

Youth's Department.

Bible Lessons.

Sunday, June 2nd, 1861.

Read—MATT. xii. 31-50: Christ instructs and reproves the Pharisees. 2 KINGS xxiii. 21-27: God's final wrath against Judah.

Recite—M. TREV. xii. 14-21.

Sunday, June 9th, 1861.

Read—MATT. xiii. 1-23: The Parable of the Sower. 2 KINGS xxiv. 1-20: Jerusalem besieged and taken.

Recite—MATTHEW xii. 35-37.

"Search the Scriptures."

Write down what you suppose to be the answers to the following questions.

43. After the command to observe the Sabbath had been given, what punishment was attached to the violation of it? 44. Refer to the prophecy, relative to the Messiah which the book of Deuteronomy contains, state how long it had been delivered ere it was fulfilled, and name the New Testament portion in which it is expressly applied to Jesus Christ.

Answers to questions given last week:—

41. In the reign of Hezekiah, 2 Kings xx. 9, 10; Isaiah xxxviii. 8. From its being called "the sundial of Ahaz," some have supposed Ahaz first introduced it from Babylon. 42. "So all Israel were reckoned by genealogies; and, behold, they were written in the book of the kings of Israel and Judah, who were carried away to Babylon for their transgression." 1 Chronicles ix. 1.

A Nova Scotian Boy in Canada.

COLUMBUS, Oct. 26th, 1860.

MESSRS EDITORS.—The following (to me) very pleasing incident goes plainly to show the importance of parents adhering strictly and perseveringly to the principles of truth, that it may leave its impression upon their children and families, that I am induced to give it you.

Not long since, one Sabbath afternoon, on my return from the town of W—, where I had been to take a minister to fulfil an appointment, when a short way out of town, I overtook a lad who, from his loitering gait, and general appearance I took to be some Sabbath stroller, or youthful vagrant; but thinking that we are often deceived by judging from appearance only, I decided to ascertain whether my conjectures were right in regard to him or not. On coming up to him, therefore, I asked him to ride with me—a proposition which he readily acceded to, when the following conversation took place between us.

Writer.—My boy, how far are you going? Boy.—To the village of C—, sir. W.—Is that your home? B.—No sir but I work in that village. My home is in the town of W—, where I have just been to see my father and mother. W.—Then, you have had a long walk to-day; you must be tired? B.—Yes sir, I am, very, for I cannot get away from my master's until 9 o'clock in the morning having so much to do. And then I have to walk very fast to get back again by 4 o'clock, P. M., to do the evening work; and I get very tired in walking 8 miles home, without the 8 miles back again, the same day. W.—Were you born in this country? B.—Yes, sir, in Nova Scotia. W.—Well, I am disappointed; I took you for an old country lad from your appearance. B.—I dare say, for I have lived so much with Irish folks, that I expect I look and act a great deal like them. W.—Well, I did not think you was a native of Ireland either. I was thinking you was a Yorkshire lad. I was much pleased with the boy's honest answers, and, as he mentioned Nova Scotia as his birth-place, I became more deeply interested in him, and especially as I knew this to be a place where there is a great number of very peculiar Christians, whose religious principles and church organizations are similar to those described in Acts ii. Consequently I interrogated the boy again, and drew forth the following facts. W.—Are your parents professors of religion? B.—Yes, sir. W.—Are they members of any church? B.—(After a little hesitation.) Yes sir, my father is a Roman Catholic, and my mother is a member of the Baptist Church. W.—A very wide difference in their views, surely. B.—Yes, sir, and father and mother never agreed very well. Our home has been a very unhappy one. Father has always been very fierce and angry with mother, and especially when she goes to meeting. But mother has stuck to her principles, and we children have stuck to mother. ("Her children arise up and call her blessed.") Prov. xxxi. 28.

Cor. of Canadian Baptist. J. H.

A South Carolina toast: "Woman—To her virtues, we give our love; to her beauty, our admiration; and to her hoops, we give—way." Punch says—and who would want better authority—that the reason editors are so apt to have their manners spoiled, is because they receive such a vast number of "evil communications."

Losing the Oak.

My little daughter sat silent while busy at her play. Finally she said with a sober face: "Mamma, this morning when I was at Miss W's she offered me an acorn. Now if I had taken it and planted it, I should have had an oak tree some day, shouldn't I?" And after a moment's farther reflection, she said with a little sigh, "But I didn't take the acorn."

