

Youth's Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Sunday, December 4th, 1864.

Read—LUKE xi. 14-26: The dumb speak. 1 SAMUEL xxv. 32-44: Abigail becomes David's wife. Recite—JOHN xvii. 24-26.

Sunday, December 11th, 1864.

Read—LUKE xi. 27-36: The wickedness of the people. 1 SAMUEL xxvi. Saul pursueth after David. Recite—PSALM ciii. 10-12.

Trying and Praying.

"I'm sure I never can be good, And so there's no use trying; When Peter calls me naughty names, I cannot help replying.

"I've tried, and tried—how oft I've tried I'm sure I can't remember; Since my birthday I've tried, I know, And that was in December.

"I'm sure I don't know what to do," "What is my darling saying? How can a little child be good, Who never thinks of praying?

"How could dear baby brother walk, If I were not beside him? He might be trying, but, you know, He needs a hand to guide him.

"Kneel down, dear child, kneel humbly down, Bow thy young head in meekness To Him who, with a Father's heart, Can pity all thy weakness.

"Ask for his Spirit in thy heart, To help each weak endeavor; Ask Him, 'mid snares and sins and tears, To be thy strength for ever."

"Sunday Sickness."

As among the symptoms of this disease may be specified the following:—In its earliest and milder stages the patient is confined to his bed until so late an hour on Sabbath morn that he is unable to dispatch ablutions and toilet in such season as to admit of entering the house of prayer before the minister has announced and read his text. When this disease becomes more serious the sufferer finds himself unable to reach the house of God at an earlier hour than the commencement of the afternoon service. In the still more advanced stages of this malady the afflicted requires that the sacred edifice be diverted from its originally intended purpose as a house of prayer, and that it be transformed into a public dormitory. The afflicted one secures an easy and comfortable position either at the door or at the head of his pew. And now an open mouth supplies the place of closed eyes, while a nodding head does the best it can to make up the lack of oral responses. But as if conscious of a deficiency, the nasal organ contributes its musical (?) effect towards supplying the lack. But when this Sunday sickness has become a deeply rooted and thoroughly confirmed disease, the subject thereof is no longer able to find his way to church. He keeps his house through the whole of the blessed Sabbath. There is, however, one remarkable peculiarity about this disease—a peculiarity which, so far as we know, has never yet been in any other ill that flesh is heir to. Reference is here had to the regularity of the recurrence of the malady, and to the period of its continuance. Its first symptoms are always felt at an early hour of Sunday morning; but at a still earlier hour of Monday morning the last vestige of it is eradicated from the system. On the latter morning our patient is astir bright and early. He will work like an Amazon throughout the day up to a late hour of the evening, and will thus continue for a succession of six days, during which time he experiences not the slightest symptoms of his chronic complaint until the fatal periodic hour shall again arrive. How fortunate for this sorely afflicted class of our fellow-beings that their incurable malady, which is so frequent and so regular in its recurrence, is yet so brief in its continuance!

Be Patient.

BY PAMELIA S. VINING.

Be patient, young man—young woman, be patient! Have you found an obstacle in the road? Does something bar your progress? Well, the way is full of such things; and they were put there on purpose. God knew very well, beforehand, how impulsive and hot-headed you would be—that you would run yourself out of breath in the very outset of life; or, perhaps, fling yourself into the very jaws of rain if you were let alone. So He put obstructions in your path here and there; not for the purpose of making you fret, but making you stop. Doubtless He had a good many reasons for putting them there; but one most excellent one was, that you might go to work and get them out of your way. This would give you a good habit, and, at the same time, afford you a chance to think about your plans—whether they were practicable—and, if practicable, profitable—and, if profitable, to what?—soul, or body, or both?

