

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

APRIL 25th, 1858.

Subject.—THE ORDINANCES CONNECTED WITH THE FIRST COVENANT.

For Repeating. For Reading.
Heb. viii. 10-13. Heb. ix. 1-10.

MAY 2nd, 1858.

Subject.—THE PERFECT SACRIFICE OF CHRIST.

For Repeating. For Reading.
Heb. ix. 1-5. Heb. ix. 11-17.

THE QUESTIONER.

Mental Pictures from the Bible.

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

[No. 59.]

We look on a graceful and chivalrous scene, at once a bridal rejoicing and a military triumph. The bridegroom is a noble young warrior, who, with his martial companions, seems to wear the flush of victory; and the joyous procession is just about to start from the bride's home. They pause; for the fair bride has dismounted, and seems to address some parting request to a venerable man, who looks on her with benignity and affection.

Key to Bible questions in our last.

- 3.—Those of Jacob and Joseph.—GEN. 1. 2, 26.
- 4.—That he would command his children and his household.—GEN. xviii. 19.

The Lost Experience.

A domestic missionary, on his first entrance upon a new field, called on a man who had heard him preach, to converse with him and his companion on their eternal interests. He soon found that they deemed themselves Christians, and asked the husband to "give him a reason of the hope that was in him." The solemn inquiry caused some hesitancy and trepidation. At length he remarked that he wrote down his experience when he was converted, some fifteen or twenty years before, and he believed he had kept it. So he went in a flurry to a chest of drawers in the room, searched one after another, and turned over many articles with eager haste. Foiled in the attempt to find the paper, he called out, "Wife, where is my Experience?" "Perhaps she did not think and intend all that might well be understood from her words, when she replied, "I don't know, husband, I am sure; I think I have not seen it for a long time."

Poor man! He had lost his experience, and even the pen-and-ink record of it. His experience had been partial, selfish, unholty and evanescent. He had had no root in himself; he had fallen away; in many long years he had borne no fruit unto holiness—none which indicates endurance unto everlasting life. His experience is gone; his hope has given up the ghost. He can give no account of either, even to a mortal man; what then will he do when God riseth up? "What will his hope be, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?"—*Puritan Recorder.*

The best Sermons.

We are too often ready to judge that to be the best sermon, which has many strange thoughts in it, many fine hints, and some grand and polite sentiments. But a Christian in his best temper of mind will say, "That is a good sermon which brings my heart nearer to God, which makes the grace of Christ sweet to my soul, and the commands of Christ easy and delightful: That is an excellent discourse indeed which enables me to mortify some unruful sin, to vanquish a strong temptation, and weans me from all the enticements of this lower world; that which bears me up above all the disquietudes of life, which fits me for the hour of death, and makes me ready and desirous to appear before Christ Jesus my Lord."

SUCKING UP WATER FROM SAND.—Livingston, the African traveller, describes an ingenious method by which the Africans obtain water in the desert:

"The women tie a bunch of grass to one end of a reed, about two feet long, and insert it in a hole dug as deep as the arm will reach, then ram down the wet sand firmly around it. Applying the mouth to the free end of the reed, they form a vacuum in the grass beneath, in which the water collects, and in a short time rises to the mouth. It will be perceived that this simple, but truly philosophical and effectual method, might have been applied in many cases in different countries where water was greatly needed, to the saving of life. It seems wonderful that it should have been now first made known to the world, and that it should have been habitually practised in Africa probably for centuries. It seems worthy of being particularly noticed, that it may no longer be neglected from ignorance. It may be highly important to travellers on our western deserts and prairies, in some parts of which water is known to exist below the surface."

A letter from Orange County, N. Y., in the N. E. Farmer, states that:—

The people are mostly church-goers, and even their horses want to "go to meeting." A circumstance was told me a day or two since, of an aged man by the name of Decker, who had long been a constant attendant at the Presbyterian church of Blooming Grove,—and his horse. Mr. Decker became old, and being too unwell to attend church for several Sabbaths—the distance being three or four miles—his carriage horse became dissatisfied, and on Sunday morning, when people were going in various directions to their various meetings, he jumped out of the pasture and sped away to church, took his place beside the post where he had usually been tied, and waited until the close of service; when he turned his attention homeward, going directly like a serious-minded horse, well aware of the importance of observing the Sabbath. It wouldn't be a bad idea to have that old horse commissioned to preach to some people.

