

Youth's Department.

Bible Lessons.

Sunday, November 17th, 1861.

Read—MATT. XXIII. 23-39: Further reproofs of the Scribes and Pharisees. GENESIS I. 14-26: Joseph's death.

Recite—MATTHEW XXIII. 1-3.

Sunday, November 24th, 1861.

Read—MATT. XXIV. 1-14: Christ's predictions. EXODUS II. 1-10: Moses' birth.

Recite—MATTHEW XXIII. 37-39.

"Search the Scriptures."

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

91. Which of David's mighty men slew the brother of the Giant Goliath?

92. Another near relative of the Giant having six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, was killed by one of David's valiant followers.—By whom?

Answers to questions given last week:—

89. Gen. xxvii. 27, 28; compared with Gen. xl. 15.

90. Eve; Achar; Nadab and Abihu; Jonah; Saul, the disobedient prophet; Shimci; the Israelites going up to smite the Canaanites, when expressly commanded by Moses not to go; Hiel, the Bethelite; the Sabbath-breaker; Uzzah; and Lot's wife.

The Sentinel and the Spy.

A sentinel having been placed one day to guard a certain fort, and see that no improper intruders gained an entrance, was accosted by a spy, sent by an enemy to find out, if possible, where the fortress might be assailed with success; and as he appeared in the grab, and with the countenance of a simple countryman, the sentinel had no suspicion of the cheat. He, however, was determined to be very vigilant, and say nothing that could compromise the safety of his charge.

"You have a very important place to take care of here," said the spy.

"Very," replied the sentinel.

"And you have a brave and watchful set of comrades?"

"Very," replied the sentinel, again.

"And I think you must be very thirsty this hot weather," continued the spy.

"Very," answered the sentinel once more.

So far the sentinel thought he had said nothing that could, by any possibility, be turned to his disadvantage, and determined not to utter another word. But the spy thought differently, and felt satisfied from the last answer that he must accomplish his scheme.

"Poor man," said the spy, "I feel for you very much, and have got some drink for you in a bottle here, to which you are welcome, and which I am sure will very much refresh you."

The sentinel answered not a word; but as he thought a draught of liquor to a thirsty soldier could not possibly endanger the safety of the fort he accepted the offer, and put the bottle to his mouth. Upon tasting it, he found it to be very pleasant, and so drank off the whole of the contents. The spy departed, and the sentinel, shouldering his musket, marched backward and forwards before the gate of the fortress, as usual. But after a little time he began to feel giddy and drowsy, until at last he laid down and fell fast asleep. The liquor which he had drunk was of an intoxicating nature, and the poor sentinel could not resist its effects. The spy, knowing very well what would happen, called together his comrades, and marched toward the fortress, where they found the sentinel asleep on the ground; him they immediately stabbed to the heart; and as the garrison had no notice of the enemy's approach, they were taken by surprise, and all of them slain or taken prisoners.

THE MORAL.—We cannot be too vigilant in guarding against the first approaches of the tempter; for a single word may expose our weak point, and show the enemy where he may be able to subdue us; and a single action may lead to our ruin. Many a young man has begun life with the determination to be very discreet and watchful in his conduct, but has been thrown off his guard by some wily companion, and then betrayed into sin.

Living forever.

I must live forever—not this body, but I. The body may be consigned to the flames and reduced to ashes; or it may lie down in the old family burying-ground and moulder back to its original dust with the dear ones who have gone before. Still I must live. I must live, when the names of Alexander, Washington, Wellington are forgotten. When the memory of Waterloo, Solferino, and the rebellion of '61 shall have perished; when the morning stars that sang together at creation's birth shall have sung earth's requiem, I shall live. Nay, when those stars themselves shall have been blotted out, I shall only have begun to live; and I must live forever and ever. A fearful trust is committed to me, which I can never lay down.

Rowland Hill used to say, see there be no sermon without three Rs in it: Ruin by the fall, Righteousness by Christ, and Regeneration by the Spirit.

Afflictions always make us better, or leave us worse; they never leave us in the same state they found us.

American News.

The following articles were crowded out from our last issue. As they contain information of the current events of the great struggle going on between the North and South, we insert them for the benefit of those who would not otherwise see them, notwithstanding they are a few days behind time.

The War &c.

THE GREAT NAVAL EXPEDITION.

