

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

JANUARY 17th, 1858.

Subject.—THE ARGUMENT CONTINUED.

For Repeating. For Reading.
Heb. ii. 1-5. Heb. ii. 10-18.

JANUARY 24th, 1858.

Subject.—THE ADVANTAGES OF THE CHRISTIAN
RELIGION ABOVE THE JEWISH.For Repeating. For Reading.
Heb. ii. 16-18. Heb. iii. 1-11.

THE QUESTIONER.

Mental Pictures from the Bible.

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

[No. 47.]

In an open space near the centre of a magnificent place of worship a crowd is assembled, many of whom are clothed in priestly habiliments. One of the company having none of the sacerdotal vestments is standing and pouring forth a stream of eloquence; announcing the gracious designs of God to mankind, and denouncing the prevailing sins of the times. On closing his discourse he beckons to a poor sufferer who, having retired to a distant recess, is till then unobserved by the haughty and jealous priesthood. The poor fellow comes forward in answer to the invitation and in obedience to the speaker's command attempts to hold out his hand. By this effort he is put into possession of a gift of priceless value. The beneficence of this great Philanthropist fills the company with excitement, and many of the principal observers with anger and bitterness.

SOLUTION to Picture No. 46.

The rearing of the Tabernacle.—Exodus xl. 17-33.

The Two Elm-Trees.

A FABLE.

Two young elms had been planted side by side in front of a gentleman's house. Having everything done for them by the gardener, they were free from care; and you would have thought they had nothing to do but to grow and enjoy themselves. But unhappily they were a good deal given to quarrelling. Perhaps the time hung heavy on their hands, and they did it for amusement; but so it was, that scarcely a day passed without bickerings and disputes between them of some kind.

"What a noise you make with your leaves," one of them would say to the other; "you quite disturb my meditations." "The same to yourself, sister," would be the answer; "I am sure your rustling is at times quite disagreeable." And in the morning you would generally hear one of them exclaim, "Sister, you are always in my light;" whilst in the evening it would be the other who would cry, "How provoking you are, sister! why will you never let me see the sun?"

In the course of time their discourse took a new turn: "How is it, sister," each of them would often say,—"how is it that you are continually encroaching upon my space? The gardener did not plant you here, but there. Pray do not interfere with me." Or again: "I am certain, sister, it was you who broke my arm in the high wind last night." Poor foolish trees! It was wonderful to hear how they would rustle away in their wrath for hours together.

But in spite of their quarrelling they continued to grow taller and stouter every year; and let them do what they might, they had been planted so near each other, that by degrees their branches not only met, but actually intermingled. In fact, the higher they grew, and the more widely they spread, the more completely did they feel themselves obliged to mix their leaves and branches. There was no help for it if they meant to live at all. Were it not better, then, that they freely forgave the past, and lived in affectionate friendship for the future?

When matters had gone so far as that, they were sure to be soon arranged, for these trees did not require any friend to bring them together. And the very last conversation which passed between them, of which there is any record, was to the following effect. "Sister you must feel that east wind very much." "Yes, sister, it certainly is rather keener than usual; but never mind me. I hope I keep the worst off you. For you have not been used to it as I have. Neither do I think it will ever be able to injure me so long as I have you by my side."—*The Home Book.*

One of the Southern railroads has lately attempted to set a mercantile value upon morality. The value of temperance in an engineer is \$37, 50 a quarter; in a conductor, \$25; in a woodman, brakeman, &c., \$15. Seventy-one have been induced to forego spirituous liquors, and the railroad has found itself a gainer by the arrangement.

Condition of India.

A public meeting, in connection with the Young Men's Association in aid of the London Baptist Missionary Society, was held at the Mission-house, No. 33, Moorgate-street, lately, when Mr. E. B. Underhill, Secretary to the Society, who had recently returned from a tour in India, gave the results of his observations on the internal administrations of the Indian empire.

Mr. Samuel Morley presided, and in opening the proceedings adverted to the duty devolving upon all intelligent persons of acquiring actual facts in reference to everything connected with Indian affairs, and of endeavouring to form a sound and healthy public opinion on the subject.

