

Youths' Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Sunday, April 5th, 1868.

MATTHEW 1. 35-51: Jesus gains disciples. Recite.—ISAIAH liii. 1,4.

Sunday, April 12th, 1868.

MATTHEW 11. 1-12: The marriage at Cana. Recite.—MATTHEW xi. 4,6.

GOOD DEEDS.

The peaches redden on the wall, Hiding in hollow cells of green, Where plaited leaves hang thick about, And scarce permit them to be seen. And so, in truth, good deeds should be Concealed in sweet humility.

"DOMESTIC AFFLICTION!"—A girl in Springfield, Mass., applied to her teacher for leave to be absent half a day, on the plea that they had company at home. The teacher referred her to the printed list of reasons that the School Committee think sufficient to justify absence, and asked her if her case came under any of them. She replied that it might come under the head of "Domestic Affliction."

"DE DOVE IN YOUR HEART."—Were there ever richer truth and sweeter poetry incarnated in a few lines of homely prose than in those words of Aunt Judy—an old colored woman—on "hollerin' at camp meeting."

"Taint de rale grace, honey; taint de sure glory. You hollers too loud. When you gets de dove in your heart and de Lamb in your bosom, you'll feel as ef you was in dat stable at Beth'lem, and de blessed virgin had lent you de sleepin' Baby to hold."

RICH WITHOUT MONEY.—Many a man is rich without money. Thousands of men with nothing in the pocket, and thousands without even a pocket, are rich. A man born with a good sound constitution, a good stomach, a good heart, and good limbs, and a pretty good head-piece, is rich. Good bones are better than gold—tough muscles than silver; and nerves that flash and carry energy to every function, are better than houses and lands.

WHAT IS A CORNSTALK?—"What is this God, about whom you have been saying so much?" said an unbeliever to a preacher, after hearing a discourse about God.

"God is a spirit?" replied the preacher.

"What is a spirit?" asked the skeptic, fiercely.

"What is a cornstalk?" rejoined the preacher.

"Why—why—why—a cornstalk is a cornstalk."

"Yes, sir," said the preacher, "a spirit is a spirit; and if you cannot tell me what a cornstalk is, which you have seen a thousand times, and know has an existence, why do you ask me to tell you what the Infinite Spirit is, or why do you doubt his existence?"

The skeptic was dumb, as all skeptics will be when they stand to be judged by that God whose name they blaspheme, and whose word they despise.

THE WISDOM OF THE OYSTER.—Coleridge was descending, in the presence of Charles Lamb, upon the repulsive appearance of an oyster.

"It isn't handsome, Coleridge," said Lamb, "but it has the advantage of you in one thing."

"What is that?" queried Coleridge, who, as every one knew, was an exhaustless talker.

"It knows when to shut its mouth," was the reply.

TOBACCO.—ANOTHER WITNESS.—A Southern minister writes to the Nashville Advocate: "I noticed some time back that some one had written to you of his reformation in regard to the use of tobacco. I do not believe it was I, yet I did reform last March; since which time I have gained twenty-five pounds in flesh, and saved twenty-five to my pocket, and gained twenty-five per cent in ease of mind from harassing dreams and sleeplessness."

JUST AND TRUE.—It is said that once, in a company of literary gentlemen, Mr. Webster was asked if he could comprehend how Jesus Christ could be both God and man. He replied promptly and emphatically: "No, sir," and added, "I would be ashamed to acknowledge him as my Saviour if I could comprehend him; he could be no greater than myself. Such is my sense of sin and consciousness of my inability to save myself, that I feel I need a superhuman Saviour, one so great and glorious that I cannot comprehend him."

PRACTICE SPRINGS FROM DOCTRINE.—To preach practical sermons, as they are called, or sermons upon virtues and vices, without inculcating those great Scripture truths of redemption and grace which alone can incite and enable us to forsake sin and follow after righteousness, what is it, but to put together the wheels, and set the hands of a watch, forgetting the spring which is to make them go?—BISHOP HORNE, Essays and Thoughts.

Vice stings us even in our pleasures, but Virtue consoles us even in our pains.—Colton.

The easiest and best way to expand the chest is to have a good heart in it.

The Bankrupt's Wife.

CHAPTER II.

