

Youth's Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30TH, 1862.

Read—JOHN XV. 16-27: Christ's discourse continued. DEUT. XXXII. 36-52: Conclusion of Moses' song. Recite—JOHN XV. 1-4.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 1862.

Read—JOHN XVI. 1-16: The Holy Spirit promised. DEUT. XXXIII. 1-12: The majesty of God. Recite—JOHN XV. 20-22.

"SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES."

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

- 199. What emblems of the resurrection have we in nature? 200. Did the Roman soldiers disprove the resurrection of Christ, or substantiate it?

Answers to questions given last week:—

- 197. In Job xix. 25, 26, and Daniel xii. 2. 198. Yes: the Shunamite's son, 2 Kings iv. 32-37; the widow's son, Luke vii. 12-15; and Lazarus, John xi. 43, 44.

The Jutlander and his coffin.

The apathy and shrinking shyness of the Southerners in regard to coffins and the ceremonies of the grave, is singularly contrasted by the fondness manifested by the hardy Jutlanders for everything connected with the subject. It would almost appear that in Denmark the coffin is the nucleus and centre of the end of agreeable ideas—pensive trains of thought, perhaps, but not undelighting in their melancholy to the northern mind. Follow the Danish artisan as he leaves the workshop where he has been toiling all day, and whither does he go? Not, like the Frenchman or Italian, to join in the mazy dance to the sound of mirthful music; not, like the bluff Englishman, or staid German, to the public-house to smoke his pipe and quaff his evening beer; nothing of the kind, he wends his way quietly home; there he lights his candle, pulls off his coat once more, and works industriously and carefully for a couple of hours ere he lies down to sleep—at what do you think? Simply at making his coffin. That is the labour of love which weans him from his slumbers, and stands to him in the place of pleasure and self-indulgence. Not till that indispensable task is finished will he dream of forming any attachment, or preparing for the marriage state. After the coffin is finished, and installed as a handsome article of furniture in his cabin, he will be assailable perhaps by the charms of Elsa or Ruda and marry and have a family; but he will keep his affection for the coffin nevertheless; and the odds are that he will go on carving and inlaying and beautifying it up to the date of his last illness and death. This mortuary relish is by no means confined to the industrial class, or to any class, in Denmark, but seems to be innate in all ranks: There is a universal appetite for burial splendour and monumental reputation in some shape or other. Those who can afford it best are seen to go the most extraordinary lengths. Thus, wealthy ladies have been known to spend as much as 2,000*l.* in the purchase of coffins of solid silver, which they exhibit as so much valuable plate during their lives, and repose in after death. Judges and magistrates will purchase mural positions in churches while yet hale and hearty, and prepare elaborate designs with the utmost gusto, which can only be executed when they are dead. Others will sit to artists and sculptors for pictures and busts to be reared over their tombs; and others, again, will leave enormous sums of money to be paid for the composition of oratorical eulogiums to be pronounced over their graves.—Leisure Hour.

The King of Dahomey again.

A horrible story of Dahomian atrocity is reported by Commander Perry, of her Majesty's ship, Griffin. That officer sends to the Governor of Lagos the narrative of a Mr. Euschart, a trust-worthy Dutch merchant, who had been to Abomey by the very pressing "invitation" of the King, and who witnessed horrors quite equaling, if not exceeding, the worst tales told of that renowned slaughter-house. Mr. Euschart was received by the King seated on a raised dais, and surrounded by Amazons. Thence he was taken to the market-place, where large numbers of human heads, fresh and gory, were ranged in rows, and where, crucified upon a tree, was the dead body of Mr. William Doherty (a Sierre Leone man), late a missionary at Ishagga. Several days later, Mr. Euschart was again brought before the King in the market-place, this time to see the actual execution of a fresh batch of victims. But it was not till the visitor had been in Abomey nearly a month that the "Grand Custom," at which the King was so anxious to have a European witness present, took place. Sixteen men and sixteen women, all prisoners taken at the recent capture of Ishagga, having first been made to drink the King's health, were butchered in the most frightful manner, and their blood mixed with that of animals sacrificed with them. Then a review of the troops took place, and the King promised them the sack of Abbeokuta in November next. It appears that this black monster has an army of some 50,000 troops—including 10,000 Amazons—well armed, and with a fair proportion of artillery. There seems every reason to suppose that the King will keep his promise, and that fresh conquests, to be followed by fresh massacres, will shortly take place.

