

## Teachers' Department.

## Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

MAY 17th, 1857.

Subject.—AN ANGEL APPEARS TO CORNELIUS.  
PETER IS SENT TO HIM.For Repeating. For Reading.  
Acts ix. 32-35. | Acts x. 1-20.

MAY 24th, 1857.

Subject.—PETER'S JOURNEY TO CESAREA.

For Repeating. For Reading.  
Acts x. 1-4. | Acts x. 21-33.

## THE QUESTIONER.

## Mental Pictures from the Bible.

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

[No. 12.]

An immense congregation has assembled in the open air, near the banks of a full and beautiful river. They are of all classes, among them being a number of Roman soldiers, some with lofty bearing, make no attempt to hide their broad phylacteries, others show the greatest contempt for religious appearance, and all are listening with anxious interest to the words of a preacher, who addresses them fearlessly and with great power. He is a strange but noble-looking man, his dress, that of an Eastern prophet, consisting of a hairy garment, fastened by a band of leather. While speaking, he points now to the lofty hills in the distance, now to the rocks at his feet, and again to the fruit trees around him, making all to speak lessons of wisdom and truth. At the close of his discourse many press forward with great concern to obtain further information on the solemn subject of his discourse.

Questions to be answered next week.

29. When did the east wind blow blessings and not blightings?  
30. Find a scene of suffering, deserted by a multitude, marcelling in perfect order.  
31. What city was the least, and at the same time the greatest, of the cities of Judah?

SOLUTION to Picture No. 11.

The burial of Jacob. Gen. i. 7-13.

ANSWERS to questions in our last.

26. Moses, Deut. iii. 23, 27: xxxiv. 4-10.  
27. Job, Job i. 22; Aaron, Lev. x. 3; Eli, 1 Sam. iii. 18; Hezekiah, Isa. xxxix. 8; and Christ, Matt. xxvi. 39.  
28. Tyre; now a place for the fisherman to spread his nets.

## Pledging to read the Bible.

At the late meeting of the Presbytery of Buffalo, it was stated that a pastor, feeling that amid the overwhelming mass of miscellaneous reading that was about flooding his congregation, the Bible was being sadly neglected, took this somewhat novel method to revive an acquaintance with its precious truth. He drew up a pledge, the signers to which promised that on a given day they would each, in connection with their pastor commence the systematic perusal of the Holy Scriptures, reading at least three chapters each week-day, and five upon the Sabbath; thus completing the volume in one year. He procured in his congregation, going from house to house, ninety-three signatures to this pledge.

## Sympathy in Trouble.

A gentleman who for several days had observed a collection of brown thrushes very much excited in some bushes near his house, examined them to ascertain the cause of it, when he found a female thrush, whose wing was caught in a limb, so that she could not escape. Her nest was near by, in which was several half-grown birds. As he retired a company of thrushes came with worms and insects in their mouths, which they gave to the mother and her young, she, in the mean time, cheering them with a song of gratitude. After he had watched them for a little time he released the poor bird, when she flew to her nest, with a sweet song to her deliverer, while her charitable neighbors went singing to their own homes.

## He almost succeeded.

"In what?" In giving a portion of his large property to the cause of God. "Why did he not quite succeed?" Because he did not begin soon enough. "Was his property gone before he had time to give a portion of it to the Lord?" No, the property is all there yet. "What then was the matter?" Pray explain yourself. Well the case was simply this: Brother C. was very wealthy, loved the church, and intended to leave it a handsome legacy. He made his will, inserting the requisite provision, and laid it by for a few days for further reflection, and was taken sick and died unexpectedly, and the will was never signed. Thus Christ lost what was his due, and Brother C. failed forever to do his duty.—Nashville Christian Advocate.

## A Column of Varieties.

## Politeness and Truth.

Many persons plead a love of truth as an apology for rough manners, as if truth were never gentle and kind, but always harsh, morose, and forbidding. Surely good manners and a good conscience are no more inconsistent with each other than beauty and innocence, which are strikingly akin, and always look the better for companionship. Roughness and honesty are indeed sometimes found together in the same person, but he is a poor judge of human nature who takes ill-manners to be a guarantee of probity of character; or suspects a stranger to be a rascal, because he has the manners of a gentleman. Some persons object to politeness, that its language is unmeaning and false. But this is easily answered. A lie is locked up in a phrase, but must exist, if at all, in the mind of the speaker. In the ordinary compliments of civilized life, there is no intention to deceive, and consequently no falsehood. Polite language is pleasant to the ear, and soothing to the heart: white rough words are just the reverse; and if not the product of ill-temper, are very apt to produce it. The plainest of truths, let it be remembered, can be conveyed in civil speech, while the most malignant of lies may find utterance, and often do, in the language of the fish-market.

