

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

DECEMBER 6th, 1857.

Subject.—PAUL BEFORE THE COUNCIL AT JERUSALEM.

For Repeating. Acts xxii. 3-5. For Reading. Acts xxiii. 1-35.

DECEMBER 13th, 1857.

Subject.—PAUL BROUGHT BEFORE FELIX.

For Repeating. Acts xxiii. 1-5. For Reading. Acts xxiv. 1-16.

THE QUESTIONER.

Mental Pictures from the Bible.

Reader, you need but "search the scriptures," to comprehend our Mental Pictures.

[No. 41.]

A SORROWFUL PICTURE.

THE RIGHTEOUS SUFFERING.

An African stands in the presence of an eastern monarch, and rehearses, with much earnestness, a tale of grievous wrong. After listening to the complaint, the king appears equally shocked at what he has just heard, and gives an order for thirty men to assist him in the object at which he aims.

They go to a filthy prison, where, in consequence of the depth of the dungeon, the moisture has rendered the earth at the bottom, a dangerous quagmire. They find there an aged man, almost starved to death. From his exhaustion, and the peculiar construction of the place, he is unable to do any thing by way of escaping the miserable death which appears to await him. These friends therefore throw down to him pieces of old clothes, which he first puts under his arms, and then, by means of a rope, which they let down, they raise him from his perilous situation.

After being extricated from so great suffering the king sends for him to come into his palace, and, with much anxiety, consults him with reference to the future. The old man, however, firm in his integrity of his cause, still remains inflexible.

QUESTIONS to be answered next week.

93. What was it which continued to increase although a portion was constantly being taken from it?

94. Who were the victims of the three Herods?

SOLUTION to Picture No. 40.

Abraham ascending the mountain with his son Isaac, when about to offer him up in sacrifice.—Genesis xxii. 5-8.

ANSWERS to questions in our last.

91. Yes. Elisha; 1 Kings xix. 16. Jonah: Josh. xix. 13. Nahum: Nah. i. 1.

92. The Hebrew.—Acts xxvi. 14.

The Lord and I were there.

A few years since, in one of the towns of our old puritan New England, there was established "a morning prayer-meeting," with particular reference to a revival of religion. For some time the meeting was well sustained; however, a few months brought a sad change, without witnessing any special interest among sinners, on the most important of all subjects, that of the salvation of the soul. If professors had in any measure their hearts warmed by meeting together, sure we were they were willing to relapse again to selfish worldliness, for every succeeding week witnessed such a falling off and gradual declension, that no doubt it was given up in the minds of many and entirely forgotten.

Not so with "one steadfast follower of our Lord;" he continued to meet in that place of prayer, and with Jacob wrestle with God, and it was indeed a Bethel to him, and he might well say, "he met God face to face."

One morning returning from this consecrated spot, he was met by one of the brethren of the church, who said:

"Where now, brother, so early in the morning?"

"From the prayer-meeting," was the reply.

"From the prayer-meeting? I thought that was given up long ago. Why, who was there, do tell me, friend?"

"Well, I'll tell you, brother. The Lord and I were there, and are there every morning, and most precious seasons we are enjoying; we have sustained it for a long time, and it has been well sustained, and has never been given up."

The answer was so forcibly brought home to the conscience, that the next morning found this brother at his post, and from that time other members of the church followed his example, and in a few weeks that room was filled to overflowing, and the most powerful revival followed ever witnessed in that church, and also in adjoining towns.

Is it not safe always to trust God and rely upon his promises, believing he will accomplish all his pleasure in his own good time?

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

JUDGE HALIBURTON'S ADDRESS, DELIVERED AT GLASGOW.

