THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER.

souths' Department.

428

BIBLE LESSONS.

Sunday, January 3rd, 1869. MATTHEW XIII. 1-23 : MARK IV. 1-25 : LUKE VI 4-18: The Parable of the Sower. Recite,-GALATIANS VI. 7. 8.

Sunday, January 10th, 1869. MATTHEW XIII. 24-53 : MANK iv. 26-34 : Parable of the Tares and other parable. Recite -1 CORINTHIANS VI. 9, 10.

For the Christian Messenger.

The Child's Dream,

I dreamded a dream last night, mother, Of heaven's bright, shining shore ; And I never, never saw, mother, Such glorious sights before.

You have often told me tales, mother, Of the white-winged angel band ; And your little boy saw, last night, mother, One from that blessed band,

And O ! such glorious wings, mother, They bore him from world's sfar; And a crown on that broad, white brow, mother, That shone with many a star.

There were stars on that angel's breast, mother, And they sparkled with delight, To think they were always there, mother, Where all was pure and bright.

I saw on his long white robe, mother, Great, shining clasps of gold. It never soiled, though it swept, mother, In many a snowy fold.

I saw a harp in his band, mother, And its strings were wreathed with flowers; And their sweet scent made the room, mother, Just like our garden bowers.

And the room was full of light, mother, Though the night was drear and dim; For one of God's lamps, 1 know, mother, He must have brought with him.

"in the river," the way Jesus was.

Jesus was, in the river .- Child's Delight.

Look to me for Rent.

. Have you ever thought of the great salvation ?' I asked one evening of a working man who had been hearing the gospel preached, and with whom I had to walk some miles.

"O yes,' he replied ; 'I have often thought about it.

· And are you saved ?' "Well, I could not say that,-I don't feel as

I would like." "I quite believe that ; but do you think any

of us could ever feel perfectly right here? But are you at peace with God ?'

"I never could say that I am satisfied with myself.'

· But, my friend, I never asked if you were. It would be a very bad sign if you were satisfied with yourself. But are you at peace with God?

. Well, I never could feel that I have peace. But I don't ask if you have peace with yeurself, I hope you never will. Have you peace with God ?'

"To tell you the truth, I am not right ?" . How long is it since you began to think of

these things ?' . About seven or eight years ago, in the north of Ireland, I was first awakened by a minis er preaching on 'Ye must be born again.' And often since that time, I have been trying to feel God's Spirit working in me.'

. And you never have ?"

'No; I could not be sure'

. How could ever any one be sure of what was going on within him, especially as our enemy comes as an angel Hght. That is God's part, not yours.

"Well, what am I to do then ?"

. Jesus was the one, you remember, that said,

the river, the way Jesus was, wouldn't you, the rent means, and so at the appointed hour I "At this dinner, wine was introduced and mother ?' She prayed and wept over it, and walk in and make my word good, and you offered to this young man, who refused ; it was gave up her opposition to the truth. The would be happy to find that, against all your pressed upon him, and again refused. This was example of Jesus prevailed. And in a few days neighbor's doubts, against all your wife's tears, repeated, and the young man was ridiculed for his that mother and both daughters were baptized and even against all your own tremblings, you singular abstinence. The young man was had trusted my word and looked to me for the strong enough to overcome appetite; but he All little beys and girls, when they think rent. This of course is only an illustration, as could not resist ridicule. He drank, and fell, on the subject of baptism, should remember I have no doubt you are at the present quite and from that moment became a confirmed that Jesus was baptized in the river. If we able and willing to pay your own reat; but in drunkard, and long since has found a drunklove Jesus we will want to be baptized like the matter of our salvation, though we might ard's grave. Mr. Moderator," continued the be willing, we are totally unable; so the Lord old man, with streaming eyes, "I am that now says, ' Look to me, and be ye saved.' father; and it was at the table of the clergy-Christ on the cross is God's fulfilment of this. man who has just taken his seat that this He paid the debt of the sinner. Men are doit g token of hospitality ruined the son I shall right enough things ; praying, living moral lives, never cease to mourn."-t hristian Secretary.

giving money, etc., but all for the wrong end-all will never save. God says, ' look to me for salvation,' and then begin to use your time, talents, money, powers, etc., for their legitimate end, to

