

Youth's Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, 1863.

Read—ACTS XXI. 20-40: Paul apprehended. JEROME XVIII. 1-13. The spies sent out by the Danites. Recite—ACTS XXI. 17-19.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 1863.

Read—ACTS XXII. 1-16: Paul's defence before the Jews. JEROME XXIII. 14-21: The Danites carry off Micah's images. Recite—ACTS XXI. 20, 21.

"SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES."

Write down what you suppose to be the answer to the following question.

48. Name two instances in which the sacred lot was used to discover the guilty person.

Answer to question given last week:—

47. John the Baptist. Matthew iii. 1-4; xiv. 10; xi. 11.

Amusement for the thoughtful.

ANSWER TO SCRIPTURE PUZZLE, No. 41.

- 1. Anathoth was the native place of Jeremiah. Jer. i. 1; xxix. 2. Riblah. Zedekiah's eyes were put out, and his sons were here slain by Nebuchadnezzar. 2 Kings xxv. 6, 7. 3. Kedron, a brook over which David passed when fleeing from his rebellious son Absalom. 2 Sam. xv. 2, 3. The ARK is used as a type of Christ. Hebrews xi. 7. 1 Peter iii. 20, 21.

A PRINTER'S PUZZLE, No. 42.

Twice NINE of us are EIGHT of us: TEN of us are THREE! FIVE of us are FOUR of us, Who can WE be?

If this be not enough, Or you incline to more, Then SEVEN of us are FIVE of us, FIVE of us are FOUR!

—Printer's Register.

Tea Culture in Assam.

A LETTER TO CHILDREN FROM MRS. WARD.

Sibsar, Feb. 13, 1863.—I have told you much about Assam, but nothing, as yet, about the great Tea Plantations here; yet these are becoming every year more and more the great attraction of Assam. Living in a country where I see tea growing, and where I have seen it made into the shape in which you see it a great many times, I can tell you a great deal about it, which perhaps will interest you. People the world over like to drink tea, and whatever they eat and drink they are sure to be interested in; but very few know anything about the cultivation or manufacture of tea.

Perhaps you have observed that the tea stores in Boston or Providence have a picture or figure of a Chinaman on their sign or in the window; and also some strange looking scrolls, which you may not know are Chinese letters. You may even see real Chinamen in some of the stores waiting upon the customers, and you read on the sign "China Tea;" so that China and tea have come to occupy the same place in your mind. Well, you are not far out of the way; for China has supplied the world with tea; but Assam is now coming in for a share of that honor, and before long you will see over the tea stores "Assam Tea," and the papers will advertise it; and, if they say it is better than China tea, they will come nearer the truth than advertisements often do.

When I was riding through one of the main business streets of Calcutta, my attention was arrested by a sign on a large brick building, "Assam Tea." In England it is greatly preferred to China tea, and sells at a higher price.—A short time ago a committee examined all the teas in the market, and they decided that Assam Tea was the best and only unadulterated tea. "John Chinaman," to make money faster, at the expense of his honesty, mixes the leaves of other plants with his tea. Hitherto all the Assam tea has gone to England, because Englishmen are the only cultivators, and through them it has been brought into circulation there at the outset.

The indigenous tea plant in Assam was first discovered by an English botanist in 1832; about two years afterwards it was found that these plants extended along the south bank of the Brahmaputra river in Upper Assam, as far as the Chinese frontier. Assam borders on great tea growing China. After this discovery some English gentlemen began to cultivate it; but in 1839 the Assam Company was formed for the purpose of cultivating it on a large scale. They planted some hundreds of acres, built a factory, and got some Chinamen to come up and make it, because none of the Assamese understood the process. However, they very soon learned, and every year new plantations have been commenced and old ones extended; so that now there are thousands of acres covered with growing tea.

The first tea company formed, of which I have spoken, have their head quarters only about eight miles from Sibsar, at a place called Nazirah. A few days ago we went up and spent two days in looking about their extensive establishment. This is a large, busy town, and all

busy about tea. The superintendent, an English gentleman, very kindly sent an elephant to convey us to and from the place, and entertained us at his house with every possible attention.

