

Youth's Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Sunday, April 2nd, 1865.

LUKE XVI. 1-13: Parable of the unjust steward. 2 SAMUEL IV.: Ishbosheth slain and his murderers put to death.

Recite—PHILIPPIANS II. 5-11.

Sunday, April 9th, 1865.

LUKE XVI. 13-31: The rich man and Lazarus. 2 SAMUEL V.: David's kingdom established.

Recite—PSALM CXVII.

Freddy's Prayer.

A bright-eyed boy of four years was saying his prayers the other night to his mother, and with his hands folded and eyes closed, he sweetly said:

"Now I lay me down to sleep I pray the Lord my soul to keep; If I should die before I wake I pray the Lord my soul to take. God bless papa, mamma, and—"

He stopped all at once, opened his eyes and exclaimed: "Mother, mother, what shall I say if I have been a bad boy?"

"You should not stop to ask questions, my son, while you are saying your prayers," replied his mother.

"But mother, I have been bad; what shall I say?"

"Ask God to forgive you; but you should say your prayers, all through, when you begin, without stopping."

His question answered, he reverently folded his hands, and closing his eyes, continued: "And will God forgive me for killing a hoptoad with a big stick, and throwing it down a big hole? Amen."

Children of a large growth will do well to copy.

We must all mind somebody.

Annie and Nettie, Mrs. Gray's children, lay snugly tucked in their little bed, where their mother had just left them. They had said their evening prayers at her knee in the sweet summer twilight, and she had been speaking with them about the past day's conduct. They kept talking after she left them.

Annie was the larger and stronger of the two, and took the lead in everything. "Dear me, Nettie," said she, "don't you wish it was mamma's duty to mind us, instead of ours to mind her? I would let her go visiting every day, and she would wear her best dresses all the time."

"Then what could we let her wear Sundays?" asked Nettie.

"Oh!" said Annie. "Well, then, perhaps she better not. But now, Nettie! it isn't a bit pleasant to mind, is it? Everybody is always saying, 'Annie, don't do this, Annie, don't do that. The more I want to, the more I can't. How nice it would be to have papa and mamma ask us if they might go to spend the day at grandma's, instead of our having to ask them. I'd always let 'em go!'"

"But then you know, Annie," replied Nettie, "they would not ask to go if it wasn't best. They would always know. Don't you remember how you cried because you couldn't go to Lottie Frost's that afternoon when there was such an awful storm? Mamma thought it was coming, and it did, and how scared we were! If we had gone, we should have been all wet through, and perhaps the thunder would have struck us on the road."

"Don't let us talk any more," said Annie—"I'm going to sleep."

"Wait a minute, Annie," said their mother, who had been sitting in the next chamber, and had overheard them. "Let me sit by you a little longer and talk about this tiresome minding. Do you suppose, dear, that you children are the only ones that have to mind? Why, we must all mind some one."

"Now, mamma!" began Annie, "Why mamma! you know you can do just anything you want to. You could buy all the candy in Mr. Brown's store, and you could go to ride all the time. I wish I was grown up."

"But if you were grown up," said Mrs. Gray, "you would have to obey your conscience, and that is harder than obeying me. You would have to think, and think. You would have to say, 'Is this right? Is it best? Will it wrong others?' You could easily decide then about buying candy, but there would be much harder questions to settle. You would have more difficult 'minding' to do, and I want you to get a good habit of it now, so as to make it easier then."

"But who shall I have to mind, mamma? Who do you?"

"It is our Heavenly Father, Annie. He speaks to me in the Bible, and in my conscience, and when I obey Him I am happy. But, if I don't mind directly, everything goes wrong, and I am miserable. We are all God's children, and he is training us here to live with him in heaven. And as we are ignorant, and do not know what is best for us, he wants us to obey what he tells us. You are too young yet to understand all his commands, so he has kindly given you parents to teach you. It is love that makes us ask you to obey, and you must believe that, my darling. If you trust and mind us, you will be a happy, and a good and happy woman. Tell me, Annie, are not you happier now when you are obedient?"

"Yes, ma'am, it's true I am. When I am

naughty, I feel bad enough to cry, only I am too cross. Oh, mamma, how shall I get rid of my naughty ways?"

