

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

SEPTEMBER 20th, 1857.

Subject.—MISSIONARY LABOURS IN GREECE. PAUL PREACHES AT ATHENS.

For Repeating. For Reading. Acts xvii. 1-4. Acts xvii. 15-38.

SEPTEMBER 27th, 1857.

Subject.—PAUL GOES TO CORINTH. TIMOTHY AND SILAS MEET HIM THERE.

For Repeating. For Reading. Acts xvii. 30-34. Acts xviii. 1-11.

THE QUESTIONER.

Mental Pictures from the Bible.

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

[No. 30.]

An oriental palace; a royal feast is spread; golden dishes and jewelled cups, with the rarest and costliest dainties, fill the board. A monarch, of dignified but stern aspect, is seated at its head, and by him a woman of rare beauty—his crowned favourite and queen. A youth of graceful aspect and ingenuous countenance hands the festal cup; but as he does so, the monarch is struck by a change in his demeanour, and with eager suspicion enquires into its cause.

QUESTIONS to be answered next week.

71. What individual in the Bible accused of God and condemned of men was yet a preacher of truth?

72. What was equally a sign of Christ's love, Mary's humility, and Peter's penitence.

SOLUTION to Picture No. 29.

Ahab and Jehoshaphat.—1 Kings xxii. 4-28.

ANSWERS to questions in our last.

69. Leviathan.—Job xli. 34.

70. The family of Aaph.—2 Chron. xxxv. 15; Ezra ii. 41.

Be Frank and Determined.

Never affect to be other than what you are. Learn to say, "I do not know," and I cannot afford it," with most sonorous distinctness and emphasis. Men will then believe you when you say, "I do know," and "I CAN afford it." Never be ashamed to pass for just what you truly are, and who you are, and you are on solid ground. A man is already of consequence in the world, when it is known that we can implicitly rely on him—that when he says he knows a thing, he will do. Such a reputation will give a man more real enjoyment, and is of far greater value to him, than all the results which display and pretension can compass.

How to ruin a Son.

- 1. Let him have his own way.
2. Allow him the free use of money.
3. Suffer him to rove where he pleases on the Sabbath.
4. Give him free access to wicked companions.

5. Call him to no account for his evenings.
6. Furnish him with no stated employment.
Pursue either of these ways, and you will experience a most marvellous deliverance, or you will have to mourn over a debased and ruined child. Thousands have realized the sad result, and have gone mourning to the grave.

A Scriptural Sum.

Christian readers, here is a sum in Addition for you to work out. It will require diligence and care, and admit of no wasted time:

- Add to your faith, virtue;
And to your virtue, knowledge;
And to knowledge, temperance;
And to temperance, patience;
And to patience, godliness;
And to godliness, brotherly kindness;
And to brotherly kindness, charity.

THE ANSWER.—For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ; 2 Peter, 1: 5-8.—Christian Index.

LAND IN PALESTINE.—The foreign missionary enterprise of the Seventh Day Baptists has been largely directed to Palestine, and has resulted in the purchase, in consequence, of several tracts of land. The Sabbath Recorder says: "When the purchase of land in Palestine was first proposed to our Missionary Board, there were serious reasonable doubts of the validity of titles under the Turkish laws, but now, none have doubts, and hundreds of acres have been bought by various religious societies of late, for the establishment of missions, hospitals, homes, dispensaries, schools, &c., and the price of land is continually advancing."

A Good Definition.

"What is grace?" inquired the Moderator of a Southern Presbytery, of a colored candidate for licensure, who had been for forty years a slave: "Grace," he sententiously replied, "grace; that is what I call something for nothing."

Now I move that this be carried over to Concord, and that it be nailed in large characters upon each of the four walls of the recitation room of our Biblical Institute—that there be offered as a "reward of merit" to any student who shall give a better definition of the word grace, a D. D.; for such an one would more richly deserve that honorary degree, than three-fourths of those who have already been thus dubbed. Ah! and let those who suppose the negro to belong to some other species than the human, try their hand at wresting this palm from his ebony grasp.—Zion's Herald.

Temperance.

A short Temperance Sermon for young people.