"Ah! my darling, you are not the only one who has failed to have an oak for want of taking an acorn."

See, though it be an oft-told tale, how tiny circumstances effect great events; see the shadow of the magnificent forest-king. How delightful, how secure from the burning summer heat—not for a day nor a year, merely, but ages. Some hand planted that tree—one, perhaps a baby, took the acorn.

The things of beauty and strength which are or may be composed of its noble timber—the sturdy ship which defies the waves, is through this good gift of God made the thing she is; and even the cheerful firesides around which we so love to linger, are all proofs, each in their way, that somebody took the acorn.

This little lesson is, in its application, so wide, so various, that I hardly know where it begins or ends.

Every good impulse, each word of kindly counsel, even our failures and mistakes, may be to us the acorns which, taken, planted, and cultivated, may make us like the oak in a spiritual sense—a tree meet for the garden of God.

There are, in every human life, times when little turning-points occur. Acorns are offered; refuse them, pass them by, and in after years memory looks back, and says in bitterness of soul, "I did not take the acorn."

"Why did I not do such a duty? Why did I not at such a time speak a word for Jesus? Why was I ashamed? Why not speak one word of comfort to that sorrowing one? Why did I not form this good habit, or cultivate that desirable friendship? Alas! why did I not make Jesus my friend? Why did I become the indolent, inefficient being that I am."

"I did not take the precious germ of truth, of energy, of patient industry, that was at such or such a time offered to me."

"Perhaps another took it; but I did not. And oh! that I should in consequence be obliged to say, 'The harvest is past, the summer ended, and my soul not saved.'"

Reader, have you "a name to live while you are dead?" If you feel this, will you take this thought as the germ of a better life? Do not despise it. It is small, but we must not on that account reject it. God does not despise small things, even acorns. Take this, and with it will you go before him, and say, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? Then do something.

Diplomacy at ease.

Telegraphic rumors of an actual or prospective conference between the President of the United States and the envoys of Jeff. Davis having been set afloat, and the fact of such conference (if there were one) having been kept too close for our vigilant Washington correspondents, we have applied to a clairvoyant for an account of what transpired at this alleged interview, which we give below. (It is but fair to add that we do not rank clairvoyance among the exact sciences.)

THE CONFERENCE.

Secretary Nicolay.—Mr. President! Messrs Roman, &c., three gentlemen from the South, have called to see you on business.

President.—Gentlemen, be seated. What is it?

Gentlemen.—We have called, Mr. President, on behalf of the Confederate States, by whose government we are accredited, to arrange the terms of peace and amity with the government of which you are the head.

President.—Well, gentlemen, I am very anxious to have peace. What are your terms?

Gentlemen.—First we demand the immediate evacuation of Forts Sumter, Pickens, and any other strongholds or places, held by your government within the boundaries of the Confederate States.

President.—Anything else?

Gentlemen.—Next, we require you to evacuate New Mexico, Arizona, and the Indian Territory, and quit-claim them to the Confederacy.

President.—Anything more?

Gentlemen.—We require you to stipulate by treaty to catch and return our runaway niggers, just as though we hadn't seceded.

President.—Is that all?

Gentlemen.—We want a distinct stipulation that you will surrender and evacuate Washington as soon as we can coax Virginia and Maryland to join us.

President.—Couldn't you think of something else?

Gentlemen.—We believe that will do for the present.

President.—Very well, gentlemen; there's the door. Exit Gents.—Tribune.

MINISTERS' RIGHT TO VOTE.—As Rev. Mr. Field, who lived in Vermont several years ago, went to deposit his vote, the officer who received it being a friend and parishoner, but of Opposition politics, remarked: "I am sorry, Mr. Field, to see you here." "Why?" asked Mr. Field. "Because," said the officer, "Christ said His kingdom was not of this world." "Has no one a right to vote," said Mr. Field, "unless he belongs to the kingdom of Satan?"

Delinquent Subscribers.

How happy are they Whom the editors pay, And have squared up for one year or more. Tongue cannot express The great joy of the press, When delinquents have paid up the old score.

Printers all the day long Work hard for a song— A fate that is hard, all agree— They have worked night and day, And of course want their pay, To buy sugar, and coffee, and tea.

