

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

MARCH 22nd, 1857.

Subject.—STEPHEN'S DISCOURSE, CONTINUED
For Repeating. For Reading.
Acts vii. 17-19. | Acts vii. 30-43.

MARCH 29th, 1857.

Subject.—THE APPLICATION OF STEPHEN'S DISCOURSE, AND ITS EFFECTS.
For Repeating. For Reading.
Acts vii. 35-37. | Acts vii. 44-60.

THE QUESTIONER.

Mental Pictures from the Bible.

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

[No. 4.]

It is night. The valley on which we look is the encampment of an immense army. The sleeping soldiery, and camels lying quietly at rest, seem countless in number, and are spread far and wide over the field. A little company of three hundred men, headed by a noble young chief, are descending the mountains, and approaching this silent, but terrible array. They are unarmed, but every man carries in one hand a trumpet, while in the other may be distinguished a glimmering light.

QUESTIONS to be answered next week.

9. Find nine sins noted in the Scriptures as followed at once by striking judgments.
10. What prophet repined and grieved over what he should have been glad and grateful for?

SOLUTION to Picture No. 3.
John iv. 6-15.

ANSWERS to questions in our last.
6. Samuel.—1 Sam. xv. 33.
7. Noah.—Gen. vii. 23.
8. The Cross of Christ.

Miscellany.

Dr. Livingston.

During the past two or three months another name has been made prominent, which will be added to the list of distinguished men, who have by their indomitable perseverance "achieved greatness" and shown what christian faith and courage can accomplish.

Such men as Carey, Morrison, Judson, Moffat, and Dr. Livingston, show the means by which the world is to become explored and civilized.

Whilst Governments, with all the appliances of wealth and power, have been unable to penetrate to the regions of Central Africa, this Christian Missionary and philanthropist, has, with nothing but the love of Christ and the desire to be the means of saving souls, brought forth a vast fund of information so long and earnestly desired.

The *Baptist Magazine*, for January, gives the following brief but graphic account of this truly great man and his discoveries:—

"First in interest, and by no means least in absolute importance, amongst the events of the month, we place the return home of Dr. Livingston. For two or three years past intelligence has reached England, at long intervals and by circuitous routes, of the discoveries he was making in Central and Southern Africa. Districts which the foot of the white men had never trod, and which on our maps presented only a blank space, marked, if at all, with the words *Terra Incognita*, were known to have been traversed by him. Commerce, science, and Christianity were alike interested in the travels of this devoted missionary. The Government despatched a ship of war to cruise off the coast in order to take him on board immediately on his arrival there. After long waiting it returned to the Cape, but was immediately ordered back to resume its station until it gained some absolute tidings respecting him. Scarcely had it reached his post when he appeared, having recrossed on foot that vast continent. After many delays he at length reached England; and men the most distinguished for Christian zeal and scientific attainments, at once assembled to do him honour. He is a man of small stature, sallow and sunburnt, with a cast of countenance which would lead persons to mistake him for a Frenchman—an appearance increased by his moustachios and close-cropped hair—his manners modest and retiring, but without bashfulness, and his whole bearing indicative of determined resolution, unflinching promptitude, and ready sagacity. We do not remember to have seen one characteristic noticed which is yet among the most note-worthy of all—the marvellous universality of his knowledge and variety of his observations. Mr. M'Clear, the Astronomer Royal at the Cape, writes home in the most eulogistic terms of the remarkable accuracy and value of his astronomical observations. Professor Owen, the greatest living naturalist, asks information

about the various animals he had met with, promptly receives a list of species hitherto unknown in Europe and sits down with grateful acknowledgments of the service thus rendered to natural history. Sir R. Murchison, who holds a very high place amongst geologists, inquires whether Dr. Livingston has anything to say about geological matters, and with equal promptitude is told of the stratifications around the Lake Ngami, of the basaltic bed of the River Zambesi, and of a remarkable cleavage through which the river precipitates itself at one part of its course; Sir Roderick is profuse in his acknowledgments of the value of the information thus given. Some one else asks, if Dr. Livingston can tell them anything about the prospects of commerce in these regions, and receives in reply a full statement of the trading usages of the countries through which he had passed, and of their natural productions, including the sugar cane, coffee, indigo, and such minerals as copper tin, coal and gold; and he describes the course of a navigable river by which these products might at once be made available. A few nights afterwards Professor Owen is giving a lecture on Ivory at the College of Surgeons; Dr. Livingston is present, and is asked to say a few words at the close of the lecture; he rises, and gives statistics to illustrate the age to which the elephant lives, the number killed annually in South Africa, and the prospects of a continuous supply of ivory being found further North. And yet this man never forgets, nor suffers his hearers to forget, that he is above all things a missionary. These contributions to science are but incidental and subordinate to the great business of his life, which is to open a way for the gospel. It was finely said by Lord Shaftesbury, speaking of his noble-hearted wife, the sharer of many of his toils, that "born a Moffat, she only ceased to be so that she might become a Livingston."

A Missionary Sentenced.