Deferred Items.

A man in Richmond has been sentenced to wear a barrel shirt through the city, and was sent to hard labor in the fort for 6 months for smuggling liquor into the city.

FROST IN NEW ORLEANS.—On the morning of 15th of October there was a frost in New Orleans. The ground was white; and the ladies had been wearing furs several days because of the cold.

At the New York trade sale, 557 copies of W. H. Russell's letters were offered, but the author's name was greeted with hisses, and the books found reluctant purchasers at two cents a copy.

DR. BELLOWS says that McClellan remarked (privately), as he watched the obstinate fighting of the rebels at Antietam and saw them retiring in perfect order in the midst of the most frightful carnage:—"What terrific neighbors these would be! We must conquer them or they will us!"

APPLAUSE IN CHURCH.—Rev. Henry Ward Beecher preached a sermon recently in his church at Brooklyn, New York, on the President's emancipation proclamation. He denounced as traitors all opposed to the terms of that document, whether living North or South, saying there were but two parties, traitors and those who stood by the President. Notwithstanding the character of the place, loud applause frequently interrupted his remarks.

PROOF-READING OF The Times.—No fewer than twelve individuals are daily employed in what is technically termed "proof-reading" the London Times. The chief "proof reader," a gentleman of finished education, receives an editorial salary—but has to forfeit one guinea for every typographical error, even a turned letter, in a day's impression, but if he has marked the error on the proof, the compositor, who neglected to correct it, pays the forfeit.

Highly important gun experiments have again been tried at Shoeburyness. The new Whitworth shell, weighing 131 pounds, have proved itself most destructive. At 600 yards it passed clean through a formidable iron and wood target as if it were a punch, and afterward exploded with terrific force. The charge of powder was 25 pounds. Mr. Whitworth was warmly congratulated on his success.

Seven millions and a half of sovereigns, and over a million of half-sovereigns, were coined last year in England. The total value of all the pieces coined since 1852 to the beginning of the present year is about £64,000,000.

DESTRUCTION OF AN ISLAND.—The Friend of India says:—

"The Island of Makian, formerly so fertile, has been completely laid waste by volcanic eruption. Not one of its 4000 inhabitants remain upon it, and there is not a blade of grass to be seen. The twelve villages which were to be found upon the island have been more or less destroyed. Some of them have been buried to the depth of thirty or forty feet under sand, stone and ashes. How many of the inhabitants have found their graves by this calamity has not been fully ascertained, but it is reported that out of Bohawa alone (a village of about 1600 souls) only about half made their escape. The bodies of sixty-three persons have been found under the ruins of the mosque in the principal village, while about sixty persons were found suffocated in a cave."

Several boys in Philadelphia were playing John Brown, i. e., going through the form of hanging. At first they used a dog as their victim, when some of the boys playfully placed the strap around the neck of Chas. H. Alburger, aged fourteen years, and proceeded, by means of a crank, to draw him from the earth. Unfortunately the strap tightened, and he was hung in earnest. He was cut down after two minutes, but the exertions of five physicians failed to restore him, and he expired in great agony the day following.

NEW YORK IMPUDENCE.—The New York Herald in speaking of the military preparations in Canada says:—"They will only serve to place within our reach, in the event of a war with England, large depots of military stores and ammunition. As to the actual military force of Canada being strengthened by further additions from the English army, no fears need be entertained on that score. England had quite enough of the expense which she incurred in sending out eight or ten regiments last year, and they accordingly informed the Canadians that they must for the future provide for the defence of their own territory. After all, what could the small additional number of troops that England might spare from her limited army effect in a war with us. We surrendered, without missing them, at Harper's Ferry, as many regiments as she sent out to carry on a war with the United States!"

WRETCHEDNESS IN SCOTLAND.—In the free Presbytery of Edinburgh, lately Dr. Begg called attention to the startling facts as to house accommodation in Scotland, recently published in the census returns. Surely, when we learn that 7,964 families in Scotland live in houses with no windows; and that in Glasgow 100,000 and in Edinburgh 50,000 persons live crowded in houses of only one apartment, where young and old, male and female are huddled together, we cannot resist the conclusion that something is radically wrong. Would the drink and drink traffic not throw some light on this case if they were properly investigated?—Scottish Cor. Alliance, Aug. 2.

