

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

APRIL 20th, 1856.

Subject.—CHRIST GOES TO JERUSALEM.

For Repeating. For Reading.
John vi. 53-56. | John vii. 1-18.

APRIL 27th, 1856.

Subject.—OPINIONS OF CHRIST'S CHARACTER.

For Repeating. For Reading.
John vii. 14-18. | John vii. 19-32.

Selections.

PARIS AS IT IS:
And what I saw there.

LETTER I.

A TRIP to Paris in the present day is not an affair of so much importance as formerly, but Englishmen perhaps, never visited Paris under more auspicious circumstances than during the period of the great French Exhibition; much of the strictness of the passport system was relaxed for the time being—many of the public buildings of Paris, only to be seen on ordinary occasions at stated times and by special orders, were thrown open daily, without any restriction whatever, the ill feeling and jealousy of the French and English which had existed so long, seemed suddenly to disappear—the two countries were in cordial alliance, and the troops of both nations fighting side by side in the Crimea—while, to crown all, the Parisians were on the very tiptoe of excitement in anticipation of a visit from our own Queen Victoria: all these things combined to render welcome an Englishman's presence in Paris, and, perhaps, he never stood higher in the estimation of Frenchmen than at that particular time.

A man who has his wits about him, and is a little systematic in his movements, may see a great deal that is interesting in Paris, in the course of a week; and I propose to describe, in the present and succeeding letters, what came under the observation of my friends and myself, during that time; and will begin with the beginning and go through each day's events as they occurred.

We left London Bridge Station at half-past seven, for Newhaven, from whence the packets start, and in less than two hours had sailed for Dieppe. Fortunately, the weather was particularly favorable, and we reached the harbour, and had landed by three o'clock. After landing we were marched, in single file, into a small wooden building on the Pier, for the examination of our passports, baggage, &c.; one of the officials entered the name in a book from the passport, and we were moved into another apartment, with our carpet bags open, and after two or three plunges of the hand amongst the contents, and a statement from the owners that they contained nothing chargeable with duty, the "Donaniere," as he is called, chalked a large letter S. on the side, and allowed us to depart.

Dieppe is the chief bathing-place resorted to by the Parisians, being nearer to Paris than any other seaport, and is easily reached by railway. It is a very old town, and built between two high cliffs. There is one peculiar branch of trade in which the Dieppe people excel; it is that of ivory turning and carving of all sorts of ivory ornaments, and, in the principal streets, shops for the sale of these things are to be met with at the distance of every three or four houses; but the bulk of the inhabitants live by fishing. Within a short distance of Dieppe is the Chateau d'Eu, which formerly belonged to Louis Philippe, and at which he received our Queen, on one or two occasions, on a private visit; it is now in a very dilapidated state, having been attacked during the revolution of 1848, and greatly injured. I will just say, that Dieppe is supposed to have been the port from which William the Conqueror embarked for the conquest of England.

We then proceed to the city of Rouen about forty miles from Dieppe, well known, as the ancient capital of Normandy, and now the port of Paris; for vessels of large size can go no further up the Seine than this city, being stopped by bridges. There is always considerable activity and bustle going on near the quays at Rouen, and a great part of the prosperity of the city appears to be derived from the shipping trade.

We visited the Cathedral, a beautiful Gothic

building, originally erected by William the Conqueror, but the situation in which it is placed is hardly worthy of its beauty, for it forms one side of the market-place—the principal front has two towers, and from the centre of the building there rises a very curious looking spire, made of open ironwork; this cathedral was sadly mutilated during the first French revolution. Two or three Cardinals are buried here, whose tombs are shewn, and from the roof of one of the aisles is suspended the red hat of Cardinal d'Amboise. The heart of our King Richard Cœur de Leon was formerly kept here in a box, but it is now preserved in some other part of Rouen, a stone let into the floor intimates that it once formed part of their relics. Suites of rooms are also set apart for Museums, Galleries of Paintings, &c., but we had only time to walk through the Picture Gallery which was well filled with works of art.

We next visited a large Gothic building, the "Palais de Justice in which the old Norman Parliament formerly held its sittings. We afterwards proceeded to an interesting spot, called the Place de la Pucelle, a large open space used as a market for fruit and vegetables, in the centre of which stands a bronze statue of Joan of Arc, erected on the very place where she was burnt as a sorceress some centuries ago. The English Government had some hand in this affair, as Rouen was at that time in their possession, and the Regent Duke of Bedford is said to have witnessed the scene from one of the houses in the market-place pointed out to visitors.

