

Youths' Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

(From "Robinson's Harmony.")

Sunday, March 14th, 1869.

CONCERT.

Sunday, March 21st, 1869.

MATTHEW xiv. 13-21: MARK vi. 30-44: LUKE ix. 10-17: JOHN vi. 1-14: The twelve return and Jesus retires with them across the lake. Five thousand are fed.

Recite.—Luke ix. 14-17.

ANSWER TO SCRIPTURE ENIGMA.

No. VI. (Incorrectly numbered No. II.)

- A-nanias . . . Acts v. 1-6.
F-elix . . . Acts xxiv. 24.
A-haziah's . . . 2 Kings i. 9-12.
L-aban . . . Genesis xxxi. 30-42.
S-amson's . . . Judges xiv. 15-17.
E-ngedi . . . 1 Samuel xxiv. 1.
B-onz . . . Ruth ii. 5.
A-bigail . . . 1 Samuel xxv. 25.
L-azarus' . . . John xi. 38, 39.
A-sahel . . . 2 Samuel ii. 18-23.
N-aaman . . . 2 Kings v. 17, 18.
C-aleb . . . Joshua xv. 18, 19.
E-ndor . . . 1 Samuel xxviii. 7.

Men think it but a trespass slight, To turn a step aside from right, And use a little guile: And though their conscience silent be, And though their neighbours may not see, God knows it all the while.

And day by day self's sordid mark Spreads on the soul, and growth dark; Until at last, they find No spot where sweet affections sleep, To make them smile, or bid them weep, In all their darkened mind.

And then the gain they made life's end, They see their children haste to spend; And sadly growing old, At last they learn that they have given, The best of earth and all of heaven, Just for a little gold!

"A FALSE BALANCE."—Proverbs xi. 1.

SCRIPTURE ANAGRAM.

No. III.

- 1. My first and fourth, my third and tenth proclaim, Our Saviour's stern and martyred herald's name.
2. My second, tenth, fourth, seventh, and eighth we take, To see a saint who from no death can wake.
3. My third, sixth, tenth, fourth, seventh, and eighth present The eldest first-born who to Egypt went.
4. My fourth and tenth spell the dishonoured name Of one whom earth devoured to hide his shame.
5. Next in my fifth, first, fourth, and tenth appears A town twice taken in two hundred years.
6. My sixth and fifth a pagan town recall, By Israel's cunning lured to utter fall.
7. Then in my seventh, sixth, fifth, and tenth we find, Who, cursed of earth, was outcast from his kind.
8. My first, fourth, tenth, my sixth and third unfold A type of Christ among the seers of old.
9. My tenth and fourth an ancient city show, By God's avenging justice brought to woe.

These letters ten recall a king, Whose shameful three months reign Doomed him for six-and-thirty years To wear a captive's chain.

When death the conqueror claimed, his heir Granted the exile kind release, And soothed him with such princely care He closed his days in peace.

THE RAINBOW.

A BIBLE SONNET.

When eyes that watched the Flood rise and decline First saw the Bow of beauteous colour braided Which spanned a threatening cloud, then slowly faded, Each heart relied on that assuring Sign. So when in Christ the dazzling Light Divine Spreads out its heavenly splendours softly shaded In cloud of flesh, our trembling faith is aided On God's sure truth and mercy to recline. To see him once to holy John was given, "Clothed in a cloud, a rainbow round his head," Earth's green memorial wearing still in heaven And when God looks upon that blessed token Encircling "Him who liveth, and was dead," He keeps his covenant of peace unbroken.

RICHARD WILTON, M. A.

God's mill grinds slowly, but it grinds well. High houses are mostly empty in the upper story.

COUSIN MABEL'S EXPERIENCES.

BY MISS E. J. WHATELY.

No. VIII.

WOMAN'S WORK, ITS HINDRANCES AND HELPS.

