

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

AUGUST 29th, 1858.

Subject.—EVANGELICAL WISDOM WILL CONTROL THE TONGUE AND TEMPER.

For Repeating. For Reading. James iii. 1-2. James iii. 9-18.

SEPTEMBER 5th, 1858.

Subject.—WAR, THE FRUIT OF HUMAN WICKEDNESS.

For Repeating. For Reading. James iii. 17-18. James iv. 1-8.

THE QUESTIONER.

Mental Pictures from the Bible.

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

[No. 67.]

In a magnificent apartment we see an eastern king and queen, surrounded with all the luxuries of their royal state. The richest wines are before them, and a foreign attendant presents a costly goblet to his master with an air of profound respect. The king attentively observes his countenance, which is clouded with melancholy, in strange contrast to the bright and dazzling scene around.

Key to Bible questions in our last.

26.—Christ appeared to the Apostle Paul, in Corinth, Acts xviii. 9, 10: in Jerusalem, Acts xxiii. 11: by an angel, Acts xxvii. 23, 24.

27.—Caves were used as hiding places:

JOSHUA x. 16, for five kings.

JUDGES vi. 2, for Israel.

1 SAMUEL xiii. 6, for David.

1 SAMUEL xxii. 1, for fifty prophets.

HEBREWS xi. 38, for the ancient believers.

The History of a Lie.

Bread of deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth shall be filled with gravel.—Solomon.

Bessie Blake was a little girl some six years old. One morning as she stood before the glass, pinning a large red rose upon the bosom of her apron, her mother called her to take care of the baby a few minutes. Now Bessie wanted just then to go out in the garden to play, so she went very unwillingly.

Her mother bade her sit down in her little chair, placed the baby carefully in her lap, and left the room. The red rose instantly attracted the little one's attention, and quick as thought the chubby little fingers grasped it, and before Bessie could say, "What are you about," the rose was crushed and scattered. Bessie was so angry that she struck the baby a hard blow. The baby, like all other babies, screamed right lustily. The mother hearing the uproar, ran to see what the matter was. Bessie, to save herself from punishment, told her mother that her little brother Benny, who was playing in the room, had struck the baby as hard as he could.

Benny, although he declared his innocence, received the punishment which Bessie so richly deserved. Bessie went to school soon after, but she did not feel happy.

That night, as she lay in her little trundlebed, she could not go to sleep for thinking of the dreadful wrong she had committed against her brother and against God, and she resolved that night to tell her mother all, the next morning. When morning came, however, there was a bunch in her throat; she could not make up her mind to confess the sin; it did not seem so great as the night before. It was not much after all her silly heart said. As day after day passed, Bessie felt the burden less and less, and she might have fallen in the same sin again, had a temptation presented itself, but for a sad event. One morning when she came home from school, she found Benny sick with a frightful throat distemper. He had been sick all the forenoon. He continued to grow worse, and the next evening he died.

Poor Bessie! it seemed as if her heart would break. Kind friends tried to comfort her. They told her that he was happy; that he had gone to live with the Saviour who loved little children, and if she was good, she would go to see him, though he could not come again to her.

"Oh!" said the child, "I am not crying because he has gone to Heaven, but because I told that lie about him, because he got the punishing which belonged to me." For a long time she refused to be comforted.

Several years have passed. Bessie is now of woman's size, but the remembrance of that lie yet stings her soul to the quick. It took less than one minute to utter it, but many years have not effaced the sorrow and shame which followed it.—Congregationalist.

There is a "British Anti-Tobacco Society" in England, which has already become so strong as to resolve to publish a Monthly Periodical, to be called the "British Anti-Tobacco Journal."

Public Gambling at Rome.

