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UPS AND DOWNS IN A NATION'S LIFE

Quarterly Review of Sunday School Lesson Presents Study of Facts and Teachings

By William T. Ellis
It is the long look that reveals truth. Things must be seen in rela-tion one to another in order to be understood. The advantage of a quarterly review of Sunday school lessons, such as the present, is that it enables us to study facts and teachings in proper proportions. A single lesson may concentrate our attention too closely upon episodes and details; a long sweep of history, like that comprehended within the studies of the past three months, gives balance and perspective and a sense of relative values.

Most persons need this. We are so close to the incidents of life that we often miss a clear view of life itself. We "cannot see the woods for the trees." Saint Peter had a keen word trees." Saint Peter had a keen word upon this when he characterized a certain sort of person as "blind, seeing only what is near." Now, amid the present world upheaval, we need espectally the gift of discerning major tendencies and ultimate issues, behind the welter of absorbing details. Whatever local conditions may be, let it be remembered that they are as the waves, which may be receding, though the tide is rising. This essential lesson truth has been well expressed by Priscilla Leonard in a poem in "The Outlook":

"On the far reef the breakers
Recoil in shattered foam,
Yet still the sea behind them
Urges its forces home;
Its chart of triumph surges
Through all the thunderous din—
The wave may break in failure,
But the tide is sure to win.

"The reef is strong and cruel;
Upon its jagged wall
One wave—a score—a hundred,
Broken and beaten fall;
Yet in defeat they conquer,
The sea comes flooding in
Wave upon wave is routed,
But the tide is sure to win.

"O, mighty sea! thy message
In clanging spray is cast;
Within God's plan of progress
It matters not at last,
How wide the score of evil.
How strong the reefs of sin—
The wave may be defeated,
But the tide is sure to win."

Kings, Great and Small

It is a startling or incredible hought that the real mission and fficiency of the ancient Jewish kingom which we are studying can, at efully understood until we have een the effects produced in Bible ands by the present war? A resurence of Jewish nationalism is being vitnessed throughout the world. What twentieth century development to inherit the, glories of David and colomon?

What twentieth century development is to inherit the glories of David and Solomon?

A long look at the lessons of the quarter reveals David and Solomon, as well as Rehoboam and Jeroboam and Ahab, and still lesser wearers of the purple. In great allegience of Jehovah, David and Solomon had led united Israel to the apex of its history. The studies now in review—and what rich lessons they have been!—have included the greatest days of the Jewish nation. They have also taken in the tragic times of the division of the kingdom. The mightiest of the Hebrew monarchu, as well as the meanest, have been under the study of the world's Sunday schools, all within three months.

What greatness could do for a nation, and what smallness could undo, has vividly been portrayed. God pity the people who have puslianimous leaders in a time of great crises. It makes a sovereign citizen tremble when he sees politicians pursuing their petty partisan purposes in an hour of national emergency. At least we can be thankful that, as we sweep the world's present troubled horizon there are few, if any, Rehoboams in places of national leadership.

Leaders and Misleaders

Leaders and Misleaders

One angle from which the quarter's lessons may be viewed is as a study in leadership. I heard a man say, in condemning a certain notorious ecclesiastic in one of the larger American religious denominations. It will take the Church twenty years to recover from the blight of that man's influence, after he is dead. Similarly to-day the hand of Abdul Hamid has been removed from the Turkish scepter but it remains baefully upon the Turkish people. The present saturnalla of massacres and persecutions of Christians in the Ottoman Empire is traceable to Abdul Hamid's example and influence. Jeroboam, "who made Israel to sin," continued his malign work even after his bones had rotted. No man sinneth unto himself. If you do not believe that on first statement ask the historians; or ask the doctors, who, in this morning's paper cried out against the social crime of permitting wicked fathers to foredom unborn offspring to suffering and despair.

Observing the influence of the

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mitting wicked fathers to foredoom unborn offspring to suffering and despair.

Observing the influence of the character of the kings who were leaders and misleaders of the Jews we are reminded of the proverb. "Like priest, like people." Every forceful personality should himself count, in these days, for the highest national idea's. The highest national idea's. The highest national idea's. The highest national of the proverb passes the nations of the world at the present time.

Probably the average school

The Prophet's Part

Probably the average school teacher wields a more potent influence over the life than the average office-holder, taking the two classes in the large. Kings, on the whole, have counted for less than the great reformers, writers and preachers. To be a speaker forth of truth is to wield the mightlest septer. After David and Solomon — both of whom combined the prophet-function with their sovereignty, so that they are immortal as teachers, rather than as rulers—there was no king among the Jews who counted for as much as the prophets. Elijah dwarfed all his contemporaries.

To be the man who speaks for God in a nation's troubled hour is a great mission. What if the prophet's work is hard for the prophet? Better truth's tempests than error's ease. Elijah in the wilderness is a sublimer figure than Ahab on his throne. God still has ravens to feed His messengers, so that the mesengers need give little thought to the ravens, but only to the message. The firm pays the expenses of its traveling representatives.

the expenses of its traveling representatives.
This review ends where the quarter's lessons ended, squarely conforning the great and eternal truth that to represent God, to speak His message fearlessly, to be true to His name and mission, is the highest work possible to mortal. When the times are most troublous, then the need for the tellers of the truth of God is greatest. The highest patriotism is to call one's country back to the faith of its fathers.

The Aldrich's association which The Aldrich's association, which is a nonsectarian organization of men on Allison Hill, to-day sent out invitations to about 300 men to attend a cornroast at Bellevue Park on next Monday evening. Short talks will be given by the Rev. James F. Bullett, Harris J. Bell, an dthe president, J. Klinedinst.

STEELTON SNAP SHOTS
To Arrange Trip. — Steelton Lodge,
411, Knights of Pythlas, will make arrangements for the visit of the lodge to York, September 27. The local lodge will be guests of Crystal Lodge at York.

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