

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

APRIL 27th, 1856.

Subject.—OPINIONS OF CHRIST'S CHARACTER.

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

MAY 4th, 1856.

Subject.—CHRIST'S DISCOURSE WITH HIS DISCIPLES CONTINUED.

For Repeating. For Reading.
John vii. 28-31. | John vii. 33-53.

PARIS AS IT IS:
And what I saw there.

LETTER II.

WERE YOU to spread a map of Paris before you, it would be seen at once, that the shape of the city is as nearly as possible an oval. It seems difficult to persons accustomed to live in a city, to define the precise shape; but it should be remembered that Paris is entirely walled around, which defines its shape exactly, and always continues of the same size, for the streets within the walls alone, belong properly to the city. All the roads leading to the outskirts, pass through the walls, and iron gates closed at night shut off communication between the exterior and interior; they are called "Barriers," and generally bear the names of the streets leading to them, or in some cases, those of the villages to which they lead. At each of these "Barriers," are erected two lodges occupied by the officials who collect the duty charged on all kinds of provisions entering within the walls of the city; it is not a heavy tax, the proceeds go to defray the municipal expenses of the city.

Paris, is divided into two parts, north and south, by the river, the northern side is the most important at present, it contains the Palace of the Tuilleries, where the Emperor resides, the Palace of the Elysee; the Palais Royal Hotel de Ville, most of the public offices, and the principal churches; while on the south side are the Luxembourg Palace, where the members of the Senate hold their sittings, and where the Peers sat during the reign of Louis Philippe; the Palais Bourbon, in which the Legislative Body now sit, and formerly called the Chamber of Deputies; the Hospital for Invalids,—old soldiers. Before the great revolution in 1789, this was the most fashionable quarter of Paris, and where the most of the old nobility of France resided. But the oldest, and in some respects most interesting part of Paris, is neither on one side nor the other, but occupies the centre of the river, and forms an island, on which are erected Notre Dame Cathedral, the Palace of Justice, and other public buildings of importance. Centuries ago, the whole city was confined to this island, and up to the present day it is called the Isle of the City. There are two other islands besides the Isle of the City, containing streets and various buildings, and in order to communicate with them from each side of the river, numerous short bridges have been built from time to time, bearing a variety of names.

The Embankments, or as they are called in Paris, Quays, are far in advance of London, for there is no part of the river, without a good broad carriage road between it and the houses, with a dwarf wall and pavement next the water. By this means the Quays produce an open cheerful aspect, equal perhaps to any other part of Paris. There is no tide on the Seine, but a strong current, of course always running in one direction, in consequence of which it is but little used for purposes of traffic; high piles of fire-wood occasionally float down the stream from the interior for the supply of the city, as very little coal is used. A few barges are seen towed with difficulty by horses against the current, while a few small steamers ply between Paris and St. Cloud, which constitute nearly all the uses made of the river for the conveyance of goods and passengers. Large floating Baths, and large vessels used by the washerwomen of Paris, form always prominent features on the Seine; the women wash their clothes in the cold water of the river, in little troughs ranged along the sides of the vessels for this purpose.

Railways have completely changed the system of travelling in France, from what it used to be in the days of the old "diligencies." The French railway stations are managed so as to allow no one to enter them who is not going to travel by

one of the trains, consequently the ticket is demanded at the entrance. The Paris Omnibuses are large and will carry seventeen passengers inside, and ten or eleven out. The universal charge is 3d., with the privilege of making use of a "ticket of correspondence," by which a passenger may travel in a second omnibus without extra charge, to any part of the city.

The police of Paris were reorganized a year or two back by the Emperor. They bear the name of "sergens de ville," wear a military cocked hat and smart dress sword, but carry no staff; altogether their aspect is far more military than civil. The fire brigade partakes still more of a military character; they muster about 700 men, and are called "saieurs pompiers;" their uniform is a dark brown, with brass polished helmets and knapsacks.

The French soldiers present a smarter appearance than ours, more particularly the infantry; but they are generally smaller men, yet very active in their movements; their uniform is blue, with red trousers, very loosely fitted. The most picturesque troops that we saw were the Zouaves, who have made themselves so famous in the Crimea during the present war; their uniform is a mixture of the Turkish and Greek dresses, and includes, when fully equipped, the white turban. Next, in point of interest were the Imperial Guards, recently revived by the present emperor; their appearance is in every respect the same as when they became so famous during the victorious career of the first Napoleon; this celebrated corps is composed of men specially selected for this service, as a reward, and, with the Zouaves, have the honour of guarding the Tuilleries, St. Cloud, and other palaces.