His Holiness's lottery is one of the most interesting and important public institutions in Rome. There is not a country in the world where so much legalized gambling is done as here, unless perhaps the Neapolitan kingdom be excepted. Wherever you go you find Prenditorie de Lotti. Whole windows are filled with numbers of all sizes, colours, and shapes, to the public eye; nay the sidewalk, where there is any, is often encumbered with frames covered with them; exciting mottoes are put up, everything possibly done to stimulate the gambling spirit. And how successful? Why everybody seems to gamble here—princes, priests, military men, literati, merchants, jockeys, servant-girls, beggars, and children. It is recognized as one of the sources of revenue, and soberly summed up with that of the custom-house and post-office. As at Naples, they have a wonderful index, a great book, in which lucky numbers are set against every imaginable incident. If a man is so unfortunate as to break a leg, he straightway consults the index in reference to this calamity, and buys as many of the numbers standing against it as he possibly can. On occasions of plague, earthquakes, eclipses, inundations of the Tiber, &c., the run made upon these words occasions no small difficulty to the lottery directors. I saw one of the drawings about a month ago, and it was a scene which defies description. There was a great square full of people of every rank, grade and occupation collected before one of the public buildings near the post office. A large balcony upon the second story of the building was fitted up for the performances, and gaily trimmed with hangings of every hue. A transparent glass cylinder contained the numbers done up and put inside little cases very much like cartridges. A priest in full dress turned the crank as solemnly as if he had been saying mass; and thus the lots were thoroughly mescolati in the sight of the people. But the drawer was the very personification of impartiality. In the first place it was a mere child, an emblem of innocence and guilelessness;—but that was not enough, he was a consecrated boy, and clothed in canonical vestments. But to afford still greater security to the anxious crowd below, who have had experience enough to know that a canonical sleeve may cover a rogue's arm, he was made to bare the said member almost to the shoulder whenever he thrust it into that cylinder of fate. A drummer stood by, one or two other musicians, a crier and other functionaries. At a given signal the priest stopped turning the cylinder and undid the opening. The boy, shutting his eyes, crossed himself most devoutly, muttered a prayer, raised his hand to heaven, and with another sign of the cross put it into the little barrel. Drawing forth one of the cartridges he presented it solemnly to the priest to undo. The priest opened it in the sight of the excited assembly and passed it to a civil officer, who then passed it to the crier. Silence then reigned almost oppressive, you could almost hear the hearts of the anxious auditors thumping in their bosoms. Each would glance furtively at his own numbers and then strain the sense of hearing to the utmost. The crier then proclaimed the number in true crier-fashion, and threw the lot over the balcony, that people might verify his report. Then the music would strike up again, the priest resume his labour at the crank, and so on until the drawing was finished. It was one of the most impressive sights I ever witnessed, whether one looks at the moral significance of the act, or the subdued excitement of the immense throng.—Letter from Rome in the N. Y. Com. Adv. and Jour.

CANADA extends from Cape Gaspe, W. L. 64° 12', to a little beyond the meridian 90° W. L., and from 41° 53' N. L. (Point Pelee) to about 53° N. L. It is about 1000 miles long, from the mouth of the Gulf of St. Lawrence to the west of Lake Erie; and from 50 to 150 miles broad in the cultivated parts. But the dimensions are much greater if the uncultivated parts be included. Area about 358,822 square miles, of which Lower Canada contains 209,990; Upper Canada, 147,832 square miles. Population 2,300,000.—Canada West, 1,260,000; Canada East, 1,040,000. The climate of Canada is distinguished by a dry, clear, serene atmosphere, and few fogs; frost begins in October; there are heavy snows about December; then steady frost till the middle or end of April, with spring, summer, and autumn comprised between May and September—the summer, during July and August, being very hot. But there is considerable difference between the eastern portion and the part adjoining the great lakes. The latter is more temperate in both summer and winter, than the eastern parts, as is seen in the following table, representing the mean annual, winter, and summer temperatures, and differences between the two latter, at Toronto in Canada West, and Quebec in Canada East:—

Table with 5 columns: M. A. T., M. W. T., M. S. T., DIFF., and locations (Toronto, Quebec).

The laying of the Telegraph Cable.

