

Youths' Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Sunday, July 29th, 1866.

JOHN xviii. 1-14: Judas betrays Christ. I Kings xvii. 1-16: Elijah fed by the ravens. Recite—ACTS II. 22, 23, 24.

Sunday, August 5th, 1866.

JOHN xviii. 15-27: Peter's denial. I Kings xvii. 17-24: Elijah restoreth the widow's son. Recite—ISAIAH lvi. 17.

For the Christian Messenger.

Answer to Scripture Puzzle.

1. Stephen. Acts vi. 5.
2. Og, King of Bashan. Deut. iii. 11.
3. Lydia. Acts xvi. 15.
4. Obbededom. 1st Chronicles xv. 24.
5. Michal. 2nd Samuel vi. 16.
6. Othniel. Judges iii. x.
7. Nimrod. Genesis x. 10.

Golden Opportunities.

A little girl heard a story read about a "golden opportunity." She thought she could never have such an opportunity, for where could a little girl like her get gold? but she thought a good deal about it.

"Mother," she asked at last, "what is 'opportunity?'" "It is a convenient time, a good chance," said her mother. "And what is a golden opportunity?" asked Lottie. "It is the best time," answered mother. "There is a good opportunity, a better opportunity, and a best opportunity, and that is a golden opportunity."

"I suppose little girls like me never have golden opportunities," said Lottie. "Yes," said her mother; "you can find plenty of them."
"I!" cried Lottie; "I find a golden opportunity! It would take me a long time to hunt." "One reason why we do not find them oftener," said mother, "is because we look too far off. God has put golden opportunities within our reach." That surprised Lottie; she could hardly believe it. "If that is so," said Lottie, "I'll find them."

It showed some pluck in the little girl; did it not? Should you like to know how she succeeded? I will tell you about the next morning. Lottie was an early riser. She was up an hour before breakfast. She fed her bird, gave it some clean water to wash in, and then went into the garden. Was she hunting for golden opportunities, I wonder?

All at once she stopped. "Oh," she said to herself, "is not this a golden opportunity for me to study my geography lesson?"

At that she ran back into the house, found her book, and sitting down on the piazza, began to study. She studied until breakfast-time. There was nothing to disturb her. Her attention was wide awake, as everything is in the beautiful morning. "Oh, mother," she said at breakfast, "I do believe I have found a golden opportunity to study. It is early in the morning." Her mother smiled. "Yes," said father, "the morning hours have gold in their mouth."

Lottie had a perfect lesson that day, which was not always the case. Lottie's class had a pretty hard arithmetic lesson. The third sum nobody could do. "You can do it, Lottie," said the teacher the day before. "I can't," said Lottie; "I've tried and tried, and I can't." She got very much put out with the sum, and would not try any more. To day Lottie took her book and slate, and there was that "awful hard third" staring her in the face. Lottie felt at first like skipping it, for what was the use of trying?

Then she thought, "Oh, who can tell but this is a golden opportunity?" With that she went to work hard; and what do you think? She got the answer. To be sure, it cost her a good hour's work; but then, you see, it was a golden opportunity for perseverance. Lottie felt much pleased. There is a great deal of satisfaction in mastering a difficulty. Before noon she found two golden opportunities, at least, didn't she?

I must tell you of one she found the next day. Lottie was going to school with a beautiful red-checked apple in her pocket. Apples were scarce, and she thought it a great treasure. As she turned the corner, a ragged little boy was sitting on the steps of a house, crying bitterly. She had seen him before. Lottie owed him a grudge, for he once spit on her. But now he seemed so grieved, that Lottie stopped and asked, kindly, what troubled him. "My father kicked me," sobbed the little boy, "and kicked me." The poor little fellow, I am sorry to say, had a drunken father. She pitied him. "Well, Jockey," she said, "you have a kind heavenly Father who loves us;" and slipping her hand in her pocket, she pulled out the red apple. "Take this," said Lottie, putting it into the boy's hand. Was not that a golden opportunity for returning good for evil?

So, you see, golden opportunities are within the reach of children. Indeed, youth itself is a golden opportunity—a golden opportunity to become acquainted with Jesus, God's son, and grow up like Him—a golden opportunity to form those good habits which make a noble and useful life—a golden opportunity to put your feet into the pleasant paths of right, and keep there, where wicked people and wicked things are not likely to come and find you.—Child's Paper.

