

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

APRIL 19th, 1857.

Subject.—THE CONVERSION AND BAPTISM OF THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH.

For Repeating. Acts viii. 14-17. For Reading. Acts viii. 26-40.

APRIL 26th, 1857.

Subject.—SAUL TAKES LETTERS TO DAMASCUS, AND IS MET BY CHRIST.

For Repeating. Acts viii. 35-37. For Reading. Acts ix. 1-16.

THE QUESTIONER.

Mental Pictures from the Bible.

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

[No. 8.]

A woman of dignified and commanding presence, is engaged in earnest conversation with a warrior who stands by her side, and whom she appears to be endeavouring to rouse to act with courage and decision.

Beneath it they are shaded from the scorching rays of the eastern sun, and enjoy a cool and delightful retreat.

QUESTIONS to be answered next week.

17. Where is trade and commerce first mentioned in the Bible?

18. Who is recorded as having suffered death, in Old Testament times, for having done an act of kindness?

19. Who was the mother of the greatest prophet?

SOLUTION to Picture No. 7.

David in the cave of Adullam.—2 Samuel xxiii. 13-17.

ANSWERS to questions in our last.

15. (1.) The Deluge, 2 Pet. iii. 6, 7. (2.) The Egyptian darkness, Exod. x. 21-23. (3.) The Passage of the Red Sea, Exod. xiv. 21-29. (4.) The standing of the Sun, Josh. x. 12-14. (5.) The returning of the shadow on the dial of Ahaz, Isa. xxxviii. 8, 2 Kings xx. 11. (6.) The darkness at the crucifixion of our blessed Lord, Matt. vii. 45.

16. By the Urim and Thumim, by dreams and visions, by prophecy, and by personal manifestations.

What is Faith.

A little girl was trying to find her father, who had gone into the cellar, by a trap-door, with no light. Coming to the door, and looking down, she could see nothing, for it was all dark.

"Believeth"

Dr. James Ruthven, not long before his death, recited slowly, emphatically, and with great weakness of voice, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."

It is not what people eat, but what they digest, that makes them strong. It is not what they gain, but what they save, that makes them rich.

Professor Brocklesby has been computing the age of the Charter Oak from the rings. The result he arrives at is that the tree is 945 years of age.

Miscellany.

Steady progress of Christianity.

A contemporary says:—The following tabular statement, a conjectural, but probable representation of the progressive increase of Christians in the world, is attributed to Sharon Turner:

Table with 2 columns: Year (1st century to 18th) and Number of Christians (500,000 to 200,000,000).

In this nineteenth century, the Christian population of the world cannot be far from three hundred millions, and its progress now is more rapid than in any period since the Apostolic age.

Practical Preaching.

We have heard of various specimens of Negro eloquence in our time, but never actually listened to the illustration till yesterday. Dropping into an African meeting-house, we found the sermon just commenced.

The Liverpool Transcript says:—

"Mr. Spurgeon, the notorious revivalist in London, is breaking down in voice and strength."

We wonder whence he gets this very complimentary(?) piece of information. The London Freeman (Baptist) tells a different story.

"The popularity of Mr. Spurgeon, and the Divine blessing on his labours, appear to increase. Last Sunday at the Music Hall, the Marquis of Lansdowne, and at least thirty members of Parliament were present; among the latter the Hon. Sydney Herbert, Baron Bramwell was also in the Hall."

Smiles.

Nothing on earth can smile but a man! Gems may flash reflected light, but what is a diamond-flash compared with an eye-flash and mirth-flash? Flowers cannot smile.

Noble Sentiments.

Condemn no man for not thinking as you think. Let every one enjoy the full and free liberty of thinking for himself.

A good wife.

A good wife makes the poorest and most desolate home a paradise, and moulds the most negligent and indifferent husband into a tender and thoughtful companion.

The Catholics are about to build a Cathedral at Montreal, to surpass in size and magnificence any edifice of the kind on the continent.

Agriculture.

Hot water for Plants.

A correspondent of the Boston Cultivator writing on the subject of house plants, says: "The way to have healthy plants is to shorten all straggling growth, and remove every leaf and flower as soon as the least symptom of decay is perceivable."

Draining Lands.

Low grounds, that produce only wild grass, and which are too wet to be plowed, may be economically improved by ditching.

Correspondence.

Selected for the Christian Messenger.

Rev. T. H. Chipman's Letter.

Extract of a letter from the Rev. T. H. Chipman, to the Editor of the Mass. Bapt. Miss. Magazine, dated December 5th, 1856.

REV. AND VERY DEAR SIR.

I have been in this town and Argyle five weeks, and such glorious times I never saw before. Multitudes are turned to God.

Brother Harding is the minister of the place. God is with him, of a truth. He stands clear in the doctrines of the glorious gospel of Christ.

Since the work began there has been about one hundred and fifty souls brought to own Jesus as their rightful Lord and Sovereign King.

There was in the old church about fifty members, thirty-three of whom have been, from time to time, baptized, and now belong to the new church.

The first day there was a fall of snow, and the day was uncomfortable; but the Lord comforted our souls. The young converts were so happy, they could hardly wait until their turn came.

We have had two church meetings, and surely I never saw such church meetings before. It was indeed the house of God, and the very gate of heaven.

Monday morning, December 8th.—Yesterday Brother Harding and myself baptized twenty-two persons more. There are a considerable number more waiting, who have been approved of by the church.

At Argyle, twenty miles from this, there has been a glorious work during the summer past. There is a village between this place and Argyle, called the Tusket River.

Yours with great esteem, THOMAS HANDLEY CHURMAN.

[Brother Angell asks:—Shall I send Brother Towner's letter? It is as interesting as Father Harding's, and many would read it with pleasure.]

The person here referred to was James Lent, Esq., since deceased. He was father of the late Rev. James Lent, Baptist minister, and many of his descendants are members of Baptist churches.