

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

NOVEMBER 2nd, 1856.

Subject.—CIRCUMSTANCES ATTENDING THE CRUCIFIXION OF CHRIST.

For Repeating. For Reading. John xix. 5-7. | John xix. 23-42.

NOVEMBER 9th, 1856.

Subject.—VISIT TO THE SEPULCHRE.

For Repeating. For Reading. John xix. 25-27. | John xx. 1-18.

Should Sunday Schools close in Winter

In many parts of the country, but few Sunday-schools are found with open doors in winter, except in the larger towns and villages. Those who advocate this measure assign as reasons for the same, bad roads, unpleasant weather, uncomfortable houses, distance, &c.

So prevalent is the impression, in some quarters, that a Sunday-school cannot be carried on in winter, that in thousands of neighbourhoods the Sunday-school is closed in consequence of that opinion, though the effort has never been made to sustain it through that season.

Experiments fairly tried have established the fact, that where the teachers are deeply interested in the work, and appreciate its magnitude, and have a deep sense of their responsibility combined with energy of character, the Sunday-school can be carried on with as much interest during the winter as in the summer.

Winter is the period when the greatest amount of intellectual education is given and acquired. If children can attend the district or private school five days in the week, for the education of the mind, ought they not to go one day, for that which is vastly more important—the education of the heart?

Many children receive in Sunday-school the only religious instruction they do receive. Deprive them of the Sunday-school in winter, and their souls, which are of more value than worlds on worlds, are not cared for during that period, but are left exposed to those temptations which Satan is ever ready to present to unoccupied minds.

As the Sunday-school is a means of grace adapted to the young, it would be as reasonable to close, to the Christian, some of the privileges of worship because of the storms of winter. As well close the place of worship or school-house for preaching to the adult, as the Sunday-school for the young. As well may the preacher cease to preach Christ and him crucified, as the Sunday-school teacher cease saying to the young, "This is the way—walk ye in it."

Revivals more commonly take place in Sabbath schools during the winter months. As a matter of fact, nearly all the revivals reported during the past year, have been enjoyed in schools, which have continued through the year.

Few are the hours in which Sunday-school instruction is given, these few are reduced at least one-third by those who close the Sunday-school in winter.

That the difficulties attending a Sunday-school in winter are greater than in summer, is admitted; but that they can be surmounted, we know, from the experience and observation of many who have tried, and have overcome the difficulties.

The reason generally urged for closing the Sunday-school in the fall, is "that the children cannot or will not attend in the winter, the weather and roads are so bad." Try it and see if this is the true reason. Just before the time when you propose to close the school for the reasons above mentioned, state to the children the intention; remind them of the storms of winter, long walk over bad roads and the comfort they must deny themselves in leaving their warm firesides. Remind them too, that these difficulties do not deter them from their ordinary work, and sports, or their attendance at the day schools, then speak of the advantages of the Sunday-school and library, and the long winter-evenings for studying the lessons and reading the books, and then take a vote whether the Sunday-school shall be closed or not—letting the children understand that those who vote in favour of its continuance, by that vote, do promise to be regular and punctual if it is continued. Let that vote be the decisive act.

If it is determined to close the Sunday-school, set a time when it will be re-opened; as it is sometimes the case that where there is not interest enough to sustain the Sunday-school through in the winter, there is not enough to revive it promptly in the spring.

Let the time set be early, as, if delayed till late

in the spring, a large portion of the season will be lost before they get fairly under way after it is commenced.

If the school closes in the winter, the teachers, older scholars, and neighbourhood generally, should form themselves into Bible-classes, using the Union Questions or some other Text-book. Here the older scholars can be trained for teachers. All experience proves that they are the best teachers who have been scholars.—Sunday School Pioneer.

Home and Friends.

THERE is a power to make each hour As sweet as heaven design'd it; Nor need we roam to bring it home, Though few there be who find it. We seek too high for things close by, And lose what nature found us: For life hath here no charm so dear As home and friends around us.

What kindness will do.