By the politeness of a friend we have been favoured with the perusal of "An address on the present condition, resources and prospects of British North America, delivered by special request at the City Hall, Glasgow, by the Hon. Mr. Justice Haliburton." As it contains a brief and comprehensive view of things, as they are, taken by one so well able to treat on them, and we have seen no republication of it in our provincial papers, we have made some extracts which we believe will be read with interest and pleasure by many besides the citizens of Glasgow. After referring to the connection existing between the people of Scotland and the inhabitants of Nova Scotia—eulogizing Scotchmen in general and claiming for himself descent from that portion of Great Britain, the Judge explains the object he has in view by giving expression to sentiments which are held by many others in common with himself:—

"My object is, to draw together, in more intimate bonds of connexion, the two countries, to remove distrust, to assimilate interest, to combine the raw material of the New, with the manufacturing skill of the Old World, to enlarge the boundaries, to widen the foundations, to strengthen the constitution, and to add to the grandeur of the Empire. My object is, to unite indissolubly the two portions of the Empire, so that there may be but one interest, one country, with one constitution, one parliament, one language, one literature, one and the same monarch, and one and the same great and glorious old flag, "that for a thousand years has braved the battle and the breeze." This is my object, and I trust it will be yours also, now, while it yet can be effected, ere separate interests, and the angry passions they engender, draw us asunder, too widely, and too rudely, ever to admit of reunion.

"I propose to explain to you what constitutes British North America, and to pass in rapid and short review the several colonies, and their leading characteristics; to show you, that it comprises the largest, the best, the most productive, prosperous, and valuable portion of the continent, that it possesses the best climate, the greatest resources, and the most hardy and intelligent population in America; and by a few incontrovertible statistical facts, to prove to you, how much in all these particulars, it exceeds the United States.

"Finally, I propose to show you the shameful neglect it has endured, and still endures, the degrading political and commercial restrictions and disabilities under which it labours, the imminent danger there is of losing these colonies; and then to suggest some remedies, while remedies can be applied. I must crave your indulgence when I ask you to accompany me over this wide field, but I assure you I will endeavour to lose no time in digression, and to be as brief as is consistent with an intelligible view of the subject. The British territory in North America contains four millions of square miles, and is larger than all Europe, and—notwithstanding the boasting of our republican neighbours, who say theirs is "the greatest nation in all creation," is larger than the United States.

"Now, before I proceed farther, allow me to say, that I am not so absurd, as to combine together all the barrens, wastes, and frozen regions of the North, for the idle purpose of boasting of the magnitude of our great country. It would be very disrespectful to you, and shew a great want of self-respect, were I to attempt thus to mislead you. The greatness of a country cannot be simply represented by its extent, there are other elements of greatness besides vastness of size. Britain is a small country in its geographical extent, but still it is the greatest country in the world. The real greatness of Scotland is infinitely magnified, when we consider its very limited proportions. The area of it, including its islands, is only nineteen millions of English acres, of which only five or six millions are cultivated. It would be idle to measure the importance of our country by its extent; I shall, therefore, not fall into the American defect of boasting, although if I did, I might plead intercourse with our bragging neighbours, as an extenuation of the offence, for bragging, like the small-pox, is caught by contact; in America it comes, like that, in the natural way, and both leave disagreeable marks—the one disfiguring the face, and the other, the character."

Having glanced at Prince Edward's Island, he refers to the former position of Cape Breton Island and the deeply interesting page it fills in the history of England and America. The following facts connected with Louisburg give some idea of the former importance of that city:—

"They (the French) erected on this island, the strong fortress of Louisburg, at an expense of thirty million of livres, which required a fleet of 150 sail, to convey thither the troops under General Wolfe, for its capture. Of its strength, you may judge, when you hear that 220 pieces of cannon were found there. At that early day, they had 600 vessels employed in the fishing trade, and exported to France 500,000 quintals of fish.

"No sooner had this magnificent island fallen into the hands of the English, than it felt the deadening influence of Imperial neglect.

"During the last 100 years, since it fell to us, the tide of emigration has flowed within sight of its shores, conveying hundreds of thousands—nay, millions of emigrants, to augment the strength of our rivals and unfriendly neighbours,

the Americans, without a word of invitation to them to land, and occupy this vacant territory, the nearest to Europe of any part of the American continent, and the best and most promising of all those lands of promise. Happy, indeed, would it have been for us, if the Corporation of Glasgow, instead of the authorities of Downing Street, had had the direction of our affairs."