The Lighthouse.

A lighthouse looks like a tall pillar rising out of the sea, or built upon some high bluff. The top is a large lantern, where a bright light is kept burning all night, which is seen far out at sea; and it says to all ships and sailors sailing by, "Take care, take care!" One is built on a ledge of rocks; its warning light says—"Give a wide berth to these sunken rocks." Another says, "Steer clear of this dangerous reef." Another, "Keep clear of this dangerous headland. If you come here, you are lost."

There are a great many lighthouses on the coast; how does a sailor know which is which? He sees a light gleaming through the darkness and the storm, but where is it? Does it warn him off Cape Cod, or Cohasset Rocks, or Boom Island? He has a chart in the ship, and that tells. A chart is a map of the coast, with all its rocks, and sand-banks, and lighthouses put down, and everything that a sailor ought to know in order to steer his ship safely across the ocean.

These are some of the helps which sailors have to keep them from being cast away and lost at sea; and if they faithfully consult them, and keep a good look-out, they are likely to ride out the storm and come safely into port.

Now, you, my children, are out at sea. You are beginning a long voyage. You have each a little ship to steer. The sea is the great sea of life, and your ship is the little body which God has put your soul in, that by His help you may bring it by and by to Him in safety and peace. God has given you a chart. It is the Bible. That tells you where you are, and how to go. All along are lighthouses, saying, "Take care, take care. All along are dangerous places." They all have names.

Here is one. What is it? *Sneaking*. What does the light say? "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain." Keep clear of that.

Inside there is another. What is it? *Lying*. What does the light say? "Put away lying. Speak every one truth with his neighbor. Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord." Keep clear of that.

Another. What is it? *Anger*. What does it say? "Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry. Be angry, and sin not. Let not the sun go down upon your wrath." Keep a good look-out here.

There is another. What is it? *Intemperance*. How many have been lost on this dangerous rock! In the pleasantest weather there is often most danger. What course does your chart tell you to take here? "Touch not, taste not, handle not." Do that and you are safe.

Here is another. What is it? *Pride*. Let not your little ship ride on this dangerous swell; for what does the chart tell you? "Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

You see, my children, how many rocks, and ledges, and whirlpools, and dangers there are for you to avoid. I have told you about a few.

You need not be afraid. Only keep a good look out, and steer your little vessel by the chart which God has given you. Consult it often; become familiar with its instructions. Be sure that you are in the right channel—on the clear, open sea of truth. Watch the first appearance of danger. Go not too near a dangerous shore, or there may not be room to tack ship, and you are cast away before you know it. Read what your chart says—"Enter not into the path of the wicked, and do not in the way of evil men. Avoid it; pass not by it; turn from it, and pass away."—Life Boat.

Watching for Morning.

A thrilling story is told in a late record of Indian life, which seems to carry with it an authentication not to be gainsayed. A native hunter passed a whole night within a few paces of a wounded tiger. The man's bare knees were pressed upon the hard gravel, but he dared not shift, even by a hair's breadth, his uneasy posture. A bush was between him and the wild beast; ever and anon the tiger, as he lay with glaring eyes fixed upon it, uttered his hoarse growl of anger; his hot breath absolutely blew upon the cheek of the wretched man, and still he moved not. The pain of that cramped position increased every moment; suspense became almost intolerable; but the motion of a limb, the rustling of a leaf, would have been death. He heard the gong of the village strike each hour of that fearful night, that seemed to him an eternity, and yet he lived. The tormenting mosquitoes swarmed around his face, but he dared not brush them off. That fiend-like eye met his whenever he ventured a glance toward the horrid spell that bound him; and a hoarse growl grated on the stillness of the night, as a passing breeze stirred the leaves that sheltered him. Hours rolled on and his powers of endurance were well-nigh exhausted, when at length the welcome streaks of light shot up from the eastern horizon. On the approach of day the tiger rose and stalked away with a sulky pace to a thicket at some distance, and the stiff and wearied watcher felt that he was safe.

How true to the Psalmist's saying:—"Thou makest darkness that it may be night; wherein all the beasts of the forest do move. . . The sun ariseth and they get them away together, and lay them down in their dens!" Such is darkness, and such is light to the watcher.

When an extravagant friend wishes to borrow your money, consider which of the two you had rather lose.

Scientific.