He took us from building to building, where the different processes were going on for sorting and packing tea. In one building there was a steam engine moving a variety of wheels, and the men and boys at work making tea boxes were so numerous we could scarcely find room to move about; some were sawing the logs into boards, others joining the boards together with pegs, others dovetailing; and one man was turning chisel handles. In another large brick building with an iron roof, were lots of tall hour-glass shaped-baskets; these were standing over a small charcoal fire, with tea on the top drying. In one corner of the room was an immense bin, where the tea is stored till it is packed for sending off. In another long building, I heard before reaching it the murmur of hundreds of voices; I only looked in; the floor was covered with the dark skinned natives, squatted on the ground in their usual custom, mostly women and girls, each with a large basket work-pan of tea before them, from which they were picking out all the stems. Many of them were natives of Bengal and other provinces of India; some of the women were young and pretty, with rings and jewels hung in their noses and ears, a dozen or more silver bangles on their wrists; others looked poor and sick, but a large proportion were children. In another building was a tremendous clatter,—we could scarcely hear our own voices.—Here men and boys were sifting tea, for the purpose of separating the different qualities of fine and coarse tea. The different names given to tea, such as Pekoe, Souchong, &c., imply no difference in the plant, but simply in the quality of fine or coarse.

You begin to think tea-making is a great business; and so it is; all this is only a part of the work. Nazirah is only the depot for sorting and packing. The tea is all made at the factory connected with each plantation, which are scattered over the vicinity for miles around. This tea company alone have made during the past year over eight hundred thousand pounds of tea!

On the second day of our visit we rode an elephant out about eight miles, to see one of their finest tea gardens. It was indeed a sight to feast one's eyes upon. There was an extent of three hundred acres of continuous hill and valley, covered with the tea bush. As we rode up and down the slope of these tea covered hills, and looked off as far as the eye could reach on the regular rows of bright green blocks covering hill beyond hill, the scene was truly enrapturing. I should like to have staid long enough to pencil a sketch; but we had to hasten on to reach Nazirah before night. On the top of some of the hills were ancient heathen temples, now left to go to ruin; on others were mounds, said to be the graves of kings.—Macedonian.

Steam and Lightning—A race.

Pedestrians and travellers by stage or carriage are overtaken by showers which they discover approaching, and from which they seek in vain to escape. But the velocity of the steam locomotive is greater than that of the storm out, and it may not only keep ahead of the storm, but overtake and outrun it, as Mr. Willis describes in a recent letter:

To overtake a thunder-shower, whirl through it, and outrun it, was the first of the day's exciting novelties. We saw it ahead of us on the prairie, as you see a single black cloud in the sky, with sunshine all around it. It was moving in the same direction as ourselves, probably at about twenty miles an hour, and we soon began to overtake it with our better harnessed thunder and lightning. The conductor pointed the dark mass out to me some ten or fifteen minutes before we entered the outskirts of the shower, and we were in a pelting rain, with lightning and peals of thunder, for perhaps ten minutes, emerging in fair weather on the other side, and leaving the storm to lag after us like the "slow coach" that it was! But, certainly, it was very queer thus to give thunder and lightning the go-by.

But it is to the wild animals of the prairie that the swiftness of the rail-train is inexplicable. Ages upon ages have established certain relative rates of speed between man and the subject races of creation—the mountain hunter being the fastest pursuer for which the elk and reindeer, the bear and prairie wolf, the fox and the wild cat, the skunk, otter and martin, are at all prepared. The small line of the rail-track, nearly hidden in grass, is not recognized by these wanderers over the vast plains of the West; and, while thinking themselves safe in their own horizon-edged wilderness, they suddenly see the coming of the new monster. It is a daily experience of the trains on this road across Illinois, to overtake some one or more of them, and it is curious—so the different conductors and brakemen all tell me—how none of them seem to have the sagacity to escape by running off at right angles. Almost invariably they flee before the pursuer, and are run down at last, to fall fainting with terror and exhaustion in the neighborhood of the track.

THE SLAVE-TRADE IN THE SOUTH SEAS.—A very satisfactory reply has been given by the Peruvian Minister to a memorial addressed to him by the Aborigines Protection Society, in reference to the kidnapping of South Sea Islanders by Peruvian captains. His Excellency says that steps have already been taken by the Peruvian Government to send back the kidnapped islanders to their homes; and that, in order to prevent the recurrence of similar atrocities, the Government has established a Consul-General at Tahiti.