Mr. Underhill commenced by observing that his object was to bring before the meeting a series of facts not frequently touched upon, and consequently but little understood in this country, and to impart to his hearers some idea of the manner in which the government of India was administered. The chief feature of the administration dwelt upon by the lecturer was that of the revenue system, the fundamental principle of which he said, was that the East India Company is for the time being the landlord of the country, and takes its revenue, not as a tax but as a rent, this rent being levied under three distinct tenures in the various districts. Under the first, the Ryotwary tenure, the Government takes from the cultivator of the soil two-thirds of the net produce of the land; under the second, the Pattaedary, the amount is nearly the same, but is agreed upon for a period of thirty years; and under the third, the Zemindary, which applied to the Bengal presidency, notwithstanding it was the richest of the three, the tax was much lighter. In case, however, the rent under this latter system is unpaid for a fortnight, the Government has the power of selling the land by auction, and all right of the zemindar in it becomes forfeited. The evils arising from the zemindary system and the cruelties practised upon the ryots, to whom the land originally belonged, by the zemindars, were dwelt upon at some length. Besides the revenue from the land a considerable sum was realised from opium and salt. Opium is cultivated exclusively under the control of the East India Company, and however pernicious it may be to the Chinese, the habit of opium-eating had been by this monopoly very much checked in India. The judicious administration of the country was, however, that which operated most injuriously upon the people. The country was anything but secure, either for person or property. Some of the great reasons why Englishmen do not become possessors of land there is the great amount of litigation to which they become exposed. In the civil courts it was almost impossible to obtain justice, and as far as the criminal department was concerned, not one half of the crimes were brought to the notice of the magistrate, and not one half of those so brought resulted in the punishment of the criminal. The corrupt nature of the police, "the torture inflicted upon the natives for the purpose of extortion, &c.," were then dilated upon. In reference to the extent to which the company have carried public works, the lecturer said they had taken no means to improve the estate, which was the great secret of the want of all public works in India, and especially in Bengal. One obvious conclusion to be drawn from the whole history of the government of India was, that the East India Company began as a great trading monopoly; and struggled to maintain that monopoly, and its monopoly of trade having been destroyed, it had endeavoured to keep its monopoly of power by means of its covenanted civil servants. Englishmen should now endeavour to destroy that covenanted service and throw it open to all Englishmen who are qualified to fill posts of honour and responsibility in that great land. As it is at present, those civil servants were, as a body—though, of course, there were exceptions—most inefficient and inexperienced men. Too great censure could not be made upon the system which had been adopted of setting one class against another—the setting the Hindoo against the Mohammedan, and the Mohammedan against the Hindoo. The army was made up thus, in the hope that they would never coalesce. If a strong condemnation of the whole policy of the company were required we have only to refer to the mutiny and its results, which were but the natural fruits of many years of maladministration. The lecturer said he wished to see the company's power destroyed, and a more direct and responsible power brought into operation, and concluded by pointing out the vast field which was open for missionary efforts in that great empire, the people of which were capable of being made one of the noblest in the world.

A vote of thanks was then awarded to Mr. Underhill, who had been listened to throughout with the deepest attention.

At Sea in London.

There has been a laughable story told this week of a woman named Rowcliffe, living at Southmolton, in the north of Devon. She has a daughter married in London; and, a fortnight since, the daughter wrote, requesting her mother to come to town, as she was expecting to be confined. Accordingly, the old woman started for London, and arrived at her place of destination quite safe. On the following day, not seeing things exactly to her taste in the cleaning department, she turned up her sleeves, and put on her coarse apron, with the intention of scrubbing the room, but there was no soap. She was in the act of running out to purchase some, when her daughter called after her to mind she did not lose her way. She replied, "I should think I am not quite such a fool as that;" and away she went, just as we have described, without a bonnet; and when she attempted to return, the poor soul knew neither the name of the street nor the number of the house, and she now found too late her presumption. She applied to a policeman, and was in his hands six hours, wandering about London; at last, worn out with fatigue, and having some money in her pocket, she requested to be taken to the Paddington station, that she might return to Southmolton again. The reader may guess the consternation of her friends at seeing her return home in such a plight. They at first thought she was insane; but when she related her adventures, she caused roars of laughter in the town. The daughter was in a sad plight till she was informed of her mother's safe existence in her home again.—*Plymouth Journal.*

A Tiger in the Streets of London.

As a cattle van was conveying from the London Docks, a remarkably fine specimen of the Bengal tiger, recently imported, the catch or lock of the door gave way, and the animal finding himself at liberty bounded into the road, to the intense terror of the passers by. For some distance it proceeded rapidly up the carriage way in a crouching position, evidently astonished at its unexpected freedom, until by a fatal chance, it encountered at the corner of Bells street, a little boy, aged about eleven years, who stood gazing curiously at the strange spectacle. Before the child had time to escape from the savage animal's path it sprang upon him, lacerating the back of his neck and head in a frightful manner. In the meantime a man, who had followed the beast in its flight, had armed himself with a crowbar, with which he struck repeated blows on the animal's head, to compel it to leave its grasp of the boy. The last of these blows took effect, and so far stunned the creature as to enable it to be secured; but we regret to say, the bar glancing from the skull of the brute, inflicted a blow upon the head of the already fearfully mangled little sufferer, who was promptly removed to the London Hospital, where he lies in a very precarious condition.

The Steam Horse.

