

## Teachers' Department.

## Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

JULY 18th, 1858.

Subject.—EXHORTATIONS CONTINUED, AND CLOSE OF THE EPISTLE.

For Repeating. For Reading.  
Heb. xiii. 1-3. | Heb. xiii. 13-25.

JULY 25th, 1858.

Subject.—REASONS WHY WE SHOULD REJOICE UNDER TEMPTATION.

For Repeating. For Reading.  
Heb. xiii. 13-16. | James i. 1-15.

## THE QUESTIONER.

## Mental Pictures from the Bible.

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

[No. 65.]

A little company are descending the steep side of a lofty and beautiful fertile mountain. A lady of calm and dignified presence is riding, attended by her servant; and by her side is a venerable man, whose dress and countenance bespeak his sacred calling. They are preceded by one who is prepared for a rapid march, and who seems to hasten forward on a mission of importance. It is evening, and the broad blue waters that lie beneath, and stretch far away to the western horizon, are gilded with the last rays of the setting sun.

Key to Bible questions in our last.

20.—The churches of Macedonia.—2 COR. viii. 1-5; ix. 2; PHIL. iv. 15-18.

21.—Peter.—MATT. viii. 14. James and John.—1 COR. ix. 5.

## The Age of the Earth.

The coal fields of North America extend over an area of 90,000 square miles, while those of Great Britain occupy an area of only 5,000 miles. The masses of vegetable remains found in coal leave no doubt that it is of vegetable origin; and, assuming that to be a fact, a geologist has calculated the length of time that would be required to vegetate and produce such vast masses of carbon as are deposited in beds of coal. It has been estimated, by observations on growing plants, that it would require 25 square feet of surface to produce one pound of carbon; and supposing that the plants grew on the spot, it would occupy 6092 years to make a bed of coal three feet in thickness. As the beds of coal in South Wales are 120 feet thick, it would, according to his calculation, have required 243,680 years for the depositment of the whole of the coal strata.—This fact suggests some curious reflection as to the period at which the formation of the earth took place.

We do not think it supposable that the "plants grew on the spot," but that the vegetables have been heaped up, by water or otherwise, in certain localities.

BITES AND STINGS.—*Hall's Journal of Health* says: "As many of our readers are preparing to travel or go in the country for the summer, it may be useful to remind them, that an ounce vial of spirits of hartshorn should be considered one of the indispensables, as in case of being bitten or stung by any poisonous animal or insect, the immediate and free application of this alkali as a wash to the part bitten, gives instant, perfect, and permanent relief, the bite of a mad dog (we believe) not excepted; so will strong ashes-water.

THE ISLAND OF BORNEO.—Sir James Brookes of Saranak, in his speech at Manchester, on 21st April, dwelt on the Island of Borneo as a political and commercial station. Borneo, he said, is next to Australia, the largest island in the world, as its length is 800 miles and its breadth 700.—It is more fertile than Australia, and although crossed by the equator, its geographical peculiarities give it in parts an European climate. Unlike Australia, it abounds in animals of nearly all kinds, and it already contains a population of three millions of people, all capable of civilization. All the tropical fruits grow in it, and its mineral riches are immense. The largest diamond known was found here a few years ago.

THE BRAIN-CLOCK.—Our brains are seventy-year clocks. The Angel of Life winds them up once for all, then closes the case, and gives the key into the hand of the Angel of the Resurrection.

Tic-tac! tic-tac! go the wheels of thought; our will cannot stop them; they cannot stop themselves; sleep cannot stop them still; madness only makes them go faster; death alone can break into the case, and seize the everswinging pendulum, which we call the heart, silence at last the clicking of the terrible escapement we have carried so long beneath our wrinkled foreheads.—*The Autocrat of the Breakfast-table.*

## How to make sunshine.

"Sunshine! why we have plenty of that every day," says a dear little friend at my side.

Yes, we certainly have plenty of it outside of us, and it is the most beautiful thing in the world, because it makes everything beautiful that it looks upon. Do the little children who read this paper ever think how beautiful and how useful the sunlight is?—how it wraps the world in its bright mantle, till the earth's old heart grows warm and young again, and the grass and flowers spring forth?—how it wanders all over the world, into every nook and corner, with that same pleasant smile, till all the ice and snow melt away for very shame, and hide themselves in the ground?—how it glances in the trees, and plays "bo-peep" through the thick branches, till the little birds twitter and warble with delight in all their leafy nests? And if the rough winds try to get up a disturbance, and prevail upon the clouds to make an insurrection against the sun's dominion, what does the good old sun do but shine right on, whether people can see him or not—and before many days the angry clouds have vented their ill temper, and all is bright and beautiful as ever!

"But this is not telling us about making sunshine," says some little listener, "and after all I don't see the need of making it, if we could."

No, surely, dear children, but it was of another sort of sunshine that I meant to tell you.