One would hardly believe What small sums they receive, For the paper addressed to each name; But the price is so small, That the good people all, Will pay up for fear of the shame.

The Great Eastern in a Storm.

The subjoined is an account of a series of disasters which befell the Great Eastern during the violent gale on the 5th inst., on the passage from Liverpool to New York:

"At 4 o'clock in the morning, a strong southerly gale sprang up, which increased in severity until 9 o'clock, when it became almost a hurricane. The variations of the wind are rated in the ship's log by figures—1 representing the mildest breeze, and 10 the strongest tempest. This gale was set down at 9. A great deal of rain fell, and the sea was uncommonly high. The ship now began to roll in a manner which none of the officers had ever anticipated. So confident had every body been, as regarded her steadiness under any circumstances, that the ordinary precautions of securing furniture and moveables had not been taken. The large tables in the saloons, which had not been screwed down, were all overturned, and piled, together with chairs and lounges, in a broken heap. Some of the sofas started, with their occupants, on little sliding voyages about the cabins, and one passenger, careless of his balance, was thrown some distance, with such violence as to break away part of the bannister against which he fell. Several breakfasts and lunches were wrecked in the ordinary course of things, but the table-guards prevented any general devastations in this respect. On the whole the passengers did not suffer much discomfort, for, with all the rolling, the motion was so gradual, and free from sudden shocks, that no person found difficulty in accommodating himself to it.

Early in the afternoon one of the heavy chain gangs which held the gaff of the foremast in its place, broke in two, leaving the huge spar almost wholly unsupported on one side. This chain like others which afterwards parted, was supposed to have been ill-adjusted, and also to have rusted to such a degree as to render it unequal to the great strain now imposed upon it. The gaff, a timber of some eighteen hundred weight, began to sway back and forth with each lurch of the ship, and presently flew through the air at full swing, a long chain which from its end like a whiplash, snapping through the rigging at the same time, and causing considerable damage. It not only cut in and out remorselessly among the ropes, but also endangered one of the tall smoke funnels, against which it was flung with immense force each minute. Several of the skylights of the grand saloon were broken in by the fragments of the rigging which fell upon them. It was thought necessary to ask all the ladies to withdraw from the saloon, lest they should suffer inconvenience in case of the smoke funnel (which passes through it) being torn away. In the course of an hour the gaff was secured and lowered, the furniture below having meanwhile been set to rights and properly fastened down.

To prevent, if possible, any further misadventures with the masts, it was decided to lower the five remaining gaffs. In order to accomplish this the more readily, the vessel was turned from her course and brought head to wind. The cessation of motion was instantaneous, and the quiet of the four preceding days at once restored. But before much had been done toward getting down the spars, it was attempted to resume the direct course, at half speed. The result was unlucky. The ship was met and struck by a heavy sea, the shock of which knocked one of the main gaffs completely out of its jaw or socket, and left it dangling precariously by chains. This, with rather more difficulty than the other, was in turn secured, and the ship was again put off its course with the same success as before. But the accidents of the day were not ended. Just as one of the remaining gaffs began to be lowered, it broke loose, and fell from its place to the deck, splintering a companion-way and breaking the glass of three or four dining saloon skylights, to the particular consternation of the passengers who were dining at the time.

Another, and more serious casualty occurred. A boatswain's mate got entangled in the tackle and suffered a serious fracture of the leg—so serious that his recovery, it was found, would depend upon a long interval of rest, to enable him to take which, without loss, a present of two hundred dollars was subscribed and given him by the passengers.

This storm was quite sufficient to test the real powers of the Great Eastern. To any other ship afloat it would doubtless have been a disastrous experience. The Great Eastern escaped without the slightest injury, save the unimportant ones before mentioned, which were due to entirely exceptional circumstances. On examination, after the gale had subsided, it was found that no perceptible strain or displacement could be detected, even in the most delicate works.

The engines operated admirably throughout. It was also distinctly settled that no advantage could be gained from the use of her sails, beyond the negative use of steadying the ship under certain conditions.—New York Tribune.

Oil Well Explosion and Terrible Loss of Life.