Children! have you ever thought in what a beautiful world you live! how God has placed you amid gardens and groves, and pleasant meadows, and beautiful streams of water; what a glorious sun shines upon you; what soft breezes fan you; what a vast variety of delicious food is furnished you: what delightful homes are given you; what friends are yours; what balmy sleep comes over your weary limbs; and what a joy and happiness there is in every movement of your healthful frame; and whence should come misery in such a world?—for misery there is; and among the young as well as the old. Who has not seen the young man, born to great riches and pleasures, the joy of his father and mother, surrounded by every delight, cursing and swearing, and making himself and every one around him perfectly miserable. What a contrast did he present to the inheritance of which he might have been the lawful possessor? And what, amid so many delights, brought woe and wounds into his bosom? Alas! it was the wine-cup. This was the serpent in the garden—this was the sting among the flowers. Go to the prisoners' cell; go to the asylum of the insane; go to the poor house and ask what brought the wretched inmates there? Two-thirds of all will say, it was drink that early blasted our joys. Oh, wine! thou essence of the evil spirit, when wilt thou be banished from earth? Come dear youth; come away from all temptations of the wine-cup. The pure drink, in which the birds and the beasts and the fishes revel; the beautiful fountains which bubble up from the earth; the streamlet coming down from the mountains; the broad river on which ships sail to the ocean; the sylvan lake lying smooth and peaceful in the valleys, all beckon thee to ways of purity and peace. Daniel and his companions would not defile themselves with the wine which the king drank. The king's wine defiles, and maddens, and destroys, as well as the wine of the lowest of his subjects. The happy boys walking forth in all the purity of God's creation, would keep themselves happy and pure. How wise were they? The spring has gone; the last month of summer has come; and soon, autumn will be here with its precious fruits. So let it be with life. Mar not your beautiful days and hours with sin lest your end be bitterness and gall.—Exchange.

Wreckers of Ships and Wreckers of Men.

There are certain wild shores infested by bands of Wreckers, whose business it is to watch along their dangerous coasts, and seize whatever may float within their reach from the wrecks on the neighboring shoals. To increase their chance of such accursed spoil, they set themselves systematically at work to bring about as many shipwrecks as they can—false signals are given—beacons are quenched—movable lights devised, and every means employed to decoy vessels in the offing upon the fatal shore. Figure that scene, when night and storm are on the deep and the tempest howls along the fatal reef, and through the darkness, faintly heard above the roar of the surge, comes the boom of the signal-gun, announcing a vessel in distress! A moment more and it comes again, more distinct, and yonder, at length, its light trembles to the eye as some billow tosses it above the horizon. The wail of despair already comes to the aching ear! And here on the shore are voices heard, and torches glance, but not in pity or for help; and on the cliff above burns the

false beacon that lured them to the rocks! A moment more and she strikes! And for an instant, while the storm lulls as if relenting, you hear the shrieks of the lost, the cry of the spent-swimmer, and the crash of the vessel as she spills her treasures and lives into the deep! Witness what joy is felt on that shore! Their work has prospered. A little floats to their hands—but alas! how little of all that precious cargo! Yet that is their reward. For this they lured so much to destruction. Such is their business—and the brother of it is here amongst us, this trade in drinks. There is a circumstantial horror around the one, while the other works more quietly, under cover, and by piecemeal; but in this essential feature they stand side by side—they each create a vast indefinite amount of woe and damage to others, that out of the terrible wreck they may gain a little! And if the one deserves legal protection, give it to the other likewise.—Home Journal.

A Contrast.

FIRST LOOK ON THIS AND THEN ON THIS. PICTURE.

West Killingly, Conn. A correspondent of the Independent seems to be a place gives the statistics of a where the rum-seller "model town," in Iodoe his business killingly indeed. The Telegraph is fully warranted in styling it "a little remarkable." A poor drunkard, named Christopher Potter, was found dead in the barn of Russell Smith, in West Killingly, on Saturday week. Several winters since, he lay out all night, on a drunken spree, and froze both his legs so badly that they had to be amputated. He has since hobbled to the grog-shops, where soulless liquor-dealers would take the last cent from the poor cripple for more rum. Says the Windham County Telegraph—"It is a little town, in the nineteenth remarkable that within years of its existence! a few rods of the center of our village, with- Denmark, Iowa, have in the last six or seven years, there have been as many as ten deaths, under circumstances similar to those above stated."

ACCIDENTAL POISONING.—A printer named Merrill, employed on the Boston Ledger, went behind the bar of the Elm Street House, Sunday night, and took a draught of bed-bug poison, mistaking the bottle for brandy. The poison took immediate effect, and at a late hour the same evening his life was despaired of.—Boston paper.

[There must be something in the effects of drinking alcoholic beverages which destroys the sensibilities of the palate, or mistakes such as the above could not be made. The constant use of stimulants prevent a person from enjoying harmless drinks until at last he can take nothing with a relish unless it is something like a torch-light procession passing down his throat.—Ed. C. M.]

