

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

OCTOBER 25th, 1857.

Subject.—PAUL PREACHES AT PHILIPPI AND ADMINISTERS THE LORD'S SUPPER.

For Repeating. For Reading.
Acts xix. 21-22. Acts xx. 1-16.

NOVEMBER 1st, 1857.

Subject.—PAUL'S ADDRESS TO THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS.

For Repeating. For Reading.
Acts xx. 1-3. Acts xx. 17-27.

THE QUESTIONER.

Mental Pictures from the Bible.

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

[No. 35.]

An invalid's chamber; in which reclines a veteran warrior, in whose countenance native majesty contends with fast approaching imbecility. A beautiful maiden waits with daughter-like assiduity to anticipate his slightest wish. The door opens, and a dignified woman, who, though past the prime of life, wears unmistakable indications of former loveliness, enters the apartment, and respectfully salutes its illustrious occupant, who, arousing at her entrance, desires to hear her wishes. She proceeds to unfold a tale of heavy grievance, and before concluding, has her cause reinforced by the entrance and added pleadings of an aged man, whose eye, brighter by far than that of the warrior before him, seems to flash its falcon-glances forward into futurity.

QUESTIONS to be answered next week.

81. Name the persons mentioned in the Bible who were stoned to death, and give the reason why they were.

82. What became of the brazen serpent after it had served its great object?

SOLUTION to Picture No. 34.

Meeting of Esau and Jacob.—Gen. xxxiii. 1-4.

ANSWERS to questions in our last.

79. First, The usurpation of Athaliah.—2 Kings xi 13; Secondly, The captivity of Jehoahaz.—2 Chron. xxxvi. 3-21; and Thirdly, on the destruction of Jerusalem.—2 Kings xxv.

80. Pharaoh's, marked by the hanging of the baker.—Gen xl 20; and Herod's, by the murder of John the Baptist.—Matt. xiv. 6.

The two Cords of Wood.

A STORY FOR CHILDREN WHO LOVE THEIR MOTHER.

Just at dusk one November evening, three children occupied the large kitchen connected with the establishment of farmer Grant. A bright wood fire blazed cheerfully in the wide chimney, while from the crane the suspended tea-kettle was announcing, as loudly as possible, that the hour for supper was approaching. By the bright, but fitful light, one young girl sat reading; another stood at the window watching the cows, as they walked demurely from the yard to the stable, while a boy of eleven summers was seated on a low bench in front of the fire, gazing steadily at the flames, as they shot upward, but with an appearance of abstraction indicating that his mind was elsewhere.

Softly Ellen advanced from the window, and touching her sister Ruth, to call her attention, whispered, "Just look at Thomas! He's in a brown study, as teacher said this afternoon. I do wonder what he is thinking of."

"Ask him," responded Ruth, glancing at her brother, and then turning to her book again.

"Thomas," called Ellen, "what makes you look so sober to-night? Did you miss at school?"

The boy heaved a deep sigh, and then turned to his sister with a smile, saying, "O, Ellen, you can help me if you will; only you must first promise not to tell any one."

Ellen promised, and Thomas led her to the further corner of the room, as his mother had come in, where he made known to her his plan. "Last night," said he, "after you and Ruth had gone to bed, I heard father and mother talking. It made me feel so sad I could not go to sleep. She had been bringing in the clothes, and kept coughing, as she always does, when she works hard. Father told her that she must go to taking that doctor's stuff that did her so much good last winter. At first she did not answer; but pretty soon I saw her put up her hand and brush away a tear. "There are so many things to be bought for the children," she said after a while, "that I don't like to spend money for medicine. I don't often cough so much."

"I know that, too," replied father, "but you must attend to your health. What should we all do without you?"

"I sometimes think," said mother, "that my

work is almost done, and if it is God's will to call me away, he will provide for you and our dear children."

I couldn't stay to hear any more, for I had to run into the entry to keep from sobbing aloud. "O, Ellen, what could we all do without mother?"