But Mr. Marshall's heart did fail, notwithstanding, as he turned towards the home which he felt would soon be his home no longer. His wife waiting his return to dinner. She was anxious, but not impatient. She was anxious, because she had been properly apprised of the difficulties in her husband's business. But she was not impatient, for she knew that he had greater troubles to meet than the mere cooling of a dinner. And she wished her husband to receive that cordial welcome home which should remove, in some degree, the pressure of troubles without. The children, on the other hand, were not anxious, but impatient. What could they know of the troubles of life and of business? But they did know that they were hungry; and they had heard the cook say that everything was spoiled!

So they bounded with clamorous complaints—though not ill-natured—to meet their father. He stopped their voices with a kiss apiece, and answered their mother's look of inquiry in the same manner. He turned his head a moment, and though he made a great noise in his handkerchief, I am sure that if the "eyes" and "nose" could have been called, the "eyes" had it!

Dinner went off in sad composure. Marshall tried some ordinary topics, but conversation lagged. The children tried to be chatty, and their poor father jumped at the relief which they gave his thoughts, as it were, for it. The mother caught his wishes, and did her best; but it must be owned, notwithstanding, that it was a doleful dinner. The climax was reached when, after a dull pause, the smartest child of the three, a "terrible infant," broke the silence with the exclamation, "What is the matter, father? Is anybody dead?"

The mother and father could not forbear a gaunt smile. The puzzled look of the children ripened the smile into a laugh; and the dear little wretches were hustled out. Mrs. Marshall turned to her husband.

"All is over, Mary, and we are ruined."

"Not quite so bad, Henry. My little legacy, which you would make me invest for pin-money, will maintain us, almost. We can keep house upon that, as many people do upon less."

"The house, Mary! That is ours no longer."

Mrs. Marshall paled under the shock of these tidings. But she commanded herself, and neither cried out nor fainted. The loss of her home was a sorrow of which she had never dreamed. All her visions of self-denial and heroism faded away. The castles she had built, in which she, the devoted wife, was the central figure, all toppled down, and she saw now only poverty and distress.

There was nothing to say. Silence comforted them. They had touched the depths, and, unconsciously to themselves, were ready to rise again. The servant brought in a note. In defiance of its injunctions Mrs. Marshall placed it in her husband's hands as soon as she had read it. It read thus:

"My husband says that your husband is romantically honest. A very good fault, and you may be proud of him. You must say nothing to him, or to any one else, but demand a proper consideration of the creditors before you release the house from your right of dower. I would look in upon you, but think you would rather not see even your best friend this evening. I am sure I should wish to see no one."

Mr. Marshall handed the note back without a word of comment. Just now the children came bounding in, fresh from their run, which was mis-called a walk. And so closed the day on which Henry Marshall faced the worst, and confessed to that misfortune which, common as it is, must ever grieve the sensitive. Bankrupt that he was, he still felt rich in his wife; and she was proud of him, for she saw in him the soul of honor, and resolved that he too should be proud of her.

CHAPTER III.

Two or three days had passed. Mr. Marshall had gone daily to his store to assist the accountants in investigating his stock and books, and to answer such inquiries as might arise. The work was closed, and the creditors were now to determine what terms they would offer him.

He was at home, and cheerful, for he felt that the worst was over. He had done even more than was required of him, and his intercourse with the gentlemen who represented his creditors had been of the most cordial and pleasant nature. The worst ills we can dread, death and dishonor excepted, are more than half conquered when we fairly encounter them.

Marshall could not help thinking of the morrow, when he should know the whole; but he struggled with himself to keep the subject at bay. His suspense was sooner relieved than he expected, for a package was handed in, the nature of which he could not but know. Still it lay, the seal unbroken, till the children were disposed of for the night.

"Now, Mary," said he, "let us know all." His hand trembled in spite of himself as he broke the envelope, and its contents scattered on the floor.

Mrs. Marshall assisted to collect them. The first document which arrested their attention was a check for one thousand dollars, drawn in favor of Mrs. Marshall or order. They looked at each other a moment in surprise, and then took up the other papers. There were schedules, lettered A and B, and so on, with due formality. All these they passed over, and opened the note which, they rightly judged, should contain the marrow of the matter.

