

Month's Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Sunday, May 21st, 1865.

LUKE xviii. 31-43: A blind man restored to his sight. 2 SAMUEL ix.: David sends for Mephibosheth.

Recite—MATTHEW xi. 4, 5, 6.

Sunday, May 28th, 1865.

LUKE xix. 1-10: Conversion of Zaccheus. 2 SAMUEL x.: David's enemies overcome.

Recite—JOHN xx. 26-29.

Be in season!

"I am very sorry I kept you waiting, Uncle," said George with a blush, as he took his seat in the carriage for a drive; "I hope you have not been here long."

"Just thirty-five minutes," said the old gentleman. Then carefully folding up his newspaper, he gathered up the reins and gave them a little admonitory shake.

"I am very sorry, indeed; but you see I was detained, and could not get off before." He would have colored still deeper if obliged to explain the frivolous cause of this delay.

"If it could not be helped," said the other, of course it is all right; but if it might have been avoided, why then it is another matter. Half hours are precious things, my boy, and you will find them so if you live long. Punctuality must be a young man's watchword, if he ever hopes to make anything of himself or his opportunities. I had a young friend once in New-Haven, who went into business for himself, just as you hope to next fall, but had this standing failing, he was always a little behind time. I remember once he had need of a thousand dollars to make a payment on a certain day. He could have gathered it up easily enough if he had begun in time. But the day had arrived and he was in great perplexity. Still there was an easy way out of the difficulty. He ran around to an obliging neighbor, and borrowed the sum for three days. Well, he felt quite at his ease after the bill was paid, and the three days slipped by thoughtlessly, and he was no more ready to pay the borrowed money than he had been the other. It could make no difference with the merchant, he was sure, and he hastened to him with abundant apologies.

"It will make no difference at all with me," said the gentleman blandly, "but it will make much difference with you."

"How so?" asked the other.

"I shall never lend to you again," he said, as politely as if it were a very pleasant fact he was communicating. I was young then, and I always remember the little circumstance, and have been often influenced by it. Poor E. did not succeed well. Business men will soon lose confidence in you, George, if you are not always as good as your word, and every one needs the good-will of his fellows. Perfect punctuality should be your lowest aim in this respect. You will lose untold amounts of time for want of it, and cause others to do the same. That is the worst kind of pilfering. Stolen gold can be got back, or replaced, but no power can bring a lost half-hour."—Methodist Free Church Magazine.

A Scene at Charleston.

The negroes of Charleston having obtained permission of the authorities to celebrate their deliverance from slavery by the advance of General Sherman's army, observed Tuesday, March 21, as a day of rejoicing. The designated place of assembling was at the Citadel-square, and at 12 o'clock, not only the space within the enclosure, but the streets on either side, were crowded with men, women, and children, all preparing to form themselves into a procession. At 2 o'clock the number of people thus assembled reached 4,000, and shortly after that hour the coloured marshals took their position in the line, and everything was ready for the start. First in the procession came the two coloured marshals on horseback, each wearing badges and rosettes of white, red, and blue. Then the black clergymen of the different churches, carrying open Bibles; then an open car, drawn by four white horses, and tastefully adorned with national flags. In this car there were fifteen coloured girls dressed in white, to represent the fifteen recent Slave States. Each of them had a bouquet to present to General Saxton after the speech which he was expected to deliver. A long procession of women followed the car. Then followed the children of the public schools—or part of them; and there were 1,800 in line at least. They sang during the entire length of the march—

"John Brown's body lies a mouldering in the grave, His soul is marching on! Glory! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!"

Throughout the march they observed good order, and showed by their joyful countenances that they thoroughly appreciated the improved change which has been worked out for them. They only ceased to sing in order that they might cheer Gen. Saxton, Col. Woodford, various groups of Union officers or sailors, or one or two Northern men whom they recognised as their friends. Gen. Saxton and lady were in a carriage at one street where the procession passed, and Col. Woodford and lady at another; and one continuous cheer greeted them, mingled with cheers for an officer whom they supposed to be Gen. Hatch. The coloured people know all these officers as their friends. Gen. Saxton is their favourite everywhere in the Department, and they have all learned that

Gen. Hatch and Col. Woodford gave them equal rights in the public schools—an advantage which they prize next to freedom. They were followed by an organisation of about fifty butchers, who carried their knives at their sides, and in front of them displayed a good-sized porker. Next in order Lieutenant-Colonel Bennet commanding, preceded by a band. The regiment turned out in nearly full force, and presented a very fine appearance. The tailors carrying shears as the emblem of their trade, and the coopers, with hoops in their hands, turned out in large force. After them came the firemen, there being no less than ten organisations represented in the line. They were dressed in red shirts, with belts around their waists, and made an attractive feature in the procession. The various trade associations, including painters, blacksmiths, carpenters, wheelwrights, barbers, and others, all came in regular order.