Mr. H. then gives a very brief description of its coal fields, splendid scenery, and fertility. After giving the following invitation to those contemplating emigration:—

"Let the unemployed poor man seek it, where God has given him good soil to cultivate, coal for his fire, fish for his food, and salt to cure it," he passes on to

NOVA SCOTIA.

He says, "this country contains 19,000 square miles, its shores are every where indented with excellent harbours, these being more than double the number capable of accommodating the largest men of war, than in the whole seaboard of the United States, from Maine to Mexico.

"When you penetrate a short distance into the interior, you enter upon a country of great agricultural capacity, some portion of it, the dyked marshes (alluvial land), being of inexhaustible fertility, having yielded grass and grain crops for one hundred years, without the aid of manure. Its wonderful mineral wealth, its noble harbours, its fertile soil, its extensive fisheries, its proximity to Europe, for the purpose of steam navigation, its water power, (as it is called), temperate climate, arising from its insular position, and last, not least, its possession of the winter outlet, and through passage by railway, from England, to New Brunswick, Canada, and the United States, all indicate Nova Scotia as destined for an extended commerce, for the seat of manufactures, the support of a large population, and for wielding a controlling power on the American continent. A railway is now formed to connect Halifax with the Bay of Fundy, and another is in progress, to unite it with New Brunswick, and had it not been for the cold neglect, not to say ungenerous conduct of the Imperial Government, it would, ere this, have possessed a direct line of railway to Canada, to connect with the great Trunk line of that country."

"Prominent beyond all others in North America, is Halifax Harbour, it is easy of access, deep, free from rocks or reefs, well sheltered, and sufficiently capacious to contain the united navies of England and France. This, I believe is well known, and nowhere better than in Glasgow, where was built the great Atlantic Royal Mail steam fleet, the first, the safest, the best managed, and the most successful in the world. There is one fact, not generally known; it is an important one, and I am surprised it has never yet been put before the public. I wish to call your particular attention, and that of my Canadian friends also to it, and when you hear, as you will, I trust, ere long, of the construction of a railway from thence to Canada, pray bear it in mind. Halifax Harbour is seldom closed by frost than any other in North America, not excepting those of the Southern States. Such an extraordinary event happens but once in many years, and then it is of very short duration. North of Halifax, nearly all the harbours are closed in winter, but the farther south you go, this obstruction occurs oftener, and lasts longer than at Halifax; the same frost that closes Boston harbour, does not affect the other."

Some statistics are then given of vessels owned, exports, imports, &c., with which our readers are familiar, and he goes on to

NEW BRUNSWICK.

And remarks:— "And here let me tell you, this noble province has room enough for every unemployed man in the kingdom, and you may have to spare for years to come. It contains an area of about 30,000 square miles, and is (as near as may be) as large as Ireland. It abounds with rich valleys, productive plains, and noble forests.

"The river St. John is a magnificent stream, the extent of which may be faintly imagined by the fact, that it and its tributaries drain an area of nine millions of acres in New Brunswick, six millions in the State of Maine, and two millions in Canada. It is 450 miles long, to the portage of Metjamotte."

A touch of pleasantry, so natural to the Judge, comes in with the names of some places in New Brunswick:—

"The ignorance that prevails on this subject is equalled only by that young lady's knowledge of botany, who declared she knew the names of two flowers only—"Aurora Borealis," and "Delirium Tremens."

"Long may Her Majesty reign over the territory of the Meramichi, and merry may she be that owns it; well may she be styled "the Lady of the Lakes," while she rules over her American Colonies.

"The emigrant who goes to this colony, and to Nova Scotia, will escape the usual hardships and privations that attend the new settlers of a country. He will find churches, schools, mills, roads, bridges, and markets, instant and remunerative employment, peace and plenty, which will soon enable him to acquire real estate, and as each succeeding wave of emigration advances farther, and farther, into the wilderness, he will soon find himself in the centre of a settled, and civilized community, and his property daily rising in value faster, and out of all proportion to his own exertions. He will not emigrate as our forefathers did, with hope, but with a positive certainty of success. I bid him "God speed," let him go and prosper."

CANADA.

As a matter of course, this province occupies the larger portion of the address. Want of space however admonishes us that we must defer further quotations to another opportunity.