saved. That would be like a man laying up first of January, 1868, it opened it rich stock, for a rent which he could never pay. Look to and generously put it at our disposal. There me and be saved,' says God, and then he boly, were months, weeks, and days; mornings, because you are sure of salvation on the au- evenings, and nights. It was a new stock, thority of God. Religion will never save you new and fresh, never before in the market, -even pure religion. God defines pure re- never to be again. Everbody fared alike, the ligion in James 1. 27, . Pure religion, and un- rich and the poor, the high and the low, the old defiled, before God and the Father is this, to and the young. Each had a minute at a time, visit the fatheriess and the widows in their af- no more, no less, for minutes are more precious fliction, and to keep himselt unspotted from the than gold. Gold cannot buy them. Once lost, world.' By the deeds of the law we cannot be they can never be found ; once wasted, never justfied ; therefore by doing all this we "cannot repaired. On the old year's books is registered be saved. But religion is the life of a saved our use or abuse of them. What is our record man, not the efforts of an unsaved man to get there? Where have our evenings been spent? saved. The work is not to the cross, it is from How about our mornings? What will night the cross to the crown. Jesus did ALL to save. report of us? What the day? What the -He brought the cross to our level. Get saved fitty-two Sundays, holy time, stamped all over by looking to him and then work for God. with God and his love for us, what report do Don't look to the feeling of being eaved-look they make? away from what is being wrought in you to A little time is left us in the old year. Let us what is being wrought for you. We are not thoughtfully improve it, that we may enter. saved on account of the Spirit working in us upon the new year, if God spares our lives, but by means of his wo: k-we are saved on ac prepared to make a better improvement of its count of Christ dying for us. . Look to me, precious gifts than in the year going by .-and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth."- Child's Paper.

British Herald.

The struggle and the victory.

"it is time for you to go to the pasture and drive tion occurred.

The good Old Year

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To

glorify God. Don't try to be holy in order to be is about closing its accounts with us. On the

Parental Firmness.

Some females had met in the house of a friend in the city of St. Louis for an evening "Johnny," said a farmer to his little boy, visit, when the following scene and conversa-

The child of one of the females, about five

The light did not blind my eyes, mother. Like the great, round sun's, at noon ; But, 'twas calm and soft and cool, mother, Like the dear, old silver moon.

I looked at the angel long, mether, For his smile was sweet and kind; I looked, as I look at God's stars, mother, He brought them to my mind.

Till at length I heard his voice, mother, And it thrilled through all my frame; For who do you think it was, mother, That last-night to me, came.

Come near, till I speak his name, mother, Speak the name to us so dear; Twine your kind arms round my neck, mother, 'Twas father who was here.

And O, I know you will weep, mother You will miss your little boy; I love you : but, I must go mother To that home of light and joy.

To tell me, father came, mother, There was work in heaven for me; I am going to see God's smile, mother, Light up the crystal Sea.

That sea, where the angels bathe, mother, You told me about one day; Where you said dear father had gone, mother, I am going there to stay,

I feel your tears on my cheek, mother, And your heart is aching now; But, do not be lone and sad, mother, When glory lights my brow.

And when God wants you too, mother, Your patient brow to crown, I will come in robes of light, mother, To bear his messa_e down.

A child's argument.

One day a little girl was reading the third lay aside something for the rent ?" chapter of Matthew, in a silent and thoughtful manner. After a while she looked up to her whom I know, and who said, Look to me for the radical reformers for attempting to banish mother, who was sitting near, and said :

" Mother, were you ever baptized ?"

"Yes, daughter, I surely was."

"Well, mother, I did not know that. When says .-were you baptized ?"

little child."

home the cattle. 'Ye must be born again.' ' Except a man be

born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.' Now, at the end of all this conversation, Nicodemus knew nothing about how to be saved for himself, but only said, ' How can these things be ?' even when Jesus himself was the great Teacher.' . That's just where I am."

Now, what did Jesus do? He took him away to the picture-book for children, and showed him the picture of a dving man looking away from himself to a serpent on a pole and thus living ; and then told that ' as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have eternal lite.' Now, all you have to do is to look and live.'

. But that is just what I've been trying to do, and which I don't know how to do ;- what is it to look to Christ ?'

"Now I understand your difficulty,-you cannot see Christ with the eyes of your body,you can't feel his presence within you,-you can't feel that you have faith."

" Exactly ; what am I to do?"

"Allow me to give you an illustration." In some such words I spoke with my friend, and gave him the substance of the following illustration, which seemed to clear away his difficulty ; and I thought I would write it for you, as by God's blessing it may enable you to receive God's simple plan, and accept God's salvation for nothing.

'You have a tent,-say £10 a year to pay, -having to maintain a large family, and having been recently in distress and out of work, you find it impossible to pay it. Suppose that I was able, and knew your difficulty, and took pity on you, and said to you,-

. John, I hear you have a heavy rent, and have had very hard times. you will never be able to pay it. Now I wish you to use your money for your most pressing wants, to get food and clothing for your wife, and look to me for the rent. You, knowing me, and hence believing me, would go away home with a burden off your mind, and a happy heart. When you came home next Saturday with your wages, you would tell your wife to spend al! the money in getting food and clothing.'

"But, John,' she would say, 'are we not to

the rent and I know him and believe him."

before the rent-day a neighbor comes in, and emotion, rose and asked if it was allowed for

· John, I have got only £5 gathered for my he would be heard, he said : "Oh, it was a long time ago, when I was a rent, and I don't know what I'm to do. How much have you ?'