The most original feature of the procession was a large cart, drawn by two dilapidated horses with the worst harness that could be got to hold out, which followed the trades. On this cart there was an auctioneer's book, and a black man, with a bell, represented a negro trader, a red flag waving over his head; recalling the days so near and yet so far off, when human beings were made merchandise of in South Carolina. This man had himself been bought and sold several times; and two women and a child who sat on the block had also been knocked down at public auction in Charleston. As the cart moved along, the mock-auctioneer rang his bell and cried out: "How much am I offered for this good cook?" "She is an 'xlent cook, ge'men.'" "She can make four kinds of mock-turtle soup—from beef, fish, or fowls." "Who bids?" "200's bid." "Two hundred?" "200's bid." "250" "300," "350," "400," "450." "Who bids?" "Who bids 500?" And so he went on imitating in sport the infernal traffic of which many of the spectators had been the living victims. Old women burst into tears as they saw this tableau, and forgetting it was a mimic scene, shouted wildly, "Give me back my children! Give me back my children!" Behind the auction car sixty men marched, tied to a rope—in imitation of the gangs who used often to be led through these streets on their way from Virginia to the sugar-fields of Louisiana. All of these men had been sold in the old times.

Then came the hearse—a comic feature, which attracted great attention, and was received with shouts of laughter. There was written on it with chalk:

"Slavery is dead."  
"Who owns him?"  
"No one."  
"Sumter dug his grave on the 13th April, 1861."

Behind the hearse fifty women marched dressed in black, but with joy in their faces. Various societies were represented. The procession was more than two miles and a-half in length, and officers said that it marched in better military style than the great procession on the 6th of March in New York. There was no drunkenness, no riotous disposition, no insolent airs, no rudeness.

The banners bore among other mottoes these sentences: "Liberty and Union, one and inseparable"; "Our past the Block, our future the Schools"; "We are filling the last ditch"; "Our Reply to Slavery—Coloured Volunteers"; "Free Homes, Free Schools, One Country and One Flag"; "We are on the way to Bunker Hill"; "Bunker Hill and Fort Sumter, both Shelter the Freedmen"; "The Heroes of the War—Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Farragut, Dahlgren, Porter, Perry"; "The Heroes of Humanity—Butler, Chase, Garrison, Douglass, Greeley, Beecher"; and "Freedom with Poverty, rather than Slavery with Luxury."

The great procession took one hour and twenty minutes to pass any point. On its return to the citadel, where a stand was prepared for General Saxton and the other speakers, there were at least 10,000 persons assembled. There were 4,200 men in the procession by count, exclusive of the military, the women, and the children.

A shower of rain, which began to fall as the procession arrived at the citadel, rendered it expedient to postpone a speech.

The Rev. Mr. French led in singing a doxology, and the great assembly dispersed in an orderly manner after enthusiastic and prolonged cheers for General Saxton, the Yankees, the Star Spangled Banner, and a final tumultuous and long continued three times three for Abraham Lincoln.

Charleston never before witnessed such a spectacle. Of course, the innovation was by no means pleasant to the old residents, but for the most part they kept their thoughts to themselves. The only expressions of dislike heard proceeded from a knot of young white ladies standing on a balcony, who declared the whole affair to be "shameful," "disgraceful."

The Princess Royal as an Artist.