Agriculture.

Wheat growing.

Mr. Needham writes to the New England Farmer the following account of a remarkable instance of successful wheat growing in Vermont

The variety of wheat is known as the "Kloss," "Banner," or more generally as the "White Blue Stem."

Mr. Lovering sowed a quart of wheat in the autumn of 1852, and in the autumn of 1853 picked the heads by hand, that he might keep his seed free from chaff, cockle and other foul seeds. In subsequent harvestings great carefulness was observed to keep out these foul seeds, and with perfect success. The wheat seemed admirably adapted to our soil and climate, enduring the winter well and yielding bountifully. Last autumn, as early as the fourth day of August, having properly prepared his land, Mr. Lovering sowed five and one-half acres to this "White Blue Stem." No portion of the field winter-killed, and previous to harvesting, the straw measured from five to six feet. Three weeks since, the wheat was threshed and measured, and two hundred and twelve bushels was the result. As there was no cleaning or after raking, and as much of the straw was six feet in length, a large number of heads fell from the fingers of the cradle, and the amount thus left upon the ground could not have fallen short of eight bushels; giving as the entire yield of the field two hundred and twenty bushels; or forty bushels to the acre.

The measured bushel of this wheat weighs sixty-three pounds. Two bushels ground at our mill at Queechey Village, made but a few ounces less than ninety-nine pounds of the best flour. Four bushels of this wheat will make a barrel of flour.

This is the third crop taken from this piece of land since manuring.

Sources of Fat.

Experiments have been made during the past year in France on ducks, to prove that the fat may exceed the quantity which could be referred to the food they were supplied with. Some were fed on rice, a substance which contains only a few parts of fat in a thousand. Others fed on rice with a certain amount of butter added. At the end of the experiment, the first were as lean as when first placed upon the diet; the latter, in a few days, became positively balls of fat. Other experiments were made on pigs. It was found as the result of several trials that there was sometimes more fat produced than was contained in the food on which they were fed. Food which, given alone, has not the properties of fattening, when mixed with a fatty matter, acquires it in an astonishing degree; and fattening articles of food, which do not contain much fat, always abound with its chemical constituents, the principal of which is azote, and whence the fat acquired is derived.—Exchange.

Save the Leaves.

No manure is so well worth saving in October and November, as the new falling leaves of the season. According to Payen they contain nearly three times as much nitrogen as ordinary barn yard manure; and every gardener who has strewn and covered them in his trenches late in the Fall or in December, must have noticed the next season how black and moist the soil is that adheres to the thrifty young beets he pulls. No vegetable substance yields so woody fibre and becomes soluble quicker than leaves, and from this cause they are soon dried up, scattered to the winds and wasted if not now gathered and trenched in, or composed before the advent of severe Winter.

BEANS FOR SHEEP.—Bean straw is valuable for sheep, and when properly cured they eat it with avidity. In a chemical analysis of beans it is found that they abound with a great quantity of the elements of wool than any other grain or vegetable, to make sheep produce heavy fleeces. They will eat them with avidity, whole or ground, even in a damaged state. To our store flocks during the winter season we generally give a pint of beans per day, and potatoes. Corn is good for fattening sheep, but not so valuable as beans, peas, oats, and most other grains, for the production of wool.—Wool Grower and Stock Register.

CORN-COBS.—A writer in the Ohio Cultivator, in replying to some views of Doctor Jackson, of Boston, on corn-cobs as food for cattle, takes the position that they are good for cattle, and that facts observed by him go to show that they often eat cobs in preference to grass. He also states that an animal fed upon twenty or fifty pounds of cob-meal and twenty-five pounds of timothy hay will thrive better than one fed on the hay alone.

CRANBERRY JELLY.—Make a very strong isinglass jelly; when cold, mix it with a double quantity of cranberry juice, pressed and strained; sweeten and boil it up, and make it into the desired shape by straining in the proper vessels; use good white sugar, or the jelly will not be clear.

TO MAKE VINEGAR.—One quart of molasses, three gallons rainwater, one pint of yeast. Let it stand for four weeks.