Another good reason, doubtless, is, that you might find there is some One in the universe bigger a good deal than yourselves—One who can defeat your plans—who can bring down your high looks when they get too high, and who would fain bring you to acknowledge Him in all your ways. Be patient. A difficulty was never removed by fretting; but, instead, another and a worse is almost sure to be raised up in yourself. Success that is won in a day is apt to be lost in a day. The best and most lasting is that which has been won in spite of strong opposition—that of one who had to clear out the stones and rubbish from his own pathway; and occasionally fight hard battles with these giant difficulties which terrify you so much. A tree never sprung at one bound from its tiny germ to its full perfection of shape and size! Be content to grow. Growth is the law of life—what right have you to wish to be the exception?

Be patient, fretful mother—exacting father! That boy can't help a great deal of his irritability and restlessness. They are your own characteristics re-produced and intensified in him; and they are not such bad ones either if you will only manage them properly. It is no very good plan to put yourself in a fret every time your boy does—he sometimes frets from the very excess of his animal spirits, which only want a little patient curbing to be all right. But you fret often from excess of ill-temper, for which your boy's peevishness furnishes you an occasion rather than a cause.

All that is wanting to make this restless, turbulent, young creature a thoroughly docile and well-behaved child are patience, firmness, more discrimination, and more self-control on your part. Govern yourselves, and you will find no very serious trouble in governing your child. If you must needs chastise him, be good-natured about it. Let him see that you do it as a duty you owe to him, and not because you want something to vent your ill-nature upon. Suppose you are tired, and vexed, and over-worked. Your child isn't to blame is he? Be patient. It is no wild beast you are taming and subduing—if it were, I am afraid it would turn and rend you—but it is a boy—a young immortal—a something greater than the world—that for which the world was made.

What you do is not for a day, nor your own life even, but for eternity; and eternity will expose your present impatience in awful coloring. You had better be patient!

Be patient, Christian! God gave you that work to do, and not to fret over. You have been praying for something to do; and now that you have it, you are dissatisfied. Be patient. It is not so severe a task as it seems while you look at it with fault-finding eyes. If you do it patiently, it will bring a reward—if you do it impatiently, you will not only lose your reward, but your work will not be accepted. God loves the cheerful doer, no less than the cheerful giver. If you have a small work given you, put forth a corresponding effort; if it be a great work, make a great effort—in either case, be patient. God often gives great tasks when we only ask for little ones; and little tasks when we are ambitious for something great—the former to correct our indolence, the latter to humble our pride. Perhaps you cannot see the wisdom of His dealings yet, but if you are patient and diligent, you will see.

Be patient, seed-sower! If you do not see the harvest, some one else will. God giveth the increase. Be patient, weary reaper!—the sun will set by-and-by, and then you will find rest. The more tired you are, the sweeter will be repose. Be patient, humble gleaner! the Master will accept your tiny sheaf if it be only gathered with a patient, obedient spirit. Be patient, aged christian—you are almost at the end of your journey—only a few more obstacles against which to trip your tired feet—only one or two more hills to climb, and then you will be at home. Be patient, dying saint!—your Master crossed the river before you—He is on the other shore holding up a crown of life—be patient.—C. Baptist.

Prayer.

In the very moment when thou prayest, a treasure is laid up for thee in heaven. No Christian's prayer falls back from the closed gates of heaven; each enters there like a messenger-dove; some bring back immediate visible answers; but all enrich our store of blessings there, and all return to the heart with the fragrance of peace on them, from the holy place where they have been. The Christian, even when he is walking for recreation, in his converse with others, in silence, in reading, in all rational pursuits, finds opportunity for prayer. And although he is only thinking on God in the little chamber of his soul, and calling on his Father with silent aspiration, God is near him, and with him, for he is still speaking to him.—Gregory.

There is dew in one flower, and not in another, because one opens its cups and takes it in, while the other closes itself and the drop runs off. God rains goodness and mercy as wide as the dew and if we lack them, it is because we will not open our hearts to receive them.

Man's plea to man is, that he never more will beg, and that he never begged before; Man's plea to God is, that he did obtain a former suit, and therefore sues again. How good a God we serve; that, when we sue, Makes his old gifts th' examples of his new.

