

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

JUNE 23th, 1857.

Subject.—PETER VISITS THE DISCIPLES IN THE HOUSE OF MARY.

For Repeating. Acts xii. 1-5. For Reading. Acts xii. 13-24.

JULY 5th, 1857.

Subject.—DESIGNATION OF BARNABAS AND SAUL TO THE WORK OF MISSIONS.

For Repeating. Acts xii. 20-23. For Reading. Acts xiii. 1-13.

THE QUESTIONER.

Mental Pictures from the Bible.

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

[No. 18.]

The shadows of evening are darkening, and in the dim twilight we look upon a strange scene: It is a tented field, the encampment, apparently, of a vast army; but there is no clang of arms, nor murmur of voices. Death-like stillness is all around. There is not a stir in the camp, save the stealthy step of a few persons of sickly and miserable appearance, who are moving cautiously from tent to tent. Garments and treasure of various kinds are strewn carelessly about.

QUESTIONS to be answered next week.

47. Where was Bethel? and for what was it noted?

48. What female was grand-mother, wife, daughter, and mother-in-law of a king and the mother of two kings who reigned in succession, and all in her own lifetime? and prove your answer.

SOLUTION to Picture No. 17.

The mother of Sisera.—Judges v. 28, 29.

ANSWERS to questions in our last.

44. Taking the cubit at 18 inches, the length would be 350 feet; breadth 75 feet, and height 45 feet. See Gen. vi. 15.

45. Abraham.

46. For their righteousness.—Ezek. xiv. 29.

A Contest for a Soul.

"Come home with me, Richard! Oh, an open entry-way on Ann street, a few evenings since. We involuntarily turned and looked into the dark hall, and, although twilight was fast wrapping the place in gloom, we plainly saw the scene transpiring within.

Leaning against the wall, with one foot resting on the second step of the stairs that led above, stood a stout, healthy, drunken man, some twenty-five years of age, and who when sober, must have exhibited a respectable well-to-do appearance. Now, however, his eyes were bloodshot, his body and limbs limp and loose, and his whole frame rickety; his cravat untied, and his hat lying crumpled on the floor at his feet; a silly, inebriate look upon his face, and a stammering, slobbering utterance upon his tongue.

Beside this disgusting creature, with one hand laid upon his arm, and her face turned beseechingly to his, stood a beautiful young woman—his wife, apparently—who was plainly, but neatly, and even tastefully clad—with an expression of intense grief and mortification on her sweet, sad face, which was rendered still more painful to the beholder by the solicitude and love for her husband which shone through all else. She it was who, in tones of unspeakable agony and entreaty, wailed out from her loving, suffering, affrighted heart—

"Come home with me, Richard! Oh, do come!"

After some maudlin attempts at opposition, her husband seemed about to yield, when a ruffianly-looking man came up and clapping him on the shoulder, said—

"Come, Dick! We're all a-waitin' for you. We've goin' to have a jolly time; and you must come along quick, old feller, if you want a chance in."

At this familiar summons, the half-intoxicated man started up, and telling his wife she "had better go home and take care of the children," began to stagger away with his tempter. Catching him by the arm again his wife besought him, with an earnestness and pathos which it would be vain to attempt to depict, to go home with her, and never more go near his dissolute companions.

At this juncture a messenger summoned us away. We left the scene unwillingly, and with an intense desire that the ministering angel should prevail, and turn the unhappy man's course from "the steps that go down unto death;" but on looking back, as we turned the corner of Nassau street, we saw Richard staggering away with his ruffianly companion, and the wretched wife clinging to his arm in an attitude of despair, and vainly trying to win him back to home and happiness. Such is one of the many touching scenes of humble life that we witness in New York.—Ladgen.

Anger begets Anger.

A company of boys were playing ball upon the common, while a would-be-lady, clad in a beautiful plaid silk, was successfully performing the office of street-sweeper. A tiny little fellow, in full pursuit of his ball, making a misstep, inadvertently stumbled upon the trailing skirt. Frightened at the sound of ripping stitches, he sprang to his feet, and, with a burning cheek, began to say that he was very sorry. But the half-uttered apology was arrested by the angry exclamation, "You little scamp, what did you do that for? Now, just see my dress! Ain't you ashamed of yourself!"

"No," replied the boy, "I ain't ashamed; I'm glad of it."

"You are a naughty boy!" said the woman, with a stern look. "Do you know where wicked boys go when they die?"

"Yes, and wicked ladies too," was the careless reply, as the boy ran off to his play. Meeting an older boy, who had witnessed the whole scene, he was asked if he was really glad he had torn the lady's dress.

"No, he replied, 'I was really sorry at first, but I wouldn't tell her so, after she flamed up in that way. I tell you, Bill, I feel as though I'd like to do it again, just to see her eyes snap.'"

