

Youths' Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Sunday, March 13th, 1864.

CONCERT: or review of the past two months' subjects and lessons.

Sunday, March 20th, 1864.

Read—ACTS XXVII, 13-26; Paul's voyage continued.
1 SAMUEL VI. The Philistines defeated by Israel.
Recite—PSALM LXXXIV, 4, 10, 11.

RUM'S DOINGS.

A woman went to a wood-yard in a very cold day and asked to see the head man. He came forward. "Sir," said she, "can you let me have a quarter of a cord of wood for *that*?" handing him a piece of money; "my children are freezing."

The man looked closely at her. "Why, are you not Seth Blake's wife?" he asked.

"Yes, sir," said the woman.

"How does it happen you are in such low circumstances?" asked the man.

"Sir," answered Mrs. Blake, "rum did it." "That's bad," said the man.

"Yes, sir, it is bad—My children are starving, and rum did that. My children are ragged, and rum did that. My children are growing up outside of the church, out of the Sabbath-school, outside of the day-school; and rum does that—My husband, once kind and industrious, is now a vagabond, and rum did it. My heart is broke, and rum did that." And the poor woman sank down on a log of wood, the picture of want and woe.

Nor did the rough woodman keep his eyes dry, for he remembered the time when Seth Blake was as promising a young printer as ever was. He married a nice woman, and the young couple started in life with as fair a prospect of comfort and happiness as a young couple could well have. They had seats in the Methodist church too, and used to be seen listening to the word of God.

But Seth had a weak point. He would sometimes "drink." He did not quite believe in total abstinence. "Touch not, taste not, handle not," was not his motto.

The habit gained on him. It mastered him; it ruined him; and the worst of it all is, that a drunkard's family so often has to share a drunkard's shame and degradation.

"Touch not, taste not, handle not, boys. That is the only safe ground. Any other may sink you.—Child's paper.

A BIT OF ADVICE FOR BOYS.

"You are made to be kind," says Horace Mann, "generous and magnanimous. If there is a boy in the school who has a club foot, don't let him know that you ever saw it. If there is a poor boy with ragged clothes, don't talk about rag when he is in hearing. If there is a lame boy, assign him some part of the game which does not require running. If there is a hungry one, give him a part of your dinner. If there is a dull one, help him to get his lesson. If there is a bright one, be not envious of him; for if one boy is proud of talents, and another is envious of them, there are two great wrongs, and no more talents than before. If a larger or stronger boy has injured you, and is sorry for it, forgive him; and request the teacher not to punish him. All the school will show by their countenance how much better it is to have a great heart than to have a great fist."

ROSA BONHEUR AND HER PICTURES.

Many of you have probably seen an engraving of the picture called "The Horse Fair," painted by a French lady, Rosa Bonheur. Her history is interesting, as showing what industry and plucky determination will do. Her father was a poor drawing-master in Paris, and apprenticed Rosa at the age of twelve to learn dress-making; but her health failed, and she left a business she did not like. She soon commenced to make models of animals, and copy her father's paintings, hoping some day to be able to support herself. She worked hard day after day, until her father noticed her wonderful progress, and gave her a course of instruction. He then sent her to the Louvre, the finest picture gallery in Paris, to copy from the best paintings. Here she used to work from morning until night. Soon her pictures began to sell for a small sum, which increased her diligence. She was then but sixteen years old. Having resolved to devote herself to painting animals, and being too poor to buy models, she used to take a bit of bread in her pocket, walk out into the country, and copy from nature. She would also visit the cattle-pens in the city where animals were kept previous to being slaughtered. This was not a pleasant place for a young lady, but she was too much in earnest to be stopped by trifles. Her reward soon came. When nineteen years old, she received several prizes for her pictures exhibited in Paris, and at last took the gold medal for the best painting. At thirty-two she finished the "Horse Fair," which brought her \$8,000, and from that time her fortune was made. She is now very wealthy, and the best animal painter in Europe. Remember the secret of her success: *She loved her work, and stuck to it.*

The gate which leads to life is a straight gate, therefore we should fear; it is an open gate, therefore we should hope.