Minnie, with all her apparent recklessness, had good sense and warm feelings, and was beginning to be influenced by her sister's judicious kindness. For all the girls I felt that the life of inaction they led was hurtful; but Ella and Minnie were the only two who really saw what was needed; and before I felt a beginning of better things was visible, at least on Ella's part. She wrote to me constantly and fully, and told me of all her struggles against the irritability and restlessness to which, like many active-minded persons, she was naturally prone; and her endeavours to perform the narrow round of small duties which fell to her share, were real and earnest. As I expected, she found more than she had at first thought. She began to read German with a young friend who wished to learn and had no one to teach her; and in the course of the reading and the conversation it led to, she found occasional opportunities of trying to lead her companion to take an interest in higher and more important things. She got Minnie to have Sunday readings with her, of books explanatory of the Scriptures, to which the latter at first consented from not well knowing what to do with the interval between morning and evening services, and in which she ended by taking a real interest. Then Minnie was delighted to work for "a little darling of a child," she had accidentally met, who was to go to Miss Warner's school, and sadly wanted clothes. Ella, though disliking needlework, still set to work to improve in it, that she might help in the task, and on this Mrs. Somerville

looked with a favourable eye. Ella even managed to get in a little reading aloud during their working hours, and Minnie noted for her impatience of all "grave books," was induced to listen to some of Macaulay's Essays, and complimented the writer as being the only historian she knew who was not "as dull as an owl." On her part, Ella set herself manfully to work on some dry branches of education which had been rather neglected; and found the exercise so strengthening to her mind that she was able to bear, very composurely, the jokes of her sisters on her working at problems and sums like a school girl. More than all, the family was gradually and insensibly influenced by the example of steady habits of occupation in one member of it; and this reacted happily on another practice which had grown up in the family, partly from listlessness and want of an object, the habit of constant personal remarks and persiflage and carping at one another and at strangers, which led, though none of them were really ill-tempered, to a spirit of bickering and contention which disturbed what ought to have been the smooth current of the family life. Fanny, Theodosia, and Minnie, were the most addicted to this habit; Adelaide was too gentle and too languid; Ella was aware it was wrong, but occasionally fell into it, and sometimes showed more irritation than the others, partly from a vague feeling of self-reproach, partly from being inclined to take all things more seriously than the rest, so that a little dispute which the others had forgotten in half an hour, would dwell painfully on her mind for the day. But now she saw her way more clearly on all these questions of duty, and steadily set her face against all family teasing and satire; and her influence had considerable effect on the others, on and promoted the general family harmony.

I had the satisfaction of seeing proofs of this my next visit to Ivy Lodge, which took place in the course of the following year, on the occasion of the first marriage in the family. Adelaide, the prettiest and most outwardly attractive of the sisters, was the bride; and the connexion appeared to give general satisfaction, the only take off being that Captain Beaufort, the intended bridegroom, was an officer whose regiment was just quartered at Malta. This, however, afforded a favourable opportunity for enabling Fanny, who had been for some time in delicate health, to spend a winter, as she had been recommended, in a warm climate; Adelaide and Captain Beaufort proposed her accompanying them, and it was settled that after their short wedding trip and some hasty visits to friends, Fanny should meet them in London.

I left them the day before Mrs. Somerville and Fanny were to join the bridal pair in London. I little thought under what circumstances I was to return to them. A few days after my departure a hurried letter from Ella told of her mother's serious illness. It seems Mrs. Somerville had greatly over-excited herself in the preparations for the marriage of one sister and the outfit of both; she was overheated, and took a chill. I had thought her looking ill at the time I left; and Ella and Theodosia had vainly endeavoured to induce her to give up her own journey to London. She was one of those persons who have scarcely ever known illness, and could not bear the idea of any sort of nursing or precaution. She insisted not only on going to London, but accompanying the travelling party to Southampton, and seeing them on board the steamer. She returned in drizzling rain, and the day after she reached home decided rheumatic fever had set in. For some days she was considered in real danger; and even when the worst symptoms abated, it was evident the disease had laid a strong grasp on the usually vigorous frame. In the early part of her illness, other and more pressing duties rendered my coming to my cousins impossible; but at the end of a few weeks, finding myself at liberty, I wrote to propose coming, and my offer was gratefully accepted.

My third arrival at Ivy Lodge was a contrast to the two former. The air of "dolce far niente" which characterized the first, and the

bustle and gaiety of the second visit, were all fled, and there was the strange, hushed stillness, which bears such sad testimony to the presence of severe sickness in a house. The pretty drawing-room, with all its elegances, was deserted, the shutters closed. Minnie met me in the passage with an eager clasp, and a whispered "Thank you for coming!" "How is she?" I said.

"Much the same,—no worse, they say; but oh, cousin Mabel, I never saw real bad pain before, and I did not know how terrible it is even to look at! Mamma is very courageous, but it is fearful to see her suffer so. Oh, how I wish I could do her any good!" "I am sure, dear child, you are all of use."