Amongst other objects of interest in Rouen may be mentioned a large gate in which is a very curious old clock. We were compelled however, to hasten to the Railway Station, as the train for Paris was to start at two o'clock, arriving there at half-past five, the distance being 85 miles. The country through which the railway passed is very picturesque nearly the whole distance, and owing to the winding course of the Seine, we crossed and recrossed it many times before reaching Paris. On our arrival the officers were again in attendance to examine our luggage, but we were all allowed to pass without inconvenience or delay, on the assurance from each passenger, that he had nothing chargeable with duty. We proceeded at once to the Hotel des Etrangers, but a short distance from the railway station; but before proceeding further, it may not be uninteresting to give some idea of Paris in comparison with London, this however, must form the subject of the next letter.

CH. CABINET.

The Birth-place of the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.

"Keddon," was surely, never so much visited, or thought of, before. That the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon,—the now amazingly popular Gospel Preacher of this vast Metropolis, and of Great Britain at large, there first breathed the breath of this life, renders it, at once a spot of considerable interest, and of much attraction. It is a humble looking, but sweet little cot; and the publishers, Messrs. Alabaster and Passmore, having been permitted to place this "View of Mr. Spurgeon's Birth-Place," as a frontispiece to the first volume of "THE NEW PARK STREET PULPIT," speaks plainly this one truth, that Mr. Spurgeon is rather proud than otherwise, of the lowliness of his origin. No splendid mansion was the home of his infant days:—no university training prepared him for his work:—no Lord Bishop, or venerable doctor laid ordination hands on him. Nature and Grace have (in this case,) resolved to act almost entirely independent of the ordinary means. Nature prepares a spacious, a noble, an industrious, a powerful, an elastic, and a kind of telegraphic MIND; Nature lodges that mind in a well-constructed and exceedingly well adapted frame, accompanied with all the other essentially necessary qualifications. Nature having so well done all that she could do, GRACE steps in;—gives the soul a new creation IN CHRIST JESUS;—the HOLY GHOST unto that new-created soul, and that spiritual mind, reveals so gloriously, so clearly, and so powerfully, THE PERSON of Heaven's best Beloved.—OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST—so fills that mind with pure heavenly light—so flows into that heart with holy, grateful, sympathizing love—that, (without conferring with flesh and blood,) the mouth is open; and the tongue aloud proclaims,

"Salvation! let the echo fly,
The spacious earth around;
While all the armies of the sky
Conspire to raise the sound."

To what extent the usefulness of this valuable young Herald of Eternal Truth may be carried, it is not possible to say:—we have private, as well as public testimonies to the proof, that God is working by him;—for such an instance of grace divine, we, in common with all who long to see Christ's Kingdom come, render unceasing thanks.

The Morning Advertiser very recently gave a review of the first volume of The New Park Street Pulpit. "The reviewer enters somewhat largely into the past and the present of Mr. Spurgeon's ministerial career. After some kind suggestions, The Morning Advertiser says—

"Never, since the days of George Whitefield, has any minister of religion acquired so great a reputation as this Baptist preacher, in so short a time. Here is a mere youth—a perfect stripling, only twenty-one years of age—incomparably the most popular preacher of the day. There is no man within her Majesty's dominions who could draw such immense audiences; and none who, in his happier efforts, can so completely enthrall the attention, and delight the minds of his hearers. Some of his appeals to the conscience, some of his remonstrances with the careless, constitute specimens of a very high order of oratorical power. When pronouncing the doom of those who live and die in a state of impenitence, he makes hundreds of his immense congregation quail and quake in their seats. He places their awful destiny in such vivid colours before their eyes, that they almost imagine they are already in the regions of darkness and despair. In his preface, he tells us, that such has been the impression produced by some of his sermons, that he has ascertained upwards of twenty cases of conversion as the result of one discourse; to say nothing of those instances of a change wrought on his hearers, which will be unknown until the world to come has made its important and unexpected revelations.

"When this able and eloquent preacher first made his appearance in the horizon of the religious world, and dazzled the masses in the metropolis by his brilliancy, we were afraid that either he might get intoxicated by the large draughts of popularity which he had daily to drink, or that he would not be able, owing to a want of variety, to sustain the reputation he had so suddenly acquired. Neither result has happened. Whatever may be his defects, either as a man or as a preacher of the gospel, it is due to him, to state that he has not been spoiled by popular applause. Constitutionally he has in him no small amount of self esteem, but so far as from its growing with his daily extending fame, he appears to be more humble and more subdued than when he first burst on our astonished gaze. With regard again to our other fear, that his excellence as a preacher would not be sustained, the event has, we rejoice to say, no less agreeably proved the groundlessness of our apprehensions. There is no falling off whatever. On the contrary, he is, in some respects, improving with the lapse of time. We fancy we can see his striking originality to greater advantage than at first. There is no sameness in his sermons. The variety of his matter, not of course as regards his doctrines, but as relates to his expositions, illustrations, and applications of divine truth, is as great as ever.

A Curious Work of Calligraphic Art.