The young girl turned around and gave her mother a piercing glance, as if to satisfy herself that her brother had cause for his solicitude, and then asked, "But what can you, or both of us, do to help her?"

"I mean somehow to buy her a bottle of that medicine," exclaimed Thomas, impressively, "but how to do it is the question. Dr. Jones had a load of wood carted to-day, and he wants a man to saw it. I would go to-morrow afternoon and ask him to give me the job, and take the medicine for pay, only father wants his wood piled up to-morrow, before the snow comes."

Ellen stood for one moment returning her brother's gaze, then said eagerly, "Ruth and I will pile it for you. We'll get up very early, and do our stint before breakfast, and then we shall have the whole afternoon."

Thomas joyfully accepted this offer, and readily obtained the job from the kind physician. Before night he had piled the two cords in the shed, and sawed nearly a quarter of it.

"Well, my little man," said the doctor, driving into the yard as Thomas was hanging up the saw preparatory to leaving. "How much have you earned this afternoon?"

A bright thought flashed through the boy's mind, and in true Yankee style he answered the question by asking, "Doctor, how much a bottle was that cough medicine you gave mother last winter?"

"Half a dollar, I think. Is she sick again?"

The boy then communicated his wishes, and with a flushed face inquired of the doctor if he would be willing to let him have one bottle to carry home with him.

The good man was evidently moved by this unexpected proposal. He made no reply except to invite the boy to his office. When there he talked to him more freely, and ended, by giving him a small powder for his mother, with directions for taking it, in addition to the desired cough medicine, and promised to call himself the next day.

An hour later Thomas sat with his sisters by the fire, and communicated to them the joyful results of his afternoon's labor. They then proposed to give the medicine to their mother, as a token of affection from her three children, "for," urged Thomas, "I could not have done it if you had not helped me."

To say that Mrs. Grant was gratified, would be but feebly expressing her emotion when the love-token was placed in her hands.

With moistened eyes she gave each of them a kiss, and then added in a subdued voice, "God will reward you, my dear ones. The blessing affixed to the fifth commandment will be yours for you have indeed honored your mother."

God did bless them in rendering the medicine effectual in restoring the health of their mother whose life he prolonged for many years. She saw her children growing up to be useful, happy and respected by all who knew them.—*Youth's Companion.*

Reading the Sky.

"Come here, Patty," said Uncle Philip; "and come here, Peter. You have read your books, and now I will teach you how to read the sky."

"When the sky is clear, it says, Love God; when it is stormy, it says, Fear God; when it is lit up with the sun, it says, Praise God; and when one part is clear and shining, and another part cloudy, then it says, Love God, fear God, and praise God, all at the same time."

Little Patty said she would read the sky every day; but Peter said if she did, she would be sure now and then to read it wrong. She would fear God when she ought to love him.

"Never mind that," said Uncle Philip, "never mind that, Patty, for you cannot be much wrong while you love, or fear, or praise God."

A Vermont agriculture society offers the following premium: "A beautiful silk dress (the color and quality to be optional with the fair recipient) to the maker of the best loaf of bread—the competitors to be unmarried ladies, and the committee of judges to consist of bachelors and widowers."

A new use has been found for the Loadstone. A needle penetrated the thigh of a child, and remained there for a week, in spite of all efforts to extract it. At length a large loadstone was held over the spot; and after it had remained there above an hour, the needle was discovered and removed.

Bible Revision.

American Bible Union Anniversary.

WE are indebted to a friend in New York for a copy of *The Tribune*, containing a brief but comprehensive report of the proceedings of the Union, up to Wednesday evening, the 7th instant, from which we give the following:

The eighth anniversary of the American Bible Union was commenced on Wednesday, the 7th inst., at the First Baptist Church, corner of Broome and Elizabeth streets, New York. The President of the Association, the Rev. J. ARMITAGE, D. D., occupying the chair, and the Rev. C. A. Buckbee officiating as Secretary. After the singing of a hymn, the Rev. W. B. Jolan, of Connecticut, and the Rev. Isaac N. Hill offered prayer.