HOW TO PRESERVE TEETH.—"Our teeth decay, hence bad breath, unseemly mouths, imperfect mastication. Everybody regrets it. What is the cause? It is want of cleanliness. A clean tooth never decays. The mouth is a warm place—pinety-eight degrees. Particles of meat between the teeth decompose. Gums and teeth must suffer. Cleanliness will preserve the teeth to old age. Use a quill pick, and rinse the mouth after eating; brush and white castile soap every morning; the brush with pure water on retiring. Bestow this trifling care upon your precious teeth, and you will keep them and ruin the dentist. Neglect it, and you will be sorry all your lives. Children forget. Watch them. The first teeth determine the character of the second set. Give them equal care.

"Sugar, acids, hot drinks, saleratus, are nothing compared with food decomposing between the teeth. Mercury may loosen the teeth, use may wear them out, but keep them clean, and they will never decay. This advice is worth more than a thousand dollars to every boy and girl. Books have been written on the subject. This brief article contains all that is essential."

H. W. BEECHER.

SHOOTING FISHES.—"We have," says Sir Charles Bell, a curious instance of the precision of the eyes and of the adaptation of muscular action, in the beaked charodon, a fish which inhabits the Indian rivers, and lives on the smaller aquatic flies. When it observes one alighted upon a twig or flying over (for it can shoot them on the wing), it darts a drop of water with so steady an aim, as to bring the fly down into the water, when it falls an easy prey. It will hit a fly at the distance of from three to six feet. Another fish of the same order, the *zeus*, has the power of forming its mouth into a tube, and squirting at flies, so as to encumber their wings, and bring them to the surface of the water. In these instances, a difficulty will readily occur to the reader. How does the fish judge of position, since the rays of light are refracted at the surface of the water? Does instinct enable it to do this, or is it by experience?"

NAVIGATING THE AIR.—Dr. Solomon Andrews has invented a balloon ship which is to be steered easily in any direction, and go even against the wind. The gas gives this vessel buoyancy, and, being somewhat flat, it rises or sinks in a slanting direction, according as the ballast tilts up the bow or stern, whilst a rudder steers its course. These, at all events, are the powers claimed for this new project of aerial navigation, and much interest was felt in the trial trip, which took place on Friday afternoon in New York. The air ship rose above the city, and after a little confusion of the ropes had been righted, was steered in various directions. It would not, however, go against the wind, which was rather fresh, the utmost it could do being not to drift to leeward. The balloon, therefore, only made a short voyage, and descended at Astoria, Long Island. This partial failure was attributed to the inability to give the machine as much inclination as was needed. By some little alteration, the inventor still expects to make headway against an ordinary breeze. In other respects the trial trip resulted successfully.—*Montreal Witness*.

THE WONDERS OF LIGHT.—Not only does light fly from the grand "ruler of the day" with a velocity which is a million and a half times greater than the speed of a cannon ball, but it darts from every reflecting surface with a like velocity, and reaches the tender structure of the eye so gently, that, as it falls upon the curtain of nerves which is there spread to receive it, it imparts the most pleasing sensations, and tells its story of the outer world with a minuteness of detail and a holiness of truth. Philosophers once sought to weigh the sunbeam. They constructed a most delicate balance, and suddenly let in upon it a beam of light. The lever of the balance was so delicately hung that the fluttering of a fly would have disturbed it. Everything prepared, the grave men took their places, and with keen eyes watched the result. The sunbeam that was to decide the experiment had left the sun eight minutes prior, to pass the ordeal. It had flown through 95,000,000 miles of space in that short measure of time and it shot upon the balance with unabated velocity. But the lever moved not; and the philosophers were mute.

IRON AS A BUILDING MATERIAL.—The advocates of iron as a building material to be preferred before, and to the exclusion of all others, are not to have it all their own way. Their sanguine theories are challenged by a contributor to the proceedings of the Society of British Architects, who reasons forcibly against them, and allows his readers to "bear the other side." He insists that iron is not to be compared with brick and mortar in the construction of warehouses for storing combustible material, and claims that its durability has yet to be proved by a single century's test. Another important exception to the employment of iron for ornamental architecture is the impossibility of obtaining with the cast metal the delicacy of face essential to beauty. Altogether it is made quite questionable if iron is as valuable for building uses as it is commonly supposed to be.

Prof. Agassiz had returned to Rio Janeiro, May 4th, having with him a rich and varied collection of fishes.

