

Months' Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Sunday, May 6th, 1866.

John xii. 37-50: Christ declares His authority. 1 Kings xii. 1-24: Rehoboam's accession.

Sunday, May 13th, 1866.

CONCERT: or Review of the past months' subjects and lessons.

Answer to Scripture Enigma.

- OAB—2 Samuel xviii. 14. Omri—1 Kings xvi. 24. Shelomith—Levit xxvi. 11. Hadassah—Esther ii. 7. Uziah—2 Chronicles xxvi. 21. Abaziah—2 Chron. xxiii. 13.

JOSHUA:

The man who commanded the moon and the sun, And forthwith they obeyed, till the conquest was won.

Alphabetical Rhymes.

We copy the following lines from an article in one of our contemporaries. If our young readers do not know the names of the persons or places intended, they may find them by searching in the Bible.

- A was a traitor found hung by his hair.—2 Samuel 18: 9. B was a folly built high in the air.—Gen. 11: 4. C was a mountain o'erlooking the sea.—2 Kings 18: 42, 43. D was a nurse, buried under a tree.—Gen. 35: 8. E was a first-born, bad from his youth.—Hebrew 12: 16. F was a ruler who trembled at truth.—Acts. 24: 25. G was a messenger, sent with good word.—Daniel 9: 21, 22. H was a mother who loaned to the Lord.—1 Samuel 1: 27, 28. I was a name received at the ford.—Gen. 32: 22-28. J was a shepherd in Arabian land.—Ex 3: 1. K was a place near the desert of sand.—Deut. 1: 19. L was a pauper, begging his bread.—Luke 16: 20, 21. M was an idol, an object of creed.—Lev. 20: 2, 3. N was an architect, ages ago.—Gen. 6: 13-22. O was a rampart to keep out the foe.—2 Chronicles 27: 3. P was an isle whence a saint looked above.—Heb. 1: 9. Q was a Christian saluted in love.—Rom. 16: 23. R was obscure, yet a mother of kings.—Matt. 1: 5. S was a Danite who did wondrous things.—Judges 14: 5, 6, &c. T was a city that had a strong-hold.—2 Sam. 24: 7. U was a country productive of gold.—Jer. 10: 9. V was a queen whom a king set aside.—Esther 1: 10-22. Z was a place where a man wished to hide.—Gen. 19: 20.

The letters W, X and Y are omitted, as there does not appear to be any proper name in the Bible beginning with those letters.

These lines might be committed to memory; and would be a little better to think about than the old rhymes:—

- A was an archer, and shot at a frog; B was a butcher, and had a great dog; C was a captain, and covered with lace; D was a drunkard, and had a red face;

There are many such ways of impressing facts on the memory of children, which an ingenious parent or teacher might invent, and at the same time afford pleasure to the youthful mind. By such means, as well as the more direct effort of learning the words of Scripture, it may now be said of many as was said by the Apostle Paul of Timothy,—"From a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Conducting Sunday Schools.

Superintendents of Sunday schools vie with each other in making large and attractive offers to the children to attend their school. One makes singing his strong point. He enlivens the exercises with songs, at intervals of five minutes. With "Glory, Hallelujah," "I want to be an angel," "We are out on an ocean sailing," "We'll stand the storm, it won't be long," the children have a grand time; whether they learn anything, or whether what they learn is worse than nothing, being a secondary matter. Another is great on "sensation" days; now, by means of a cabinet of curiosities from China; again, by exhibiting a young thief from the streets, who isn't going to do so any more; and a third, and fourth, and fifth, etc., time with something else; and once or twice in every month breaking in upon the good habit of regular study with a "sensation." Another offers a picnic in the summer, a Christmas tree and other attractions in the holidays, and a visit to all the panoramas that may happen along. It is needless to go into further details.

Now, of course you understand that I am not opposed to having the Sunday school an interesting and happy place. I object simply to that mistake which makes the attractiveness of a Sunday school the first thing, and its usefulness the second thing. Nor do I contend against "giving rewards." Only I would have the reward deserved; following the Scripture principle, "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life," not following the indiscriminating way of the Universalist's salvation, good and bad together. They should be rewards of

merit; not bids and baits of the Superintendent for a larger school.