There is only one thing in the world that can't be tamed. What that is you can find by turning to the Bible and reading the third chapter of the General Epistle of James and the eighth verse. Every kind of beasts and of birds and of serpents and of the things in the sea is tamed and hath been tamed of mankind: the raging lion, the ferocious tiger, the cunning fox, the wild buffalo, and the crooked serpent, have all been tamed. How was it done? Mainly by kindness. The creatures were taken when young. By gentle treatment their natures were changed; and, though they become large and strong, their keepers can control them and make them do as they bid.

Kindness wins confidence. Birds can be coaxed to take their food from a friendly hand, and squirrels will come like kittens to take a nut from your thumb and finger. Who can tell what power kindness has over the ferocious nature of beasts and men?—Penny Gazette.

Selections.

JOHN KITTO.

This was one of the most extraordinary men of our time. His acquirements and abilities were extraordinary, and still more extraordinary was the mode of his preparation for the work for which God had designed him. An account of his early life is given in the Ch. Messenger of June 30th, our readers will see in it, and in the subsequent narrative, how wonderful are the ways of God in preparing agents for His work.

See a boy of twelve years of age, the son of a working bricklayer, who has fallen from a height of thirty-five feet and when he is restored to consciousness, is totally destitute of the sense of hearing! How little can the church of God hope from him as an instrument? How unlikely is it that the most learned divines of Europe should be eager to obtain from his writings illustrations of biblical topics of various kinds? How difficult must it be for him to take the first steps in the course in which he has to go, and when he has commenced his career, how many formidable obstacles will arise to impede his progress.

Kind friends were raised up for him in Plymouth, where he lived, in unlooked-for quarters, and by their assistance he obtained the rudiments of education. After passing through trials innumerable and severe, he was engaged by Mr. Groves, a devoted servant of Christ, of somewhat eccentric habits, who was about to travel in the East as a philanthropist and dentist.

After spending some time in labor at a printing office of the Church Missionary Society at Islington, he visited with that gentleman Peterburg, Bagdad, Constantinople, and many other places. The manner in which the knowledge thus acquired was to be employed was, however, unknown till he was introduced to some of the members of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, and to Mr. Charles Knight, the enterprising London publisher. In writing to a friend immediately afterwards, Mr. Kitto, then about nine-and-twenty years of age, says: "Language would fail me to describe all the anxieties I felt on my return, about a temporal provision. Many dear plans of my own were in a very short time, blown to atoms; and I was sinking down into much despondency, when a kind and influential friend was the means of introducing me to some gentleman connected with Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge. By them I have been engaged to write in one of their cheap periodical publications, 'The Penny Magazine,' on the very liberal terms of one pound eleven shillings per page; besides which I enter next Monday on a new employment with the same parties. . . . The publication to which I thus have access, is calculated to be read by a million of people in England; besides that it is reprinted

in America, and translated into French, German, and Dutch. The Chancellor is the president of the Society with which I am becoming connected, and some affect to regard him as an editor of the magazine. Yesterday I saw him represented in a caricature, as engaged, with great energy, in rammimg 'The Penny Magazine,' with the handle of his broom, (Lord Brougham) down the throat of a poor wight, on his knees.

In whatever else the people of all classes differ in one thing they are agreed, that the times are bad. I am sure I believe so; for ever since I can remember, I never heard any one say that they were good; and I question if the Wandering Jew himself, in all the ages he has lived, and all the countries he has travelled, ever once heard that they were. I am to write about my travels. Besides this, though this alone would have been gratifying, Mr. Knight, who has believed to me with great kindness, made me a proposal with regard to permanent employment. It was to look through books of reference, chiefly (French, Italian, and German), in order to suggest additions to the list of words already prepared for the Cyclopædia; to keep my attention constantly directed towards the periodical literature of France, and, if possible Germany, in order to suggest corrections and additions to the articles already printed in that work; to collect information on given subjects from given sources; and to answer the letters of contributors to the Cyclopædia. The performance of these duties would require my attendance daily, for seven hours, at Ludgate Street. . . . I fairly told him, in reply, how much of all this I did, and did not, feel myself equal to; but he encouraged me at least, to try it, and seemed disposed to feel that 'my zeal would overcome all minor difficulties,' and that I should soon be able to qualify myself for what I might not at present be equal to. I have accordingly been a week already with him, and feel quite happy in the situation. I do thank God for this relief from a state of great anxiety, in which I had begun to entertain the most melancholy view of the things before me, and saw possible consequences which I could not bear steadily to contemplate.

