

Youth's Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Sunday, October 16th, 1864.

Read—LUKE IX. 1-22: The miraculous supply of food. I SAMUEL XXII. 1-18: Saul's designs regarding David.

Recite—PSALM CXXXIX. 1-4.

Sunday, October 23rd, 1864.

Read—LUKE IX. 23-42: The transfiguration of Christ. I SAMUEL XXIII. 1-18: Saul's pursuit of David.

Recite—JOB V. 18-20.

Death of a Babe.

The following touching description of the dying hours of an infant child is taken from a little book, recently published in Boston, entitled "Agnes and the Key of her Little Coffin," which has been ascribed to the pen of Dr. Nehemiah Adams, of that city:

"She was not quite one year old. I cannot venture to describe her. My heart swells and is ready to break at the thought of some sweet, touching feature, some winning way, the posture and motion of her hands or feet, her articulated noises with her lips, the pressure of her mouth against our cheeks, that being as far as she had advanced in kissing. Sights of her asleep, when her mother and I stood over her, lamp in hand, are as deeply stamped on my mind as views in the Alps. I could tell you every dimple which we detected as she lay on her back, a knee or arm disengaged from her clothing. All her mimicry of sounds and of motions, and her little feats, which astonished herself and made us shout; her morning bath, she a little image, with her very straight back, and splashing the water with her feet; and other nameless things, raise the question and leave it in doubt whether I wish there were more of them to remember, or whether it is well for me that she had been developed no more. Human bliss arrives at perfection as frequently in such scenes and experiences as when we have made calculations for happiness; indeed, we are never more happy than during the little, sudden tournaments of love with a young child, supplying them with these inadvertent pleasures, one will find in the retrospect that he was most happy when he least suspected it. To know when we have in possession the means of true happiness, and to rejoice in it, and feel satisfied is rare. Would that I had thought more of this when my little child was with me.

"Sometimes I looked at her with a feeling of awe. Mine, indeed, she was; but in what a subordinate sense! The perfect frame, that wondrous mind, that immortal destiny, often made me shrink into nothingness at the contemplation of her—feeling that God, in making her, had rolled a sphere into an orbit which is measureless, making it touch mine, but having a path of its own, which cannot be comprehended in that of another, and not even that of the earthly parent. I was glad that there was an infinite God to possess this treasure, and control it, for it was too much for me. My enjoyment of her was often overshadowed by these thoughts. Still she was to me a perfect joy. Her beautifully unfolding life left me nothing to desire.

"But the destroyer came. It had been an exceeding hot summer, and cholera infantum had begun to waste the little face and frame. We saw that she must die; we nevertheless maintained a cheerfulness of feeling which afterwards seemed to us unnatural; but no doubt it was kindly given to bear us through the trial. The last night she was put to rest her symptoms were favorable but early in the morning the nurse whispered to me that the child looked strange, and she led my way to the nursery. The little patient lay with her hand under her cheek, her eyes were raised and fixed on the wall. I supposed that she was watching a show, and I spoke to her by name. She did not move, nor did she turn her eyes. I spoke again, and kissed her; it was in vain; the tearful truth flashed upon me that she was convulsed. We watched her till sundown, when she ceased to breathe.

"I fear that some of you will smile if I say she seemed to me the sweetest little thing that ever died; that as she lay in her last sleep no sight could be made so beautiful and touching; that the loss of a child never, probably, awoke such tenderness of love and such grief. Suffer me to think so, without debate.

"How can I tell you anything about the last sad scene at the grave? Enough to say that each of us kissed the sweet face; we gazed on her a few moments, while tears ran down; and some things were uttered, between speaking and crying, till at length her mother knelt, and held her face near the little face for a few moments, without a sound, then drew the white embroidered blanket over the little thing, for it was a cold day; and thus the last 'Now I lay me' I closed the lid. 'Lies down and riseth not till the heavens be no more.' What shall I have seen and known before I see this face again? That simple thing, the closing of the lid, what a world of meaning was in it! My thoughts were making a whirlpool about me, till my eye was taken by the nearer approach of a man in his shirt-sleeves and rough working garb, who respectfully seemed to intimate, 'We are ready, sir, when you are.' Oh must we, must we part? Must the grave have her?