Agriculture.

How Agriculture may be Improved.

One of the best agricultural addresses of the past season is that of Hon. L. Chandler Ball, before the Hoosick (Town) Ag. Society. It discusses the question—"How shall the necessary conditions to further agricultural improvement be secured, and farmers take the rank, exert the influence and receive the honors to which, by their contributions to social order and the welfare of the State, they are entitled?" He lays down the following propositions, and to their elucidation the address is devoted:

1. By adopting a higher standard of education, both general and professional.
2. By a more thorough cultivation of the soil, by which its fertility shall be increased, and permanently maintained.
3. By the more general introduction of improved implements of husbandry, by which farm and household labor may be more easily and more economically performed.
4. By improving the seeds of domestic stock, and rearing only those animals which are the best of their respective kinds.
5. By growing only those roots, grains, grasses, and fruits which are the most nutritious and the most productive.
6. By pursuing that particular branch of husbandry which gives the strongest probabilities of success, having reference to climate, soil, markets, and amount of foreign and domestic competition.
7. By making the business of farming attractive to educated men, and the farmhouse and all its surroundings pleasant to refined taste and cultivated manners.—*Country Gentleman.*

Will Underdraining Pay?

This depends on circumstances. If good naturally underdrained land can be obtained in your neighborhood for from \$15 to \$20 per acre, it would not pay, in all probability to expend \$30 per acre, in underdraining low, wet, or springy land; but in all districts where land is worth \$50 per acre, nothing can pay better than to expend from \$20 to \$30 per acre in judicious underdraining. The labor of cultivation is much reduced, while the produce is generally increased one half, and is not unfrequently doubled; and it must be remembered that the increase is net profit! If we get \$15 worth of wheat from one acre, and \$20 worth from the other, and the expense of cultivation is \$10 in both cases, the profit from the one is twice as much as from the other.—*Genesee Farmer.*

The Rind of Fruit Indigestible.

This applies to all fruit, and includes skins of kernels, and nuts of all kinds. The edible part of fruit is particularly delicate, and liable to rapid decomposition if exposed to the atmosphere; it is, therefore, a provision of nature to place a strong and impervious coating over it, as a protection against accident, and to prevent insect enemies from destroying the seed within. The skin of all the plum tribe is wonderfully strong, compared with its substance, and resists the action of water and many solvents in a remarkable manner. If not thoroughly masticated before taken into the stomach, the rind of plums is rarely, if ever, dissolved by the gastric juice. In some cases, pieces of it adhere to the coats of the stomach, the same as wet paper clings to anything, causing sickness and other inconvenience. Dried raisins and currants are particularly included in these remarks, showing the best reasons for placing the fruit upon the chopping board with the suet in making a pudding of them; for if a dried currant passes into the stomach whole, it is never digested at all. When horses eat beans or oats that have not been through a crushing-mill, much of this food is swallowed whole, and in this state, being perfectly indigestible the husk or pellicle resisting the power of the stomach, there is so much lost to nutrition. Birds, being destitute of teeth, are provided with the apparatus for grinding their seed, namely, the gizzard, through which the seed passes, and is crushed prior to digestion. The peelings of apples and pears should always be cast away. Oranges we need not mention, as this is always done. Orleans, greengages, damsons, and all plums, should be carefully skinned if eaten raw, and if put into tarts, they should be crushed before cooking. Nuts are as indigestible as we could desire, if the brown skin be not removed or blanched, as almonds are generally treated.—*Scientific American.*

Biographical.

Sketch of the Career of the late Major-General Sir Henry Havelock, K.C.B.

(Continued.)