Soon, however, he was called to enter upon what will ever be his great work—the "Pictorial Bible," an account of the origin of which must be permanently interesting to the lovers of biblical literature:

"While Kitto was engaged in writing for the 'Penny Magazine,' it occurred to Mr. Knight who had projected an edition of the bible with notes and illustrations, that his familiarity with Oriental customs, would enable him to treat one department of such a work in a manner much more satisfactory than would be possible to persons whose knowledge of the topics was derived merely from books unaided by personal observation. It may be safely affirmed that, in the conception and the execution, it forms an era in biblical literature. Help was needed and offered to him; but he declined all assistance, excepting that of his devoted wife, which proved to be amply sufficient, and far more available than any extraneous aid. Kitto's sense of responsibility at the commencement was intense, for he felt that its success or failure would decide whether his long-cherished convictions and aspirations were well-founded or not, whether he had been merely indulging in a long day-dream of vain ambition, or had at length found the task which God had fitted him to perform. At first he was almost afraid to look at the critical notices of the work which appeared during the course of publication; but when he found their language was uniformly commendatory, that only gave rise to fresh anxieties lest he should not be able to sustain the reputation he had acquired.

He writes to Mr. Knight in 1837 thus: "I cannot begin my observations respecting the 'Pictorial Bible,' without stating how highly I have been gratified and interested in the occupation it has afforded. It has been of infinite advantage as an exercise to my own mind. It has afforded me an opportunity of bringing nearly all my resources into play; my old biblical studies, the observations of travel, and even the very miscellaneous character of my reading, have all been highly useful to me in this undertaking. The venerable character of the work on which I have laboured, the responsibility of annotation, and the extent in which such labour is likely to have influence, are also circumstances which have greatly gratified in a very definite manner, that desire of usefulness which has, I may say, been a strong principle of action with me, and which owes its origin, I think, to the desire I was early led to entertain of finding whether the most adverse circumstances (including the privation of intellectual nourishment), must necessarily operate in excluding me from the hope of filling a useful place in society. The question was,

whether I should hang a dead weight upon society, or take a place among its active men. I have struggled for the latter alternative, and it will be a proud thing for me, if I am enabled to realize it. I venture to hope that I shall, and to you I am indebted in the most eminent degree for the opportunities, assistance, and encouragement, you have always afforded me in my endeavours after this object.

Frequent attendance at the Museum involves the loss of time which is absolutely impossible in my present circumstances. My plan—the only plan on which I could act—has, therefore, been, to use the Museum for reference to rare and costly works, or for research, when necessary to look through a great number of books on a given point, and to obtain information from a particular book not calculated for such general service as to render purchase expedient. To this I may add, that the Museum day, under any circumstances, is but six hours long whereas mine is sixteen."

The length assigned to Kitto's working day in the preceding extract, naturally leads to some notice of his habits of study. It was not all at once that he was enabled to solve the problem, so important to a literary man, and indeed to any thoughtful man, of turning to the best account the hours of a life which, to him who rightly estimates its value, seems all too short for the fulfilment of its noblest purposes. At first he tried the hazardous plan of sitting up night after night; but nature asserted her claims. He often fell asleep during the earlier part of the night, and, when on waking, he discovered that he had not done what he intended, he would turn to his desk, where his anxious wife frequently found him vigorously pursuing his task when he should have been in his bed. For sitting up late he then resolved to substitute early rising, having twice exposed himself and his family to the risk of a conflagration by his nocturnal slumbers in the library. An alarm clock was placed at the bed's head, sufficiently near for its whirr to arouse Mrs. Kitto, on whom it devolved to communicate the shock to her husband. On being aroused from sleep, he went to his study, and having, by the aid of a spirit-lamp, prepared himself a cup of tea, he continued to write till the rest of the family were ready for breakfast. After that he usually employed himself in his garden; he then dressed, for he was the reverse of slovenly in whatever regarded personal appearance, and went to his library till one o'clock, his dinner hour. The interval between dinner and tea was generally given to answering correspondents, and correcting proofs. At five he came to the tea-table, with a book in his hand, and read to Mrs. Kitto. On returning to his study, he worked at his desk till between nine and ten, and then read till eleven. Such was his labourious, undeviating course, till within three or four years of his death.

