

Youth's Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH, 1863.

Read—ACTS XIX. 21-41: An uproar against Paul, JUDGES XV: Samson's slaughter of the Philistians, REVUE—ACTS XIX. 8-10.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND, 1863.

Read—ACTS XX. 1-16: Eutychus raised to life, JUDGES XVI. 1-17: Samson betrayed by Delilah, REVUE—ACTS XIX. 21-23.

"SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES."

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

44. How did our Saviour prove his miraculous life, previous to his first miracle?

Answer to question given last week:—

43. The Levites received one-tenth. One-tenth was appropriated to the sacrifice offering, to which the widows, orphans and strangers were invited.—Deut. xii. 17-19. The third-tenth was the right of the King.—1 Sam. viii. 15.

For the Christian Messenger.

Amusement for the thoughtful.

ANSWER TO SCRIPTURE PUZZLE, No. 39.

- F estus thought much learning made the apostle mad. Acts. xxvi. 24.
A braham saw Christ's day, and seeing it was glad. John viii. 56.
T abitha once was raised from death to life again. Acts. ix. 40.
H erod gave command for the infants to be slain. Matt. ii. 15.
E l-Bethel was the altar Jacob built and gave that name. Gen. xxxv. 7.
R achel he interred when he near to Ephrath came. Gen. xxxv. 19.
O badiah hid God's prophets in a cave and fed them all. 1 Kings xviii. 13.
F ortunatus with Achaicus and Stephanus cheered Paul. 1 Cor. xvi. 17.
T imothy from his childhood had the holy scriptures known. 2 Tim. iii. 15.
H aman made a gallows, and then was hanged thereon. Esther vii. 10.
E gypt was the country out of which God called his Son. Hos. xi. 1; Matt. ii. 15.
F elix trembled at Paul's preaching of the Judgment day. Acts. xxiv. 25.
A rarat received the ark when the deluge passed away. Gen. viii. 4.
T homas for his unbelief was by his Lord reproved. John xv. 29.
H adassah by her cousin was adopted and much loved. Esther ii. 7.
E lymas was struck blind in resistance to God's word. Acts. xiii. 8.
R ahah let two men down by a scarlet cord. Joshua ii. 15.
L ois was the grandmother of youthful Timothy. E unice was his mother, too, of pious memory. 2 Tim. i. 5.
S amuel was thrice call'd to tell a High Priest's doom. 1 Sam. iii. 8.
S tephen by devout men was carried to the tomb. Acts. viii. 2.
The initials of these names will shew whom God will bless.
That He deigns to be the "FATHER OF THE FATHERLESS." Psalm lxxvii. 5. Z. H.

Ragged Islands.

[We take the liberty of cautioning our young friends against adopting in their Answers the rhyming words used in the Puzzle itself. Our youthful readers like to have as much variety as possible. As the above answer is the first from the same quarter, and the only one received this week, we publish it.—Ed. Youth's Department, C. M.]

SCRIPTURE PUZZLE No. 40.

- His name, who wept his nation's direful fate, And prayed, and laboured, them to reinstate, By suffrance from above.
And he, preferred, although the younger born, Whose sons were slain by men of Gath alone, Who for their cattle strove.
Then he to whom the prophet gave in charge, His deed of purchase, of a field at large, In sore and troublous time.
And he, who, high exalted by the state, With sacrilegious hand, sealed his own fate, But left a royal line.
He, who, in priestly orders took the lead, Who counseled precious life-blood to be shed, To spare a doom'd nation fall.
And he, who Judah's royal septre swayed, Who for his ostentation, dearly paid, But with his children's thrall.
Her name, whose prudence calmed the royal ire, (When bent on vengeance, like a flaming fire), And saved the drunkard's life.
And he, who fell by a strong unseen hand, (While in Jehovah's presence he did stand), Beheaded without strife.
His name, who, in two worlds, long time did dwell, First of three righteous ones, but still he fell, Which wrought domestic pain.

He, who his master's flowing vestment wore, Living—and dead, to th' dead did life restore, And cursed the infant train.

Then he, whose name was changed when made a King, But soon rebelled, and wallowed deep in sin, Was eyeless—bound so strong— And he, who, in rebellion, faithful stood, Was made High Priest, and left that office good. To his descendants, long.