## House Icebergs.

We sometimes meet with men who seem to think that any indulgence in an affectionate feeling is weakness. They will return from a journey and treat their families with a distant dignity, and move among their children with the cold and lofty splendor of an iceberg, surrounded by its broken fragments. There is not a more unnatural sight on earth than one of those families without a heart. A father had better extinguish a boy's eyes than take away his heart. Who that has experienced the joys of friendship, and the value of sympathy and affection, would not rather lose all that is beautiful in nature's scenery, than be robbed of the hidden treasures of the heart?

"HIGH TIME TO STUDY POLITICS.—Bonaparte once at a party placed himself directly before a witty and beautiful lady and said abruptly,

"Madam, I don't like that women should meddle with politics."

"You are very right, General," she replied, "but in a country where women are beheaded, it is natural that they should desire to know the reason."

DISCOVERY OF A BURIED GREEK CITY.—The London Athenæum announces the discovery of a buried Greek city in the Levant, by Mr. Newton, British Vice Consul at Cos. The British Admiralty have sent out in the Gordon steam frigate the apparatus required for excavations together with cameras and photographic chemicals.

The Sultan of Turkey, being about to give away his daughter to the son of the Egyptian Viceroy, has ordered jewelry for her to the amount of £100,000 sterling. Even her slippers are to be set in diamonds, and the setting of her fan and mirror are valued at £20,000 sterling.

BEATING TIME.—A message for Washington, U. S., was put into the office at St. Johns, N. F., at six minutes past Eleven o'clock, A. M., and notwithstanding a delay of forty-five minutes, occasioned by the Nova Scotia line being down, it was received at Washington at four minutes before Eleven, or ten minutes before the time sent. The distance is 1960 miles.

A private letter from a French naval officer serving in the Chinese squadron, says that many of the Europeans who partook of the poisoned bread at Hong Kong, lost their teeth, their nails, and even the hair of their heads. About four hundred persons were more or less poisoned.

Mr. G. W. Carlton, of Cobourg, has invented what he calls a sound telegraph, by which vessels can communicate with each other, at the rate of thirty words per minute, though distant fifteen or twenty miles. He has taken out a patent for this method.

Mr. Eleazer Butler, who died last week at Ohio, Yarmouth, in the 94th year of his age, could count at the time of his death, 61 grandchildren and 120 great-grandchildren.

A Western editor having heard that, to persons in a drowning condition, all the events of their past life suddenly rise vividly before them, modestly expressed a wish that some of his delinquent subscribers would take a bath in deep water.

Timber when cut in the Spring, and exposed to the weather with the bark on, decays much sooner than if cut in the Fall.

## Correspondence.

Translated from the French, for the Christian Messenger.

## Excursion of the Rev. N. Cyr into the Lower Provinces.

All who had the privilege of hearing Brother Cyr's addresses, or of forming his acquaintance, during his brief visit among us, are prepared to receive with interest anything coming from his pen.

FROM MONTREAL TO ST. JOHN.

It is said, that to travel, is to receive instruction. Nothing is more true, provided we travel in a certain manner, and with certain qualifications. That which is instructive in the passage from one place to another, is not certainly the rapidity with which distances are passed; nor is the chief pleasure in the noise of the steamboat or locomotive; but, if I am not deceived, it is the view, or rather the observation, of men, in new circumstances, and of things under new aspects. In travelling, one discovers, as it were, a world of things hitherto unknown, and if one takes hold of them with the heart and mind, he cannot fail of receiving instruction. That is to say, in order to profit by any journey whatever, we must have the sentiment of the beautiful, and habits of reflection; in other terms, we must travel with eyes which see, a mind which judges, and a soul which feels.

It was more or less under the influence of these thoughts, on the importance of examining, of judging and feeling, that I departed, towards the middle of September, for New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. It is for my readers to judge whether I have been faithful to my principles, with respect to travelling, or whether I resemble that good lady, who, having made an excursion by railroad, saw nothing but a hay stack, which, she said, was going in an opposite direction.

The most direct way of going from Montreal to New Brunswick, is that by Portland and St. John. Steam-boats run between these two cities, twice a week, and the entire distance may be passed over in 36 hours, when the weather is favourable, and no delay is experienced.

From Montreal to Portland, nothing very remarkable presents itself to the traveller, save the White Mountains, which I had not the happiness of seeing. The first day of the journey being somewhat rainy, I could only enjoy some mere glimpses of these mountains, as they are 12 miles distant from the iron way.

When once St. Hyacinthe is passed, we find ourselves in the midst of the forest, where are seen from time to time, new settlements, until we arrive at the frontiers of the United States.

Island Pond, where we dine, is a village which has sprung up since the construction of the railroad. This place, though its aspect is somewhat wild, is not without beauty.