"Pray to Jesus, dear child, Jesus is called a Saviour, because he saves us from our sins." And Mrs. Gray knelt down beside her children and prayed with many tears that they might become obedient and happy followers of the meek and lowly Jesus, who is able to help and bless the youngest child.

Afraid of Thunder.

"Shall I tell you what I heard Uncle Gillette saying to one of the little girls at school who was afraid of thunder?"

"O do!" said Lucy, "I am so frightened when it thunders."

Lucy nestled closer in her sister's lap, and Rosa began:

"There was once a mighty king who was so terrible in war that all his enemies were afraid of him; the very sound of his name made them tremble. His arm was so strong that the horse and his rider would sink under one blow of his battle-axe; and when he struck with his sharp sword his enemies fell dead at his feet. This mighty king had a little fair-haired daughter, who watched him as he prepared for battle. She saw him put on his helmet, and laughed as the plumer nodded above his brow. She saw the stately battle-axe brought out; she saw him take his keen sword in his hand; he tried its edge, and then waved it about his head. She laughed as it sparkled in the sunlight; and even while it was upheld, she ran towards her father to take a parting kiss. Why was not that little child afraid of the mighty king with the fierce weapons? Because he was her father; she knew that he loved her—loved her as his own life. She knew that those dangerous weapons would never be raised against her unless to save her from worse peril. Do you understand what Uncle Gillette meant by this story?"

"Not exactly," said little Lucy. "Won't you tell me?"

"He meant," said Rosa, "that God is like that mighty king; sickness, lightning, danger, death, are all his weapons; but we need not fear them if we are truly his children. When the sharp lightning flashes in the sky, we can look calmly at its beauty, for it is in our Father's hand; sickness may be around us; but our Father can keep us safe. Death may come, but it will only be to send us to our Father's arms."—Pastor's Helper.

Three Rules for Good Reading.

First—Finish each word. I use the phrase in the sense of a watchmaker or jeweller. The difference between two articles, which at a little distance look much the same, all lies in the finish. Each wheel in a watch must be thoroughly finished; and so each word in a sentence must be most completely and carefully pronounced. This will make reading both pleasant and audible. Careful pronunciation is more important than noise. Some time ago I heard a person make a speech in a large hall; he spoke distinctly, and I heard every word; unfortunately, he became warm in his subject, and spoke loudly and energetically, and immediately his speech became an inarticulate noise. Secondly—Do not drop the voice at the end of the sentence. Simple as this rule may seem, it is one most necessary to enforce. If the whole of a sentence be audible except the conclusion the passage read becomes discontinuous, a series of intelligible portions interspersed with blanks. Confusion, of necessity, attaches to the whole. Thirdly—Always read from a full chest. The reading voice should always be a complete voce di petto; and the chest, which is truly the wind-chest of the human organ, should never be exhausted. This is as important for the speaker as for the hearer, and for the hearer's ease, and becomes agreeable. Singers know well the importance, indeed the necessity, of taking breath at proper places. The same thing is important of reading, and for reading in a large building attention to this matter is indispensable.—Dean of Ely in the Englishman's Magazine.

Bishop Simpson and President Lincoln.

The bishop recently delivered his great lecture in Wesley Chapel, Washington, to a large audience, among whom were President Lincoln and Secretary Stanton. The bishop told an anecdote about a Kentuckian asked by an Englishman what were the boundaries of our country. The Kentuckian replied that the United States were "bounded on the east by the rising sun, on the west by the precession of the equinoxes, on the north by the aurora borealis, and on the south by the day of judgment." This reminded the facetious President of the following story, which he told sub voce to those around him—"John Bull met with a North American Indian, and in the course of conversation was very anxious to impress him with the greatness of the British Empire. 'The sun,' said Mr. Bull, 'never sets on English dominion. Do you understand how that is?' 'Oh, yes,' said the Indian, 'that is because God is afraid to trust them in the dark.'" The lecture ended, the President waited to greet the bishop, but could not wind up without another joke. The bishop, in showing our ability to carry on the war for any length of time that rebel pluck or resistance might make necessary, had enumerated our vast sources of wealth. "Bishop," said Mr. Lincoln, as the bishop approached him, "you never struck the fire!"—N. Y. Methodist.

Deferred Items.