STORY OF A LEGACY.—The University Magazine contains an amusing "Digestive Essay on Wills," in which are related numerous examples of curious wills. The following strange circumstance occurred in connection with a will. Two gentlemen, who had been left executors to a friend, on examining the property, found a scrap of paper on which was written, "Seven hundred pounds in Till." This they took in the literal sense, searched his office, and all the other apartments carefully, but in vain. They sold his collection of books to a bookseller near the Mews, and paid the legacies in proportion to the sum realised. The singularity of the circumstance occasioned them frequently to converse about it; and at last it flashed across one of them that amongst the books sold more than seven weeks before, there had been a folio edition of Tillotson's sermons. The probability of this being what was alluded to by the word "Till" on the piece of paper, made him immediately call upon the bookseller who had bought the books, and asked him if he still had the edition of Tillotson which had been included in his purchase. On his reply in the affirmative, and the volumes being handed down, the gentleman immediately re-bought and carried them home. On carefully examining the leaves, he found the bank-notes singly disposed in various places to the amount of seven hundred pounds. But what is perhaps no less remarkable, the bookseller informed him that a gentleman at Cambridge, to whom he had sent one of his catalogues, finding he had this edition on sale, had written and desired it might be sent to him, which was accordingly done, and the parcel forwarded by carrier. The books not pleasing the gentleman, they were returned, and had remained on a shelf in the shop up to the period of this singular recovery.

ONE OF THE ADVISERS OF THE KING OF THE GREEKS.—A Paris letter in the Independence, speaking of the counsellors to the King of the Greeks, says:—Count de Sponneck, the principal one, is a man of distinguished merit, and left a very favorable impression on the diplomatic world in Paris. M. Drouyn de Lhuys speaks of him with the highest praise.—He has occupied diplomatic posts at Vienna and at Berlin; he was several years Minister of Finance at Copenhagen, and all the questions on the order of the day are familiar to him. To great coolness he unites extraordinary energy. The following anecdote shows the whole character of the man:—He recently embarked at Copenhagen for Hamburg on his way to Brussels, having with him a favourite dog. During the passage the animal, whilst gambolling about on the deck, fell overboard. "My dog, my dog!" exclaimed the count, much excited. "Captain, for mercy's sake, stop!" "I am very sorry," replied the captain, "but the regulations formally forbid us to stop for animals. Our minutes are counted. I cannot stop the vessel." "And if it were a man?" said the count. "Ah! that would be a different matter." Scarcely had the words been uttered when the cry of "A man overboard" was heard. The count had jumped into the sea, dressed as he was. The vessel was immediately stopped, a boat lowered, and the count and his favorite brought on board.

FRENCH NEWS FROM MADAGASCAR.—A letter from Tamatave, of the 20th September, in the Nation, says:—"The reign of Ranavalona, of sanguinary memory, threatens to recommence. Yesterday an official interview took place between the envoy of the Queen of the Hovas, named Raharolahy, who repaired on board the Hermione, and Commander Dupré, to whom he announced the decision arrived at by his Government not to recognise any of the demands of France as they had been accepted by King Radama II, the Queen desiring to follow in everything the policy of the reign of Ranavalona-Merijake. Immediately on this announcement the Hova Officers proclaimed the re-establishment of the customs duty of ten per cent, as it formerly existed, and gave notice of the fact to the foreign consuls. After the interview Commander Dupré gave orders to the French consul at Tamatave to strike his flag, which was immediately done.

THE BAPTISM OF PRINCE NAPOLEON'S SON, A DIFFICULTY AT ROME.—The Union says that the baptism of Prince Napoleon's son "is at this moment a great stumbling-block to the Church. The little Prince was half baptized (only) immediately after his birth; but it is almost without precedent that the full ceremony of baptism should be postponed longer than six months. The infant is now more than a year old; and the reason given for the extraordinary delay is that Prince Napoleon will have no other godfather for his son than the King of Italy, who is excommunicated. The Pope making a great point of holding to the excommunication in this case, no Bishop in France can be found to fly openly in the face of the Church; and Prince Napoleon, with equal firmness, declares that unless Victor Emmanuel holds his infant over the font he shall not be baptized at all."

THE PROPOSED CONGRESS.—Her Majesty the Queen received on Monday morning the 9th inst., an autograph letter from the Emperor of the French, in which his Imperial Majesty requested the Queen to send representatives to a Congress of the chief European States, whose duty it shall be to take note of and recognise the points in which the Treaty of Vienna had been infringed, and to adopt such measures with respect to present complications as may best secure the general peace. Her Majesty's Ministers were to meet in council on the 10th to consider of the answer to be returned by her Majesty to the Emperor of the French.