This "human nature" of Sunday school managers has developed the "human nature" of not a few children, who speak into the Sunday schools for a month or two at the Christmas season; who pretend a desire to belong to it and be profited by it; the only profit they have in view, however, being a profit of the stomach or the pocket.

I wish the clergy would ventilate this whole subject before their Sunday schools and their congregations. Get children to despise being hired, as the chief inducement to do what is right and beneficial.—Calendar.

The big trees of California.

They were not discovered until the year 1850, when a Mr. Dowd, who was out hunting, was led by a herd of deer which he was following into the Big Tree valley. He stopped as one enchanted, feeling like Gulliver when lost in the field of barley in Brobdignag—the deer were for a moment, and he gazed with utter astonishment on monsters of vegetation such as he never ever dreamed of as existing in the world. He told his companions of his adventure on his return, but all laughed at his story as a barefaced attempt to impose upon their credulity; and it was with the greatest difficulty he succeeded in inducing some of them to accompany him to the spot, and verify his statements by actual inspection and measurement. The newly-discovered trees, called Washingtonia gigantea by Americans, and Wellingtonia gigantea by Englishmen, puzzled the botanists sorely. Some declared them to be a species of cedar, which they certainly closely resemble; others, again, considered them to be of the family of the Taxodia; while Professor Lindley doubted whether a new order would not have to be made for them; and it still appears undecided to what order they properly belong. The seed has been largely exported, and young Wellingtonias may be seen gracing many an English lawn. Yet, strange to say, although the seed grows readily, and the trees flourish with rich luxuriance wherever they have been planted, both here and in America, they are, in the natural order of things, limited to two tiny valleys about fifty miles apart. Not a single tree of the kind, except those which have been lately planted by the hand of man, is known to exist out of the Calaveras and Mariposa valleys. They have never spread from their quiet nooks in the Sierra Nevada, and have remained hidden in its recesses for hundreds, perchance thousands, of years until discovered in the manner related.

We turned out early next mornin' into the fresh frosty air, and after breakfast wandered about the grove for several hours, amid a scene of wonders, the mere description of which we should have laughed at as a traveller's tale. There are about one hundred trees of this species, of every age and size, intermingled with various kinds of pines, yews and deciduous shrubs, and all standing within an area of about fifty acres.

The younger ones are singularly graceful and handsome, but those of mature growth—a few thousand years old perhaps—are a little withered at the top. The enormous trunks are bare and branchless for from one hundred to one hundred and thirty feet, and the boughs seem small in proportion to the central stem.—Blackwood's Magazine

Short Sermons.

Rev. Dr. Muhlenberg's sermon at the funeral of the late Robert B. Minturn, Esq., is the shortest on record, though several are recorded with as few words. He read the words of the Prophet Micah: "He hath shown thee, O man, what is good: and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God!" And then added: "SO DID HE."

One sermon having the same number of words, but more letters, was once preached by the Irish Dean Kirwan. He was pressed, while suffering from a severe cold, to preach a charity sermon in St. Peter's Church, Dublin, for the benefit of the orphan children of the parish school. The church was crowded to suffocation, and the good Dean, on mounting the pulpit, and announcing his text, pointed with his hand to the children in the aisle, and simply said: "There they are!" The collection on the occasion exceeded all belief.

It was Dean Swift who was to preach a charity sermon; and giving out his text—"He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord," then added: "If you like the security, down with the dust."

The Body and Soul.

"Brother," said the Soul to the Body, "we must part shortly; and now let us reckon together."

"Let us reckon, sister," said the Body.

"You," said the Soul, "have been active in labor, and toiled late and early, and gathered much gold: will you keep it with you, or shall I take it with me?"

"Alas," said the Body, "how can I take it among the darkness and dust and corruption of the grave? What will it profit me there?"

"Nay," said the Soul, "but how can I carry it where earth and earthly things are not suffered to enter? And it is, after all, but yellow earth."

"True; then shortly it shall be neither mine nor thine," said the Body sorrowfully.

"Our reckoning is not over," said the Soul. "How are we to meet again? for we must meet

again; will it be in sorrow, or in joy? You have never allowed me to look heaven-ward, but have robbed me of my freedom, and used all my powers to help you to get gold."