Do you know that God has given to each one of you a little world of your own, which you are to make as bright, and beautiful, and happy, as the great world is made by the sunshine? Do you know what I mean? Your own heart is the sun, and your home is the little world which you are to fill with happiness.

Do you suppose the sun ever sees anything dark with that great bright eye of his? Why no; for the moment he looks at anything, it grows bright, and nothing can be dark where he is looking. Just so, if you always carry a heart full of sunshine with you, everything will seem beautiful and bright. But if your own heart gets clouded with impatience or discontent, you will find the pleasantest place on earth very dark and disagreeable.

How different would our life be, if we were only determined, in spite of discouragements, to be cheerful and happy ourselves, and to add, by every possible means, to the good and the happiness of those around us!

But can every one be happy that wishes it? Surely, every one desires happiness; then why do so many fail in the attempt to gain it?

Because they do not try in the right way. Our only way to be happy is the way in which God is so, and that is by being good, and doing good. Those who have earnestly tried this, will have never failed of success.

"But can every one be good?" says my little friend, thoughtfully, and with downcast eyes.

Yes, dear Annie, every one can be good, by the help of God, who willingly gives his aid to those who sincerely ask it.—*Independent.*

## Crippled Souls.

It is such a sad thing to be born a sneaking fellow, so much worse than to inherit a hump-back or a couple of club feet, that I sometimes feel as if we ought to love the crippled souls, if I may use this expression with a certain tenderness which we need not waste on noble natures. One who was born with such congenial incapacity that nothing can make a gentleman of him, is entitled not to our wrath, but to our profoundest sympathy. But as we cannot help hating the sight of these people, just as we do that of physical deformities, we gradually eliminate them from our society, we love them, but open the window and let them go. By the time decent people reach middle age, they have weeded their circle pretty well of these unfortunates, unless they have a taste for such animals; in which case, no matter what their position may be, there is something, you may be sure, in their natures akin to that of their wretched parasites.—*Autocrat of the Breakfast-table.*

How TRUE THIS IS.—"It is not work that kills men; it is worry. Work is healthy; you can put more on a man than he can bear. It is not the revolution that destroys the machinery, but the friction. Fear secretes acids; but love and trust are sweet juices."

"Come in Joe, let's take a drink"

"Thank you, Thomas, can't afford it."

"Well, but I'll pay for it."

"Oh, I am not speaking of the money."

"What then?"

"Loss of health and energy, moral principle, character, peace of mind, self-respect, and a sweet breath."

## Agriculture.

## JULY

Is the haymaker's month. Now we must bestir ourselves. The timothy, red top and the sweet clover, are all ready for the scythe. If you would have the hay-mow retain the true flavor of the hay-field; you must cut the grass while it is in blossom, and before it has lost its sweet aroma. It will then be tender and nutritious, and easy of digestion, and your milch cows in the winter will show you the difference between that, and hard over-ripe hay. Some farmers consider well-ripened grass more hearty, cattle will not eat so much of it and they will be longer digesting it. It will do very well for oxen and horses. The ripened seed, if kept in the heads, makes up in some measure for the loss of juices in the stalk. But the difference in the milk-producing qualities will be very apparent to every observing farmer.

Learn to swing the scythe with an easy, uniform motion, and keep yourself as much as possible in an erect position. Do not attempt to cut too much at one stroke, or to drive the scythe through the grass by main strength. Mowing does not require so great an outlay of strength as many seem to suppose. With the right stroke, and a keen scythe, mowing is pleasant work, especially when the dew falls in pearly drops before every stroke.

We said JULY is the Haymaker's month; but it is not wholly thus. The reapers must have their share of it. The grain as well as the grass must be cut in season. Do not let it stand till the kernel well shell out in handling the sheaves. When grain is ripe, it is liable to be injured by rains and wind. There is risk in letting it remain longer than is absolutely necessary, and when properly dried, the sooner it is housed the better. On the immense grain fields of the West they cannot, and do not attempt to house their grain, but cure it in the shocks and stacks, and much of it is injured by the weather or destroyed by the birds and mice.

With our small fields, this is not necessary, and would be for us a wasteful and slovenly way of doing business.

The cornfields and the garden must not be neglected in JULY. Weeds will grow in JULY as well as in June. The corn must have its last hoeing in this month. See that it is well done. Leave no weeds to bear a crop of seed for next year. Your root crops want frequent visits from the wheel hoe, to keep the ground light and mellow.