It is expected that the Atlantic telegraph will be ready for laying by the end of May.

The Bank of England minimum rate of discount is now reduced to 4 1/2 per cent.

On the site of Sodom and Gomorrah, English enterprise is about to establish a factory for the extracting of bromides from the waters!

Some country people at Haddenham recently sent a live fox as a present to the Prince of Wales. It was returned to them without thanks.

The Court Journal says the last words of Cardinal Wiseman to those around him were, "Here I am at last, like a child, going home for the holidays."

A man in drink walked over the cliffs, 300 feet high, at the Giant's Causeway, a few days ago. His body was only identified afterwards by the clothes.

It is said that the Roman Catholic Bishop of Clifton (Dr. Clifford) has been appointed to succeed the late Cardinal Wiseman as Archbishop of Westminster.

We learn on good authority that the Government propose to carry on the session till about the 10th or 15th of July, and then to dissolve Parliament.—Pall Mall Gazette.

It is officially announced that a telegraphic message was received in London on Thursday morning from India which had been transmitted to England in the almost incredibly short time of eight hours and a half!

Both Vesuvius and Etna are now in eruption, an incident which would, at one time, have been looked upon as ominous. The discharge of lava from Vesuvius is increasing, that from Etna is now diminishing.

Owing to ill health, Lord Lyons has been compelled to resign the post of British Minister at Washington. His successor will be Sir Frederick Bruce, our Minister in China, who happens, opportunely, to be in England at the present moment.

The Wurtemberg Chamber of Deputies has just pronounced in favour of the abolition of the punishment of death by a majority of fifty-six to twenty-seven. Of 290 petitions addressed to the Chamber on this subject, 260 were for and thirty against the abolition.

Very heavy snow storms have prevailed this winter in Scotland, and on some of the railways no trains ran for several days, the rails being buried by drifts from four to fourteen feet deep. The melting of this mass of snow by the succeeding warm weather caused a great flood in many streams by which much valuable property was destroyed.

Lord Powerscourt is introducing at his own expense, the spawn of white fish and other freshwater fish from the American lakes and Nova Scotia. Locks Lumend, Tay, Awe, and our other lakes and rivers should be stocked with these fine fish. The white fish are a valuable article of commerce, £90,000 worth being bartered in the States, and £40,000 annually in Canada West, for exportation.—English paper.

GREECE.—Serious discontent prevails in Greece, especially among the inhabitants of the Ionian Islands, and reactionary proclamations have been posted in various places. The Queen of Denmark is expected to visit Athens.

The public treasury was empty, and a loan of 500,000 drachmas had been concluded with the National. The deficit for last year amounted to 6,000,000 drachmas, and this year was supposed to exceed that amount.

ADMISSION OF CLERGYMEN TO THE BAR.—The Benchers of Lincoln's-inn have adopted by a large majority the opinion of the small majority of the delegates from the four Inns of Court in favour of admitting to the bar clergymen who have (as far as they can) abandoned the clerical profession, leaving it to the bishops to take such steps as they may think fit, by refusal of licence or institution, to prevent such persons resuming their clerical functions.

TEN MEN BEHEADED FOR DESTROYING AN ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.—On the recent introduction of the electric telegraph in Morocco, notwithstanding the opposition of the fanatics, the Emperor of that country threatened with execution any person who should injure the apparatus.

The wires having been recently destroyed by the inhabitants of Mahorany, the village was by his Majesty's order, surrounded, and the heads of ten of the natives were cut off and fixed on the telegraph posts as a warning. This summary punishment is declared to have produced a great impression on the people.—Galvani.

EDUCATION OF THE RUSSIAN PEASANTRY.—The Russian Government, as a consequence of the emancipation of the peasants, has just taken measures for the diffusion of instruction among the agricultural population. An additional budget of 450,000 roubles for the year 1865 has just been decreed, so that the budget of Public Instruction now amounts to about 1,300,000 roubles. This supplementary budget provides for the founding of village schools, of eleven new gymnasia (colleges) for the purchase of books, paper, &c., for the poorer peasants, and for supplementary payment to schoolmasters and professors, for the purchase of scientific instruments, for the establishment of laboratories and museums, for the reorganization of the University of Warsaw, for the foundation of a Polytechnic School, and for other schools for teaching agriculture and horticulture.

