

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

JUNE 14th, 1857.

Subject.—MISSIONARY TRAVELS AND SUCCESS OF THE APOSTLES AND DISCIPLES.

For Repeating. For Reading. Acts xi. 15-18. | Acts xi. 19-30.

JUNE 21st, 1857.

Subject.—THE DEATH OF JAMES. THE IMPRISONMENT AND RELEASE OF PETER.

For Repeating. For Reading. Acts xi. 25-26. | Acts xii. 1-12.

THE QUESTIONER.

Mental Pictures from the Bible.

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

[No. 16.]

A splendid banquet is before us, the table dazzling with gold and silver. The host is a king in his crown and purple robes, and around him are assembled a thousand noble guests. But, strange! there is no gladness in any face! All sit pale and trembling, and no one is tasting of the royal feast. Several strange-looking men are grouped together in the back-ground, and seem full of confusion and dismay. A lady of noble bearing, who appears to have just entered the room, is addressing the king with great calmness and dignity.

QUESTIONS to be answered next week.

41. Who was the first prophet named in the Bible?

42. In what battle named in the Bible was there the greatest loss of life?

43. Which is the shortest verse in the Old Testament?

SOLUTION to Picture No. 15.

Jesus teaching his disciples humility, Mark ix. 33-37.

ANSWERS to questions in our last.

38. Zedekiah; who saw the king of Babylon at Riblah, but having his eyes put out just after, never saw Babylon, though taken to it.—2 Kings xxv. 6, 7.

39. Ahasuerus; who commanded 127 provinces, but could not command his own temper.—Esther vii. 7.

40. Eve, and Mary, the mother of Jesus; the first the mother of the great sinner Cain; the second the mother of the great Saviour.

Selections.

The overflowing Cup.

A company of Southern ladies were one day assembled in a friend's parlor, when the conversation chanced to turn on the subject of earthly affliction. Each had her story of peculiar trial and bereavement to relate, except one pale sad looking woman, whose lusterless eye and dejected air showed that she was a prey to the deepest melancholy. Suddenly arousing herself she said in a hollow voice, "Not one of you know what trouble is."

"Will you please, Mrs. Gray," said the kind voice of a lady who well knew her story, "tell the ladies what you call trouble."

"I will, if you desire it," she replied, "for I have seen it. My parents possessed a competence, and my girlhood was surrounded by all the comforts of life. I seldom knew an ungratified wish, and was always gay and light-hearted. I married at nineteen, one I loved more than all the world beside. Our home was retired, but the sunlight never fell on a lovelier one, or on a happier household. Years rolled on peacefully. Five children sat around our table, and a little curly head still nestled in my bosom. One night about sundown one of those fierce black storms came on, which are so common in our Southern climate. For many hours the rain poured down incessantly. Morning dawned, but still the elements raved. The whole savannah seemed afloat. The little stream near our dwelling became a raging torrent. Before we were aware of it our house was surrounded by water, I managed with my babe to reach a little elevated spot, on which a few wide spreading trees were standing, whose dense foliage afforded some protection, while my husband and sons strove to save what they could of our property. At last a fearful surge swept away my husband, and he never rose again. Ladies—no one ever loved a husband more—but that was not trouble."

"Presently my sons saw their danger, and the struggle for life became the only consideration. They were brave loving boys as ever blessed a mother's heart, and I watched their efforts to escape, with such agony as only mothers can feel. They were so far off I could not speak to them, but I could see them closing nearer and nearer to each other, as their little island grew smaller and smaller."

"The sullen river raged around the huge trees; dead branches, upturned trunks, wrecks of houses, drowning cattle, masses of rubbish, all went floating past us. My boys waved their hands to me, then pointed upward. I knew it was a farewell signal, and you, mothers, can imagine my anguish. I saw them all perish, and yet—that was not trouble."