One of the chief streets or arteries, running from east to west, parallel with the river, is the Rue St. Honore. Between this street and the river, runs the Rue de Rivoli, which, by order of the Emperor is being made into a most magnificent street, upwards of half a mile in length, perfectly straight, with houses of stone four or five stories high, and of uniform elevation throughout, the lower part to be formed into shops, with a covered colonnade. As a general rule in Paris, the houses are of great height, in some cases seven and even eight stories rise, one above another, throughout an entire street; there is however, no part underground, as with us, it is all above the surface.

There are plenty of open spaces, the centres generally have a column, statue, fountain, or some ornament of that kind occupying the middle space. Instead of squares, they bear the name of Place Vendome, Place de la Concorde, &c., forming one side of the new Place du Palais Royal, and a considerable frontage towards the new Rue de Rivoli, just described, stands the enormous pile of buildings hardly yet completed, called the Hotel du Louvre. The French use the word "Hotel," in the sense in which we employ the word "Mansion," to represent the private residence of an noble manor gentleman of any pretensions, but this Hotel du Louvre is intended strictly for the reception of visitors to Paris; it is on a larger scale than anything of the kind in Europe, containing several hundred rooms, and making up nearly two thousand beds; the principal apartments, saloons, &c., are being furnished and decorated in a very sumptuous manner.

Having endeavoured to give some idea of the general features of Paris, I must in my next letter, proceed to describe more in detail a few of the things which came under our notice from day to day.

CH. CABINET.

Selections.

Ancient Structures.

Nineveh was fifteen miles long, nine wide, and forty miles round, with a wall 100 feet high, and thick enough for three chariots abreast. Babylon was sixty miles within the walls, which were seventy-five feet thick, and 300 feet high, with 100 brazen gates. The Temple of Diana, at Ephesus, according to Pliny, required 220 years to complete it, and was supported by 127 pillars sixty feet high, having been raised by as many kings. The largest of the Pyramids is 481 feet high, and 653 on the sides; its base covers eleven acres. The stones are about thirty feet in length, and the layers are 208. It employed 330,000 men in building. The Labyrinth of Egypt contained 300 chambers, and twelve halls. Thebes, in Egypt, presents ruins twenty-

seven miles round, and had 100 gates. Carthage was twenty-five miles round, and contained 250,000 citizens, and 400,000 slaves. The Temple of Delphos was so rich in donation, that it was plundered of 100,000*l.*, and Nero carried away from it 200 statues. The walls of Rome were thirteen miles round.

Private Munificence.

PETER COOPER, Esq. of this city, in about to apply to the Legislature, "for an act of incorporation, authorizing him to convey to a Board of Control, to be designated by said act, such property, real and personal, as may be necessary for founding and maintaining in the city of New-York an institution, to be denominated The Union for the Advancement of Science and Art."

This is the first public announcement made by Mr. Cooper, of one of the most munificent contributions ever made to science in this or any other country. Our readers in the habit of passing up the Bowery, must have observed the massive building, in process of completion, at the junction of Third and Fourth Avenues. This noble structure, fire-proof throughout, 150 feet square, on the ground, and six stories high, Mr. Cooper is building at his own expense, with the utmost care, and at a cost of several hundred thousand dollars, for the "advancement of science and art"—the direction of the whole to be ultimately placed in a Board of Trustees, and the entire income to be devoted to the support of the institution. No charges are to be made for instruction, and it is to be open to all young men of correct moral habits. This costly offering is not to be made to the city of New-York, nor to a Board of Trustees appointed by the Legislature. Mr. Cooper's design is more comprehensive. It will prove to be little less than a University, admirably located, in the immediate vicinity of the Astor Library and with an endowment, in fact, that will produce some \$30,000 a year. The entire cost to Mr. Cooper will probably reach half a million of dollars, and it must be a high satisfaction to one of the most philanthropic and upright of men, to close a life of successful industry by erecting and endowing and furnishing, for the benefit of YOUNG MEN, an institution where the highest order of instruction in science and art shall be forever placed within their reach.—N. Y. Examiner.

NOT.

A SMALL word indeed! Only three letters; and yet no word is so offensive.

It is a word that children are unwilling to hear spoken, even by their parents. Nor is it less objectionable to adults who meet it in all forms of government, and always right where they would prefer a blank.

The Scriptures are disobeyed by tens of thousands, as they would not have been, had this little—this most offensive word! been left out of them. Had they only read—"Rejoice—when thine enemy falleth."