THE WAR AND ITS EFFECTS.

The desolations occasioned by war, are felt in thousands of families of United States, but in the conquered territories is to be seen the utter destruction of many families and an entire change of proprietorship. The N. Y. *Examiner*, a few weeks since, shewed this in an article entitled "The New South" as follows:

A strange spectacle is now presenting itself in several of the Southern States. The lands which have fallen into the possession of the Government are beginning to be offered for sale. In several places, sales to a large amount have already been effected, and the occasion has, in some instances, brought together a multitude of persons from different parts of the country, eager to secure the possession of estates in the sunny South. In South Carolina, the rule has been established that preference in the sale shall be given to soldiers over civilians; and we presume a similar rule will prevail in other States. Certain advantages are also secured to those who have resided as laborers on the estates to be sold since their occupation by the United States. No distinction, however, is made between black men and white, and in the sales in Beaufort and the neighbouring district, it has, in several instances, come to pass that a portion of a confiscated estate has been bought by a black man who, three years ago, was working upon it as a slave.

In no part, even of South Carolina, was the slaveholding caste so arrogant and defiant as in this very district of Beaufort, on whose fertile islands the cotton plant grew the most luxuriantly, and the labour of the negro brought the valuable rewards to the master. And it now appears that on the spot where the master was lately so rich from the toil of his slaves, the slave, at length made free by the rebellion, is in his turn becoming rich by his own labor. He has saved his earnings, and is now purchasing at public auction, a portion of the very estates on which his master left him to provide for himself. The letter-writers state that at least two-thirds of the town of Beaufort has thus been bought by negroes, in the small lots into which the property there was divided. The fact is certainly most extraordinary, and affords a very impressive illustration of the mutability of human affairs.

But this is only the beginning of the great change that is destined to be brought about in the condition, both of population and of property, throughout the South. It is however quite sufficient to indicate what the nature of the change must be, and feebly to foreshadow the mighty revolution of opinion which will accompany it. A very large amount of land in the rebel States is already in the hands of the Government—some of it has been seized for taxes, and some of it has been forfeited by the crimes of its owners. The amount of this land will, of necessity, be constantly increasing as our armies occupy the rebel territory, and as seceding States resume their relations to the Union. The result must be that immense tracts of fertile and most productive land in the South will sooner or later be offered for sale to the highest bidder, or be conveyed as homesteads or bounties to the members of the armies that have subjugated the rebellion. Opportunities for investment so inviting as will thus be afforded, have never before been offered on the continent of America. These lands lie not in bleak and unsettled regions, or beyond the boundaries of civilization, where man hitherto has never dwelt. They have long been cultivated, and many of them are situated in the very garden of the continent, where grow the crops which constitute the desire of the world. It is such lands as these—unequaled in all which can make attractive and lucrative possessions—that the Government will at length offer for the purchase of any who are able to buy; and they will be bought, we venture to predict—by soldiers and civilians, by speculators and settlers, by citizens of the country and by emigrants from other lands—with an eagerness hitherto unequalled in the sale of public property in the United States.

Changes in some degree corresponding to these have generally attended the great movements of history. They who begin a revolt must not expect, if they fail, to have things as they were before. The costs of the enterprise are always to be paid. If it succeed, this is comparatively easy—but if it fails, the day of reckoning is always a day of terror. The feudal barons of Europe, returning from their fruitless crusades in Palestine, were glad to sell their lands among the very serfs who were born to till them. They who had money with which to buy became owners of the soil. In all the civil wars of England, the end has been a new occupation of the landed estates, and the rise of a new class in the realm. So was it also at the close of the French Revolution, and so must it be at the close of the Southern rebellion. Slavery, for whose perpetuation it was begun, will be swept away, and society in the South will be reconstructed on a new foundation, and, in a great degree, out of new materials. Already plans of emigration are forming, and great companies, with vast capital at command, are preparing to lead the way in scattering over the South a new population. Congress, too, is proposing laws for aiding the same result. Multitudes will arise to seize the opportunity, and the New South, freed from the incubus of slavery, and grown wiser by her terrible experience, may yet fulfil the destiny which her enthusiastic children have so often predicted for her.