"Alas," said the Body, "you tempted me, and now you reproach me."

"What if we should meet, as fellow-tormentors, bound together for eternal misery?" said the Soul. "I am defiled as you are, and you have never cared for my cleansing. I am without a right to heaven, as you are, and have never cared for an entrance to it. So then this gold will be our mocking accuser in eternity, and I shall reproach you for ever with having destroyed me to gain it."

Leisure Hours.

The Treasures of the Wicked.

Every man is treasuring up stores for eternity; the good are laying up "treasures in heaven, where moth doth not corrupt;" the evil and impenitent are treasuring up "wrath against the day of wrath." What an idea is this! Treasures of wrath! Whatever the impenitent man is doing, he is treasuring up wrath. He may be getting fame; but he is treasuring up wrath. He may be getting wealth; but he is treasuring up wrath. He may be forming pleasing connections; but he is also treasuring up wrath. Every day adds something to the heap. Every oath the swearer utters, there is something gone to the heap of wrath. Every lie the liar tells, there is something gone to the heap of wrath. Every licentious act the lewd man commits, there is something gone to the treasure of wrath. Every day he lives in sin, the book of God's remembrance records it against him. The impenitent man has a weightier treasure of wrath to-day, than he had yesterday; he will have a weightier to-morrow than he has to-day. When he lies down at night, he is richer in vengeance than when he rose in the morning.

He is continually deepening and darkening his eternal portion. Every neglected Sabbath increases his store of wrath; every forgotten sermon adds something to the weight of punishment. All the checks of conscience, all the remonstrances of friends, all the advice and prayers of parents will be taken into the account, and all will tend to increase the treasures of wrath laid up against the day of wrath.—Rev. J. A. James.

Curiosities of Breathing.

By W. W. HALL, M. D.

The taller men are, other things being equal, the more lungs they have, and the greater number of cubic inches of air they can take in or deliver at a single breath. It is generally thought that a man's lungs are "sound" and well developed, in proportion to his girth around the chest, yet observation shows that slim men as a rule will run faster, and farther, with less fatigue, having "more wind," than stout men. If two persons are taken, in all respects alike except that one measures twelve inches more around the chest than the other, the one having the excess will not deliver more air at one full breath, by mathematical measurement, than the other.

The more air a man receives into his lungs in ordinary breathing, the more healthy he is likely to be; because an important object in breathing is to remove impurities from the blood. Each breath is drawn pure into the lungs; on its outgoing the next instant it is so impure, so perfectly destitute of nourishment, that if re-breathed without any admixture of a purer atmosphere, the man would die. Hence, one of the conditions necessary to secure a high state of health is, that the rooms in which we sleep should be constantly receiving new supplies of fresh air through open doors, windows or fire places.

If a person's lungs are not well developed the health will be imperfect, but the development may be increased several inches in a few months by daily out door runnings, with the mouth closed, beginning with twenty yards and back, at a time, increasing ten yards every week, until a hundred are gone over, thrice a day. A substitute for ladies, and persons in cities, is running up stairs with the mouth closed, which compels very deep inspirations, in a natural way, at the end of the journey.

As consumptive people are declining, each week is witness to their inability to deliver as much air at a single out-breathing as the week before, hence the best way to keep the fell disease at bay is to maintain lung development.

It is known that in large towns, ten thousand feet above the level of the sea, the deaths by consumption are ten times less than in places nearly on a level with the sea. Twenty five persons die of consumption in the city of New York, where only two die of that disease in the city of Mexico. All know that consumption does not greatly prevail in hilly countries and in high situations. One reason of this is because there is more ascending exercise, increasing deep breathing; besides, the air being more rarified, larger quantities are instinctively taken into the lungs to answer the requirements of the system, thus at every breath keeping up a high development. Hence the hills should be sought by consumptives, and not low, flat situations.

True Faith.

Two boys were conversing about Elijah's ascent in the chariot of fire. Said one,

"Wouldn't you be afraid to ride in such a chariot?"

"No," was the reply; "not if God drove."

Might not many old Christian learn a lesson of faith from the above?

Agriculture, &c.