One of the city missionaries of Boston, Rev. Peter Mason, was invited, with his family, a few days since, to spend the afternoon at the house of a friend, and on returning, he found his home in the possession of a crowd of people at the head of whom was Judge Russell, of the Police Court. The Judge explained the unusual demonstration to be "on account of the conduct" of the missionary, and proceeded to pass the following sentence:

Father Mason:—You have been accused of diverse grave offenses. It is charged that having the fear of God and the love of man before your eyes, moved by the instigation of humanity, you have habitually sought and relieved the destitute, the sick and the afflicted; that you have preached the gospel to the poor; that you have comforted those in prison. It is said that you have believed that even the men and women who have been convicted of being "drunk by the voluntary use of intoxicating liquors," might yet have hearts to feel and souls to save. You are further charged with diminishing the number of inmates at the jail (and the jailor conspires to cloak your offense); with reducing the fees of constables, and the business of the Court. You bring the laws into contempt by preventing the crimes which those laws are intended to punish. You are known to be an old offender, and you have declared that you will not depart from these ways as long as you live.

Now receive the sentence of the Court—and as a famous judge said on sending a convict to the State Prison for life—I wish I could give you a heavier sentence, (giving him a purse of \$138 in gold.) And you, Mrs. Mason, as you have shared your husband's afflictions, as only a woman could, it is right that you should share his joys (giving her a purse of \$50.) Our gift is accompanied not only with the kind wishes and warm regards of these friends but with the prayers of many who have been relieved in distress, or saved from vice. I have passed sentence on your husband, and I do not doubt that both of you, continuing your charitable labors in life, will hear the final sentence.

"Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, ye did it unto me."

We happen to know of some other "offenders," and ministers too, who richly deserve just such a sentence as that pronounced by the Boston Judge, and we hope they will get it.

Begin To-day.

Lord, I do discover a fallacy, whereby I have long been deceiving myself; which is this: I have desired to begin my amendment from my birth-day, or from some eminent festival, that so my repentance might bear some remarkable date. But when those days were come, I have adjourned my amendment to another time. Thus whilst I could not agree with myself when to start, I almost lost the running of the race. I have resolved thus to befool myself no longer. I see no day but to-day; the instant time is always the fittest time. In Nebuchadnezzar's image, the lower the members, the coarser the metal. The farther off the time, the more unfit. To-day is the golden opportunity, to-morrow will be the silver season, next day but the brazen one, and so on till at last I shall come to the toes of clay, and be turned to dust. Grant, therefore, that to-day I may hear thy voice. And if this day be obscure in the calendar, and remarkable in itself for nothing else, give me to make it memorable in my soul, hereupon, by thy assistance beginning the reformation of my life.—*Fuller.*

Agriculture.

For the Christian Messenger.

"The New England Farmer."

The periodical whose name appears above, is well known, no doubt, in many parts of the Province, yet we sometimes doubt that its value is altogether appreciated. It is devoted to matters appertaining to farm, and garden, and household,—combining fancy and fact,—specialties and speculations, in agriculture, horticulture, economy, and philosophy, physical, mental and moral. The periodical has its blemishes, for it is only a human institution; but take it for all and all, "we do not often look upon its like, and to produce and maintain its superior, would require a New Englander of even more than the ordinary sagacity of that region so celebrated for smartness.

The numbers of the *Farmer*, for January and February, are before us, and an hour's pleasant and useful occupation may be found, in turning over their pages, gathering some store as we go, like the bee among the plants of the garden;—although that is rather an unseasonable simile during February in Nova Scotia.

An article on the "uses of snow" first demands attention. We have a general impression of the uses of that beautiful winter robe—snow-balling included,—but the *Farmer* talks like a sage on the subject. The theory of snow's uses is appropriately discussed, and among some important deductions, is, the supposition, apparently well supported, that the notion of sending invalids to tropical climates is a mistake, and that equable cold, in winter, is more favourable to health, than the varied changes of warm latitudes. Hence Canada appears as a rival to Georgia, and even on the lists as a competitor with the balmy regions of Europe, which were supposed a kind of Eden for the wealthy and the delicate.

The rapidity of vegetation during early summer in northern regions, is attributed to the nursing character of the snow; which warms and nourishes and protects from the chilling effect of the winter frosts.

From the snows of earth, and other terrene subjects, the *Farmer* takes a jump to the moon, figuratively speaking, for the purpose of ridiculing the notion of "the good old times," in reference to the moon's influence on health, vegetation and so on. He is either right, or sadly outrages popular prejudice and traduces the empire of queenly Luna. The man in the moon, if he reads the *Farmer*, may sneer in return, and plead his vested rights in opposition to the leveling views of the Bostonian.

A few pages farther on, labour is eulogized in some pleasing lines of verse,—and then as much satire is directed against Fruit Pies, as was previously against the theory of the moon's influence. The former, the question of pies; is more appreciable to sublunary mortals,—and may well claim attention from those who, according to the *Farmer*, toil, worse than needlessly, to metamorphose that which has been completed to our hand, by the sunshine and showers of Providence.

In the moral philosophy department, we have another article on the duties of the *Farmer* to his Family, in which several virtues are ably advocated. A town-living wight might have wished, that among the graces recommended as adornments to the young farmer, should be that of not exacting too high a price for his commodities, when he appears in the market place.