There were not wanting monitions of the insecurity of our position in Afghanistan; but in that spirit of over confidence in our strength with which a hundred years of triumph had inspired us, they were disregarded, though we were unconsciously on the eve of a national insurrection. Even at the eleventh hour, our force was weakened by the withdrawal of troops to India. The crisis is thus described by Havelock:—"I should define the whole affair to be a struggle of the chiefs to maintain their power to misrule, of which they dreaded the annihilation; of certain tribes, especially the eastern Ghilzies to revenge the wrong of the reduction of their stipends; and finally, of the whole people to get rid of the Feringhees. The facts are, that Sir Robert Sale's brigade, with its auxiliaries, having been moved down towards Tazeen and Gundamak, with the double purpose of forcing the passes and returning to the provinces, that opportunity was seized to spring the mine. Sir A. Barnes was assassinated, with all our adherents, at Cabul; and our troops driven, by the force of a general insurrection, to confine their efforts to maintain themselves in the two points of the Bala-Hissar, and the entrenched cantonment. This they are as yet successfully doing, and I trust, by God's blessing, will continue to do, until reinforcements arrive." Havelock was sent to Sir Robert Sale's camp, and assisted at the forcing of the Khoord Cabul pass. He returned with despatches to Cabul, through the disturbed districts, at the imminent peril of his life. He was again sent back to Sale's army, and was engaged in the affair of Tazeen. Sir Robert, who thoroughly appreciated the value of his services, detained him with the force which moved on, every day engaged with the enemy, and fighting his way, inch by inch, to Gundamak. There they received intelligence of the outburst of the insurrection at Cabul, and fell back on Jellalabad, when the memorable siege of that place commenced, in which Havelock bore so conspicuous a part. The fortifications were in a state of complete dilapidation, and they were immediately surrounded by swarms of the enemy. Through the masterly skill of Major George Broadfoot, the defences were diligently repaired, the troops working with the utmost alacrity, night and day. While engaged in these operations, Havelock, as he wrote, "contrived to establish religious ordinances amidst the din of arms." When the fortifications were complete, and "the place had been made too strong for any Asiatic force to take, (D.V.) at any price, without artillery," the garrison, at Havelock's advice, was called together for a service of thanksgiving to that Divine Providence which had thus far aided them, and the service is said to have been conducted by himself. At the same time he drew up a paper, which he styled a "Voice from Afghanistan," and requested his friend, Sir John Login, to send it on to the bishop; it depicted their spiritual destitution, and preferred an earnest claim for assistance. "There may yet be time," writes Havelock, "to send a chaplain up with the second reinforcement. If he can be spared, let him come at any time with the troops, and the sooner the better."

It was during the advance with Sir Robert Sale's brigade that one of these singular incidents occurred which so often marked Havelock's movements. He was proverbially fearless. He had moved out to reconnoitre a narrow pass; the enemy from the heights were pouring down a shower of bullets on him while he coolly made his observations, apparently unconscious of his danger till a horseman, detached by the commanding officer, galloped up to him with peremptory orders to return. Twice before Christmas did the gallant garrison of Jellalabad sally out and utterly defeat the assailants in the open field. On the 13th of January a solitary horseman, on a jaded horse, was seen to bend his way across the plain towards the fortress. The gate was opened to receive him, and it proved to be Dr. Bayfield, the only survivor, with the exception of Akbar Khan's prisoners, of the army of Afghanistan. Including camp followers, 13,000 men had perished under the weapons of the enemy and the snows of the mountain passes. Akbar Khan having thus destroyed the British force at Cabul, laid close siege to Jellalabad, but he was without artillery, and the garrison could only be starved out. About the middle of February, a succession of earthquakes, of which more than a hundred shocks were counted, levelled the fortifications and destroyed the la-