A column for Sunday School Teachers.

THE FIRST SENTENCE.

"If people in Churches are permitted for even one minute, at the beginning of a sermon, to settle themselves, bodily and mentally, into the attitude of inattention, and of thinking of something other than the preacher's words, the preacher will hardly catch them up again. He will hardly, by any amount of earnestness, eloquence, pointedness or oddity, gain that universal sympathetic interest of which he flung away his chance by some long, involved, incoherent and dull sentence at starting."

We extract this paragraph from a very readable and entertaining, as well as sensible volume—"Recreations of a Country Parson"—for we are very sure that it has a much wider and not less significant application if for "preacher" we read "teacher."

It has often surprised us to observe the apparent thoughtlessness or indifference with which teachers sometimes commence their work. Perhaps they have been obliged to make inconvenient haste to reach their post in season, and possibly they have suffered their minds to be diverted on the way; and, even if no hindrance of this kind has occurred, they have not given such heed to the subject matter of the lesson they are about to teach, as to impress it with an absorbing influence upon their thoughts. If the truths to be inculcated have taken fast hold of their consciences, and if they appreciate in any proper degree the nature of the service in which they are about to engage, we can scarcely suppose their minds could be easily diverted from the matter in hand.

It is not to be expected of those who take no pains to prepare their minds or hearts for the work of Sunday-school teaching, that they should be much concerned as to the impressiveness of a lesson, but to those who give all diligence to qualify themselves for such a high service, and who really desire to be the means of turning souls to Christ, the point we are considering is of no little importance.

Many teachers seem to think that the first few minutes of a lesson are merely prefatory. They do not expect to get into the earnest work of teaching until these are spent, and hence it often happens that by the time their teacher is ready for the lesson, the class is ready for anything but the lesson.

Look at that group of six or eight restless, eager, playful, perhaps mischievous boys. The preliminary exercises of a school—Scripture, hymn and prayer are over—with what effects upon their minds or hearts we will not inquire. Postures are duly adjusted, and eyes and ears are attent to the first words of the teacher. The lesson is before them all in black and white. It is John iii. 1-17, and the voice of the teacher is heard saying,

Who came in those days?

Not a very exciting question, we must admit, especially as the answer is fairly printed in the book, and is a simple monosyllable—John. While the echo of this answer dies upon the ear, there comes another question—not more fitted, perhaps than the former to awaken the curiosity of the class. Here it is:

What is meant by those days?

How much bustle and animation may be occasioned by such an inquiry will not surprise us to learn that it is the last question of the lesson that receives the attention of the class; and if so, whose fault is it?

If the paragraph we have placed at the head of this article is substantially true, is it not obvious that teachers should study to make the opening of a lesson attractive? Is it not worth thought and study, before the moment of action arrives, how this can be accomplished? We presume few orators meditate a speech without considering what method to adopt to secure the sympathy of an audience addressed from the pulpit or the platform, and especially how to begin so as to arrest their attention, and how to close so as to reward it.

Now, what we have to say to our readers is simply this—that if they lose or misimprove the first few minutes of time to be occupied in a Sunday-school lesson, and suffer the thoughts of the class to be so divided and scattered that the attempt to summon them to a central point is fruitless, the neglect is not easily repaired. That lesson is almost certain to be comparatively ineffective, and it requires no very frequent repetition of such a failure to neutralize his entire influence and blast his success as a teacher. Let it be our care to study the methods of winning and holding the attention of young minds. We are, required "to seek out acceptable words," and there is no more appropriate and necessary study for a teacher of babes" in knowledge, than the ways of access to their confidence and sympathy.

If "the proper study of mankind is man," we may safely say that the proper study of a Sunday-school teacher is a child.—Sunday-school World.

THE FINISHED GARMENT.—A christian man's life is laid in the loom of time to a pattern which he does not see, but God does, and his heart is a shuttle. On one side of the loom is sorrow, and on the other is joy; and the shuttle, struck alternately by each, flies back and forth carrying the thread, which is white or black as the pattern needs; and, in the end when God shall lift up the finished garment, and all its changing hues shall glance out, it will then appear that the deep and dark colors were as needful to perfectness and beauty as the bright and high colors.