"Turn—away thy foot from keeping the Sabbath."

"Forsake—the assembling of yourselves together."

"Lay—up for yourselves treasures on the earth."

"Set—your affections on things on the earth."

"Look—on the things that are temporal."

"Go—after them."

"Be—conformed to this world."

"Thou shalt—covet all that is thy neighbor's."

They would have been cheerfully and almost universally obeyed. As it is, multitudes will have a fearful account to give in the last day for having been indifferent to this little word.

The Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's prayer places God before his people, as their Father, "Our Father," &c. And what acts of a Father does it reveal him as performing?—Giving, forgiving, guiding, delivering, &c. In uttering the Lord's prayer, we profess to come before our God.

As children, Our Father,
As worshippers, Hallowed be thy name.
As subjects, Thy kingdom come.
As servants, Thy will be done.
As beggars, Give us this day, &c.
As sinners, Forgive us our, &c.
As weak and frail, Lead us not into temptation.

As helpless and in danger, Deliver us from evil.

As fully trusting in his Father, For thine is the kingdom, all-sufficiency, for the power & the glory time and for eternity, for ever and ever. This word signifies faithful and true, and is supposed to be formed from the initial letters of the Hebrew words, "The Lord the faithful King."

Consider—Hast thou found it in thy heart to pray this prayer?

Correspondence.

[Although the following letter was not written for publication yet it was thought by a friend to contain much that would interest a large number of our readers. We are pleased therefore to give it a place in our columns.—Ed.]

For the Christian Messenger.

Letter from Australia.

BENDIGO, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA,
October 18, 1855.

Ever dear Mother.—Although, I think it has not been long since I wrote M., yet as I have a day's leisure I will make use of it by writing you a letter.

M., urges my establishing a sabbath school here, as though it would be a striking rarity. I am amused at the complacency with which your people regard what they consider their educational superiority to the rest of the world. Know, then, that we have schools here, both literary and religious. The government has established a large number at which children are received by paying very trifling fees. Then the several denominations have schools of their own—nearly as numerous as their chapels. Besides all these there are a number of private schools, for very young children paying the small fee of from 1s. to 2s. a week. It is not to be expected that such children make great advances in science. The progress of older children is in general rapid. Children here, notwithstanding the dirt, are kept tidy, well dressed, and are well conducted and knowing.

As to our religious condition let me state that on the Bendigo gold-field, an extent of ground about as large as that part of the three townships which may be seen from your house, there are about twenty places of worship. These are built of calico, canvas, slabs, clapboards, iron, zinc, and stone. The Baptists have lately bought a piece of land for a substantial chapel of which a commencement will be made this summer. It was bought, although the government would have made a free grant of six times as much if it would have been accepted. We could also if we chose have had an allowance of several hundreds a year for the support of a minister—this also is rejected.

Our chapel will probably be built of stone in the Gothic style. Masonry is not so expensive here (making the usual allowance for a gold country) as with you. The absence of American frosts is one of the chief causes of this cheapness.

Coming a little further within the temple,—the Baptist usages are very much those of Wales. There are no conference meetings. At the church meetings the business of the church is that which usually engrosses attention. We are therefore shut out from all female addresses. The singing of this body, which by the by you care nothing about, is excellent. I am a little tired of the graveness of the singing and the measured tread of the worship generally in the different chapels—only tired—and look forward with some pleasure to some of a little different style which I dare say some of my friends may get up for my enlightenment when I get home. A negro hymn or two would now be quite a relief. But you are probably getting so fashionable that the choir will have forgotten the galloping tunes which I left behind me.

There is one advantage you have over our people here—in your more accurate knowledge of the scriptures. One often hears strange things quoted as scripture language. It was equally as bad in California, the Presbyterians in both places probably forming exceptions.

There have been several baptisms during the winter. They have been very impressive. Many persons who do not attend chapels were present. The greatest decorum prevails. Your digger who does not ordinarily attend church still treats religious administrations with a kind of awful respect. No matter how depraved he may be, it is in his view a mysterious and holy thing which he dare not come near but with great reverence. This is an unfavourable soil for the growth of new religions. Mormonism therefore does badly. So far as the mass wish to pursue religion at all, it must be that form of it which is rendered solemn by antiquity.

There is one mistake which your people will be very liable to fall into—namely,—their estimate of the coarseness of our tastes. They, good souls, will suppose that owing to the miry character of our work, and the wretched condition of our dress and lodging, that we will feel very