The details connected with the completion of this great work will continue for some time to be full of the deepest interest. The following incidents from some of our exchanges, will shew a few of the difficulties which were encountered, and the intense anxiety which must have prevailed on board the two ships as they approached the land on either side:—

Mr. Field's diary of the voyage of the Niagara, is a singularly interesting paper. It is a daily record of all the important incidents that occurred in connection with the laying of the cable. It shows that the Niagara was favored with beautiful weather throughout the six days and a half that she was employed in laying down the cable from mid-ocean to the coast of Newfoundland. The distance traversed by her was 882 miles; the amount of cable paid out was a little over 1,016 miles, about 15 per cent more than would have been required to connect the two extremities in a perfectly straight line. The Agamemnon, which had 69 miles less distance to traverse, probably paid out more cable than the Niagara, as she signaled on Thursday morning that she had paid out 1,010 miles of the cable, without intimating that she had reached her destination. Twice during the passage the electric current was lost, or nearly so, by the Niagara, but was regained after some hours of effort. In the latter instances, the obstacle to communication was detected in one of the coils on board the vessel. Only the rarest good fortune in weather and every other incident saved them from the disaster of having paid out the whole cable while still out of sight of land. In fact, at the rate the cable was paid out in mid-ocean for some days after starting, this catastrophe was inevitable; but after reaching comparatively shoal water, the loss or waste of cable fell off from forty-eight and twenty-three to six and even so low as four per cent. The progress of the ships after their separation in mid-ocean would seem to have been regulated by some agency other than that of human intelligence. They run nearly the same distance and payed out nearly the same length of cable day by day; and on the 3rd of August we find each vessel reporting the same depth of water—two hundred fathoms. The calculations with regard to the length of cable required are found to have been wonderfully exact, as the following will shew:—

Table with 2 columns: Description (Length of cable, Payed out by the Niagara, etc.) and Miles.

A Night Adventure.

A gentleman, worthy of all credit, and who may be the more readily trusted as his story acknowledges his own defeat, was roused one night by a heavy bumping noise on the stairs. Unable to account for it, he rose, donned his dressing-gown and with his candle in his hand proceeded to investigate the cause. Half-way down stairs he perceived a large rat employed in facilitating the descent of a half loaf by pushing it down from one step to another. Anxious to redeem his property, the owner descended after it. The rat at first continued his exertions, but as the enemy gained upon him he changed his tactics, and, turning his front upwards, began to climb towards, his opponent. This was just such an intruder as might with all justice have been kicked down stairs; but so stern was his air, and so menacing his aspect, that the gentleman hesitated, and hesitation ended in retreat. His feet being armed only with slippers, he lost his heart and began slowly to ascend backwards, while the rat deliberately mounted after him, and thus steadily drove him back to his bedroom, the door of which he shut in the face of his foe, and terminated the adventure by retiring to bed, while the rat returned to his well-earned booty.—National Review.

GREAT EXPLOIT OF A HEN.—The "Local" of the Philadelphia Inquirer saw a hen the other day which had recently hatched out fifty-six chickens at one batch! of which all but twenty are alive. The lad who had charge of the fowl made a large nest in the ground, and had the hen sitting on some wads of cotton for a day or two previous to putting in the eggs. He then placed the eggs, fifty-six in number, under her in two tiers, and each day changing the tiers, placing the upper one beneath the other tier.—In twenty-one days the entire batch was hatched out safe and sound.

The bones belonging to the head of an elephant, were discovered a few feet below the surface of the earth by some men who were ditching on Baie de Verte Marsh, last week.—When found, they formed the skeleton head, tusks, &c., of a large animal of the Ruminantia class, in a good state of preservation, which is remarkable, considering the centuries which have probably elapsed that they have remained in that position. They are now in the possession of Mr. Albert Gooden, at Baie de Verte, where they may be seen by those who take an interest in antiquarian sports.—Sackville Borderer.

Burial of Baptised and Unbaptised Twins.