When the proposal was made to hold an Art bazaar in aid of the funds for the widows and orphans of the soldiers who fell in the Crimean War, the Princess Royal was asked if she intended to send a contribution. Diffident of her own powers, she exclaimed, "What! send a picture to a public exhibition? Of course not." But when it was explained that it would be productive of great good to the cause if she did, since many people would go to see her work, who, but for such an inducement would probably not go near the place, and that the shillings so collected would add largely to the sum for the charity, while the sale of the picture would realise enough to help some widow lady in her distress, she at once agreed, on condition that the Queen had no objection. The Queen gave her

consent willingly, and the result was the touching picture of the dead Guardsman, and the widow weeping over his body on the battle-field. No one seemed to have an idea of the great talent for original design possessed by the Princess until this drawing surprised and deeply affected all who saw it. The story of the picture after it reached the exhibition at Burlington House, is worth recording. The Princess had put a very modest value on her work, and offered to dispose of it privately for a small sum, which she wished to enter as her subscription. She was assured that this would frustrate the aim of the fund, and that the picture would fetch a handsome sum. The first offer made immediately the doors of the exhibition were opened was eighty guineas, followed by another of one hundred guineas. The names were entered in the book, it having been previously arranged that the highest offer, up to a certain day at noon, was to obtain the picture. At the appointed time two hundred guineas had been offered by a gentleman who was present to hear the clock strike twelve. Just before the hour he said, "Well, I am surprised that there is not more appreciation of so fine a work of art, and that it may not be said that it was sold for only two hundred guineas, I offer two hundred and fifty"; for which sum he wrote out a cheque as the clock struck. The result of the sale surprised the Princess, who had too much good sense, however to be elated by any foolish vanity while rejoicing in the success of her effort for the good of the fund.—Leisure Hour.

Interesting to Physiologists.

In a letter to the London Globe, Dr. Kidd mentions the following instance of the restoration of sight in a young woman born blind. He says:

I saw individually, and observed with interest, the following case a short time ago at the Eye Institution, Moorfields—a case that would be invaluable to Berkeley, as bearing on the part played by the senses in intellect, etc. An interesting young woman, twenty-two years of age, born stone blind—partly educated in the family of a clergyman, all this time by finger alphabets, as we see blind men tracing the letters in one or two places in town—blind for twenty-two years, was restored to perfect vision in four days by a surgical operation, and to partial vision in two minutes. This young woman in an instant, having been twenty-two years and from her birth stoneblind of congenital cataract, began to see, as these deaf mutes in Paris begin to hear for the first time. The effect in the young woman was most curious, and something of this kind. She saw everything but there was no idea whatever of perspective. She put her hand to the window to try to catch the trees on the other side of the street, then in Moorfields; she tried to touch the ceiling of a high ward; she was utterly ignorant also of common things—e. g., what such things as a bunch of keys were, or a silver watch or a common cup and saucer; but when she shut her eyes and was allowed to touch them (the educated sense) she told them at once! She could almost distinguish the greasy feel of a silver half crown from the cold, dry harsh feel of a copper penny. Her joy was excessive when shown some mignonette and sweet pea that one of the surgeons had accidentally in his coat, for it seems she knew all the plants in the clergyman's garden by the touch and smell! She looked at the bunch of keys, and with equal blankness at the flowers, then shut her eyes so as to recognize them. All this took up less than five minutes! But she failed to say as well as I now remember the case, these are flowers. But on my saying when she opened her eyes again 'why, these are flowers.' 'Oh! so they are,' she replied, shutting her eyes quickly and putting them to her nose. 'This is mignonette, etc.'—Sci. American.

A well-studied Sermon.

We take the following anecdote of Dr. West, of New-Bedford, from Sprague's American Unitarian Pulpit:

"Once, when in Boston, during the latter part of his life, he was invited by Dr. Clarke, of the First Church, to preach for him. About an hour before the services were to commence, Father West requested his friend to give him a text. At this Dr. Clarke was alarmed, and asked if it were possible that he was going to preach without notes, and with no other preparation. 'Come, come,' said Father West, 'it is my way, give me a text.' Dr. Clarke selected Romans 14: 22. 'What if God willing to show his wrath, and make his power known, endured with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction.' Dr. West looked over the Bible a few minutes, turning down leaves here and there, and then went into the church, where he preached a cogent, logical discourse an hour and twenty minutes long, on that perplexing subject. The strong men of the congregation were intensely interested, and Dr. Clarke, on coming from the pulpit, exclaimed, 'Why Father West, it would have taken me three months to prepare such a discourse.' 'Ha, ha, ha,' was the reply, 'and I have been studying it out twenty years.'"