What word is that of five letters from which if you take away two, you leave but one? Stone.

The Confederation of the British American Provinces.

We have been prevented giving, in our columns, an earlier insertion of the arrangements proposed by the late Intercolonial Conference, for a Union of the Provinces. The document was brought to light through the Prince Edward Island press, and has since appeared in many of the papers of this Province. The following extracts contain the substance of the proposals to be submitted to the several legislatures concerned. The people generally will be required to form an opinion on the subject; and will probably have to give expression to that opinion at the hustings. We therefore deem it due to our readers that so much at least should appear in our pages, as that those who read it in no other paper, may have some information concerning what is proposed to be done with the government of their country:

"That the best interests and present and future prosperity of British North America will be promoted by a Federal Union under the Crown of Great Britain, provided such Union can be effected on principles just to the several Provinces.

That in the federation of the British North American Provinces, the system of Government best adapted, under existing circumstances, to protect the diversified interests of the several Provinces, and secure efficiency, harmony, and permanency in the working of the Union, would be a general Government charged with matters of common interest to the whole country, and local Governments for each of the Canadas and for the Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, charged with the control of local matters in their respective sections,—provision being made for the admission into the Union on equitable terms of Newfoundland, the North-West Territory, British Columbia, and Vancouver.

That in framing a Constitution for the general Government, the Conference, with a view of the perpetuation of our connection with the Mother country, and to the promotion of the best interests of the people of these Provinces, desire to follow the model of the British Constitution, so far as our circumstances will permit.

That the Executive Authority or Government shall be vested in the Sovereign of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and be administered according to the well understood principles of the British Constitution by the Sovereign personally, or by the Representative of the Sovereign duly authorized.

"That the members of the Legislative Council shall be British subjects by birth or naturalization, of the full age of thirty years, shall possess a continuous real property qualification of four thousand dollars over and above all incumbrances, and shall be and continue worth that sum over and above their debts and liabilities; but in the case of Newfoundland, the property may be either real or personal.

"That the basis of representation in the House of Commons shall be Population, as determined by the official Census every ten years; and that the number of members at first shall be 194, distributed as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Province and Number of Members. Upper Canada, 82; Lower Canada, 65; Nova Scotia, 19; New Brunswick, 15; Newfoundland, 8; Prince Edward Island, 5.

"That every House of Commons shall continue for five years from the day of the return of the writs choosing the same, and no longer, subject nevertheless, to be sooner prorogued or dissolved by the Governor.

That there shall be a Session of the General Parliament once at least in every year, so that a period of twelve calendar months shall not intervene between the last sitting of the General Parliament in one Session and the first sitting of the General Parliament in the next session.

That the General Parliament shall have power to make laws for the peace, welfare, and good government of the federated provinces (saving the sovereignty of England), and especially laws respecting the following subjects:

- 1. The public debt and property. 2. The regulation of trade and commerce. 3. The imposition or regulation of duties of customs on imports and exports, except on exports of timber, logs, masts, spars, deals, and sawn lumber, and of coal and other minerals. 4. The imposition or regulation of excise duties. 5. The raising of money by all or any other modes or systems of taxation. 6. The borrowing of money on the public credit. 7. Postal service. 8. Lines of steam or other ships, railways, canals and other work, connecting any two or more of the Provinces together, or extending beyond the limits of any province. 9. Lines of steamships between the federated Provinces and other countries. 10. Telegraphic communication, and the incorporation of telegraph companies. 11. All such works as shall, although lying wholly within any Province, be specially declared by the Acts authorizing them to be for the general advantage. 12. The census. 13. Militia—military and naval service and defence. 14. Beacons, buoys, and light houses. 15. Navigation and shipping. 16. Quarantine. 17. Sea coast and inland fisheries. 18. Ferries between any Province and a foreign country, or between any two Provinces. 19. Currency and coinage. 20. Banking—incorporation of banks, and the issue of paper money. 21. Savings banks. 22. Weights and measures. 23. Bills of exchange and promissory notes. 24. Interest. 25. Legal tender. 26. Bankruptcy and insolvency. 27. Patents of invention and discovery. 28. Copyrights. 29. Indians and lands reserved for the