An article on the "Wonders of India Rubber" gives a wonderful variety of articles manufactured from this ductile material. The true geni of modern times, are Art and Science. Read the enumeration,—and who could imagine that the glutinous medium, with some coal-tar and other such elegancies, and subjected to certain curious processes, would result in a number of beautiful fabrics, finely polished and amazingly enduring, as follows: walking canes, cabinet work, spectacle bows, opera glasses, castors, ink-stands, hair brushes, tape lines, pen holders, pencil cases, cigar cases, boxes, buttons, &c., &c. These and a multitude besides may all be called useful, and therefore proofs of the uses of the article, except the cigar cases; that any thing elegant or durable should be wasted on the weed, that by a perverse ingenuity ministers so strangely to undue expenditure, to folly and idleness, and various vices, is to be regretted. Man has injured himself to taking small doses of disease, has educated himself in disgusting and uncleanly habits, and glorifies his pests by the trickery of fine names and ornamented caskets. The liquor plague has run the same course. Fancy

was tortured to devise seductive names for the fiend, and the liquor case, became an ornament as well as a curse. The auxiliary of liquor, tobacco, follows in the same cunning track.

Very apropos, the *Farmer* furnishes, on another page, a blast against the weed. In "Hints to work-men on health," the writer says:—

"Never learn to smoke: shun tobacco in all its forms. It stunts the growth, when taken at too early an age; it is a great promoter of indolence and laziness; it causes nervous trembling of the hands, and nervous debility; it has nothing nourishing or stimulating in it, but is merely a narcotic."

An article concerning lead pipes, gives material for serious caution, to those who use that mode of conveyance for water, concerning the dangerous effect of the decomposed mineral; and the care that should be observed in change of water and cleansing of pipes.

From an article entitled "Opinions and Progress," we obtain a curious extract from the speech of a lawyer, made in 1825, before a committee of the House of Commons, against a petition of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway Company.

"But they tell you they are to have steam carriages—locomotives, as they are to call them—with which they are to do incredible things. Look at their prospectuses, their pamphlets, and all that they have put before the public on this wild scheme. Here is one of their pictures, with a long imaginative description, setting forth that it is to run at ten, twelve, or even fifteen miles per hour. Of course, they make no such pretence before this committee; quite otherwise. Mr. Rostrick tells you that he believes they will go eight or ten miles an hour. Mr. Stevenson thinks they will go six, and is confident that they will go four miles an hour with considerable loads. Very moderate, indeed, compared with the extravagant pretensions made where they are less likely to be scrutinized with intelligence; but still, as I think, much more than they will realize, if this visionary scheme is sanctioned, and actually carried out. Sir, I know something of the country in which this alleged improvement is to be attempted, and with no disrespect to it, I must say that it has a full share of rainy weather, when, from the slipperiness of the rails, it will be impossible for these vehicles to go at all; and all traffic, of course, must be suspended in wet weather, or carried on by horse-power. But, even in dry weather, I question whether they will go at two and a half miles per hour—the common speed of a draft horse. But they must make some pretence, other than that any know means under heaven can make their rails useful; so they set up this hobby of pamphleteers and picture-makers, and trust to the chapter of accidents to turn up something else, if this fails them, when actually tried. Four miles an hour! that is one thing not yet proved, however. But another story has been told to the deluded subscribers. They were to gallop from Liverpool to Manchester at a speed which the mail-coaches have attempted, but failed to accomplish; and it is for this committee to say whether they shall be swindled out of their money on such impudent pretences, and whether Parliament shall disgrace itself by sanctioning a scheme so wild, wasteful, absurd and reckless, for the sake of filling the pockets of engineers and a multitude of other leeches, who will get their pay, so long as they condescend to work, whatever may be the losses of those who furnish means to pay them."

This affords very strange evidence of the wonderful progress of improvements in 25 years. Here we find about three miles an hour supposed the real practicable speed for locomotives, and doubtful at that, while sneers are freely indulged against those bold enough to originate and advocate the new chimera. That was 1825,—but 1835 found rail-roads like network over the British Islands, and the speed from 25 to 60 miles an hour. We may well infer that the propounders of new schemes, of beneficial character, may expect opposition, and bear it patiently, and anticipate hopefully, a final triumph. Take courage Maine Liquor Law and other moral reformers; your progress now may be like that of the snail, and your ascribed speed some 2 miles an hour; but 60 may be, among the possibilities, or even the annihilation of distance, as regards your objects; and like the results of the Electric Telegraph.

We find that our pleasing task must be brought to a close, while about half its intended objects remain untouched.

The themes presented for our consideration formed an odd variety, we have dipped into a few only, leaving valuable recipes, important teachings, and very interesting preachings, to those who are wise enough to read, mark, and inwardly digest, publications calculated to make them richer and wiser and happier.

This little paragraph, which we find going the rounds, is eloquent and true: "If there is a man who can eat his bread in peace with God and man, it is the man who has brought that bread out of the earth. It is cankered by no fraud, it is wet by no tears, it is stained by no blood."