"I hugged my baby close to my heart and when the waters rose to my feet, I climbed into the low branches of the tree and so kept retreating before it, until an All-powerful Hand stayed the waves, that they should come no farther. I was saved. All my worldly possessions were swept away; all my earthly hopes blighted,—yet that was not trouble."

"My baby was all I had left on earth. I labored night and day to support him and myself, and sought to train him in the right way; but as he grew older, evil companions won him away from me. He ceased to care for his mother's counsels; he would sneer at her entreaties and agonizing prayers. He left my humble roof that he might be unrestrained in the pursuit of evil, and at last, when heated by wine one night, he took the life of a fellow being, and ended his own upon the scaffold. My Heavenly Father had filled full my cup of sorrow before, now it run over. That was trouble, ladies, such as I hope His mercy will spare you from ever experiencing."

There was no dry eye among her listeners, and the warmest sympathy was expressed for the bereaved mother, whose sad history had taught them a useful lesson.—N. Y. Chron.

At Jesus' Feet.

The Rev. W. Jay, one day attended the dying bed of a young female, who thus addressed him:—

"I have little," said she, to relate as to my experience. I have been much tried and tempted, but this is my sheet-anchor. He has said, "He that cometh to me I will in nowise cast out." I know I come to Him, and I expect that He will be as good as His word. Poor and unworthy as I am, He will not trifle with me; it would be beneath his greatness; I am at his feet. As you have often said:—

"Tis joy enough my All in All, At thy dear feet to lie; Thon wilt not let me lower fall And none can higher fly."

Two to see.

"Why did you not pocket some of those pearls?" said one boy to another; there was nobody there to see."

"Yes, there was; I was there to see myself, and I don't ever mean to see myself do such things." Dear children, remember there are always two to see you when you do wrong—yourself and your God!"

Agriculture.

The Cranberry as an Ornamental Plant.

No plant of its size can equal the Cranberry in beauty. Its leaves of rich dark green in summer, changed to a reddish brown in winter, remain on the plants throughout the year. The thread-like stalks stand erect and mat close like moss. They would form a border somewhat resembling box, and would require only an occasional trimming off of the runners to keep them in form for years. From the last of June to the tenth of July they are in blossom, being thickly interspersed with the most beautiful transparent pale pink flowers. The flowers are succeeded, as if by magic, by the berries, at first green, but soon changing to a bright crimson scarlet, covering the plant in a profusion unequalled by any other fruit, having produced three bushels of berries to the square rod. The berries will remain on the vine through the year.

I may be enthusiastic, but have never seen any plant that would so soon attract attention as the cranberry plant. When in blossom, its bell-shaped flowers, suspended by a hair-like stem, to the parent stalk, itself only the fifth part of the size of a straw, excites one's sympathy lest the fruit break the parent stalk, and we at once see the wisdom of their clustering so close together, thereby being enabled to bear their crimson load of berries.

If the nature of the cranberry was fully understood, it would be found in every "Country Gentleman's" yard, as well as in field culture. They draw their sustenance from water, a small quantity of which is absolutely necessary to sustain the plants in bearing condition. The air always contains sufficient moisture, and pure sand will attract and retain sufficient moisture in the proper form for the cranberry plant in any location.

Keep Fruit Trees straight.

Trees, in an open exposure, often acquire a leaning position from the prevailing winds. This should not be suffered beyond a certain stage of the tree. When as large as one's wrist, they should be set up erect, and indeed, thrown into the wind at an angle of ten or fifteen degrees, in order to bring them ultimately into a straight position. This is best done by obtaining crotched limbs from the woods, eight to twelve feet long, and placing the butt end, which should be sharpened, on the ground, and the crotch end either against the trunk, immediately beneath the branching point, or against a large outer limb, if more convenient, securing it from chafing in the crotch, by a padding of straw, or litter, and setting the tree at once up to the desired angle of elevation. Loosen, also, the ground on the windward side of the root so that it will not bind, and the work is accomplished. Let this be done when the tree begins to make its Summer growth, or soon after leaving out. One season, if the tree is thrifty, will be all that is required. If, however, it be obstinate, repeat the trial another year. The remedy is sure. Even large trees, which have acquired a permanent lean, may be thrown into an erect posture, by loosening the earth at the root, and occasionally cutting off so

obstinate large root, without injury to its growth, and thus be made slightly. An erect tree will be longer lived, and more fruitful than a leaning one, and not half so subject to casualty as if left to its own guidance.