Next he, who, raised so high above his peers, By God's direction, as it plain appears, Yet formed on idol fair, Then he, who, stirred by God, gathered a band, Who made him captain—then as King he reigned In proud Damascus there.

These names initials, please to tell, What mighty Sovereign's name they spell? DALETH.

Yarmouth.

The open Door.

Mrs. Vanlun was a poor widow with four children, of whom Richard, the eldest, was eight years old. One evening her children were very hungry, and she had no food to give them. She could only lift up her heart to God; and this she did in earnest prayer, for she believed in his love and his power to save.

At the close of her prayer, Richard said to her: "Mother, does not the Bible say that God sent ravens to a man to bring him bread?"

"Yes, my child, but that was a long time ago." "Well," said Richard, "God can send us some ravens with bread now. I'm going to open the door, or they can't get in;" and jumping up, he ran to the door and threw it wide open, so that the candle shone out into the street.

A few moments after, the village magistrate came passing by, and casting a glance through the open door, he was charmed by the appearance of the pretty group within. He could not refrain from entering, and said to Mrs. Vanlun: "My good lady, how happens it that your door is wide open at this hour of the evening?"

Mrs. Vanlun was a little embarrassed at seeing such a gentleman enter her poor room; but she rose and saluted him respectfully, and taking off Richard's cap, and laying her hand on his head, she said smiling: "It is my little Richard that has opened the door, so that the ravens, he says, may come in and bring us some bread."

Now the magistrate was actually dressed in black from head to foot.

"Ah, indeed, said he laughing, "Richard is right. His raven has come, and a very big one too. Come Richard, I will show you where the bread is."

He took the little boy with him to the grocer's, filled a basket with provisions, and sent him home with it. Richard, you may be sure, hurried home as fast as he could. The poor child at home were soon clapping their hands with joy at the sight of the food.

When they had finished their meal, Richard went to the door, took off his cap, and looking up into the sky, said: "Thank you, O Father in heaven;" after which he came in and closed the door.—Child's Paper.

The unkind son rebuked.

There was once a man who had an only son, to whom he was very kind, and gave everything he had. When his son grew up, and dwelt in his own house, he was very unkind to his poor old father, whom he refused to support, and turned out of doors. The old man said to his grandson, "Go and fetch the covering from my bed that I may go and sit by the wayside and beg." The child burst into tears, and ran for the covering. He met his father, to whom he said, "I am going to fetch the rug from my grandfather's bed, that he may wrap it round him and go a-begging?" The child went for the rug, and brought it to his father, and said to him, "Father, cut it in two; the half of it will be large enough for grandfather, and perhaps you may want the other half when I grow a man, and I turn you out of doors." The words of the child struck him so forcibly that he immediately sought his father, and entreated forgiveness, and was ever after kind and attentive to the aged man. Thus a poor old man was, through a child's words permitted to die in peace.

Attempt to print a perfect book.

"Whether such a miracle as an immaculate edition of a classical author does exist," says one, "I have never learned; but an attempt has been made to attain this glorious singularity, and was as nearly realized as is perhaps possible—the magnificent edition of Os Lusitanae of Camoens, by Don Jose Souza, 1817. This amateur spared no prodigality of cost and labor, and flattered himself that, by the assistance of Didot, not a single typographical error should be found in that splendid volume. But an error was afterward discovered in some of the copies, occasioned by one of the letters in the word Lusitano having got misplaced during the working of one of the sheets. It must be confessed that this was an accident or misfortune, rather than an erratum."

The celebrated Foulises, of Glasgow, Scotland, attempted to publish a work which should be a perfect specimen of typographical accuracy.—Every precaution was taken to secure the desirable result. Six experienced proof-readers were employed, who devoted hours to the reading of each page; and after it was thought to be perfect, it was posed up in the hall of the university, with a notification that a reward of fifty dollars would be paid to any person who could

discover an error. Each page was suffered to remain two weeks in the place where it had been posted, the work was printed, and the printers thought they had attained the object for which they had been striving. When the work was issued, it was discovered that several errors had been committed, one of which was in the first page. The Foulises' editions of classical works are still much prized by scholars and collectors.

Scientific.

NEW VIEWS RESPECTING THE ORIGIN OF LIGHT.