Photography is applied to topography in France with wonderful success. A plan of a city over twelve miles square was made in sixty days by the aid of photography, which it would have taken two years to execute by triangulation.

Little boats must keep the shore; larger ships may venture more.

In a calm sea every man may be a pilot.

Agriculture, etc.

During this month the attention of Agriculturists is taken up with planting and sowing of seeds. It will be found an advantage to have spent some of the spare time of the past Winter in gaining information as to the best time for attending to these operations, and the best mode of treatment for different soils and localities. Those who have not yet made up their minds as to what use they will make of the ground they have to cultivate, will be at a great disadvantage. The prudent farmer will have his tools, and implements, all in readiness and good order, so that without hurry or undue exhaustion, he may now devote his whole efforts to the proper spring work. His temper, his family, and eventually his pocket will all reap advantage from the plans laid and the forethought bestowed on his occupation. His education will now be found available as well as when pursuing more quiet application to the study of books, and problems from them. Instead of which he will now have practical problems to solve by ascertaining how his experience compares with that of others, which he may have learned from conversation and reading.

In the Vegetable Garden there is great pleasure as well as convenience, in having a sufficient variety for food according as the seasons progress. The health of a family depends materially on their having a proper variety of food, and as vegetables should form a large proportion of this there can scarcely be too much attention to what would be wholesome and agreeable to the household. With these few general hints we give a few gleanings from some of our best exchanges:

BEETS.—Sow Early Turnip or Bassano, in drills, 12 or 15 inches apart. Soak the seed in warm water for 24 hours, pour off the water, and keep covered in a warm place until the sprouts just show themselves; roll the seed in plaster and sow.

CABBOT.—Early Horn is the best early. Soak the seeds as directed for beets, and sow in 15 inch drills, in a mellow, deep, well-worked soil.

CUCUMBERS.—Start seeds on pieces of soda, or in small pots. Early Russian is earliest; White Spined, largest and best.

PARSNIPS.—Sow last year's seed as early as may be, in deep, rich soil.

PEAS.—Sow every two weeks for a succession, first soaking the seed in tepid water. Daniel O'Rourke is one of the standard early sorts, and several new ones have appeared this year, with great claims. The Dwarfs are handy. Provide brush in readiness for the tall growing sorts.

SWEET CORN.—Seed for a few hills of Extra Early may be placed in hot-beds on sods, similar to Cucumbers.

TOMATOES.—Pot or prick out the plants when they have made three rough leaves. Sow seed under glass, or in pots or boxes in a sunny window in the house. Give the young plants plenty of light and air.

HOT BEDS AND FRAMES.—In this country it is of great advantage to have a hot bed for starting plants. These may be easily manufactured by a few boards being nailed together to form the four sides of the frame, and put in a foundation of good manure covered by a few inches of fine mould. Even without a covering of glass they may be of much service. A piece of cotton, stout paper, or boards put over it at night or during a cold day, are sufficient protection and will render the operations of the Vegetable and Flower Garden far more successful.

If a frosty night should come and nip the tender seedlings a watering pot should be used in the morning which will help to restore them to life and health.

EDGING.—Box edging needs to be taken up and reset every few years. This will not endure very severe winters, and then grass, Dwarf Flag, or some other substitute must be used.

EGGS FOR SETTING.—The following may be of service to those who would have a chicken for every egg they set:

Take eggs not more than three or four days old, and have a candle or lamp; hold the egg in one hand with the broad end upwards close to the candle; place the edge of the other hand on the top of the egg, and you will immediately perceive the incubation end. Some people can tell a pullet from a rooster. The mark from a rooster is crosswise and a pullet lengthwise. Another way is to place your tongue on the large end of the egg, and you will find a strong heat if fresh and good, and less heat if old and doubtful. Eggs put up for hatching should never be put in a damp cellar, as the dampness destroys the heat.

The Maine Farmer says that a lady, who always contrives to have plenty of eggs, says that the best food for hens is a dough made from meal from corn and cobs ground together. Meal of corn alone, or clear corn, is apt to fatten the hens too much, while they do not, in order to be kept in good laying condition, require such concentrated food.