SALT BARRELS FOR PRESERVING APPLES.

We have received a letter from C. W. Cooke, of Waterloo, N. Y., in which a fact of great importance is related in reference to the preservation of apples. He purchased five barrels of choice apples taken from one pile, last Autumn, and put them into his cellar. On the 1st of April last, when he came to examine them, those in four of the barrels were mostly all damaged, while those placed in the other barrel were sound—"fresh and good." What was the cause of the preservation of the apples in this barrel? Our correspondent says it was a Syracuse salt barrel, and had contained coarse salt, and he believes this was the cause of their immunity from rot. He, at least, can give no other reason. Neither can we.—Scientific American.

FATTENING PROPERTIES OF PEAS AND BEANS.

Those persons who have used peas for fattening hogs, consider them worth as much as Indian corn. In districts where that grain is not grown, very fine pork is produced from peas. Dickson, in his work "On the breeding of Live Stock," states that a sweep-stakes was entered into between five East Lothian farmers, to be claimed by the one who should be pronounced the best feeder of cattle. Forty cattle of the same breed, and in equal condition, were divided between them, as fairly as possible. They were put up together the second week in September, and killed at Christmas following. The winner of the stakes fed his animals wholly on boiled beans with hay.—Ex.

Temperance.

Selected for the Christian Messenger.

Tobacco.

A REFORMED MAN'S TESTIMONY.—A correspondent of the N. Y. Evangelist says:—

"I had chewed this poison more than 15 years. I had often doubted the utility of this practice before I relinquished it. I found that one argument I had used against the use of cordial spirits, applied with as much propriety against the use of tobacco. The argument is that it must be unfriendly to true piety, for the christian, while in health, to be under the continual influence of poison. This produces a morbid excitement, directly opposed to that excitement which is produced by the Holy Spirit. Thus I reasoned in reference to the use of ardent spirits, and was persuaded that the argument applied also to the use of Tobacco. In this state of mind I read several articles in the New York Evangelist, in opposition to this practice. I was in this way brought to the determination that I would suspend the use of tobacco, and see whether I could do without it. I had been moderate in the use of this poison,—if there can be any moderation in the use of it,—and supposed that it was exerting very little influence over me. In less than two days after I had commenced this self-discipline, I experienced such a tormenting restlessness, such a prostration of strength as fully convinced me that tobacco was exerting a very powerful influence over my system. When I perceived its influence, I was determined to break up this bad habit; and then resolved fully to renounce the use of tobacco, as a powerful and hurtful stimulus to the human system. For a few days I suffered much from an almost insupportable uneasiness in the whole system which was calling loudly for its accustomed stimulus. But this only served to strengthen my resolution, and to convince me more and more of the importance of conquering this habit. I have persevered for more than six months, and have enjoyed, during this period, much better health than while I used it. It is now hateful to me, and I have no desire again to resume its use. I would from my own experience call on my friends, and all others who are in bondage to this hateful weed, to follow my example. I mean to persevere, and am persuaded I shall succeed."

GOOD RULES FOR THE LORD'S STEWARDS.

Says a correspondent of the "Ohio Observer,"—"When the use of tobacco was fashionable among the genteel, in walking through a village, I passed a store where I knew there were some very fine cigars, I was immediately seized with the hankering so well known to habitual smokers. The determination arose to lay out a few shillings in purchasing some. As I had been endeavouring to accustom myself to consider my money as the Lord's, and myself as his steward, I tried the rule in that case. I found myself unwilling to charge such an item in my account book. A faithful steward would make no such expenditure, thought I. The money which had been taken out was dropped again into my pocket, and I passed on. I have ever found it difficult to smoke cigars since that time. The cure which I propose is, to ask the blessing of God on all expenditures, and try to be faithful stewards of the Lord's money."