Indians. 30. Naturalization and aliens. 31. Marriage and divorce. 32. The criminal law, excepting the constitution of courts of criminal jurisdiction, but including the procedure on criminal matters. 33. Rendering uniform all or any of the laws relative to property and civil rights in Upper Canada, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland, and rendering uniform the procedure of all or any of the courts in these Provinces; but any statute for this purpose shall have no force or authority in any Province until sanctioned by the Legislature thereof. 34. The establishment of a general Court of Appeal for the federated Provinces. 35. Immigration. 36. Agriculture. 37. And generally respecting all matters of a general character, not specially and exclusively reserved for the local governments and legislatures.

That the general Government and Parliament shall have all powers necessary or proper for performing the obligations of the federated Provinces, as part of the British Empire, to foreign countries, arising under treaties between Great Britain and such countries."

"That until the consolidation of the laws of Upper Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island, the judges of these Provinces appointed by the general Government shall be selected from their respective bars."

"That the judges of the Superior Courts shall hold offices during good behaviour, and shall be removable only on the address of both Houses of Parliament."

"That the Lieutenant Governor of each Province shall be paid by the general Government."

"That the local Government and Legislature of each Province shall be constructed in such manner as the existing Legislature of such Province shall provide in the act of consenting to the Union."

"That the local Legislatures shall have power to make laws respecting the following subjects: Direct taxation and the imposition of duties on the export of timber, logs, masts, spars, deals, and sawn lumber, and of coals and other minerals.

Borrowing money on the credit of the Province.

The establishment and tenure of local offices, and the appointment and payment of local officers.

Agriculture.

Immigration.

Education—saving the rights and privileges which the Protestant or Catholic minority in both Canadas may possess as to their denominational schools, at the time when the Union goes into operation.

The sale and management of public lands, excepting lands belonging in the general Government.

Sea coast and inland fisheries.

The establishment, maintenance, and management of penitentiaries, and of public and reformatory prisons.

The establishment, maintenance, and management of hospitals, asylums, charities, and eleemosynary institutions.

Municipal institutions.

Shop, saloon, tavern, auctioneer and other licenses.

Local Works.

The incorporation of private or local companies except such as relate to matters assigned to the Federal Legislature.

Property and civil rights, excepting those portions thereof assigned to the general Legislature.

Inflicting punishment by fine, penalties, imprisonment, or otherwise for the breach of laws passed in relation to any subject within their jurisdiction.

The administration of justice, including the constitution, maintenance, and organization of the courts—both of civil and criminal jurisdiction, and including also the procedure in civil matters.

And generally all matters of a private or local nature not assigned to the general Government.

That the power of respiting, reprieving, commuting, and pardoning prisoners convicted of crimes, and of remitting of sentences in whole or in part, which belongs of right to the Crown, shall be administered by the Lieutenant Governor of each Province in Council, subject to any instructions he may from time to time receive from the general Government, and subject to any provisions that may be made in this behalf by Parliament."

"That the seat of Government of the Federated Provinces shall be Ottawa, subject to the Royal prerogative.

That, subject to any future action of the respective local Governments, the seat of the local Government in Upper Canada shall be Toronto; of Lower Canada, Quebec; and the seats of the local Governments in the other Provinces shall be as at present.

That all stocks, cash, bankers' balances, and securities for rent belonging to each Province, at the time of the Union, except as hereinafter mentioned, shall belong to the general Government.

That the following public works and property of each Province shall belong to the general Government—to wit:

- Canals; Public harbours; Lighthouses and piers; Steamboats, dredges, and public vessels; River and lake improvements; Railway, and railway stocks, Mortgages, and other debts due by railway companies; Military roads; Custom houses, post offices and other public buildings, except such as may be set aside by the general Government for the use of the local Legislatures and Governments;