Agriculture, etc.

For the Christian Messenger.

Bread Making.

DEAR MR. EDITOR,

As so many good housekeepers (and poor ones too) are often puzzled to know how to make and keep good yeast, it occurred to me, as a good plan to make known through your valuable paper, a "Recipe," together with a little of my experience in its use, by way of recommending its good qualities to those who may be inclined to try it. I obtained the recipe when residing in the U. States, (where many good and useful things may be learned) and have used it now about fourteen years, and I may almost say have never failed to have sweet light bread, and that without the use of soda or any other help. One great advantage in making this yeast is, it does not require to be kept air tight in order to keep seed for renewing. It is only necessary to keep it in the jar in which it was made, covered with the lid of the jar. This yeast if kept in the cellar, or some cool dry place, will keep six weeks, and not lose its virtue.

Yours truly, S.

RECIPE FOR MAKING YEAST WITHOUT SEED.

Take one ounce hops, two table spoons full of common salt, put them in a pot, and pour on five quarts soft water, boil down to four, then strain through a colander, or very coarse sieve. When lukewarm, take sixteen table spoonsful flour and four spoonsful brown sugar, put them in a basin, then take enough of the liquor to wet the flour and make a smooth batter; have a clean, scalded, stone jar, and pour all in—cover it and let it stand for two days so near a stove or fireplace as to be kept lukewarm, if possible; stir it up from the bottom of the jar some three or four times during the forty-eight hours it requires for fermentation; then peel good dry mealy potatoes enough to weigh four pounds when peeled; boil and, after draining, mash very fine, and when blood-warm stir them thoroughly into the yeast; let it stand twelve hours, and it is fit for use. After the potatoes are put in it should not be kept so warm, but still it must not chill.

Three table spoonsful of this yeast is sufficient to set a sponge for three or four loaves. Do not add water to the sponge after it has fermented, but wet as much at first as you wish to bake at one time. In taking out yeast from time to time, disturb it as little as can be; the beer that rises to the top keep on, but do not mix it with the thick settled at the bottom of the jar, when you take it out for use.

CALIFORNIA: VEGETATION AND EXTRAVAGANCE.

All the vegetation of California is monstrous in growth. Strawberries as big as hen's eggs, some of which sold at a Sanitary Fair for a dollar apiece. Indeed, eggs have sometimes sold in market at seven to ten dollars per dozen. We have no conception of the extravagance of the people. They never think of the price of anything so long as they have the money. They live on their capital instead of income, and begin anew every year. A lazy stage-driver will toss the stable-boy who waters his horse a silver half-dollar as if it were but two cents. Judging from their generosity, we think the people must be immensely rich, but they are poor—keep themselves so by their extravagance; no population in the world, living at the same rate, has so little wealth. But the great crops—green vegetables are to be had through the whole year, and in size they beat nature. A respectable Presbyterian clergyman told me he planted a peach-pip, and in fourteen months it had grown to a tree ten feet high, and he ate peaches grown upon it. Now, you don't believe this; but it is true. One man cut a stick which he carried as a cane for a week or two, and then sticking it into the ground as a support for a weak sapling, it sprouted, and in two years he gathered a peck of pears from that very cane! We have no conception of the activity of that soil. Prodigious crops of wheat and oats are raised; and as to peaches, plums, and pears, why I should ruin my character for veracity should I give you the facts about them. Pears weigh five and six pounds; grapes weigh four and a half pounds to the bunch. It is the greatest grape-growing country in the world; they are produced in the greatest profusion—grapes for breakfast, grapes for dinner—and yet they are not cheap, because labor enters into their cultivation, and labor is high. So nothing is cheap, though it is picked up in the streets, because the man who picks it up will charge you a quarter for stooping down and picking it up. All vegetables, potatoes, turnips, etc. are sold by the pound, and you can imagine what the bills must be.—Address by the Rev. Dr. Bellows.

There is nothing in nature more useful than water; but, commonly speaking, you can neither obtain a farthing for it nor get any article in exchange for it.

San Francisco papers say that a tree, the trunk being 90 feet in circumference and 325 feet high, has been cut down lately in California. It yielded 250,000 feet of good timber.