The injunction to secrecy in regard to the preparations for the great naval expedition which is to operate on the Southern coast, has been removed by the Government since the sailing of the fleet, and we are enabled to give the following particulars:

The expedition is the joint work of the Navy and War Departments. It was meant to have been ready by the middle of September, and the Navy Department had its vessels ready then. It was, however, impossible to get ready the immense material of the expedition by that time; and though everybody concerned worked most diligently, it was not until October 13th that the transports were laden, and the final shipments of troops ready to be begun. The expedition consist of the following vessels:

Table with 2 columns: Steamers, Guns. Includes Flag ship Wabash, Ship Minnesota, Ship Roanoke.

Table with 2 columns: Sailing vessels, Tons. Includes Frigate St. Lawrence, Sloop-of-War Vandalia, Sloop-of-War Jamestown, Sloop-of-War Cumberland, Sloop-of-War Savannah, Sloop-of-War Dale.

Table with 3 columns: Gunboats, Names, Tons. Includes Albatross, Curlew, Harriet Lane, James Adger, Mount Vernon, Pawnee, Pocahontas, Seminole, Yankee, Alabama, Dale, Iroquois, Mohican, New London, Pembina, Quaker City, Seneca, Young America, Augustus, Florida, Isaac Smith, Monticello, Ottawa, Penguin, R. B. Forbes, Undrila.

The gunboats generally carry a 11-inch Dahlgren forward, and are armed besides with one rifled gun and from two to four 24 pounders.

The ferry boats are capable of carrying from 500 to 900 men, and are generally armed with 7 guns each. The following is a list of those sent with the expedition: Baltimore, Commodore Perry, Eagle, Ellen, Ethan Allen, Mayflower, Pocahontas, Star, Stepping Stone, Whitehall.

Table with 3 columns: Steamers, Tons, Tons. Includes Ariel, Atlantic, Alabama, Baltic, Belvidere, Ben Deford, Champion, Cahawba, Cozacoalcos, Daniel Webster, De Soto, Empire City, Ericsson, Florida, Illinois, Lecust Point, Marion, Matanzas, Mercedes, Ocean Queen, Parksburg, Philadelphia, Potomac, Roanoke, Santiago de Cuba, Spaulding, Star of the South, Vanderbilt, Winfield Scott.

Table with 3 columns: SALING VESSELS, Tonnage, Tonnage. Includes Great Republic, Ocean Express, Courier, Zenas Coffin, Golden Eagle, Gem of the Seas.

All the transports are fully armed, and have a crew on board to work the guns. Several transports were added to the fleet at Fortress Monroe, and the entire Atlantic Squadron will cooperate with the expedition. The expedition consists in all of eighty vessels.

The naval part of the expedition is under command of Commodore J. F. Dupont. He is a native of New Jersey, but is now a citizen of Delaware. Captain Dupont entered the Navy in 1815. He has therefore been in the service forty-six years; of which twenty-one have been passed in service at sea, and eight years and a half in shore duty, in our various navy yards.

The fleet captain is Commodore Charles H. Davis, who stands in the revised Navy list nearly at the head of the commanders. He is counted among the ablest and most skilful officers in the service.

The land force consists of between 30,000 and 40,000 picked soldiers, under the command of General Thos. W. Sherman. His headquarters are on board the Atlantic, the largest of the steam transports.

One thousand negroes are taken to labor on the fortifications established along the coast. They are mostly fugitives from Virginia.

All the best pilots belonging to New York have been taken, and also a number of skilful and trusty coasting captains from Cape Cod and along shore.

Of horses the expedition has nearly fifteen hundred. They are mostly on board the Great Republic, Vanderbilt, Ocean Queen, Baltic, and Ericsson. A great number of army transportation waggons are provided, over and above those which belong to each regiment, and which the troops took away with them. Extra camp equipage of every description is also provided, and a great number of extra arms and infantry equipments. To drive the extra transport waggons the government enlisted in New York near two hundred professional stage drivers. A curious item in the stores carried by the expedition consist in several hundred foot balls. These were put on board for the exercise of such portions of the army as may remain in garrison where a landing is made, and where defences will of course be at once erected.

The following is an accurate table of distances from Hampton Roads, etc:

Table with 2 columns: From Hampton Roads to Hatteras, Hatteras to Beaufort, to Charleston, to Port Royal, to Savannah, to Brunswick.

The fleet, when under steam, with transports in tow, will make seven knots per hour, if the wind is not adverse. Under sail, with fair wind and good weather, the progress will be more rapid.—Boston Courier.