HARVEST DRINK.—When men are engaged in the harvest-field under the influence of an intensely hot sun, sweating at every pore, they necessarily become thirsty, and require a refreshing beverage. Stir well together 10 gallons of cold water, 1 gallon of molasses, 1 quart of vinegar and 1-4 pound of ground ginger. A beverage thus made is as refreshing as it is healthful and palatable, and should be supplied to the hands whenever needed.

AGRICULTURE.

SAVING GARDEN SEEDS.—The first vegetables, peas or snap-beans that appear, save for seed; the first stock of okra that shows a pod, let it go to seed; the first cucumber, squash, or melon, save for seed. In this way we may succeed in getting much earlier vegetables, than by following the usual method of taking the refuse of all our garden crops. Save the earliest and best of everything for seed. Who can stand it, with all the long year's dearth of delicious morsels, to save the first roasting ear or tomato that may appear for seed? And yet, if we would bring forward the whole crop two or three weeks earlier, it must be done. Let it be a settled maxim of the gardener—the first and best of everything for seed.

TO PREPARE GREEN CORN FOR WINTER USE.—When the corn is sufficiently advanced for cooking, boil on the cob, in the same manner as it is generally prepared for table use. When it is done, cut it from the cob carefully, spread it on a cloth, and put it in the sun to dry. When it is wanted for use, wash it, and put it in sufficient water, slightly salted to boil for an hour. Then add a little new milk and butter, and it is ready for the table. It can also be cooked with beans.—Geneee Farmer.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Statistics of Associations.

Messrs. Editors,

My attention has been particularly called to this subject by observing at the recent session of Convention, the difficulty attendant on the drawing up of a Report upon the State of the Denomination. In offering a few remarks upon it, my design is, not to cast any reflection either on individuals or collective bodies, but to suggest measures for future improvement.

An exact statement should be made annually, in the letters addressed to the several Associations, of all the changes that have occurred in each church during the year, and of the present number of members that it actually contains. The preparing of this devolves upon the pastors and the clerks. The latter are obviously bound to keep and furnish correct church records: and of the former, an inspired Apostle says to the Christians, "They watch for your souls, as they that must give account."—(Heb. xiii. 17). If, then, they "must give account" in the day of judgment of every soul committed to their charge, surely they should be prepared to do so when statistics are required for publication. Those who are truly "diligent to know the state of their flocks," will readily aid the clerks in preparing full and correct statements.

Where this is done yearly, there will be no discrepancies between its numbers reported in the Minutes of different years. The dropping of members, and the passing of sweeping resolutions, by which numbers may be struck from the lists together, of whom no satisfactory account can be given, should be carefully avoided. Recourse should rarely, if ever, be had to the reporting of members as removed. Discipline ought, indeed, to be faithfully maintained; but every one should be regarded and treated individually; and none should be severed from a church unless the interests of true religion evidently demand it.

If it be ascertained that the records of any church have not been correctly kept in years past, they ought to be attentively examined, and thoroughly corrected. In such case a note should be appended in the Minutes, assigning the cause of the apparent discrepancy.

Churches from which letters are not received should be retained in the statistical tables so long as they can be constitutionally, and the whole number stated as when last reported. Letters sent after an omission of one or two years, should furnish statements of all the changes that have taken place during the time that has elapsed.

I would here suggest the propriety and desirableness, of having every delinquent church visited, by one or more brethren appointed by the Association, prior to the withdrawal of fellowship by the omission of the name from the Minutes. In many cases this would undoubtedly be productive of happy results.

New churches, when applying for admission into an Association, should specify in their letters the numbers baptized in the course of the year. This measure has been very properly introduced in the Central Association in whose Minutes the 3rd Horton Church is reported as having received 56 by baptism. It is in this way only that full and correct information can be communicated in reference to the numbers that are baptized each year in connexion with our Associations.

The value of correct statistical accounts is obviously great. Additions call for gratitude, and encourage efforts. Diminutions demand humiliation; and they should stimulate earnest prayer, and increased exertions.

Yours in gospel bonds,

C. Tupper.

Aylesford, Sept. 3, 1857.

For the Christian Messenger.

Valedictory Address.

HEBRON, July 14, '57.

DEAR BROTHER,

In accepting your resignation of the pastorate of this church, we feel it to be our duty as well as privileged to address you briefly, that you may better understand our fellowship and sympathy for you, at your leaving us.

With devout gratitude to the Giver of all good, we remember the four years of your residence among us as a season of unusual religious prosperity. We have pleasure in calling to mind the many gracious seasons of refreshing we have enjoyed from the presence of the Lord, while laboring together for the promotion of the gospel