The chairman of the creditors, in behalf of the rest, stated: "that the assets, exclusive of the real estate, would fall about ten thousand

dollars below the amount of claims; that the real estate, since Mrs. Marshall had so honorably waived her right of dower, was worth twenty thousand dollars."

Mr. Marshall ceased reading, and gave his wife a glance which was worth more to her than the dower right in a kingdom. He then went on to read, in a broken voice:

"The assignees thought it but right and just to acknowledge her honorable dealing, as her husband no doubt would have done under other and more favorable circumstances."

"I never should claim any such thing!" she cried. "We have but one purse."

"It is all very proper in the gentleman, notwithstanding," said her husband. "But let us read the rest of it."

"If Mr. Marshall wishes to remain in the house—"

Mrs. Marshall's eyes danced with joy. "—he can do so by executing a mortgage for half its estimated value. And the creditors will, with high regard for his integrity, execute a release in full from all demands, inasmuch as they receive dollar for dollar."

"And we keep our house, after all!" cried Mrs. Marshall, actually embracing her husband.

"Which you, it seems, were so ready to sign away, in spite of good advice! How did they know that, pray?"

"I think I can write," said Mrs. M., bridling, and looking prettier even than she did on her wedding-day.

"So it seems," said her husband.

"But we need not repeat all the fond things that passed, lest our bachelor reader should think them nonsense."

On the next day all the legal forms were executed. And Henry Marshall resumed business, with his old stock and new consignments, paying often in anticipation of the sale the inventory price of his effects. For he had made the most devoted friends of his creditors, and his wife was quoted to the wives of all of them as a model woman. So indeed she was.

The children have not learned to this day what ailed Pa and Ma during those dreadful days. But they know that everything is all right now, and that suffices them. The house is redeemed already, or rather Mrs. Marshall holds the bond and mortgage, and for her own money has an honest claim on the property, "which nobody can deny."—Harper's Magazine for Feb., 1868.

Spring Lessons.

Spring teaches us to love and cultivate the beautiful—the beautiful in both nature and art. What a wonderful artist! spring is! What an inimitable landscape painter! Think of her marvellous achievements. On her easel is stretched the canvas of a naked earth, and on her pallet lie the seven elementary colors. Into these colors she dips her April pencil, and in the short space of a few weeks she covers this entire canvas with an infinite variety of gorgeous landscapes, so faultless in their conception and perfect in their execution as utterly to defy the possibility of any conceivable improvement, or of exact human imitation. Every mountain, hill, and valley; every field and meadow; every tree, shrub, plant, flower, and tiny blade of grass is the very perfection of beauty. Its loveliness was made to ravish the eye of every beholder. Thus it is that spring teaches us to love the beautiful. And does she not at the same time, and in the same way, teach us to cultivate it? If God in the spring-time sets out lilies in the meadows and valleys, and plants wild flowers on the hill-sides, and covers every object in nature with all conceivable beauty, is it not more than an intimation to us that we should, in like manner, beautify our lawns, and walks, and gardens? If God annually returns and adorns the great house in which we all live, does he not thus teach us that we should thus adorn our individual homes?—make them, so far as means will justify, picture-galleries in which shall hang continually before our eyes that which may please, instruct, elevate, and purify? Poorly-furnished homes are sorry schools. Naked floors and walls, in the houses of the wealthy, are much to be deprecated; they ought to give place at once to well-furnished and tastefully-adorned rooms. The more attractive and beautiful we make our homes, the more educated, refined, and virtuous will be its inmates.

THE NEWSPAPER AS AN EDUCATOR.—An exchange thus pertinently speaks of what a newspaper may do:

Show us an intelligent family of boys and girls, and we will show you a family where newspapers and periodicals are plenty. Nobody who has been without these silent private tutors can know their educating power for good or evil. Have you ever thought of the innumerable topics of discussion which they suggest at the breakfast table; the important public measures with which, thus early, our children become acquainted; great philanthropic questions of the day, to which unconsciously their attention is awakened, and the general spirit of intelligence which is involved by these quiet visitors? Any thing that makes home pleasant, cheerful and chatty, thins the haunts of vice and the thousand and one avenues of temptation, should certainly be regarded, when we consider the influence on the minds of the young, as a great moral and social light.