The details of the late battle near Leesburg have come to hand during the past week, and present a most melancholy spectacle of loss and route of the Federal forces. The following from the Philadelphia Press will give some idea of the battle field.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DETAILS—INCIDENTS OF THE BATTLE.

Before proceeding, let me say a word relative to the nature of the country around Conrad's Ferry, and it may serve to explain the nature of the engagement. The Blue Ridge branches off towards Harper's Ferry, where the Potomac forces its way through by an extraordinary effort of nature. The range of mountain extends into Maryland, and lines the horizon above the Potomac, terminating in steep bluffs, and occasionally undulating like the Edward's Ferry. One of these bluffs rises on the Virginia shore above Conrad's Ferry. I should take it to be about fifty or a hundred feet high. It is only approached by a single bridle path, which winds upward, and which can only be traversed with great caution. Our men could only ascend in single file, and even then with difficulty; and in many respects the landing appeared to be as perilous as Wolfe's celebrated ascent of the Heights of Abraham. In the middle of the Potomac, and rather closer, if anything, to the Maryland than the Virginia shore, is an island about a mile long, or perhaps less, and known as Harrison's Island, and in width a furlong or two. In crossing, therefore, our troops had to disembark on the island, and re-embark, before they could attain the other shore, which made the operation even more tedious than it would have been under ordinary circumstances.

The means of transport consisted of two miserable flat-boats, capable of carrying thirty men each, and a metallic life-boat, carrying ten men. They were managed by inexperienced boatmen, who knew nothing of the river, and were compelled to pole their craft through the water. The current was very strong, and in some cases boat loads were swept down the river past the landing place. On reaching the island, they crossed and were taken to the Virginia shore in boats equally as worthless as those which brought them from Maryland. Indeed, so slowly were the troops transported that it was far into the afternoon before the whole battalion reached Virginia. The battalion numbered in all about six hundred men. Adjutant Baker remained on the Maryland shore to superintend transportation.

Climbing up the bluff, the battalion formed in the line of battle, in a field some hundred yards in a direct line from the shore. In the meantime, a company of Massachusetts Fifteenth, which had been in the advance as skirmishers, came upon a party of rebels of the Eighth Virginia Regiment, who were in a field of undergrowth. They fired, the rebels retreated, and the Massachusetts men, afraid they would give the alarm, continued in eager pursuit in the direction of Leesburg, until they lost sight of the enemy. Proceeding around a piece of woods however, they came suddenly upon a ravine behind which the enemy had sheltered. The rebels rose, fired a volley into the Massachusetts men with fearful effect, and ran into the woods. Afraid of an ambush, the Federals did not pursue them, but commenced to fall back to the main body, carrying their dead and wounded.

The suspicion that the woods contained a large body of concealed rebels was just, for the moment the retreat commenced a regiment issued from the trees and fired. The Massachusetts men fought bravely, slowly retreating, and suffering great loss. Baker heard the firing, and with his whole force advanced to their relief, and the action became general. This was the way in which the battle really commenced.

The ground was exceedingly unfavourable to our forces. On each side of them was a corn-field, in front was a wood and very dense undergrowth, extending to their right and left. In the undergrowth the rebels were concealed, while sharpshooters were stationed in the trees to pick off the officers—and to this cause is generally attributed our large loss of captains and line-officers. Col. Baker himself saw a rebel in a tree, and pointed him out to a soldier, who brought him down. When the main body of our forces advanced the pursuing rebels came down with a yell, halted suddenly, and then retreated among the trees and undergrowth. During this charge Lieut. Berry, of a Virginia regiment, was taken prisoner by Captain Markoe and a private of Company A. He had been a clerk in our departments until last spring, when he went to Virginia and joined the rebel army.

The fight which had been thus precipitated upon Col. Baker, and which certainly was not anticipated by our men, now commenced in terrible earnest. The rebels numbered over four thousand men. Colonel Baker maintained his ground; his men fought with desperate valor, and gallantly held their ground, in the hope that reinforcements would arrive, either from General Gorman on the left, or from their friends in the rear, who were endeavoring to cross. But the endeavor to cross was a vain one. The reinforcement came over so slowly that I am assured that hardly enough of our men arrived to take the place of the killed and wounded.