Continuing his route, the traveller crosses a corner of Vermont, a small portion of New Hampshire, and arrives in Maine, where are seen many villages, which, though small, are neat and pretty, as are generally the American villages. We passed from Montreal to Portland, a distance of 292 miles, in 11 hours,—comprising the time of dinner,—in a very agreeable manner, and with less fatigue, than one would pass 45 miles in a coach or buggy.

Portland is a charming city, and judging of the people from those with whom I had the pleasure of forming an acquaintance, the inhabitants are not less so. It occupies a considerable extent of surface, the private houses being sufficiently separated from each other to allow each proprietor or tenant the privilege of a garden, a favor rarely enjoyed at Montreal, except by the moneyed aristocracy. The Americans never forget comfort in the construction of their houses, nor the agreeable in the arrangement of their gardens.

Another thing which adds much to the beauty of Portland, is the trees which border almost all the streets. This has procured for it the title of Forest City.

A great number of habitations are real palaces, and all those of the respectable people, have the appearance of comfort and wealth. It is not improper to add, that what is seen at Portland is found more or less in various towns of the United States. The Americans are a people of much taste, and are generally more fond of the sumptuous and showy than are Europeans. In the old world there are few, except the nobles and great capitalists, who dwell in what we call princely habitations, whilst in the United States each one aims at this end, and a great number attain it. Frequently that which glitters is not gold; and there are those who have recourse to sad expedients to preserve their pomp and magnificence. We must remark, however, that this

is rather the exception than the rule; for the Americans, with their spirit of enterprise, their indomitable energy, and immense resources, can generally create for themselves a fair and honorable position.

From this city I proceeded to New Brunswick, by the Steamship Admiral. Nothing extraordinary marked the voyage.

In our next number will speak of St. John, or of N. B. in general.

[We hope to receive a continuation of the above excursion.—Ed. C. M.]

For the Christian Messenger.

## Letter from Rev. Isaiah Wallace.

To the Rev. C. Tupper, Chairman, pro tem., of the Board of Australian Missions.

DEAR BROTHER,

Your esteemed favor of the 19th ult. is now before me. In compliance with your wishes I submit the following particulars in reference to my present position in connexion with Australian Missions.

I sent a statement to the Secretary of the Board of Australian Missions last Fall, clearly defining my position in reference to said Board. This statement was accompanied by appeals from the Churches in Scotch Town and New Castle, requesting the continuance of my labours in those places. The appeals were published in the Christian Visitor. The substance of my statement was also published in the same paper in connexion with editorial remarks. I expected that the statement I then made would have been published in full both in the C. Visitor and the C. Messenger. As, however, only its substance was published in the C. V. editorially, and a mere notice of my abandoning the Mission for a time, was given in the C. M., I am not surprised when you say that you consider it "desirable that I should publish in the C. M. and C. V. a definite statement, assigning my reasons, and also informing the friends of the mission whether I still expect to go or not, and if I do, at what time."

For your information I would briefly state the following reasons that led me to abandon, for the present, the idea of embarking for Australia.

1. There was in the Treasury only a tithe of the funds which would be necessary to warrant the Board in sending out a Missionary family; and I could not realize it to be my duty to prosecute a collecting agency under the then existing circumstances.

2. Only a comparatively small portion of the Denomination in the Provinces were decidedly of the opinion that it was our duty to establish Missionary operations in Australia. It seemed to me, therefore, that it would be presumption on my part to enter upon this Mission under the auspices of the Convention, when I could have the hearty co-operation of but a tithe of my Brethren and friends.

3. The pressing demands for my services in this Province just at that time, had some influence upon my mind. I might refer not only to the claims of the churches on the Grand Lake, but also to the unmaturing state of the Board for Ministerial Education, requiring effort to place it in a state of efficiency.

After much prayerful consideration and painful conflict of mind, I concluded to abandon, for an indefinite time, the idea of leaving for the East. I then hoped, and do still hope, that the way may yet be opened for me to devote myself to Missionary labour either in Australia or some other of the Islands of the Pacific. I shall follow the indications of Providence with regard to the future. More than this I cannot say.

With regard to the funds that have been collected, I may state, that after deducting expenses I forwarded the amounts collected to the Treasurer in St. John. The Board can dispose of these funds as they deem most desirable. I trust they may be expended in the way that will best carry out the wishes of the contributors.

Yours affectionately in Christ,  
ISA. WALLACE.

Grand Lake, N. B., March 30, 1857.

## MESSRS. EDITORS,

The foregoing letter did not reach me till the 27th inst. You will please give it insertion at your earliest convenience.

[In a note to me accompanying it, my esteemed Brother Wallace communicates the following pleasing intelligence:—"I am now enjoying a gracious revival at New Castle. I have recently baptized 13 and more. I trust, will soon follow their Saviour. My father is enjoying a glorious revival. Upwards of 100 have recently been baptized by him."

Such rich displays of grace demand grateful acknowledgment.

Ever yours,  
C. TUPPER.

Aylesford, April 30, 1857.