At length, however, the powers of nature were exhausted. On February 4th, 1854, early in the morning, Dr. Kitto was seized with a violent fit, which reduced him to a state of apparent insensibility. The death of his eldest and youngest children was a great shock to him. A fresh attack supervened, and on the morning of November 25th, 1854, the toils of earth were terminated.

An Eastern Bath.

The bather having been undressed, a towel girded round the waist, and another thrown over his shoulders, he is conducted into a warm room where there is no water: "In a few moments the perspiration flows from every pore, the lungs are oppressed, and you gasp for breath like an animal under the cruel experiments of an air-pump. Pass on, and now we are in the really hot rooms, where the hot-water flows; the lungs have become a little accustomed to the temperature, and you may take your place beside a hot fountain, and begin your operations as soon as you please. A brass basin lies beside the fountain, and when you have operated on yourself according to your pleasure, the bath-man opens, and in a large bucket makes a magnificent lather of soap and water—Damascus soap is good—which he pours upon your head; then beginning at the head and neck with the rough, but most pleasant flesh-brush, he rubs you gently all over the body, and at every rub removes the little roll of impurity which the brush has gathered from your body. You thought you were clean, but the Turkish bath shows you the contrary, as every scrape brings a roll of dirt as thick as a little earthworm from your body. Meanwhile the soap, water, and heat are producing their effects, and blood, breath, and life begin to circulate more freely. . . . You are taken to a dry room, generally the outer cold room which you left, and rolled up in towels, and laid down upon the mattress with a pillow under your head; after ten minutes the towels are changed. You recline again, and again have the towels changed, until you are quite dry. You are not rubbed with towels, the towels are merely changed. . . . Now, however, you are dry, warm, and comfortable among towels and cushions, and while you enjoy your nargille, the manipulator begins at the toes, and presses, pinches, and manipulates with amazing vigour every inch of your body; pulls your joints till they crack; twists your head from left to right, and right to left, till you begin to fear he may wrench it off altogether. He now assists you to dress, presents you a comb and looking-glass—hair-brushes are not used—on which last when you have done you lay your piastres, and with mutual salaams, bid adieu to the bath. You feel now like a new man, you are so buoyant, so refreshed, and the whole body so attuned and at ease.—From The Jordan and the Rhine; or, the East and the West. Being Five Years' Residence in Syria, and Five Years' Residence in Germany. By the Rev. WILLIAM GRAHAM, Presbyterian missionary to the Jews in the East.

By giving valuable pap perhaps lead malady. Having a very level, velopement of planted, abo various kinds or Broad bean tan feet apart beans branch each, coverin dense foliage potato stalks up the crop I em side of th were perfect side they wer fore, inferred way shaded t the northern copious rains able to withs rays, than in as may be no May not the sun trate the sun? foliage? causi and so contain produces dec the case espe and heat are large proporti If the potatoe row, beans m If necessarily uo might be h, If the pot would be pref w valuable f excellent food for, in its n Arabica is ma and extensive places at nea four. Windsor N Sa What shall question asked to think them die on the fa he highway c con crib. O time, so as t trouble and e of-corn shell and the cob o com will be f of fuel. A co for Summer fi are in many e hot fire whic needed at one from corn co ashes of any we, as they shall. Many perso can well reme used no salar burning a kett The best w them by in s store where t whenever she be carefully s of them to a crop is sown, than so much commended f Hint Consider yo the most imp Put off no be done to-d As soon as is out of the Never hire which you ca Every day t to them in su Keep no m keep in good Never run probability of When inter Punctuality is