A BEAUTIFUL TURN.—A little girl was directed to open the door for General Washington, as he was leaving a house where he was visiting. Turning to her he said:

"I am sorry, my little dear, to give you so much trouble."

"I wish, sir, it was to let you in," she replied.

Agriculture, &c.,

The Provincial Industrial Exhibition.

It is proposed to hold, during the second week of October next, in the City of Halifax, an Exhibition of the universal industry of our Province. A Card of Invitation has been issued to all our farmers, fishermen, miners, artisans, and merchants in the form of a Prize List, containing the particular of premiums to the extent of about ten thousand dollars. If the Exhibition is to be a success, it lies with them to make it so.

His Excellency the Lieut. Governor has been pleased to grant the use of the large space of four or five acres, known as the Governor's Field for the erection of the necessary sheds and buildings, for sheltering the Live Stock and displaying them to advantage. Application has been made for the use of the Halifax Drill Shed adjoining, the Drill Yard and Gun Sheds, for the exhibition of Works of Art and Manufactures. Special provision will be made for machinery in motion. Some of the leading machinists and manufacturers have visited the buildings and spaces proposed to be occupied, and express their perfect satisfaction with the intended arrangements. The principal covered space will be the Drill Shed, which with certain alterations and improvements to be carried out at the expense of the Exhibition Commissioners, will afford a well lighted hall, measuring 200 feet in length by 60 feet in breadth. Every effort will be made to suit the convenience of intending exhibitors. At the same time it is hoped that those who have exceptional articles to exhibit, requiring special arrangements, will put themselves into communication with the officials without delay.

Copies of the Prize List, containing full details of the arrangements for the Exhibition, may be obtained on application to Prof. Lawson, General Secretary; or to B. G. Gray, Assistant Secretary, Bedford Row, Halifax—Journal of Agriculture.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION OF 1868.—The General Committee of the Industrial Exhibition have appointed the following Executive Committee, to carry out the necessary arrangements. The Executive Committee will meet as frequently as necessary, and report to the General Committee from time to time:—

- Hon. The Chief Justice,
- " " Provincial Sec'y,
- " " Chief Com. of Mines,
- William Cunard, Esq.,
- A. M. Unacke,
- J. J. Northup, "
- W. Montgomery, "
- W. S. Symonds, "
- John Starr, "
- P. C. Hill, "
- John Doull, "

At a meeting of the Executive Committee on Tuesday a letter was read from the Provincial Secretary, stating that the Government proposed to vote \$3000 towards the Exhibition.—Ib.

Advice is like snow; the softer it falls, the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper it sinks into the mind.—Coleridge.

THE CABINET ORGAN.—Mason & Hamlin began some thirteen years ago, in the modest way of building melodeons; next, their business expanded so that they undertook the manufacture of organ harmoniums; and now, in the perfected Cabinet Organs, with facilities for its construction rivaled by no others, they have reached that point where their long continued labors are reaping a richly deserved reward. The uninitiated would be surprised at the degree to which the mechanic arts are laid under contribution for fashioning one Cabinet Organ, or the amount of professional faculty required for bringing it to the high standard demanded. The most particular artisans are the ony hand craftsmen in Mason & Hamlin's employ, while, in the higher walks of their calling, they make use, without stint, of the most approved practical capacity, formed by native aptitude and years of incessant culture.—Boston Transcript.

HAVE YOU A LAME BACK?—Weakness of the back, from whatever cause arising, may be cured by the persistent use of Radway's Ready Relief. It must be taken (diluted) once or twice every twenty-four hours, internally, and rubbed in briskly (undiluted) twice a day, over the whole length of the spine. Ladies who suffer from "week back" will receive immense benefit from this mode of treatment. Price 25 cents per bottle. Sold by Druggists.

A good old Baptist Deacon, who accidentally fell overboard, said he was not afraid of water, but objected to that method of application. The simple application of GRACE'S CELEBRATED SALVE to sores and wounds, and all cutaneous diseases and eruptions, is a sure cure.

We hazard the opinion that no unprejudiced person can use Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powders without being fully satisfied with the results.

To relieve pains arising from any cause, Blood's Rheumatic Compound may be used with great certainty of success.