When thou art at the greatest pinch, strength shall come. When the last handful of meal was dressing, then was the prophet sent to keep the widow's house.

Agriculture, etc.

DRAINING.

But little of this work, we believe, is done in Nova Scotia. The following remarks, from Dr. Dawson's work, just published, may suggest to some the advantages of draining:

A most important mode of ameliorating the soil is under-draining, or draining by tiles and similar contrivances. No expedient has proved so serviceable in improving the mechanical qualities of the soil; and even in warm and dry climates like that of Canada, it has been found most profitable by all who have skillfully employed it.—Its various beneficial effects may be shortly summed up as follows:—

It makes the soil warmer, by draining off the water which otherwise would keep the ground cold by its evaporation. For this reason, it enables the ground to be worked earlier in spring and later in autumn, and renders the growth of crops more rapid.

It tends to prevent the surface from being too much washed by rain; as it enables the water to penetrate the soil, carrying downward the substance of rich manures, instead of washing it to lower levels. It thus, in connection with that absorbing power already described, saves the riches of the soil from waste.

It allows the roots of plants to penetrate deeply into the soil, instead of being stopped, as they often are, at the depth of a few inches, by a hard subsoil, or by ground saturated with water, or loaded with substances injurious to vegetation. For this reason, drained lands stand drought better than undrained, and their crops are also larger and more healthy. Hence also it often happens that draining benefits even light lands, if they happen to have an impermeable subsoil.

It permits free access of air, thus preventing the "souring" of the soil, and bringing manures of all kinds into a fit state for absorption by the roots.

It prevents injury to the soil from the water of springs and other waters coming from beneath by capillary attraction. It also prevents baking in dry weather, and causes the ground to crumble more freely when ploughed.

It tends to diminish the effect of frost in throwing out the roots of clover and grasses, by enabling the roots of these plants to take a deeper hold of the soil.

In short, it renders land easier and more pleasant to work; makes crops more sure and heavy; prevents alike injuries from drought and excessive moisture; economizes manures, and is equivalent to the deepening of the soil, and lengthening of the summer.

In our next we will give some remarks on the mode of under-draining.

ROOT CROPS.

Turnips, Carrots, Mangel Wurtzel, &c.—These, in most of the countries of the northern temperate zone, form staple green crops; and probably contribute as much to the money returns of the farmer as any other crops. In this country, as yet, their capabilities have been very imperfectly tested; though there can be no doubt that their culture is largely on the increase. In reference to these crops, Johnston remarks, with much truth, "To raise them, the farmer must prepare, must save, and must husband his manures; he must feed his cattle better, will thus be led to improve his breeds of stock; while the better harvests of grain he obtains after the green crops, will make these grain crops themselves more profitable, and therefore objects of more useful attention. The spread of green crops in England and Scotland has been invariably the prelude to agricultural improvement, and to an amelioration, not only in the practice, but in the circumstances also of the farmers."

All these roots contain a large proportion of water; and their nutritive portion is made up of albumen, sugar, gum (pectin), and starch. These substances are present in various proportions, according to the kinds of roots cultivated, and the nature of the soil and manures. All of these root crops require from the soil much potash, soda, lime, bone, earth, and gypsum, as well as some vegetable matter; and the manures intended to afford these substances should, when, when practicable, be in the form of well rotted compost. Long manure will rarely afford a heavy crop.

As the turnip is the most important of these roots, and it is very desirable that it should take its proper place in our provincial agriculture, I quote from Judge Peters' "Hints to the Farmers of Prince Edward Island," the following directions, which are admirably adapted to this country, and give also useful information as to the culture of other green crops:

"Turnips are generally sown in that part of the rotation which closes one course and commences another; and in this island it will in general be found convenient to sow them after oats, sown on lea. On newly burnt lands there are few weeds, and excellent crops may be raised with little labor, by merely scattering the seed and hoeing it in; but with this exception, they should always be sown in drills, under which system three acres can be cultivated with less labor than one acre broadcast. The land intended for them should be well and deeply ploughed in autumn, and cross-ploughed in the spring, then harrowed and rolled to break the lumps. If the land is foul with couch, have it well cleaned, or the turnip crop will be a failure, or cost more to keep clean than would have cleaned the land before they were sown. Next open the drills thirty inches apart is the best distance for ordinary culture, as it gives room

for the plough and horse-hoe to work freely between the drills without injuring the plants.