There is at present, in New York a curious specimen of Calligraphic art, being no less than a complete transcription of the Holy Bible on a surface about the size of an ordinary mantel pier-glass, the words of the same being so ingeniously arranged and grouped as to form the representation of a beautiful temple, while at the same time not one word is omitted, no sentence transposed, and the several chapters follow each other in proper order. At first view, the spectator perceives only a well-arranged architectural drawing, delicate and exact, but on close examination (some parts requiring the use of a magnifying glass,) every part of the elevation, each window and doorway, each apparent line and curve column, cornice and entablature, everything, in short, about the picture, except perhaps a slight shading, is resolved into distinct and regular handwriting. This wonderful production was executed by a Polish gentleman, by the name of David Davidson, who finished his task a few weeks since, after two years and seven months of constant labour and application.

Little things should not be despised—many threads will bind an elephant.

Temperance.

The following article, written for the *Albion*, is published by special request. It would have appeared last week, but for the delay in the mails occasioned by the badness of the roads.

The Prohibitory Liquor Bill.

In consequence of certain unpleasant rumours, that the Members of the Temperance bodies, and other friends of this bill had relinquished the hope of its being successfully carried through the Legislature during the present session, a public meeting of those belonging to Temperance organizations was held on the 25th ult., when resolutions expressive of their determination to adhere to the bill—and of confidence in the intentions of the people to carry out its provisions when it shall become the law of the land—"cherishing the hope that when all the Members of the Assembly are found in their places, upon the said bill again coming under discussion, and the concluding votes being taken thereon, a fair or sufficient majority of the said members will be found in favor of the said bill," were passed.

The hopes expressed in those Resolutions were not to be realized. The House went into Committee on the Bill, and on Wednesday Mr. Tobin moved the following Resolution:—

"Whereas, An Act containing similar provisions to those in the Bill now under consideration came into operation in the Province of New Brunswick on the first day of January last, and the success or failure of the experiment tried in that Province will exercise a large influence on public opinion among our own constituents, and it is therefore prudent to suspend the further action of this House until the beginning of the next Session;—Resolved *Therefore*, that the further consideration of the said Bill be postponed until next Session."

On a division, the Resolution was carried:—For, 29; against, 20. The House resumed, and the Report of the Committee was brought up. It was moved, that the Report be not received. On the division, the numbers were:—For, 21; against, 28.

It was then moved, that the Resolution do pass the House, which motion was carried. For, 27; against, 21. So it passed accordingly, and the Prohibitory Liquor Bill is postponed till next Session. The following is the list of members who voted on the occasion:—

For the Postponement.	Against it.
W. Annand,	A. G. Archibald,
H. Bailey,	W. W. Bent,
F. Bourneuf,	C. R. Bill,
W. Chambers,	Dr. Brown,
Hon. S. Chipman, F.S.C. J. Campbell,	E. D. Davidson,
E. D. Davidson,	John Campbell,
Ichabod Dimock,	E. Churchill,
J. Esson,	H. Hyde,
T. H. Fuller,	Hon. J. W. Johnston,
Geo. Geldert,	Thomas Killam,
Hon. W. A. Henry, S.G. J. J. Marshall,	Hon. John Locke,
Hon. John Locke,	A. C. McDonald,
H. Martell,	J. McKeagney,
G. McKenzie,	M. McLearn,
J. McKinnon,	G. W. McLennan,
Hugh Munro,	T. T. Morrison,
F. R. Parker,	J. Ryder,
E. Reinard,	I. I. Thorne,
R. Robertson,	Dr. Tupper,
M. Robicheau,	C. White,
P. Smyth,	A. Whitman.
John Tobin,	
J. C. Wade,	
Dr. Webster,	
Hon. B. Wier,	
Hon. L. M. Wilkins, P.S.	
Hon. W. Young, A. G.	

Mr. M. I. Wilkins voted in the majority, for the postponement, but was absent when the final motion was passed.

The following members, who voted for the second reading of the Bill, voted finally for its postponement:—Hon. J. Chipman, F. R. Parker, Ichabod Dimock, W. Chambers and Dr. Webster. They will have to give an account to their constituents. Mr. Moses, who voted for the Bill, was absent at the last division. Mr. McFarlane, who voted against it, was also absent.

The members for the following Counties and Townships voted finally for the Bill:—Counties—Annapolis, Colchester, Guysborough, Shelburne, and Yarmouth; Townships—Annapolis, Amherst, Argyle, Falmouth, Granville, Horton, Londonderry, Liverpool, Sydney, and Truro.

The members for the following Counties and Townships voted for the postponement:—Counties—Digby, Halifax, Hants, Inverness, Lunenburg, Richmond, and Sydney; Townships—Aricbat, Barrington, Clare, Cornwallis, Digby, Halifax, Lunenburg, Newport, Pictou, Shelburne, and Windsor.

The members for the following Counties, were equally divided—Cumberland, King's, Queen's, Pictou, and Victoria.