Agriculture, &c.

TOMATO PICKLE.

Take hard, green tomatoes; wipe, slice and sprinkle them over with fine salt. Let them stand twelve or fourteen hours, then pour off the water that has collected. Boil in good, sharp vinegar, with a bag of spices, some whole mustard and a few pieces of nutmeg; strain the vinegar or not, just as you choose, and put in the tomatoes; boil them till soft, skim them out very carefully into a jar, so as not to mash the pieces up. Keep in a cool place, but do not freeze, as it will spoil it.

A NEW WHIPPLETREE.

Many accidents occur from horses getting frightened and running away, caused by the whippetree being detached and dropped upon the horse's heels. An invention to obviate this difficulty has been made, and a model of the whippetree forwarded us by the inventor, Jacob Muzzy, of East Eddington, Me. The whippetree is hollow, and is strengthened by an iron fastened upon the under side, of the same dimensions as the whippetree. Through the wood part a leather strap passes, playing at each end over a roller. To the ends of this strap the fastenings for the trace are firmly placed. The whippetree is designed to remain stationary, the motion of the horse or carriage acting with ease by means of the rollers at each end, all noise or clatter is done away with.—Maine Farmer.

A NOVEL WAY OF CURING A BREACHY HORSE.

A correspondent of the Iowa Homestead was riding the other day with a friend, and observed that one of the horses had a hole in each ear. On inquiring the cause, he learned that it was to keep the horse from jumping. "Why," said he, "a horse don't jump with his ears." Your are mistaken," replied his friend; "a horse jumps as much with his ears as with his feet, and unless he can have free use of his ears he cannot jump." He ties the two ears together, and has no more trouble with the horse. We give this for what it is worth.

TREATMENT OF HORSES' FEET.

Mr. Gamgee, Sen., in the Edinburgh Veterinary Review for August, says:—"The day will, I believe, soon come when people will not allow cutting instruments to touch the soles of their horses' feet. I have said in former papers that the wall, sole and frog are so constructed that they mutually co-operate, and that the intermediate horn, which I have shown is secreted between the wall and sole at their union, is also required to be left entire; but, by the prevailing custom of cutting the hoof, these substances, which in their nature are rebounding springs, are destroyed or greatly impaired. The custom of thinning the sole, and likewise of keeping that part always in cow dung, or other wet soddening material, under the name of 'stopping,' was brought much into vogue after the establishment of our first veterinary schools."

SUBSTITUTE FOR YEAST.

Boil one pound of flour, a quarter of a pound of brown sugar and a little salt, in two gallons of water, for an hour. When milk warm bottle and cork it close, and it will be ready for use in twenty-four hours.—Exchange.

PILLARS OF SAND IN THE DESERT.

The Deserts of Arabia are among the most remarkable places in the world, and are especially remarkable for their pillars of sand; they are raised by whirlwinds, and have a very close resemblance in their appearance to waterspouts. The places where these pillars of sand most frequently occur, are those portions of the deserts which are near to a river or the sea. The pillars of sand in the deserts of Africa are very magnificent; the raised sand is in wavy and rounded lobes, which have a curling motion, like that of smoke; and both the apex of the entire pillar, and the extremities of the lobes, are shaded off to a very indefinite outline. The mirage is another very singular feature of the deserts. The traveller very frequently sees rising, as it were, before him, some great city or lovely village; he hastens onward, full of eager anticipation to receive refreshment, and ever as he goes, the image recedes from his advancing steps, and he discovers, perhaps, only too late, that it was an image formed by the refraction of the sun's rays in a particular direction, upon an atmosphere somewhat hazy and opaque.

POVERTY.

Bulwer says that poverty is only an idea, in nine cases out of ten. Some men with ten thousand dollars a year suffer more for want of means than others with three hundred. The reason is, the richer man has artificial wants. His income is ten thousand, and by habit he spends twelve or fifteen thousand, and he suffers enough from being dunned for unpaid debts to kill a sensitive man. A man who earns a dollar a day and does not run in debt, is the happiest of the two. Very few people who have never been rich will believe this, but it is true nevertheless. There are people, of course, who are wealthy, and enjoy their wealth, but there are thousands upon thousands, with princely incomes who never know a moment's peace, because they live above their means. There is really more happiness in the world among working people than among those who are called rich.