Johnny was playing at ball, and the pasture years old, was guilty of rude noisy conduct, was a long way off, but he was accustomed to very improper on all occasions, and particularly obey ; so off he started, without a word, as fast so at a stranger's house. The mother kindly

as his legs could carry him. Being in a great hurry to get back to play, he only half let down the bars, and then hurried the cattle through, and one fine cow, in trying to crowd over, stumbled and broke her

Johnny stood by the suffering creature, and thought to himself: "Now what shall I do? That was the finest cow father had, and it will father. What shall I tell him ?"

all our bearts-" tell him you found the bars half down and the creature lying there."

that would be a lie."

"Tell him," whispered the tempter again, to whip you." "that while you were driving the cows that big boy of Farmer Brown threw stones and hurried that cow so that she tell."

"No, no," said Johnny, " I never told a lie, and I won't begin now. I'll tell my father the truth. It was all my fault. I was in a hurry and broke her leg.

So having taken this right and brave resolve, Johnny ran home as if he were atraid the tempter would catch him, and he went straight to his father and told him the whole

truth. And what did his father do? He laid his hand on Johnny's head and said.

untruth."

chief he had done, was much happier than if an apology : he had told a lie to screen bimself, even it he had never been found out .- S. S. Visitor.

Social wine-drinking,

At an Episcopal Convention, a discussion on temperance brought up the "wine question." A part of the clergy advocated its entire disuse, and a part took the other side. At length an influential clergyman arose and made a vehe-'Ob, no,' you would answer, 'I met a man ment argument in favor of wine, denouncing this token of hospitality from us. When he had And thus weeks would go on, till a month resurced his seat, a layman, trembling with him to speak. The chair having signified that

> "Mr. Moderator, it is not my purpose, in rising, to answer the learned argument you have just listened to. My object is more hum-

reproved her :

" Sarab, you must not do so."

The child soon torgot the reproof and became as noisy as ever. The mother firmly said, "Sarah, if you do so again I will punish.

you." But not long alter Sarah "did so again." When the company were about to separate, the mother stepped into a neighbor's house, intendhave to be killed, and it will be a great loss to ing to return for the child. During her absence, the thought of going home recalled to " Tell him," whispered the tempter-the the mind of Sarah the punishment which her same tempter who puts wicked thoughts into mother told her she might expect. The recollection turned her rudeness and thoughtlessness to sorrow. A young lady present observing it, "No, I can't say that," said Johnny; " for and learning the cause, in order to pacify her, said, "Never mind, I will ask your mother not

" Ob," said Sarab, "that will do no good. My mother never tells lics."

The writer who communicated the above for the St. Louis Observer adds, " I learned a lesson from that child which I shall never forget. It is worth everything in the training of a child and I frightened the poor creature, and she fell to make it feel that its mother never tells lies.

A handsome soul.

One day last winter, a little boy from the South, who was on a visit to the city, was taking his first lesson in the art of "sliding " My son, my dear son, I would rather lose down hill," when he suddenly found his feet in every cow I own than my boy should tell an rather too close contact with a lady's silk dress. Surprised, mortified, and confused, he sprang And Johnny, though very sorry for the mis- from his sled, and, cap in hand, commenced

> "I beg your pardon, ma'am; I am very sorry."

"Never mind that," exclaimed the lady "there is no great harm done, and you feel worse about it than I do."

"But, dear madain," said the boy, as his eyes filled with tears, "your dress is ruined; I thought that you would be very angry with me for being so careless."

" Ob, no," replied the lady ; " better to have a soiled dress than a ruffled temper."

" Oh, isn't she a beauty ?" exclaimed the lad, as the lady passed on.

"Who, that lady ?" returned his comrade ; " if you call her a beauty, you shan't choose for me. Why, she is more than thirty years old, and her face is wrinkled."

"I don't care if ber face is wrinkled," replied the hero, "her soul is handsome any-

A shout of laughter followed, from which the

"Mother, how were you baptized?" "Well, the minister baptized me out of a bowl; he sprinkled the water upon me, and I was baptized." "Why? mother! I read in this chapter that	"What! are you to do nothing?" "Ob, a friend of mine said, Look to me for	a father in moderate circumstances, who was	mother, that lady did me good. I shall never	
John baptized Jesus ' in the river,' and, mother, it seems to me if I were going to be baptized,	· No.' Why.'	father, the influence of home, acting upon a generous nature, actually reformed him. The	said : 'Better to have a soiled dress than a ruffled temper.' "	a
 I should want to be bapized ' in the river,' the way Jesus was. Wouldn't you mother?" This was a view of truth from a new stand-	* Why? * Because I believe him.'	cherished hopes of other days were still to be realized. Several years passed, when the	Sinful security is the forerunner of sudden destruction to nations, as well as to families	
point. It startled her. It came with power, for she loved the Saviour. She made no reply. She could make none. She left the room, and	Because I know him.' Soon the rent day comes and even your wife	young man having completed his professional study, and being about to leave his father, to	and individuals.	
mords range in her pars_" If I were going to	begins to be suspicious and doubtful, but you have implicit trust in what I said—you have difficulty in understanding what look to me for	establish himself in business, he was invited to dine with a neighboring clergyman, distinguished for hospitality and social qualities.	fire " which " shall not be quenched night or day," and whose smoke " shall go up forever ?"	