Agriculture, &c.

WHEAT ON CLOVER SOIL.—C. S. Mason, Wayne Co., N. Y., writes to the Agriculturist:—"I have always had the best success in sowing wheat on sod ground. I mow clover only one year for hay, and after cutting, turn the sod under five or six inches deep, and harrow lengthwise once, and then diagonally once. The Wheat is drilled in from the first to the tenth of September. Sod ground will stand drouth, or if the season be wet, the water has a chance to drain off. The wheat grows strong in autumn, stands winter better than if sown after barley, oats or peas, and ripens early."

[We know by successful experience and by much observation, that turning under a heavy growth of clover is an excellent preparation for a wheat crop. The clover gathers from the atmosphere a large amount of nitrogenous material, which is specially adapted to the wants of wheat, while the buried roots and stems help to keep heavy soils light and porous. Our practice at the West was to sow clover on the wheat in spring, pasture it in autumn, mow the next year, and then turn under a heavy second growth, and sow wheat directly upon it without a second ploughing. Of, after having pastured it in autumn, the following spring the stock were kept off, and the first growth was ploughed in while in bloom. This was left fallow, the weeds were harrowed down occasionally, and in autumn the field was thoroughly harrowed and cross harrowed, and the wheat was sown.—This latter plan was adopted when the wants of stock required the pasturage in autumn, or when the soil needed recultivation by the heavy sward and first large growth of clover. This treatment gave an increased crop of wheat every second or third year on the same land, beside the hay and pasturage.

When needed, a top-dressing of plaster was sown on the wheat in spring, with the special object of promoting a strong growth of clover. The effect of this application was very distinctly seen, when land was left unplastered.—Agriculturist.

HORSE TRAINING.

Objections to the Rarey plan.—R. McClure, veterinary surgeon, in the Cultivator, says:

Evidence is rapidly accumulating, going to show that the Rarey plan of training horses is not likely to meet with favor for any great length of time at the hands of horsemen, either in America or England, as it is found that curbs on the hocks of horses are caused by his method of breaking colts. Much was said and written in its favor in both countries, a year or two since. Every other plan and device was thrown into the shade. Rarey's method was the only one by which horses could be safely, speedily and surely made subservient to the will of their master—man. The tide of opinion has changed, and horsemen of every shade are as much opposed to it as they were formerly in its favor. This is but what I expected. One extreme will always lead to another. Why this change?—Let us see. Strain on the posterior straight ligament of the hock—curb, if you please—is the result, in the majority of cases, where horses have been brought under the influence of Rarey's method. The whole weight of the animal is thrown (by Rarey's plan) upon the hocks and Auanches; hence, if the animal be young, and struggle much, as is nearly always the case, then curb is the result. This is perfectly natural, when undue weight is thus suddenly and forcibly thrown upon the straight ligament of this complicated joint. More of this hereafter.

RENOVATION OF FRUIT TREES.—Mr. Wm. H. Morgan, of Hartford Co., Md., writes to the Agriculturist:—"I had a fine large apple tree which was thrifty, but did not bear in the spring. I dug a ditch just under the roots; and some months before the leaves of the other trees faded, this tree's leaves turned yellow. That fall I manured the ground heavily, and in the following spring strewed a peck of bone-dust over it, and plowed it in, and then put on a half bushel of ashes. This season the tree looks very flourishing, and has half a crop of apples upon it, while before it scarcely ever yielded a dozen, and they were small and knotty. Others of my trees which I treated in like manner, except cutting off the roots, have borne full this season."

Cigar smoking is now forbidden in Constantinople either in or out of doors, owing to the supposition that the practice has caused many fires.

"Mix Pickles" is the name of a comic, satirical journal to be started in Leipzig at the new year.

Which, asks an agricultural chap, is the queen of the roses in the garden? and answers, the rose of the watering-pot, for it reigns (rains) over all the others.

Photo-sculpture is a recent fashion of Paris.—Statuettes in plaster, executed to the life becoming as common as photographs.

Recent reports show that the average duration of life in England exceeds that of France by 11 years.

A lottery of 4,000,000 francs has been advertised in France for the benefit of M. Lamartine.

Charles Dickens, in a recent article, said a great pitched battle is seldom more deadly to man than the galaxy of a London season is to the pale army of girls who live by the most wretched fripperies of fashion, and fewer, perhaps, die by the bayonet than by the needle.