"With an effort I said, 'They will be done.' I turned the key and took it out of the lock, and understood how every good man could have opened his mouth, at certain times, against the day of his birth.—We waited. In a few mo-

ments one more little mound grew up from the earth; the clouds of the valley had become sweet to one more father and mother."

Picket talks and incidents.

A correspondent of the *Tribune* with Gen. Grant's army furnishes the following interesting account of picket life and amusements:

There is more than usual sociability at the present time among the opposing pickets. On the right, I understand, they sit on the opposite ends of the same log and discuss the war, and the peace question. Some are not quite so sociable. The other day one of our officers, in stationing his pickets, said to one of them, "Well, sit down on the end of that log there, for the present, until you get the lay of the land a little, and see what is going on," and then went on stationing his detail. Presently the seated picket heard a rustling through the bushes at the other end of the log, and a voice, at the same time, asking, "Is that you, Yank?"

On being answered affirmatively—that it was "nobody else," Reb replied, "Well, I guess we are getting a little too close together. I will withdraw a little," suiting the action to the word.

On another occasion, two cooks in Col. Stevens' Brigade, 1st Division, 18th Army Corps, in taking dinner to their comrades in the trenches, took the wrong by-path, and brought up in the camp of the enemy. They were relieved of the dinner and sent to Richmond, and word sent back to our pickets by the dinner-eaters, that they would be very much obliged for another such meal. The other evening word was given out to our pickets, by the rebels, that some ladies had come down from Richmond, and that there was to be a prayer meeting in the rebel camp, and some of our boys were invited over, but they failed to "see it." On this part of the line, in some places, the opposing forces get water out of the same springs, and the pickets traffic more or less in newspapers and other commodities.

This intercourse and traffic seems to be carried on perhaps even more persistently and extensively, though a little differently, at some places on the left. The pickets have an agreement not to fire on each other without due notice, but it is understood that all captures by main strength, or superior numbers, are legitimate. This makes the pickets somewhat shy of each other, and consequently the most of their traffic is carried on in writing. They have a neutral post between their lines—a stump, for instance—where notes of negotiation and commodities of exchange are mutually left. A note or two of the rebel pickets, that I have seen, will more fully explain the *modus operandi*:

"Please mail this letter [an open letter] to my mother in Kentucky. Put on one of your stamps, and here is one of ours, and a piece of tobacco in return. What's the chance to get some coffee of you?"

These notes, with or without the article referred to as the case may be, are left at the nearest post, while the person leaving them retires, and the other person comes up and examines them, and replies—and so the traffic goes on. Sometimes the bargain and exchange is made in person, without the trouble of notes. One of the pickets told me that during one of the fiercest of the Weldon Railroad fights, the pickets on a portion of the lines near by, not immediately engaged, were driving a brisk trade in tobacco, note paper, &c. Besides this petty trafficking, not a little frank conversation on the state of affairs is known to be carried on between the more intelligent of the soldiers on picket.

While these pacific relations exist between the pickets, both at the right and left of the line, the greatest hostility prevails at the centre, immediately opposite Petersburg, and a man cannot put his head above the breastworks without running the risk of having it taken off by a shell, or made the target of numberless minie balls.

Asking Father.

A gentleman of fine social qualities, always ready to make liberal provision for the gratification of his children, a man of science and a moralist of the strictest school, was skeptical in regard to prayer, thinking it superfluous to ask God for what nature had already furnished ready to hand. His eldest son became a disciple of Christ. The father, while recognizing a happy change in the spirit and deportment of the youth, still harped upon his old objection to prayer as unphilosophical and unnecessary.

"I remember," said the son, "that I once made free use of your pictures, specimens and instruments for the entertainment of my friends. When you come home you said to me, 'All that I have belongs to my children, and I have provided it on purpose for them; still, I think it would be respectful always to ask your father before taking any thing.' And so," added the son, "although God has provided every thing for me, I think it is respectful to ask Him, and to thank Him for what I use."

The skeptic was silent; but he had since admitted that he has never been able to invent an answer to this simple, personal, sensible argument for prayer.—*Congregationalist*.

COVETOUSNESS.—In his volume of sermons, Dr. Fuller says: "For my own part, I have long been convinced that the love of money is the most common, insidious and fatal sin in the church."

Deferred Items.

The world is coming to an end in 1865—Professor Neumayer, of Munich, says so. He adds that a comet will run against the earth and absorb it, as a drop of water absorbs another!

