has been sold as a pot plant only a very few years, and now it is difficult to grow plants enough to supply the demand.

In our schools at the present, day we use "Euclid's Elements of Geometry,"