POULTRY.—There is much in breed, for egg-laying qualities; but most of all is in good treatment, making the hen feel herself at home. A crowded place will not do. Too many hens together is bad. Why? Because it interferes with tranquility. The points of success are—warm quarters, roomy, clean, unmolested; plenty of food, a variety of feed, varied daily with animal food of some kind, it matters little what; water changed often; crushed bones, either burnt or otherwise; pulverized earth or spent ashes, to wallow in; light, and as much cheerfulness as possible. Then select good breeds. The Spanish are among the best of layers, and are almost everywhere to be found. But remember the good treatment, or dispense with hens for profit.

The Spanish or Black Spanish is the most beautiful of all our domestic fowls. We quote the description of Richardson: "The color of the Spanish fowl is a glossy black, and the feathers of the legs, thighs and belly are particularly decided in their hue, and of a velvety aspect. It is a stately bird, and of a grave and majestic deportment, and is, in either utility or beauty, to be surpassed by none of its congeners. One of the most striking characteristics of this fowl is a white cheek, and the comb and wattles are singularly large, simple, and of a very high color; the feet and legs are of a leaden color, except the soles of the feet, which are of a dirty fleshy hue. A full-grown cock will weigh about 7½ lbs; the hen about 6½. This is a fowl well deserving the attention of the breeder, and presents no peculiarities of constitution that would suggest difficulties in either hatching or rearing. As table birds, they hold a place in the very first rank, their flesh being particularly white, tender and juicy, and the skin possessing that beautifully clear white hue, so essential a requisite for birds designed for the consumption of the gourmand. The hens are likewise layers of the first order."

MAKING AGRICULTURE PAY.—"How much money can an acre of ground be made to produce?" "It would require a great book to answer that question, and even then I would be only half answered. The capacity of an acre of ground has never been ascertained. It is not the acre that produces the crop, but the man who cultivates the acre. There are families who starve on fifty acres, while there are others who live comfortably on one or two."

HOT BEDS.—The plants in hot-beds will need close attention. They must have all the air possible without danger from sudden changes of temperature; when the sash must be kept on during a cool day, see that the sun does not burn the plants. Put on the sash in the afternoon, before the air becomes cool. Give water as may be needed, always taking the precaution to warm it to at least the temperature of the bed. Pull up weeds as they appear, and if the soil becomes hard between the rows, break it up with the finger. Thin out the plants before they become too crowded, and it desirable to save the thinnings, set them out in another bed. If the heat of a bed declines sooner than is desirable, place linings, as they are called, of rot manure around the old manure. As the time for removing the plants approaches, keep the plants exposed as much as is safe, in order to harden them off.

STRAWBERRIES.—All should have as many strawberries as they want to eat, and the spring is the time to set out the vines. They will grow in almost any situation, and under almost any circumstances. It is nearly as cheap to have a bed of strawberries as a bed of sorrel. They will grow upon the same kind of land, and with as little care, but, perhaps, there is no fruit that pays better for having good cultivation. The kinds that deserve attention are Downer's Prolific, Russell's Prolific, Triomphe de Grand, Green's Prolific, and Wilson's Albany. The latter is very productive and well known to those who prefer quantity to quality.

WHAT SHALL WE EAT?—This is an important question in these times of high prices. Dr. Hall, in a late number of the Journal of Health—good authority by the way—says the cheapest articles of food at present prices are bread (especially corn meal), butter, molasses, beans, and rice. He shows that twenty-five cents' worth of flour, at eight cents per pound, contains as much nourishment as \$2 25' worth of roast beef at twenty-five cents per pound; and that a pint of white beans, costing seven cents, has the same amount of nutriment as three and a half pounds of beef at twenty-five cents per pound; or in other words, the roast beef diet is twelve times as expensive as the beans. Furthermore, a pound of Indian meal will go as far as a pound of fine flour costing nearly twice as much.

VALUE OF MUCK AS A FERTILIZER.—I have seen remarkable results from the application of muck direct from its swamp bed, without any admixture with stable manure or anything else than the soil on which it was placed. I once made an application of this kind on land prepared for wheat, and the effect was the same as is often seen on lands where manure from the barn-yard has been deposited in heaps. The same vigorous growth was as apparent from the muck as from the barn-yard manure.

No man can avoid his own company; so he had best make it as good as possible.