The Chair then appointed the Committees on Nominations and Arrangements.

Committees were also appointed on the English, German, Spanish and Siamese Scriptures, on Publication, on Scripture Distribution and on Obituaries.

During the absence of the several Committees the meeting engaged in devotional exercises.

The Committee on Nominations reported; which report was unanimously adopted.

President—Rev. THOMAS ARMITAGE, D. D.; and about twenty Vice Presidents.

Corresponding Secretary—Win. H. Wyckoff.

Recording Secretary—C. A. Buckbee. Treasurer—Elezar Parmly. Auditor—Sylvester Pier.

After a brief recess, the Union convened for public exercises in the church. After singing, reading of Scriptures, and prayer, the Treasurer presented his annual report as follows:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Am. Bible Union in account with E. Pameley, Treas'r.

Dr.

1857. To cash paid as follows:		
Oct. 7. To English Scriptures, - - - - -	\$22,833	69
To Spanish Scriptures, - - - - -	581	38
To German Scriptures, - - - - -	214	40
To German Scriptures, per J. G. Oncken, - - - - -	3,279	62
To J. G. Oncken, moneys received for him, - - - - -	2,168	92
To Home and Foreign Mis., &c., by donors' request, - - - - -	990	14
To Publications, - - - - -	5,075	51
To Agents' salaries, - - - - -	5,901	29
To Agents' expenses, - - - - -	1,773	87
To Officers and Assistants, - - - - -	3,698	73
To bad bills and discount, - - - - -	289	45
To rent of Managers and officers' rooms, - - - - -	250	00
To general contingencies, - - - - -	349	89
To printing and filling certificates, - - - - -	46	87
Balance, - - - - -	249	13
Total, - - - - -	\$47,962	89

1856. Cr.

Oct. 1. By balance, - - - - -	\$2,508	90
1857.		
Oct. 1. By cash received from sales of Publications, - - - - -	4,979	73
By cash received from Life Members, Directors, Churches, Associations, Auxiliaries, &c., - - - - -	40,474	26
Total, - - - - -	\$47,962	89

The adoption of the report was moved by the Rev. J. M. Bray, of Maryland, and seconded by the Rev. J. Q. Adams, of New York, with appropriate remarks.

The President, the Rev. Dr. Armitage, then delivered his annual address, which was an able and truly interesting discourse. In alluding to the opposition that was manifested about a year ago against the proposed new version of the Bible, he remarked, the last has, perhaps, been the most trying and responsible year in the history of the Union. Not because our original opposers have pressed us with severe opposition. No; we have had enough of that, but it has lost its ability to disquiet us. Indeed, the kind of opposition which we have met from the first, never did hurt us seriously; either for want of reason in argument, or, of manliness in its avowal, I know not which. The danger that did beset us in the beginning of the last year was of another sort. It arose from the possibility of taking a false step in our advance. An old Baptist minister who used to immerse all his candidates in a very rapid and dangerous river, quieted their fears by going in first and feeling his way into deep water with his staff; and when they saw where he ventured to tread, they always had faith enough to follow him. When we met last year, we were reminded that we had just reached the point where "tribulation had worked patience, and patience experience, and experience hope," but we had yet to prove whether or not hope would make us "ashamed." We had no good reason to fear, for up to that time God had broken every wave at our feet. But still, faith had all that she could do to read the footsteps of Jehovah in the deep flood, and to sing without a shaking in her voice, "He shall bring thee through fire and through water into a wealthy place." One false step in the appointment of the Final Committee might have jeopardized our whole enterprise. Therefore, it became us to make haste to be slow—to wait for the voice which should say, "This is the way, walk ye in it." Those who are in the habit of visiting our rooms seldom see aught but cheerful faces there, but you might have read there an occa-

sional trace of more thoughtfulness and ordinary anxiety during the first half of the year. Many a day was spent in closeted counsel by the Committees of your Board, and many an hour in earnest prayer. It was common for us after long half-day sessions to adjourn for further meditation and direction from above. But after months and months of prayerful waiting at last light came, and help came with it. Then we felt rebuked for our littleness of faith—and said hope maketh not ashamed."