A provincial paper gives the following strange account of proceedings at Bovey Tracy:—"The latter end of last week a poor woman was delivered of twins, one of whom lived but a few hours, when the parents immediately sent for the Rev. Mr. Mills, the curate of St. John's, for the purpose of having the surviving child baptized. The Rev. Mr. Mills arrived and performed the ceremony; soon after which this child also expired. The parents wished the children to be placed together in the coffin, but the Rev. Mr. Courtenay objected to this, and had one coffin made at his own expense. The bodies were taken away to be buried, when the Rev. Mr. Courtenay ordered the unbaptised child to be left at the sexton's house during the interment of the baptised, and his surpliced choristers attended and sang the burial service, during which the 'baptised' was let down in the grave. The Rev. Mr. Courtenay then gave orders to put a layer of earth on the coffin, and fetch the body of the 'unbaptised' from the sexton's house, which was done, and interred without further ceremony. This most absurd proceeding has caused a great sensation in Bovey."

Cure for Drunkenness.

No one who has once been a drunkard is ever safe from falling, this side the grave; it is a terrible truth, but it is a reality. He only is comparatively safe, who is in constant fear of falling.

We knew a Mrs. H., in our childhood, who finding her husband dead drunk one day, sewed him up in a sheet, and gave him a tremendous cowhiding. He never got drunk again; in this case it was the fear of the hide, and not of the fall. But one of the speediest rousers from a state of beastly intoxication we have ever read of, is to turn the brute on his right side, hold up his left arm, and pour a pitcher of cold water down his sleeve slowly. He will walk perfectly sober in five minutes. We rather think that the raw hide is a more vivid remembrancer; and our old friend, cold water, must yield the palm this time.—Hall's Journal of Health.

PROTESTANTS IN ITALY.—The following statement is made in the report of the Colonial and Continental Committee to the late Assembly of the Free Church:—"The converts are now permitted to meet in Florence in considerable numbers without receiving any molestation from the police, which, we trust, indicates a more tolerant spirit on the part of the Government. Protestantism is spreading in all the villages around the capital, and indeed in all the cities of the dukedom. So much is this the case, that the Pope has issued orders that, in connection with a jubilee which is about to be proclaimed, two sermons will be preached daily for a time to warn the people against the dangers of Protestantism."

AGRICULTURE.

TO DESTROY LIFE IN STUMPS.—It often happens that trees are in our way that we desire to remove "root and branch" in the shortest possible time. Many trees are liable to throw up sprouts for yards around, and for years after being cut down, to the great plague and trouble of the owner of the soil, keeping him digging and grubbing to remove the sprouts to the detriment of his crops; and his own patience—such for instance as the locust, poplar, gum, and others. To prevent this, all that is necessary, after cutting down the tree, is to bore a hole, say ten to twelve inches down into the stump, and fill with common salt. This will kill the living principle to the utmost of the roots. The best time probably would be some time in August, although I have killed locusts in spring, and gum in August, while others that I did not salt kept me grubbing for years. Elder bushes are sometimes very tenacious of life, and although I have not tried the salt on them, yet I believe that by grubbing up, or cutting off close to the surface, and applying salt liberally, would most probably be the easiest and quickest plan of destroying them. Canada thistles if cut off close to the ground with a scythe, when in full flow of sap, and salted freely, dislike the operation amazingly. The sprouts come up sparingly, and evidently in a decline, and by a few operations of the "same sort," will ultimately "vamoose."—Cor. Dollar Newspaper.

ROCK BISCUIT.—Beat six ounces of fresh butter to a cream, add six ounces powdered loaf sugar, half a pound currants, one ounce candied peel, and three eggs; stir in one pound of flour, by degrees, mix well, and make into cakes; bake in a quick oven.

RECIPE FOR FOUNDER IN HORSES.—Take 1lb. alum, dissolve it in hot water, let it cool, then pour it down the horse. Do not be afraid; it will cure. If the horse be stiff put his feet in hot water one at a time. I have saved several in this way.