hours of fifteen weeks. The town was in a great measure laid open to assault, but the defences were restored with incredible exertions and speed. For two months more, however, the garrison looked in vain for relief. The command of the reinforcements had been at first entrusted to incompetent men, and it was not till Sir George Pollock entered the passes with fresh troops that any progress was made. The garrison was constrained to depend for the means of subsistence chiefly on successful forays. Reports were now industriously spread abroad by the enemy that the relieving force had been driven back. Those in command at Jellalabad became disheartened, and it was with great difficulty that Havelock and his two friends, Broadfoot and Macgregor, could maintain the spirits of the men. The true history of that memorable siege yet remains to be written, but there was no bolder spirit in the garrison, and no man who urged more vigorous measures than Havelock. He always avoided allusion to so delicate a subject lest he should inadvertently cast a reflection on the character of others, but the truth is gradually transpiring. A little note of his, sent in a quill which the messenger contrived to conceal happily reached the writer of these lines, in which Havelock stated that their provisions were nearly exhausted, the hope of relief all but forlorn, and that they must soon be obliged to resolve on cutting their way through the passes to Peshawar, which swarmed with the enemy to such an extent that it was impossible to say how many could survive the experiment; but that even in this extremity they would not allow their force to be so thoroughly "disorganised" as that of Cabul had been during the retreat. As the last letter he might ever write, he commended his wife and family to the care of his correspondent. But it was determined to make one more attack on the enemy, in the hope of breaking up his force. The troops were divided into three columns: the right was given to Havelock, and he advanced towards Akbar Khan's army, expecting to be fully supported by the two other columns; but they were unfortunately detained on the route, and the brunt of the action fell on his column, which gallantly sustained two charges of cavalry from the enemy. It is now passed beyond controversy that the honour of defeating Akbar Khan on the memorable 7th of April, 1842, belongs to Havelock, and that the enemy were in full retreat before the other divisions came up. The despatch which announced the particulars of the siege and the result of the action, though signed by Sir Robert Sale, was written by Havelock, and it spoke therefore of his share in the action in inadequate terms. It has always been considered as the model of a military despatch, and the late Sir George Murray, than whom no man was better able to appreciate such merit, stated in a speech at the London Tavern, that it reminded him of Cæsar's Commentaries.

The illustrious garrison of Jellalabad had thus achieved its own relief before the reinforcements, under General Pollock, could arrive. On his arrival, Havelock was appointed his Persian interpreter, and accompanied what was popularly styled the "Army of Retribution" to Cabul, and was again engaged with the enemy at Mamoo Kail and at Tazeen. The capital was re-occupied in triumph. Havelock was then attached to the infantry division, as deputy-assistant adjutant-general, and he was sent into the Kohistan to reduce the town of Istaliff, situated on the declivity of a hill. General McKaskill, who commanded the division, left all the arrangements of the attack to Havelock's skill; and he dwells with delight in his letters to his relatives on the opportunity he now enjoyed, for the first time after twenty-seven years of soldiering, of organising a great military movement, as he said, out of his own brain. The town was carried with little loss, through the admirable combinations of Havelock's strategy, and the affair at Istaliff was considered one of the most brilliant of the campaign; but it is only at the present time that Havelock's share in it can be prudently recorded. For his conduct at Jellalabad, he was promoted to a brevet majority, and received the companionship of the Bath. For Istaliff, General McKaskill received the star of a knight commander. Soon after, the captives whom Akbar Khan had conveyed to the distant fortress of Bamean, were rescued by a rapid and successful march, and the officers, ladies, and children, whose fate had occasioned the most intense anxiety for many months, were received back with ecstasy at Cabul. Here Havelock had the pleasure of welcoming, as if from the grave, his gallant nephew, Lieut. Williams, a grandson of Dr. Marshman, of whom no tidings had been heard for many months. Williams had gone through all the hardships of the siege of Ghuznee for four months, and on the surrender of the fortress, for want of water, fell into the hands of Ameenoolla, the Afghan sirdar, who transferred him to the custody of Akbar Khan, by whom he was sent to join the other prisoners. As the relieved captives came up before the Cabul garrison, Havelock inquired whether Lieut. Henry Marshman Williams was among them; on which a tall, gaunt figure, with a beard of a twelve-month's growth, and a sheepskin over his shoulders, stepped forward, and said, "Here I am uncle." By his side stood the late chivalrous General Nicholson, then his junior in the regiment, whose name has been immortalised by the capture of Delhi. Afghanistan was evacuated; the troops retired to India, and were received at the bridge of the Sutlege by Lord Ellenborough, with the most distinguished honours. The army was broken up; Havelock's appointment ceased, and he returned to regimental duty with his old corps, the 13th, at Kussowlee, and resumed the command of his company; and, though again laid on the shelf, found ample employment in the instruction of his men, and the promotion of temperance and orderly habits.

(To be Continued.)