"I am such a giddy-pate, they won't trust me much upstairs; but I take the note-writing, and answering inquiries, and sending messages, and I assure you that gives me plenty to do. But the useful person of all is Ella," she added, as she drew me into the little sitting-room next the parlour, and disencumbered me of my wraps. "You have no idea how Ella has come out. You know Theodosia and Fanny used always to call her a book-worm, and say she was good for nothing but reading, and she is not as handy at little things as they are, certainly; and when the illness began, I saw Theodosia was prepared to be head of the sick-room, and keep Ella completely in the background, though Ella is older. Well, dear cousin, Ella never said a word, but gave into all Dossia's ways as meekly and humbly as possible. I am sure I should not have borne it half as well in her place. But when dear mamma was really considered in danger, and especially one night when she was delirious, and the fever ran very high, Theodosia quite lost her presence of mind, and got frightened and bewildered. The nurse we had then was an old goose, and, though she was

used enough to the kind of thing, she had no sense to see what to do; and Ferris, who used to queen it by mamma's bedside, and hunt us all off, got so completely upset, she could only cry and wring her hands, and say, 'Oh, dear, dear!' So Ella was the only person really able to attend to the doctor's orders and carry out his directions. It was a difficult case, and there were a great many things to attend to; and poor Ella was so calm, and showed such self-command and practical common sense, the doctor said. I heard him say to her, 'You are the person I rely on.' I was listening behind the screen, and; though I was so miserable, I couldn't help feeling quite pleased that poor Ella was done justice to at last; and now, do you know, the end of it is, they all look to her, Dossia and all, and she is the one everybody consults. Papa brings in business letters to her, and says she is the only woman in the house who has any head, and he comes to her for everything now. I should just think I was pleased, that's all! Dear Ella! I am sure I never loved her as I do now, or knew how good she is. Do you know, cousin Mabel, I think that is one of the good things trouble does. It shows what people are made of."

"It shows, dearest Minnie, that there is no strength to be relied on like that we gain from 'putting our weakness in Christ's strengthening hand.' He alone can be 'a very present help in trouble.' Ella has learned to look to him; and I hope you too are learning the same lesson." Minnie could not speak, but her silent kiss and pressure of the hand gave the answer. At the head of the stairs Ella met us with the news that her mother was asleep. There was the light of a calm, firm resolve in her pale and anxious face. I could see that the trial was doing its appointed work for all the three; for even Theodosia appeared subdued, humbled, and softened; her too frequently sharp and trenchant manner was changed.

For several days, while I shared the nursing, the state of the invalid was a very anxious one; but at the end of a week improvement began, and from that time she progressed steadily. And when she was sufficiently recovered to bear snatches of conversation, I was able to perceive that to her too the affliction had proved a blessing. Her life had been so completely an outer one,—so engrossed with the bustling activities of the mother of a large family and head of a household, that the trial of being laid aside helpless, and unable to move hand or foot, had been not only strange but overwhelming. Some struggle there had doubtless been with irritation; but she had been calmed and solemnized by being for the first time really brought face to face with death. She was a woman of much firmness and energy of character; she said little, but she had evidently looked her danger in the face, and doubtless it had worked deeply in her mind. She had always been what was considered, and what she herself believed to be, a religious woman; but on a sick bed we often learn to see that what we thought a faith sufficient for our daily life is not what can meet the prospect of death; and the first words she spoke to me, when able to bear anything like conversation were, "Mabel, I thought I had been more of a Christian than I found I was when this sickness came." She had also observed many things which she had not been supposed to notice, while her illness was at the worst. She had evidently remarked the qualities displayed by Ella, whom she had been accustomed to rate very far below Theodosia in practical usefulness. I let her casual observations pass with no notice, except a word or two of sympathy, knowing that an injudicious answer may sometimes cut short a confidence; but in all our conversations,—and we had many, as she gradually gained strength,—I was confirmed in the conviction that a great change had been wrought in the active, busy mother by this long and trying discipline.

A hundred years of wrong do not make an hour of right.

A DREAM, WITH A PROLOGUE, AND AN EPILOGUE.

BY S. T. RAND, MISSIONARY TO THE INDIANS.

THE EPILOGUE.