Elihu Burritt, the learned blacksmith, gives the following poetic description of a locomotive. Let any of our fine poets or orators beat it, if they can:

"I love to see one of these huge creatures, with sinews of brass and muscles of iron, strut forth from his smoky stable, and saluting the long train of cars with a dozen sonorous puffs from his iron nostrils, fall back into his harness. There he stands, champing and foaming upon the iron track, his great heart a furnace of glowing coals; his lymphatic blood is boiling in his veins, the strength of a thousand horses is nerving his sinews—he pants to be gone. He would 'snake' St. Peter's across the Desert of Sahara, if he could be fairly hitched to it, but there is a little sober eyed man in the saddle, who holds him with one finger, and can take his breath in a moment, should he grow restive and vicious. I am always deeply interested in this man; for, begrimed as he may be with coal, diluted in oil and steam, I regard him as the genius of the whole machinery, as the physical mind of that huge steam horse."

Never Forgotten.

A rich landlord of England once cruelly oppressed a poor widow. Her son, a little boy of eight years, saw it. He afterwards became a painter, and painted a life-likeness of the scene. Years afterwards he placed it where the man saw it. He turned pale, trembled in every joint, and offered any sum to purchase it, that he might put it out of sight. Thus, there is an invisible painter drawing on the canvas of the soul a life-likeness reflecting correctly all the passions and actions of our spiritual history on earth. Eternity will reveal them to every man. We must meet our earth-life again.

Agriculture.

Be Thorough in Farm Work.

MR. EDITOR.—As a friend to the farmer, I would that you could make all that pretend to be farmers, farmers indeed. One farmer comes into my pig-sty and says, "how convenient your pen is, what nice pigs, what have you fed them on to keep them so fat? Why, they cannot feel these winds at all, your pen is so warm?" Another man enters the cow-yard,— "what a warm yard, how sleek and nice your cows look; mine are most dried up, and these cold days make them shabby and bad; you must meal yours, or they would not be so glossy; but then they are a good color, and show off well!"

Another enters the barn,— "what a nice barn, how convenient and warm. I wish I had such a one in the place of the one I built last year, but yours cost so much I thought I could not afford it." Another enters the hen-house,— "what nice fowls, what kind are they; do your hens lay? mine have not laid for a month, and sometimes I am tempted to sell them all, for they are no profit." (And well he might, if he cannot take care of them.)

A neighbor says, "what is the reason my corn is not as good as yours? I plant the same seed, and hoe it as well as you do yours."

Brother, are you the man that views your neighbor's property in this way? If so, listen one moment and I will let you into his secret.

When he builds a barn, he begins at the foundation and builds it well, and attaches good sheds to it, with sty and hen house handy by.

1. He builds it well, that he may not have to repair next year.
2. He builds convenient, for the same reason that you would like your house convenient—he visits it often.
3. He builds it warm, for he wishes to accumulate property, and he knows his cows will pay the extra expense next summer with interest; besides, he saves fodder, for a cow well tended and kept warm, will be of good color and look sleek with three-fourths the food that is necessary for a cow not sheltered from the driving storms of winter. A cow kept warm, with good care, will give milk most of the year, while the opposite will go dry four months out of the twelve. He keeps his cows in the yard with plenty of good water, and by so doing, saves the manure which makes that large crop of corn you so much covet.

Young farmer, go to work, feed your cattle, hogs and hens regularly, and keep them warm, and then you can brag over your slovenly neighbors. Dig deep, manure well, sow early, keep the weeds down, and harvest a crop that pays well. ESAU.

—*New England Farmer.*

Stone Drains—Construction, &c.

EDS. RURAL.—In the *Rural* of the 20th of June, I saw some inquiries by Mr. Waterman, respecting the construction of stone drains, and being both willing and anxious to receive and impart knowledge obtained by experience, I beg leave to contribute any information calculated to advance the science of agriculture, and will therefore give my little experience in the way of stone drains. The best mode of construction that I have built upon is to sink to sufficient depth—generally about three feet deep, three feet wide at the top and one foot at bottom—taking care to keep the fall at bottom as uniform as possible, which can be regulated by a spirit level. Select from the stones to be used those apple-seed shaped, or with one pointed or small end, of a size say from six to twelve pounds weight, setting all over the bottom of the drain, small ends downwards, taking care to place them in such a manner that the outer ones serve as keys against the walls or sides of the drain. This precaution is necessary to prevent the falling of the mass of stones in case of washing or being undermined. After thus arranging the first layer of stones, I then (rather carefully) hand pack a layer of smaller stones to the depth of 8" or 10 inches, then larger stones may be used, after which a coat of coarse gravel, (screened is preferable) then a layer of evergreen brush, before filling with earth. Particular attention should be paid to the mouth or lower ends of drains, as the effect produced by negligence at this point is attended with serious consequences, and the object for which the drain was intended unattained. CANADIAN.
Brighton, 1857. *Rural New-Yorker.*

TO REMOVE NEW FRUIT STAINS.—Hold the cloth tightly over some vessel, and pour boiling water through it, and they will soon disappear.

A man had better have all the afflictions of all the afflicted, than to be given up to a repining, grumbling heart.