The eighth Annual Report of the Union was then read, giving a succinct account of the origin of the enterprise, organization of the Union, extent of the field, &c. In speaking of the principle observed in the revision of the Bible, the report says:

The universal principle adopted by the Union is to require of translators and revisers the exact meaning of the inspired original. We wish the versions in every language to utter the same voice—to express, in words and phrases most readily understood by the greatest number of readers, the very sentiment which the Holy Spirit designed to impart. No views of expediency are allowed to withstand or influence the perfect and invariable operation of this principle. Let the truth come out clearly and unequivocally, though every denominational interest should be crushed, and every system of doctrine, as now held, be modified or overthrown.

This principle raises the Bible Union infinitely above all sectarianism, and allies it directly with God's eternal truth. We seek the pure streams from the unpolluted Fountain of Love, and we challenge the ingenuity of men to find fault with so holy an object.

In accordance with the original plan, and the settled and well-understood purpose of the Union, none but scholars of acknowledged qualifications could be chosen. The highest order of talent, a life devoted to philological pursuits, thorough acquaintance with biblical literature, habits of close application and research, a discriminating judgment and good taste, with a distinguished reputation for thoroughness, accuracy, and integrity, and also for success as authors, were ranked among these qualifications. No regard to denominational connection was allowed to intervene. The best qualified men were to be chosen wherever they could be found. It was no easy matter to find and to secure such men. Frequent meetings of committee, diligent correspondence, and personal consultation with scholars, were requisite; and nearly seven months of the year had passed before the Board was prepared to make appointments. Four men were at length found, who are believed to possess the required qualifications. The names of three we are permitted to give to the public:

The Rev. T. J. Conant, D.D., Late Professor in Rochester University, New York.

The Rev. H. B. Hackett, D.D., Professor in Newton Theological Seminary, Mass.

Professor Dr. E. Rodiger, Professor in the Royal University in Halle, Germany.

The fourth is equally eminent, but as he has not yet assumed all the responsibilities of the Committee, it is not deemed proper to announce his name.

These four men are familiar with the inspired originals of the Sacred Scriptures, and with every modern language which is requisite to aid their investigation. Three of them are distinguished for the Saxon simplicity and beauty of their style. The reputation of all is equally high in Europe and in America, and their personal estimation in the republic of letters such as will enable them to obtain the aid of any scholars whose services in criticism or investigation they may require.

	Copies.	Pages.
Sacred Scriptures, - - - - -	287,750	48,109,600
Quarterlies, Tracts, etc., - - - - -	390,801	11,639,204
Total, - - - - -	668,551	50,748,804

Under the title of "Newspaper Discussion on Bible Revision," the Union has collected forty-one folio volumes, the articles which have appeared in the newspapers on the subject of revision, from the commencement of the controversy, in 1849, till the present date. The average number of pages in each volume is 225. Excluding the volume devoted to the General Index, we have in this collection 50 volumes, containing 9,000 folio pages, amounting to 18,000 columns of newspaper matter on the subject of revision.

In the matter of finances the report is not specific. The Union has felt the effects of the panic, but the receipts have been about the same as last year.

Under such embarrassing circumstances it is a subject for profound gratitude to the Author of all our blessings, that our income differs very little from that of last year. The receipts were then \$45,208, they are now \$45,455.

The Convention here took a recess, during which an excellent repast was furnished by the friends of the Union in New York, but more particularly the ladies of the First Baptist Church and congregation.

The Convention adjourned to meet again on Thursday morning.

BAPTISTS IN AUSTRALIA.—I think I mentioned that several Independents had changed their views on the subject of baptism. The Rev. W. Dewhurst has been baptized with several others at Lefevre-terrace, and he has taken the largest hall on the south side, and preaches to large congregations. There is quite a stir on the subject of baptism among the Independents and Methodists.—*Extract from a letter from Adelaide*