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NOTE.—The Compiler will be grateful to friends who send corrections or additions. While the Index is proceeding, references will be given in another column on texts not yet reached, if application is made for them. If requested, other sources of information bearing upon texts or biblical subjects will also be pointed out. Any suggestion, whereby this department can be made of more practical value, will be heartily welcomed.

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Sunday School.

International Lessons for February.

SHORT NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

I.

Feb. 2.—Luke ii. 25-35.

Jesus brought into the Temple.

This lesson is short, and presents little difficulty. We may notice:

1. "The Consolation of Israel" (verse 25). It was a common title for the expected Messiah. The same word is used by Jesus when He speaks of the "Comforter," but the form of Christ's word is more *personal*.

2. "After the custom of the law" (verse 27). If a male

child was the first-born of his mother, he had to be brought to the Temple when forty days old, and *redeemed*. Five shekels were paid for his ransom. If not redeemed he was consecrated to the Lord in the service of the Temple, as Samuel was.

3. "A sign that shall be spoken against" (verse 34). Many illustrations of the stumbling-block of the Cross will be found in the first number of the EXPOSITORY TIMES, under the "Great Text Commentary".

The interest of the lesson gathers round Simeon. We know nothing of him but what is told us here; but it is enough. He stands in the centre of a most attractive picture. The scene is the Temple—Herod's magnificent Temple, one of the wonders of the world. Joseph has