Mr. C. E. Townsend, of Locust Valley, New York, has propounded the following theory respecting the origin and development of solar light and heat. He says:—

Matter in space is reduced to a minimum, so that solar light and heat can exert no appreciable effect, either by absorption or radiation; hence solar light and heat can only be developed into such on reaching the atmosphere or body of a planet, and, therefore, all lights seen in the heavens, whether from the sun, moon, planets, stars, nebulae, comets, or erratic bodies as meteors, are developed only as light on reaching our atmosphere. In consequence we look in vain through space for light darting off to other planets from the sun, or from one to the other. On the supposition that light and heat are convertible into electricity, the Leyden jar, charged, with electricity, is analogous to the sun, also so charged, and not until a conducting body is brought within the required distance of the former does the electricity develop itself, in the form of light and heat, upon or near the conducted body.

If absolute light existed in the sun, and as such were transmitted through space to the planets, then all space would necessarily be radiant with light, and as a consequence, we should have no night. Whereas, our nocturnal passages do not disclose one single ray in its passage to the planets, notwithstanding which they glow with the light constantly received from the sun; which is, necessarily, proof that solar light is not developed until it reaches the planet, and that, consequently, the material of light, in its passage through space from the sun to the planets, being invisible, cannot be developed into light.—Annual of Scientific Discovery.

SIR WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, in his address to the British Association, called the attention of the society to a recent discovery by Berthelot of a new form of carbonized hydrogen, possessing twice the illuminating power of ordinary coal-gas. Berthelot succeeded in procuring this gas by passing hydrogen between the carbon electrodes of a powerful battery. Dr. Odling has since shown that the same gas may be produced by mixing carbonic oxide with an equal volume of light carbonized hydrogen, and exposing the mixture in a porcelain tube to an intense heat. Still more recently, Mr. Siemens has detected the same gas in the highly heated regenerators of his furnaces, and there is now every reason to believe that the new gas will become practically available for illuminating purposes. Thus it is that discoveries which in the first instance interest the philosopher only, almost invariably initiate a rapid series of steps leading to results of great practical importance to mankind.

DR. HITCHCOCK ON TRANSMUTATION OF SPECIES.

It is a significant fact that very few of the advocates of the transmutation hypothesis refer to man as an example of it. Yet if it be true, man ought to be a conspicuous illustration of it. For in his case we have the most perfect of all animals and vastly the superior of them all, appearing suddenly at a very recent period; for though geologists may contend about the precise period of his appearance, all agree that it was recent, and none contend that it was earlier than the alluvial period. Whence came he! If he is one of the lower animals metamorphosed we ought surely to find a multitude of intermediate varieties. But not one has been brought to light. The monkey tribe must have been his progenitor. But only a very few species of these have been found fossil, and none below the Tertiary, and all of them differ as much from man as do the living monkeys. Lamarck had the boldness to attempt to describe the process by which the monkey was transformed into a man. But the picture was so absurd and ridiculous that few have attempted to make a sober philosophical defence of it. Yet if it fails in a species so conspicuous as man, it fails as to all others. But it is less revolting to common sense and experience to represent obscure radiate or articulate or molluscous animals as slowly transmuted from one species into another, than to bring man into the same category. There fore silence in respect to him is the wisest course. For what philosophic mind, free from bias, can believe such a being the highest of all animals in anatomical structure and intellect, and possessed of a moral nature, of which no trace exists in any other animal, is merely the product of transmutation of the radiate monad through the mollusk, the lobster, the bird, the quadruped, and the monkey, either by Lamarck's principle of "appetency," and "the force of circumstances," or Darwin's principle of "selection?" The fact is man's appearance at so late a period in the earthly history, and so independent of all other species seems a providential testimony to the absurdity of this hypothesis.—Bibliotheca Sacra.

WHY DOES NOT THE STOMACH DIGEST ITSELF?