MR. CRAIG, surgeon, Newcastle, says that whooping cough can be cured by inhaling the air from the purifying apparatus in gas works.

A LONDON PARK-KEEPER, when he catches any one in the act of petty theft, offers him the choice of drawing the garden roller, or to be taken into custody. The culprit always chooses the roller, and never commits a second offence.

NUTS FOR GEOLOGISTS.—Some navigators working on the Llanely and Swansea Extension Railway were excavating at Pontardulas, for the purpose of forming a culvert, and when at a depth of 10ft. a large birch tree, a hazel tree with nuts on it, and (extraordinary as it may appear) a large basinful of nuts, were picked up. All these articles were in excellent preservation, although they must have been there thousands of years.

A FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT occurred in a colliery near North Shields, England, on the 7th instant. While eighteen men and boys were at work in a portion of the Seghile Colliery, the gas suddenly fired, and in a moment they were all killed.

THE MURDERER MULLER arrived at Liverpool on Friday evening, the 16th inst., in the steamer *Etna*, which had made a long passage from New York. Muller appeared to have been perfectly calm and collected, and not a little amused at the interest felt in his movements by the crowd who assembled to have a glance at this now celebrated character. A man named George Augustus King has voluntarily surrendered himself to the London authorities as an accomplice of Muller in the murder, but his statements are not relied on.

THE DEATH OF CAPTAIN SPEKE has been a prevailing and melancholy topic of conversation. The facts were simply as follows:—Captain Speke was on a visit to his uncle, Mr. Fuller, of Neston Park, near Corsham, Wilts, the well known London brewer, and was out shooting with Mr. George Fuller, his cousin. While getting over a low stone wall Captain Speke, with an incautiousness remarkable in so practised a sportsman, held his gun with the muzzle towards him, and it going off the charge entered his body, passing completely through, severing the main arteries of the chest, and lacerating the lungs. Mr. Fuller, hearing the gun fired, turned round in time to see his friend and relative fall from the wall into the field, and the keeper, who was marking birds at a short distance, seeing his master run towards the deceased, also went up and found him mortally wounded. He was only sensible for a few minutes. On Mr. Fuller coming up he moved his hand to his chest, and said feebly "Don't move me." Shortly afterwards he breathed his last. A surgeon was on the spot very soon after the accident, but Captain Speke was dead before his arrival. The deceased was thirty-eight years of age and unmarried.

THE QUEEN AND THE PRINCE OF WALES.—Queen Victoria shares the fate of all crowned heads who have an heir of age. The Prince of Wales cannot agree with her, especially since England has abandoned Denmark. To show his opposition, he goes to pay a visit to his father-in-law at Copenhagen, though the Queen had openly intimated to him that she does not approve of such a demonstration. But the Prince is as headstrong as his grandfather had been; he cares nothing either for Lord Palmerston or his mother, and pleading that he is a free-born Englishman, does exactly as he pleases.—*Exchange*.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.—The Queensland Assembly, as we learn by a telegram published in the *South Australian Register*, and dated Brisbane, July 25, have passed an act legalising marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

ICE IN AUGUST IN ENGLAND.—On Thursday morning, the 25th ult., a piece of ice was taken from a sheep trough a Kidlington, near Oxford, which, after being carried half a mile, measured twelve inches in length, and was as thick as common window glass. The next morning ice was taken from a punt on the Isis, near Medley Lock, as thick as a sixpence.

Sir Morton Peto has, it is said, contracted with the Russian Government for the construction of a port at St. Petersburg, which will permit vessels to load and unload there now, and make the capital independent of Cronstadt, except for fighting purposes.

THE NEW ATLANTIC CABLE.—The editor of the *Quebec Mercury* has been presented, through Cyrus W. Field, Esq., with a sample of the new Atlantic cable. The *Mercury* thus speaks of its composition:

"It is an inch and a quarter in diameter, and is composed of seven strands of No. 20 fine copper wire, encased lengthwise in a gutta serena cube of five eighths of an inch diameter, covering the whole, enclosed in an independent wrapper of ten strands of iron wire of the best gun metal, No. 12 size each, wrought inside of a small hempen rope of about a quarter inch in diameter, saturated with tar, and laid spirally in a compact manner over the gutta serena rope containing the insulated conducting wire. The cable is two-thirds the weight of the old one, which our readers will recollect was almost entirely of metal. A mile and a half of it has been extended and found to bear, without injury, seven tons weight."