Agriculture, &c.

BLOAT IN CATTLE.—When turned into a pasture where fresh grass is abundant, cattle will frequently feed to such excess that from the fermenting food will issue a poisonous gas, which, unless finding an immediate escape will cause the animal to bloat, and ultimately cause its death. A remedy usually effective in such cases, is to pour about one quart of soft soap diluted with one gallon of water down the throat of the bloated animal. After cattle have become badly bloated and no medicine will prove effective, a slender knife must be thrust into the side a little distance forward of the hip bone. This is invariably effectual, and not usually attended with any serious harm to the animal. There will be no need of any such harsh remedies, however, if the farmer will keep a plenty of salt in reach of his cattle at all times. "An effective preventive is better than a mild remedy," and certainly better than a harsh one.

USEFULNESS OF INSECT-DESTROYING BIRDS.—At a recent meeting of the Acclimatization Society of New Zealand, a sum was voted for the purpose of procuring Australian magpies from Melbourne and Hobart Town, it being considered the cheapest and best bird to introduce for the destruction of caterpillars and insects; as from trials made in the Society's gardens they have been found not to possess the same destructive propensities as their English namesakes, of eating eggs and young chicks. It was also proposed that £50 should be sent to England for the purchase of small birds.

BEAUTIFUL EXPERIMENTS.—Fill a wide-mouthed glass jar with water, and cover it over with a piece of "foundation" (the ladies will understand this), cover that over with a layer of peas, pressing it down so that the peas will lay in the water. They will then swell and sprout, the roots growing down into the water, their fibres presenting a beautiful appearance. Set this in a window, and vines will grow up, which can be conducted to the sill. The whole is very handsome.

If an acorn be suspended by a piece of thread to within half an inch of some water contained in a hyacinth glass, and so permitted to remain without being disturbed, it will in a few months burst and throw a root down into the water, and shoot upward its tapering stem, with beautiful little green leaves. A young oak tree, growing this way, on a mantle shelf of a room is a very interesting object.

HOW TO PURIFY BAD WATER.—Says *The Medical Times and Gazette*:—"We wonder that travellers do not carry with them a little bottle of permanganate of potash, a few drops of which would speedily purify any water. A friend of ours, who has just returned from India, tells us that he has derived the greatest benefit from its employment. In cases where the water was turbid and tasting and smelling of decaying organic matter, the addition of a few drops of the solution of the permanganate made it in a few minutes as clear and sweet as spring water."

FACTS ABOUT MAPLE SAP.—Sap runs best on a warm day following a frosty night. The best season is usually when the ground is frozen deepest. Sap runs faster when the snow is dug away from the trees. Sap will cease to flow when the wind is to the south. We should like for some of our vegetable physiologists to explain this fact. Sap will flow better before a rain-storm than a snow-storm. Sap is sweeter from old than young trees; from those that have been repeatedly tapped, than from those that have never been.—*Maine Farmer*.

HOW TO DESTROY RATS.—The appended method is said to be an excellent means of destroying rats in a house;—Oil of amber and ox gall mixed in equal parts, added to thin oat meal and flour sufficient to form a thin paste; divide into little balls, and lay in the middle of the apartment infested. These balls will form an irresistibly attractive bait for the rats, who ravenously eat them, but will immediately be seized with intense thirst. Several vessels of water must be laid close by, at which the rats will drink till they die on the spot.—*Builder*.

RABBIT MULTIPLICATION.—The *Geelong Advertiser* says that "ten couple of rabbits were introduced into the colony in 1859, and already 50,000 have been killed. Sixty-three pheasants were shot last year. The hawks prevent pheasants from multiplying; 1,200 of these pests were shot in 1865. The hares that have been introduced into the colony are breeding fast."

COLDS AND COUGHS.—Sudden changes of climate are sources of *Pulmonary and Bronchial affections*. Experience having proved that simple remedies act speedily and certainly when taken in the early stage of disease, recourse should at once be had to "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*," or Lozenges, let the Cold, Cough or Irritation of the Throat be ever so slight, as by this precaution a more serious attack may be effectually warded off. Soldiers should have them, as they can be carried in the pocket and taken as occasion requires.

Dr. JOHNSON, once speaking of a quarrelsome fellow, said:—"If he had two ideas in his head they would fall out with each other."

The sunshine of life is made up of very little beams, that are bright at times.