I am not writing a dissertation on the phenomena of dreams. Still I may observe in passing that we need not run to extremes whatever theory we adopt concerning them. We would be very careful to keep all things, and dreams among the rest, in their proper places and to their proper uses. It is absurd to suppose that such men as Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Pharaoh, Solomon, Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel, paid any heed to the ten thousand vagaries that would ordinarily float through their fancies during the hours of sleep. It was evidently only when there was something very remarkable in their dreams, that they were troubled about them, or looked upon them as suggesting some important event, or as being direct revelations from Heaven. And why may not our minds be sometimes awakened to seek after the mind and will of God, as theirs were, by dreams? Nay why may we not receive direct revelations as they did? For there are plenty of dreams in these days that can be accounted for on no other principle. Whatever view may be taken respecting these points, the dream which I have here related, and which was "all a dream," related just as it occurred, with nothing added or omitted for the sake of embellishment, and which I dreamed at the age of fourteen years, has ever appeared to me, and more especially when I have been "living in the enjoyment of Religion—I love this old fashioned phrase—as having had something of the supernatural about it. It seemed to be sent to instruct, to caution, and to encourage me. I will refer briefly to a few particulars.

1. I dreamed that several of my companions and playmates started with me when I set out to become a Christian, but that Satan deceived them all back. All this literally took place. At the time I had the dream all these boys were with myself giving some attention to the "one thing needful." When we met together we talked about religion, and sometimes prayed together. But they dropped off one by one, and the one that I dreamed held out the longest did hold out the longest. I remember relating the dream to some of them at our next meeting, after it occurred, and when it was evident they were growing careless, and I hoped, but hoped in vain, alas! that it might be a means of stimulating them to more earnestness and watchfulness against the wiles of the tempter.

2. The manner in which the tempter came was striking. He was about our own size. And Satan well knows how to "become all things to all." To deceive the "angels of light," he can assume the form of an angel of light. See 2 Cor. xi. 13, 14, 15, and thus as it would seem glide in among them undetected, save by the eye of Omniscience, when they come to present themselves before the Lord. See Job. i. 6, and ii. 1, and also 1 Kings xxii. 21. He can be a man with men and a boy with boys. And oh! how interested he can seem to be for their welfare? how eagerly will he dissuade them from minding religion young. And then how persevering is he! Though foiled again and again, he will return to the attack. Nor does he confound his efforts to arguments and persuasion. Attempts on the body, on the life, on all that is most dear to us, he will make, and but for God's continual care few would escape temporal and eternal destruction at his hands. See Job. i. 12, ii. 7. Luke vii. 29, 33. I dreamed that twice he made a violent assault upon my life. And twice at least after that and before I obtained finally "a good hope through grace," my life was in imminent peril. It seemed almost miraculous that I should have escaped. I must recognize the direct hand of God in my deliverance. But I was always under the impression that these deadly onsets were to be interpreted spiritually, as attempts to destroy my soul, by urging me into deadly sins, which but for direct and almost miraculous divine intervention, would have been successful. And I cannot look back without a shudder to several occasions in which I seem to have been on the crumbling edge of ruin, temporal and eternal. But God marvellously interposed to save me from temptation and sin. Blessed be his holy name forever and ever!

3. I cannot tell how that mysterious building, with its innumerable halls and side doors, and the insurmountable difficulties apparently thereby at first presented, in the way of finding the right door, could have been suggested to my mind by any natural process. It would seem to suggest altogether more knowledge of theological difficulties, than I could possibly have had at that age, and in these times. Sabbath Schools, and Sabbath School books, had not yet been introduced into "our neighborhood." My education was very limited in every respect. Yet how striking was this representation! To the enquirer after the way of salvation, how many vexatious questions are raised! How diversified and how numerous are the "ways" set before him! Among so many "doors," all professing to stand "at the head of the way to heaven," and each one claiming to be the only right one, how is the inexperienced to know? Which of the dozen teachers all claiming or assuming infallibility for their own peculiar but widely diversified churches, is he to believe and follow? Let him cautiously approach and examine. He will find a word of warning posted over every door that leads to destruction. Let him beware! He will soon, if seriously in earnest, be guided to the "strait gate," and the "narrow way."

Let him cleave to the infallible word, and follow it, though compelled to walk alone. 4. More striking still was the representation of two narrow doors, standing side by side, opening apparently into the same passage way beyond, the one much wider than the other, and