Missionary Intelligence.

BURMAH.

Mr. Crawley, June 17, 1864, announces his return from Rangoon, where he had been sojourning on account of the sickness of his little daughter. The health of the child has improved.

From Myindai, Mr. C. reports an encouraging state of affairs. There are more applicants for baptism and new inquirers. Donabaw and Myindai are the only outstations connected with Henthada which are supplied with native preachers.

Mr. Thomas reports in April last twenty-five persons baptized, of whom eleven belonged to one Pwo Karen village. Mr. T.'s school at Henthada for Karen preachers numbers this year 60 pupils, 2 Burmans, 11 Pwo Karens, 11 females, and the rest Sgau Karen young men.

SACRIFICING FOR THE RIGHT.—Another candidate baptized by Mr. Crawley showed himself willing to sacrifice worldly advantage for conscience' sake.

At the meeting this evening another candidate came forward. His business is that of a boatman. He engages with the owners of rice boats, at so much a trip to Rangoon and back. He had once before asked baptism, but had been rejected, because he was, he said, unable to see how he could follow his calling without violating the Sabbath. He was absent when the other candidates had been received, and arrived just after the baptism. His manner and all the evidence were in his favor; and as, on his last trip, he had faithfully kept the Sabbath, forfeiting part of his wages for conscience' sake, he was gladly and unanimously received.

MORE BAPTISMS.—Mrs. Ingalls of Thongzai, reports the baptism of five Burmans in connection with her work, and shows that the field of her labors is still promising. Her date is May 22, 1864.

Last Sabbath five more Burmans were added to our church by baptism. As in my last report, four of these are now neighbors and those who have witnessed for our truths for two or more years. The fifth is a merchant from the Burman province. He has been living near some of our Christians for the last seven months, and seems very sincere in his professions. His wife is a good listener, but she has a bad temper to contend with, and we wait for the workings of the Spirit in her heart. We had other applicants, but they were prevented in the ordinance by their heathen friends.

SELF-SUPPORTING CHURCHES IN BURMAH.—It is an interesting fact stated by Dr. Kincaid that more than a hundred churches support their own pastors, besides giving liberally for other objects.

With the blessing of God on our labors, these churches will be able to support preachers in a few years more. More than one hundred Karen churches are supporting their own pastors and contributing largely, for the amount of property they have, to the support of preachers in feeble churches and among the heathen. There are probably no churches in the world contributing so largely for preaching and for schools. *Macedonian*.

NEW DEVELOPMENT OF TURKISH FANATICISM.—The movements of the American missionaries in Constantinople have for many years been carried forward quietly and successfully in the midst of that intolerant and fanatical people. Prominent among the important and unexpected political and moral changes that have been effected during this period, was the remarkable edict of the late Sultan, granting toleration to their religions, and even permitting Mussulmen to renounce their own faith and adopt the Christian religion. Several have already done this, and multitudes, particularly in the capital, have come under the influence of Christianity from reading the New Testament, thousands of which have been circulated. Rev. Dr. Pfander of the English Church Missionary Society, has within a few years written several controversial works severely assailing Mohammedanism. The American missionaries believed these books ill-timed, and opposed their circulation. They have been extensively read, and greatly excited the fanatical Moslems. This excitement culminated on Sunday, July 17, when, without any warning, all the converted Turks who could be seized were suddenly thrown into prison. The next day the establishments of the American Board, the American and the British Bible Societies, and all the English missionary societies were seized, their occupants ejected, and the buildings sealed up. By the earnest remonstrance of Hon. J. P. Brown, the American Charge d' Affaires, against this summary outrage, the rooms of the American Board and the Bible Societies were reopened on Tuesday, being still under the charge of the police.

THE SABBATH IN SWITZERLAND.—A much needed Society was lately formed in Geneva for the sanctification of the Lord's day, which engages those interested in the various kinds of business to form special committees among themselves to examine the abuses of the day of rest, and to investigate the special remedies to be employed in each business. They began with the watch-makers and jewellers, the most important class of tradesmen in the city, who entered heartily into the plan. Encouraged by this success, they addressed another numerous class composed of the architects, builders, and masons. They hope thus, by interesting those employed in labor on the Sabbath on the importance of securing a day of rest, to lay a foundation for the religious influence of the day.