Dr. Pavy read a paper at the late meeting of the British Association "On the Reason why

the Stomach is not Digested by its own Secretion during Life," in which he propounded a theory considerably different from those which have heretofore been current. Hunter noticed that the stomach was susceptible of being attacked by the digestive liquid after death, and accounted for its power of resisting destruction during life by reference to the "living principle." The stomach, he says, which at one instant, that is, while possessed of the living principle, was capable of resisting the digestive powers which it contained, the next moment, namely, when deprived of the living principle, is itself capable of being digested. He asserted that if a living hand were introduced into the stomach it would not be affected, but that if the same hand were afterwards cut off and introduced it would be consumed. But the legs of a living frog and the ears of a living rabbit have been introduced into the stomach, and have been seen to undergo actual digestion the same as if they had been mere pieces of meat. Others think that the membrane that lines the stomach, together with the mucus that is secreted, act as a varnish to protect the coats. But Dr. Pavy has found that a considerable sized patch of mucous membrane may be removed, and food will afterwards be digested without the slightest sign of attack being made upon the deeper coats of the organ.

Dr. Pavy thinks that the immunity of the stomach from digestion is due to the circulation within its walls of an alkaline current of blood. The digestive fluid is strongly acid, while alkalinity is a constant character of the blood, and as during life the walls of the stomach are everywhere permeated by a current of this alkaline blood, we have here an opposing influence, the effect of which would be to destroy, by neutralizing its acidity, the solvent properties of the digestive fluid tending to penetrate and act upon the texture of the organ. The blood being stagnant after death, the opposing influence is lost that is offered by the circulating current. Hence, after death the stomach is consumed. Dr. Pavy has found experimentally that digestion of the stomach will take place during life if the flow of blood is arrested. The blood of the frog's legs and rabbit's ears not being as strongly alkaline as that flowing through the stomach, they are digested while it is unaffected.

THE LATE EARTHQUAKE IN ENGLAND.

We have had an earthquake. The men of science all tell us that we have every right to expect earthquakes. This country lies, as a correspondent observes, on the great volcanic belt. We are only a few links in the chain that binds Hecla to Vesuvius, Etna, and the original volcano in the Lipari Islands. There runs under us a huge crack in the earth's crust,—who knows how deep or how wide? A few flimsy depositary strata have fallen in and joined the edges of the abyss, and here and there the masses below have been thrust out by the closer packing of the earth's contents, and who knows what enormous voids, what huge quantities of imprisoned gas, what seas of molten metal, there may be only a few miles below this fair surface? There are chroniclers who count up, we read, 255 earthquakes, of which 139 were in Scotland and the rest in Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Wales, and the south coast of this island.

This earthquake appears to have been felt over a great part of England, whatever the geological formation. People are not much surprised to hear of a shock or a tremor in the neighbourhood of coal, and perhaps even of granite. Wherever the pitman and the miner go they find inflammable gases. Where, too, the water comes up half boiling, or impregnated with sulphur, one cannot but feel there must be a nearer communication with that fiery interior whereof geologists calmly discourse. But, with certain differences, somewhat in conformity with these popular impressions, this earthquake has moved the whole island. Britannia's fabled rock has been shaken from its base. Be it only an inch or two, the ocean throne has been tilted up. We may feel the terror of the "purple tyrants" who pray as they crouch before the Divinity of Fortune, ne pede prorsus statem columam. In the "black country," indeed, and throughout the midland and west midland counties, the earthquake appears to have been felt the most. At Birmingham walls were seen to move, and people rose from their beds to see what damage had been done, for though the rumbling, grating sound is compared to that of a passing waggon or train, it was known at once to be something more. At Edgbaston successive shocks were plainly felt, houses were shaken to their foundations, "a dreadful rattle" was rather felt than heard, and people woke one another to ask the meaning. Everything in the houses violently agitated.

The variety of sensations and the degrees of violence, if there should appear to have been in different localities, may possibly be owing to the variations of geological condition rather than to the distance from any supposed centre. We believe that stone carries the earth-wave, as it is called, more strongly and truly than softer or more mixed strata. There are, however, conditions under which these strange and fearful waves are said to meet, to escape, and sometimes to aggravate one another. Thus far there is nothing to distinguish this from the general class of earthquakes, of which it is seldom possible to do more than conjecture the centre, and always impossible even to conjecture the particular cause. A very slight alteration in the regions below would be sufficient. Were an igneous vein that had remained for ages in a state of increasing tension to cool at last so as to crack, and gape by a few inches, that would probably be sufficient to make all the disturbance on the surface which England has just experienced.—Times.