Alas! the angry spirit had done its work, and who can calculate the result! 'Twas but the intercourse of a moment, yet upon that moment's influence may hang the destiny of an immortal soul.

A Child's Faith.

"Mother, why do you weep, and feel so very anxious about father?" "Because, my child, he has now been absent much longer than he expected to be, and I have heard not a word from him; there has been a violent storm in the region where his business called him, and I cannot but fear he was on the lake at the time, and that we shall never see him again;" and here Mrs. Talbot gave way to an unrestrained paroxysm of grief.

The sweet little Nellie, of only six summers, nestled closer to her mother, and seemed to await a calm to give her an opportunity to speak, when, placing her arms caressingly around her mother, and with a most comforting expression of countenance, she gently said, "Why, dear mother, God will take care of my dear father, and bring him back to us again, if he thinks best. Don't you know you told me one day, when I was afraid in the woods, that God could see and take as good care of me there, as at home?"

"You are right, my sweet child," said Mrs. Talbot, calmed and strengthened, as well as humbled by her little daughter's faith! "but what makes you so confident that your father will be restored to us?"

"I knelt down by my little bed this morning, mother, when I saw how sad you were, and prayed, and asked God to take care of him; and you know one of my hymns says,

"God is so good that he will hear

Whenever children humbly pray;

He always lends a gracious ear

To what the youngest child may say."

Missionary Intelligence.

Toungoo Mission.

Extracts from Journal of Mr. Whitaker.

TOUR IN THE JUNGLE.

Dec. 2, 1856.—Left home this morning for a jungle tour in the villages, previous to the meeting of the Association, which occurs next month. Having spent most of the night in examining candidates for baptism, and this morning in administering the ordinance, we were at rather a late hour ready for our journey; but by travelling till sunset, we arrived at a Karen village. Most of the way the road leads through thick jungle, with here and there a Burmese hamlet. About three miles from the village, fifty or sixty Karens came to meet us with new rice and eggs for the teacher. They waited for me to lead the way, and fell in behind in regular procession. After arriving at the chapel, and joining in evening worship, I sought the rest I so much needed.

EXAMINATION AND BAPTISM OF FIFTY-SIX KARENS.

4.—Called the people together this morning for worship, preached a short discourse, and proceeded to the examination of candidates for baptism. There is a multitude crowding the gates of Zion. They are not so instructed as I could wish, but much better than I expected. I can see no reason for questioning their entire sincerity, and simplicity of heart and purpose. They are not without a reason for the hope they cherish. The difference in the aspect of things since last year is very great. Then, when I visited the people, not more than ten or twelve persons could read. The mass seemed utterly regardless of these things; but now scarcely a person is seen in the village, who has not made

more or less progress in learning to read. For Karens they are well dressed, clean and healthy.

5.—Spent the day much as yesterday. This afternoon we met for prayer, and enjoyed a refreshing season. Nothing so much encourages my heart, as to hear the converts pour out their souls in prayer. It was my purpose to close the examination yesterday, and to go on to-day; but still they press in; and in most cases I find no reason for excluding them from the ordinance. Truly the days have returned, when "the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it by force."

6.—This morning has been spent in the usual way. Closed the examination at 12 o'clock. Have received fifty-six. Truly to them the sword of the Spirit has been "quick and powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword." As the sun was sinking in the west, we assembled on the bank of the brook. Those who were to receive baptism, arranged themselves in a row near the brink, and the multitude seated themselves at a little distance. After a hymn of praise and a fervent prayer, they were one after another, according to the example of our Saviour, buried beneath the flood. How solemn and impressive the scene! Yesterday, nothing was here heard but the sound of savage strife, man against man, and village against village. But the gospel of Jesus has been preached, and the heavenly messenger, peace, has dispelled the sound of strife, and all, united in one brotherhood, dwell securely beneath the shadow of her wings. Farewell, my much loved native land, with all its privileges, its pleasures, and its joys; amid scenes like this let me live and die. Closed the day by administering the Lord's Supper to those who have so recently put on Christ. O! that these lambs of the flock may be led by Him who has said, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest to your souls."

18.—Arrived at Yedoopoo; found the people busy building their houses. The chapel which they have finished is a Karen paradise. It is large enough to accommodate six hundred persons. On arrival, after shaking hands with nearly three hundred, we assembled for worship. I addressed them on the subject of God's love as displayed in the salvation of sinners. The sentiment met a response, I believe, in every heart. I have seldom seen a more contented and happy

CHRISTIAN VILLAGES.

20.—Continued the ascent of the mountain from the river of Kleu-la. As I advanced from the elephant to the chapel door, one of the crowd called out, "Teacher, it is of God's rich grace that we are permitted to see your face again, and our hearts are filled with joy." Their chapel is low and unhandsome, but will accommodate four or five hundred people. It was soon filled, and we enjoyed an hour in worship. They have just built a large house for their teacher, in the structure of which there is a manifest attempt to imitate buildings they have seen in town. They have also the posts, cut and prepared, for a comfortable place of worship.

MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Jan. 1, 1857.—The first day of the meeting of the Association. Met for prayer at an early hour, and besought God to pour out his Holy Spirit on the assembled multitude. At 8 o'clock, A. M., the introductory sermon was preached by Pwaipau. The afternoon was spent in reading the letters from the churches. Judging from the letters, the disciples manifest a degree of firmness and devotion to the common cause, which is remarkable. A few cases of discipline have occurred, but they are not numerous. Many have died during the year. Met in the evening for religious services.

2.—About fourteen hundred persons present, and the number constantly augmenting. Met for morning devotions, and again for business; after which, proceeded with reading letters. The remainder of the day was occupied in discussing various subjects, suggested by cases of discipline which have occurred in the churches. The meeting has been one of great religious interest. Many heathen from places beyond were present, and seven new villages begged for teachers. The influence exerted cannot fail to extend the knowledge of Christ and his work among this people. The contributions to the funds of the Home Mission Society amounted to rs. 284. It was found that Sau Quala had declined the 50 rs. voted to assist him in bringing his family from Tavoy. There was a universal readiness on the part of the preachers to rely on God and their people for support.

Nearly one hundred letters were read. All the applicants for teachers were supplied temporarily, mostly by pupils from the Theological

Seminary, who have just come up to spend a five months' vacation.

People continued to arrive until the close of the meeting. When we dismissed, there were not less than sixteen hundred present.

ARRIVAL OF DR. MASON.

Toungoo, Jan. 17, 1857.—I have been hearing from Dr. Mason through natives, since the 4th inst., and am glad to know that he has arrived safely. I have written him several times, and received one note from him dated Jan. 10. He seems to have been left without means of conveyance, and wrote to request an elephant, which I have sent to him. He gives me no intimation as to whether he will come to town or not; but from what Karens say of him, I conclude he will not at present. I am sorry to be deprived of an interview. I desire his advice on many things, and fancy even that I could give him some information that would be useful to him here, although he is my senior.

In my last tour I baptized 239, administered the Lord's Supper twelve times, constituted seven new churches, occupied ten new stations with teachers, besides attending the Paku Association. "It is the Lord's doings, and it is marvellous in our eyes."

The anniversary of our sailing from Boston. Thank God that I have been permitted to spend four years on heathen ground, and for the miracles of grace and power I have been permitted to witness.

ANOTHER KAREN PASTOR ORDAINED.

I cannot now find time to give you the particulars of the ordination of another Karen, pastor of the Buayah church, Ngapee. The services were performed by Dr. Crawley and myself, in the presence of several native preachers and Christians, on Saturday evening, Jan. 3.

Agriculture.

Destroy the Caterpillars.

It is unpleasant to crush thousands of them by the hand; the spiral brush, fastened to a pole, is excellent by which to reach high limbs, but on young trees where the limbs may be reached from the ground, there is nothing we have used equal to an old dust brush that is nearly worn out, and the bristles are somewhat stiff. With this a person may clear a young orchard very quickly and effectually.

The young, however, are not all brought out at once, and the careful orchardist will have an eye to his trees every day.

Look out now for the caterpillars.

Apple Trees.

A gentleman in Worcester informs me that his brother-bored some apple trees (trunks about 1 foot in diameter,) 5 holes to a tree, 2 inches deep, and 3/4 inch in diameter; put in *speacuanha*, and plugged them up. This was done in spring before the trees were in full bloom. The trees were not injured in the least, and the flavor of the fruit was not perceptibly affected, but it was fair, and free from insects. Before this he could hardly get a fair apple from the tree.

Trap for Catching Grubs.

This trap consists of a circular pan made of rubber, covered by a stiff rubber roof, the whole being constructed in one piece. It is placed around the trunk of the tree, somewhat loosely, and made tight by packing the space between the trap and the trunk of the tree with rags, cotton, or any similar article that will not obstruct the growth of the tree. The rubber pan is filled with any kind of liquid offensive to the insect, and thus prevents its passage up the tree.

Seed Potatoes.

I have farmed for twenty-four years, and have in all cases planted seed ends. I began in this way for the reason that I was short for potatoes, and found from experience that it was altogether the best way. I would not have you think that I have not tried any other way, for I have for experiment planted them whole, and have cut them, and I have in no case had better potatoes than when I planted seed ends. I always get the largest potatoes; I do not say but I have had as many or more in number, by planting in a different way, but not so much by measure. I always put into each hill one seed end, unless they are very small, and then I put two, but that is seldom; and I seldom have more than three stalks in a hill, and sometimes but one, and I find as many potatoes in such a hill as in any. In my opinion, it is a very great mistake that seed ends produce the most stalks; it never has been so in any case where I have planted seed ends.—N. E. Farmer.