The following is from the N. Y. World:

Large numbers of the Northern troops had anticipated his order; for an hour the shore had been lined with stragglers and wearied men.— Still, the re-inforcing business had not ceased from the island, and during the fiercest of the action the two boats which were bringing away the dead and wounded, returned from each trip laden with the residue of the Tammany and Massachusetts regiment. A distressing event occurred which I have not seen elsewhere recorded. The life-boat proved a death-boat soonest of the two, swamping, from some cause while conveying to the battle-field the last twenty members of the Tammany companies. Nearly all the occupants were drowned, and only one boat remained for the use of our overpowered and retreating forces. Down the hill they came in every direction and without order, hotly followed by the rebels to their very descent. Then the pursuers paused too cautiously to meet the chance of volleys from Harrison's Island, but throwing a plunging fire upon the retiring loyalists, and aiming ruthlessly at the hundreds trying to swim the rapid river channel. Why should I describe that final scene?—the tumult and agony of that headlong descent, the clamor and crowd along the shore, the rush into one wretched skiff, already over-laden, with the wounded men, which forced it beneath the surface and brought the horror of death by water upon men who had already faced the battle-field. I recoil from thinking of those who, struck down by the fire from above, slipped in their own blood upon the clayey river bank; of those who wasted too feeble strength in swimming half way across the cruel stream; of the shouts for help where no help came. But I record with satisfaction the determination of Beiral and his few associates, who dragged their cannon to the edge of the hill, rolling it over and beyond the enemy's reach. And what more gallant than the stubborn refusal of the beleaguered colonels to surrender while the enemy were decimating their commands from the bluffs above? Led by Cogswell and Lee several organized companies charged up at their tormentors, once and again returning dangerous volleys from our side. At all events they kept the enemy at bay till long after night-fall closed upon the scene. All who could escape to the island had escaped, and midnight was close at hand before the two colonels and the other field officers still on the shore saw that their duty was accomplished, and surrendered themselves and the remnant of their commands to the enemy. The North is indignant at the recklessness which has lost us such brave men, but defeat this time had its laurels, and the herald who brings tidings of our losses and repulse tells us also that the old Norse chivalry is still aglow, and has offered its richest life-blood to atone for the error that caused the sacrifice.

The very skies were pitiless that evening.— Oh the misery of the black tempestuous night, when the rain poured down upon that narrow island where those who escaped the flood and field were bivouacked, huddled together, bereft of comrades-in-arms! Scores of the dead were guarded by sullen watchers; the wounded were tended in every possible shelter; the river swelled in a kind of savage triumph over the havoc it had made, its current darkling and murmuring on the east and west; while high on that fatal opposite steep lay those whose occupancy even traitors could not then forbid, with pale faces upturned to the darkness of the heavens.— Next morning the island was evacuated in view of rebel preparations enforcing such a movement. First, however, boat loads of dead and wounded were brought from the battle-field under a flag of truce, and a despatch had been published in Washington stating that General Stone had successfully thrown his forces across the Potomac and held his position secure against any hostile force.

THE FEDERAL LOSSES.

Let us sum up the statistics of this conflict.— The total number of Federal troops who crossed the Virginia Channel was about 1853, officers and men. Of these 653 belonged to the Massachusetts Fifteenth, 340 to the Massachusetts Twentieth, about 360 to the Tammany Regiment, and 570 to the first Battalion of the First California.

Total engaged in the fight, 1853; total losses, 953; field officers crossing, 11; returning uninjured, 8; line officers crossing, 75; returning uninjured, 30.

ATTEMPTED ESCAPE OF A STATE PRISONER FROM FORT LAFAYETTE.

On Sunday morning, between one and two o'clock, one of the sentinels on the dock which surrounds Fort Lafayette had his attention attracted to one of the port-holes in the fort by a strange noise. He subsequently shaped his movements in reference to that spot, and soon saw that one of the secessionist prisoners was endeavouring to make his escape. Mr. Lowber, the gentleman who was arrested some time since at Crestline, Ohio, bearing despatches for the Confederacy, was the individual who was thus engaged in offering defiance to the strong walls of the fort. It appears that Lowber had procured a key which fitted the padlock which fastened the grating of the port-hole, and that he had opened the grating. He had also been provided with a new washtub and a rope, also a life-preserver. He had \$47 50 in gold and his gold watch packed in a bladder and fastened in one of his pockets. Having packed his valise, he placed it in the tub; he then fastened the rope to the tub, let the tub out of the port-hole, and, after securing the rope, bid good by to Fort Lafayette and entered the tub himself.— He then set sail for the ground, all the while watched by the sentinel, who allowed Mr. Lowber, his tub and its cargo to land on the dock in safety.

But no sooner had he landed than he was com-