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

London Correspondence.

[From our Special Correspondent.]

London, May 22, 1857.

MR. EDITOR,

The Queen is now convalescent. Exchanging the invalid room for healthy sunshine and invigorating sea breezes. Her Majesty has gone to her beautiful marine Palace at Osborne, Isle of Wight, to recruit her health by excursions on that element of which she is so fond, and thereby adds another proof of her fitness to be Sovereign of the nation that "rules the waves." The Royal babe thrives well, and in due time will be christened; Her Majesty, in this, not recognizing the course which her Baptist subjects follow.

Almost contemporary with the birth of her youngest child, announcement is made of the sanctioned betrothal of the eldest. The Princess Royal is to be the bride of the young Prince of Prussia, nephew of the reigning king, and heir to his throne. Despite the caricatures of Punch and the diatribes of The Times when first the subject was made public, the King is said to be a Protestant, a Christian, and the most temperate man in Prussia! The bridegroom elect is also represented as most estimable in character, and the alliance to be most welcome and popular in Prussia, as well as one of mutual affection between the parties most immediately concerned. The betrothal was announced to the Court of Prussia by its King, and to our Privy Council in due form. On Monday last a Royal message announced the same to the two Houses of Parliament; and expressed no doubt as to their ready concurrence in such measures as may contribute to the conclusion of the marriage, and may be suitable to the dignity of the crown and the honour of the country." This means, that they will vote a large sum by way of dowry. To-night the sums will be named and proposed. Then we shall hear what the representatives of the people say to it, and how much they will give. £100,000 dowry is talked of, and an annuity of £5000 afterward. In previous letters I have given some idea of the difference of opinion on the matter; and no doubt serious opposition will be made to the grant of such large sums.

Parliament is now in full operation. The Ecclesiastical Courts, so long a source of unjust legislation and universal complaint, are about to be removed—a theme of gratulation to every one who knows anything about them (even if unsubjected to their tender mercies), and who is not bigoted beyond common sense.

The Lords have passed the second reading of the Divorce Bill, after a long debate. Its principal provisions are—appointing a court for adjudicating upon Divorce cases, composed of the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice, and a common law judge. Now, while the commission of adultery by the wife is held sufficient ground for divorce, the same act in the husband rarely produces a similar judgment. Under the new law, relief will be afforded equally to either sex. Another alteration is, sanctioning a re-marriage after a divorce, especially between the parties previously guilty. The actions for crim. con., which now precede a divorce, are to succeed it; and thereby the necessity for them will be done away with, as at present no divorce can be obtained without such a disgraceful preliminary appeal for monetary satisfaction for marital dishonour. Under the alteration, every decent person would be satisfied with a divorce, without publicly prostituting his honour for gold, wrong from his injurer, for adultery with one whom the law will have removed from the position disgraced.

The Bishops mustered strongly; and, as the question involves the scriptural law of marriage, much reference was of course made to sacred authority and law. But, while the question is thus involved, and somewhat difficult to decide—while the great danger of weakening the marriage tie is felt to necessitate considerable caution in dealing with the subject—the evils and disgraces of the present law are so glaring, and the provisions of the bill so cautious, that a majority of the bishops were in its favour, and the Bill passed. In the Commons the battle will be resumed, but most likely with similar success.

The Bishop of London (Dr. Archibald Campbell Tait) especially seconded the Bill. And here I may note the beneficial advance in the new Bishop over his predecessor, Dr. Bloomfield. His present Lordship is evangelical; takes a warm and active interest in education; and is not above going to a tea-meeting at a school-room, unannounced, and, irrespective of the distinctions between Church and Dissent, aiding co-workers in a good cause—that of raising the