We now begin to enjoy the fruit of our labor in the garden. Peas and string beans, and new potatoes and turnips, strawberries, currants and cucumbers are charming additions to our daily food, and if we are fortunate enough to have a few apples ripe in JULY, we shall know how to prize them, and to be thankful for them too.—*N. E. Farmer.*

## Value of Buckwheat.

A late issue of *Hunt's Merchant's Magazine*, in an article upon buckwheat, thus speaks of it concerning its properties as an edible:—"Considering the good qualities of buckwheat, it is probably less appreciated than any other bread grain. Writers on agricultural products seem to eschew it as food for man, and regard it only as a mischievous adulteration of wheat flour, or as a product of poor soil for cattle. It is of a totally different family of plants from the cereals, and will flourish on sandy hill-sides which are barren for other grain. It is probably the most easily cultivated, and the cheapest bread grain in the world. It is extensively cultivated in Belgium and some parts of France, where it forms the basis of food for the inhabitants. Though its properties are very different from wheat, it is, nevertheless, quite as rich in all important compounds, and in extremely cold weather, it is more substantial than wheat. It is, however, less digestible, and apt to disagree with weak stomachs, or persons unaccustomed to it. By analysis, buckwheat is second to wheat, in gluten, but deficient in starch. By the addition of one-fourth quantity of oat, or Indian-meal to buckwheat flour, the bread is very much improved."

BUCKWHEAT STRAW FOR SHEEP.—One word on the benefit of agricultural papers. A few weeks since I was looking over some of the back volumes of the *Cultivator*, which I have bound, to find something I than wanted to see, when I accidentally came across a statement that sheep loved buckwheat straw. Having several loads of that straw in my barn, which was cut early and got in good order, and which I was intending to let my cattle pick from, and use

the remainder for litter, I immediately went to my barn and tried my sheep; and found they ate the straw greedily. I think I shall realize enough from this discovery to pay for the paper a number of years.—*Country Gentleman.*

## Apple Crop for 1858.

It would seem that we should be entitled, according to the course of natural circumstances, to a good crop of apples during the coming season. During the past two seasons the apple crop has been light with us. The trees have therefore had a good resting spell and ought to be so well recruited as to be in a condition to bear abundantly. It was a pretty good season for the growth and maturing of branches and buds last summer and fall. The winter just past has been a very favorable one for the preservation of fruit and other leaf buds. In addition to all these circumstances we may mention the notion or whim that apples are more abundant in an even year than an odd one. Now this is an "even year," and of course bound to, "shell out" the apples in rich profusion. Now, "provided nevertheless" the spring season holds on favorable and gives us no hard weather to destroy the blossoms, we shall look out for big apples and jolly paring bees next fall.—*Maine Farmer.*

SOOT.—In England this is saved and applied to the wheat and other crops, with great returns. In this country, it is to often thrown into the street and lost. About eighteen bushels are a good dressing for an acre. Several salts of ammonia, magnesia and lime render it too valuable to be wasted. As a liquid manure for the garden, nothing is better than three or four quarts of soot dissolved in a barrel of water, and applied with a watering pot. Almost every family may as well as not, preserve a few bushels of it. It is good for any kind of grain; also for roots, especially potatoes and carrots; and nothing except Peruvian guano, which it is silly to buy, and at the same time throw away about as good an article, is equal to it for giving a rich bloom to flowers. Save your soot and you may have the richest vegetables and the brightest flowers.—*Plow, Loom and Anvil.*

## Indian-Corn Meal Cooking.

With the exception of potatoes, and perhaps oatmeal, there is no vegetable or farinaceous food so cheap and absolutely healthy as corn meal for bread.

*Baked Pudding.*—To one quart of milk boiling hot, stir in half a pint of corn meal, one table spoonful of ginger, butter size of an egg, and sugar or Molasses (treacle) to taste. Give it a long baking, in a sharp heated stove or oven.

The true *Push Johnny Cake* is simply wet with hot water, a little salt added, and baked before the fire on a pan, or board, depending upon the radiated heat and turned till crusted on both sides. Many prefer this to any other.

*Flour and Indian Corn Meal Bread.*—Make a thin porridge with meal, water, and salt; boil well, and when blood-warm add the flour with yeast or emptyings, and when light, bake. The meal should not exceed one-quarter the quantity of flour.

Corn meal requires more cooking and a longer heat than the flour of any other grain.—*Exchange.*

## Marry.

Jeremy Taylor says if you are for pleasure, marry—if you prize rosy health, marry—and, even if money be your object, marry. A good wife is heaven's best gift to man—his angel and minister of graces innumerable—his gem of many virtues—his casket of many jewels—her voice his sweetest music—her smile his brightest day—her kiss the guardian of his innocence—her arms the pale of his safety, the balm of his life—her industry his surest wealth—her economy his safest steward—her lips his faithful counsellors—her bosom the safest pillow of his cares—and her prayers the ablest advocates of heaven's blessings on his head.

GROW BEAUTIFUL.—Persons may outgrow disease, and become healthy, by proper attention to the laws of their physical constitutions. By moderate and daily exercise, men may become active and strong in limb and muscle. But to grow beautiful, how? By growing kindly, by cultivating sympathy with all human kind; by cherishing forbearance toward the foibles and follies of our race, and feeding day by day on the love of God and man which lifts us from the brute, and makes us akin to angels.—*Hall's Journal of Health.*

When it freezes and blows, take care of your nose, and wrap up your toes in warm woollen hose. The above, we suppose, was written in prose, by some one who knows the effect of cold snows.