"When the drills are opened, then cart in your manure, which should be short, and make it in small piles, so that it can be regularly spread in the drills. By making the piles so that they will spread into the three drills in which the horse walks and the cart wheels run, you will spread it more evenly, and with less labor, than from the larger piles, in which I often see it deposited. As soon as the manure is spread in the drills, and before the sun can dry it, split the drills with the plough, which will cover the manure and make a ridgelet over it; then run a light roller lengthways along the drills, so as to flatten them on the top, and drill in the seed at once; it is very important that it should be done as soon as the drills are rolled, for the ground is then fresh and damp, which causes the seed to vegetate quickly; whereas if you leave it, the tops of the drills get dry, the seed is longer coming up, and the plants grow more slowly. I frequently see persons waiting for days, until the whole of the land is prepared, before they sow. This is a very bad practice, because not only do the drills become dry, but the weeds begin to shoot before the seed is sown; and when the plant comes up, it finds the weeds up before it, and is consequently smothered, and is much more difficult to hoe and clean. The least you can do for the turnip is to give it fair play and a fair start with its numerous weedy competitors; and, therefore, make it a rule to sow in the evening, or, at furthest, the next morning, every drill that has been dugged and covered during the day. Some spread the manure broadcast, and plough it in with the second ploughing and raise fair crops; but by putting it in the drills, the whole strength of the manure is given to the roots of the turnip, and therefore, must promote its early growth more than when spread over a large space of ground. When the manure is ploughed in broadcast, I think it should be done in the fall; a method which seems to produce excellent crops, and save labor in the spring, when time is of most value to the farmer.

"As to the best time for sowing Swedes, there is much difference of opinion; they may be sown from the 29th of May to the end of June; they continue to increase in weight until the frost compels us to pull them, and therefore, the earlier they are sown, the heavier will be the crops. When sown in May, I have always found them escape the fly; but the best protection against this insect is thick sowing—never sow less than three lbs. of seed to the acre, and you will seldom be without sufficient plants after the fly has done its work. Aberdeen Yellows may be sown from the first to the end of July.—Dawson's First Lessons in Agriculture.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

By REV. CHARLES TUPPER, D. D.

CHAPTER III.

CONVERSION, AND ENTRANCE ON THE MINISTRY.

(No. 12.)

Having "tasted that the Lord is gracious," I felt a strong desire that others also should know the richness and the sweetness of His grace. This ardent wish for the salvation of my fellow men, prompted me to attempt the establishment of prayer meetings in the place where I resided. There was no stated preaching near; and a considerable proportion of the people were necessarily deprived of the privilege of attending public worship. Moreover, prayer meetings had been rendered an especial blessing to me. From these considerations it seemed to me very desirable to have them commenced and maintained in Lower Aylesford.

There were only two brethren resident near me on whom I could rely for constant assistance, namely, Deacon David Randall and brother Thomas Gates. These, however, were men of sterling worth, who readily engaged in the good work, and faithfully persevered in it. Occasionally some other brethren came to our assistance.

At these meetings it was usual for me to exhort, as well as to pray, with much pathos and solemnity. In some instances several of the young people appeared to be deeply impressed with a sense of their danger, and the necessity and importance of being reconciled to God. These appearances greatly cheered and encouraged me, with the hope of seeing a revival speedily, and numbers soon plucked as brands from the burning, and brought to rejoice in the pardoning love of Christ. When, however, I perceived that these impressions seemed generally like "the morning cloud and the early dew," and that the follies of youth were still hurrying these young people on in the broad road to destruction, my heart was oppressed with keen disquietude and sorrow. The thought that the warnings given them, if in reality unheeded, as they appeared to be, would aggravate their final and everlasting condemnation,