The following account of a terrific scene at an oil well in Pennsylvania is so singular and extraordinary, that we give it to our readers:—

The telegraph a few days since, brought information of a terrible oil well explosion in the Pennsylvania oil region, by which eighteen persons lost their lives. Full particulars have now come to hand in the Tideoute (Pa.) correspondence of the Buffalo Courier. It was a most appalling catastrophe. A well at Tideout, belonging to Messrs. Hawley & Merreck, had been drilled to a depth of three hundred feet, when on the evening of the 27th inst., a sudden rush of oil threw out the drill, and gushed up in the air forty feet above the surface of the ground. The account continues:

"At the least computation it was throwing from 70 to 100 barrels an hour. Above this mass of oil, the gas or benzine rose in a cloud, for fifty or sixty feet. As soon as the oil commenced gushing forth all the fires of engines in the neighbourhood were immediately extinguished. At about half past 7 as a large number of men and boys were around the well engaged in saving the oil, the gas from the well which had spread in every direction, took fire from the engine of a well over 400 rods distant when in a second the whole air was in a flame, with a crash and a roar like discharges from a park of artillery.

As soon as the gas took fire, the head of the jet of oil was in a furious blaze, and falling like water from a fountain over a hundred feet in diameter; each drop of oil came down a blazing globe of boiling oil. Instantly the ground was in a flame, constantly increased and augmented by falling oil. At once a scene of indescribable horror took place. Scores were thrown flat, and for a distance of twenty feet, and numbers horribly burned, others rushing blazing from the spot, shrieking and screaming in their anguish.

Just within the circle of the flames could be seen four bodies boiling in the seething oil, and one man who had been digging at a ditch to convey away the oil to a lower part of the ground was killed as he dug, and could be seen as he fell over the handle of the spade, roasting in the fierce element. Mr. H. R. Rouse, of the firm of Rouse, Mitchel & Brown, of the village of Enterprise, Warren Co., a gentleman largely interested in wells in this locality, and whose income from them amounted to \$100 a day, was standing near the pit and was blown twenty feet by the explosion. He got up and ran ten or fifteen feet further, and was dragged out by two men, and conveyed to a shanty some distance from the well. When he arrived not a vestige of clothing was left upon him except his stockings and boots. His hair was burned off, as well as his finger nails, his ears and eyelids, while the balls of his eyes were crisped to nothingness. In this condition he lived nine hours, made his will, leaving \$100,000 to the poor of Warren Co. He died, however without singing his name.

In addition to Mr. Rouse, the following were taken out of the flames dead. Two Messrs. Walker, brothers, of Claron county, Pa. Wesley Skinner, engineer of Dobb's well from Wattleburg, Pa. A man named Stevens, from Cattaraugus county, New York. A Mr. Judd Masson, residence unknown. A boy named Albert Gardner, from Michigan.

The above were recognized. In addition there are the skeletons of five others visible within the circle of flame, and as many are missing—strangers, who came to witness the operations of the wells. It is supposed that a number of others have been burned to a powder, close by the mouth of the well.

Some thirty-four were seriously injured, besides others slightly.

At the time of the explosion, everything in the neighbourhood—sixty or seventy rods—took fire and shanties, derrick, engine house, dwellings, were at once involved in flames. The boiler of Dobb's well eighty rods from the original fire, blew up with a tremendous explosion, killing instantly the engineer. Wesley Skinner, adding another intensity to the evening's horrors. At this time the whole air was on fire. The jet of oil rushing up forty feet, was almost a pillar of livid flame, while the gas above it, to the distance of a hundred yards, and apparently licking the clouds with its furious tongues of heat. All this time, during this tremendous combustion, the sounds of the explosions and burnings were so tremendous and continuous that they could be compared to nothing but the rushing of a hurricane or a tornado through the forest. The heat of the fire was so intense that no one could approach within 150 feet without scorching their skin or garments. It was the most frightful and yet the grandest pyrotechnic display ever vouchsafed to a human being.

On Friday morning the oil was still rushing up, on fire, with the same regularity and speed, throwing, it was calculated, at least 100 bris. an hour, covering an immense space with flaming oil—a loss to the proprietors of the well of from \$20,000 to \$25,000 daily. No human power can extinguish the flames, and the oil must burn on until the well is exhausted. No pen can describe its fierceness—no tongue describe the magnitude of its horrors.

At a church collection for missions, the preacher said: "My Christian brethren, let me caution those of you who put in buttons, not to break off the eyes. It spoils them for use and they will not pass among the heathen for coin."