

Youths' Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

(From "Robinson's Harmony.")

Sunday, August 28th, 1870.

JOHN xvi. 1-33: Persecution foretold. Further promise of the Holy Spirit. Prayer in the name of Christ.

Recite—Scripture Catechism, 133, 134.

Sunday, September 4th, 1870.

JOHN xvii. 1-26: Christ's last prayer with his disciples.

Recite, S. C., 135, 136, 137.

ANSWER TO BIBLE SCENES.

NO. II.

King Josiah in burning upon the altar the bones of those who had grievously sinned, fulfilled the prophecy uttered 300 years before, and discovered the fact that he had so fulfilled the word of the Lord, by enquiring whose sepulchre it was that was spared, and found it to be the very prophet that had foretold this event.—2 Kings xxiii. 15-18.

SCRIPTURE ENIGMA.

NO. XLIX.

Around me myriad hosts encamp Beside the waters pure: Escaped the sea, a desert frown, Yet is their pathway sure. Years pass, my own rich city stands Before her heaven-sent foe; Soon to be spoiled, then wrapt in flames, She falls without a blow. Oft when a nation's harvest-home Is held for garnered grain, My presence, by Divine command, Is with the joyous train. Within yon temple's sacred bounds, See, sculptured on the wall, My likeness fair in gleaming gold Where'er your glance may fall. Now where I lie the exulting crowd Sweep past with eager feet; While One, their King, moves calmly on, For love's sake, death to meet. And last, recall the rapturous sight To one blest mortal shown, Where with the ransomed ones I wave, Forever round the throne. An emblem still in sacred song, You oft may find my name; And with past glories it is linked In never ending fame.

THE MANNA.

A SONNET BY RICHARD WILTON, M. A.

How richly in the desert Israel fared, By God's own hand with food angelic fed, Which with the dew around the camp was shed. That other dew, brow-drenching, they were spared In tilling thorn-curst ground—sad burden shared By all for Adam's sin; but ate their "bread," As from a table in the desert spread, "Without their labour," or their thought, "prepared." So God's salvation, the true bread from heaven, In rich completeness is before us set. Fresh with the Spirit's dew, and freely given: But not without the labor of Another, Toils, tears, and thorny crown, and bloody sweat, Of Him who is God's Fellow and man's Brother.

PRUDY'S LECTURE—"We must keep good company, Doty, or not any at all. This is a fact.

"Even an apple is known by the company it keeps. Grandpa Parlin says if you put apples in a potato bin, they won't taste like apples,—they'll taste like potatoes.

"Sometimes I think, Doty, you'd be as good and nice as a summer sweeting, if you wouldn't play with naughty children, like Lina Rosenberg; but if you do, you'll be like a potato, as true as you live.

"Finis."—Oliver Optic's Magazine.

A lady noticed a boy sprinkling salt on the sidewalk to take off the ice, and remarked to a friend, pointing to the salt:

"Now that's benevolence."

"No it ain't," said the boy, somewhat indignantly, "it's salt."

So, when a lady asked her servant-girl if the hired man cleaned off the snow with alacrity, she replied:

"No, ma'am, he used a shovel."

"What a fine head your boy has," said an admiring friend. "Yes," said the fond father, "he's a chip of the old block; ain't you, Johnny?" "I guess so," replied the boy; "my teacher said I was a young blockhead."

Sanctified affliction, like seasonable rain, lays the dust, softens the soul, and keeps us from carrying our heads too high.

A real Christian is a good subject to his sovereign, a pillar to the state, an ornament to society, and a blessing to the world.

A CASE OF SUSPICION.

The danger of wronging people on suspicion is an ever present one. The following story from the Methodist carries a lesson on this point:

One day a large number of guests sat at the dinner table of the principal hotel in Dresden, the beautiful capital of Saxony. Foreigners and native Germans sat side by side, eating, talking, and apparently having a very good time. Suddenly a young merchant, who had travelled through India, attracted the attention of everybody by holding up a piece of gold money, which he had brought with him from that country.—The coin was eight-cornered, and had very strange figures on both sides of it. The people around the table were greatly surprised to see such a beautiful and queer piece of money, and it is no wonder that they admired it.

The gentleman owning it let it pass around the table, and a good many remarks were made about how such a queer piece of money could have been prepared. Finally it reached the hands of a gentleman sitting at the end of the table, who was apparently an officer of high rank, and who had been so intent upon conversation with his neighbor that he was really the only one in the company who had not paid much attention to the curious coin. He looked at it a moment, noticed the figures with some indifference, and then laid it down on the table, saying, "O! I know that piece of money already; I have seen one before," and continued his conversation.

Shortly afterwards the people began to talk about other things, and the piece of money was apparently forgotten. As the dinner, which lasted a good while, drew to a close, the young merchant who owned the money looked around upon the guests, and said,—

"Will the gentleman to whom my piece of money was handed last, be kind enough to give it to me again? for I have not yet received it."

The people were greatly astonished at this remark, and wondered that he had not received the money again. Every one declared that he had passed it on to the one sitting next to him, but nobody seemed able to tell what had become of it. The company were in great surprise at the thought that a thief could possibly be in their number, and yet it did seem that somebody had taken the gold coin. Finally, when the money could not be found, an old gentleman arose, and said, in a loud voice,—

"Gentlemen, since every one of you says he has not got the piece of money, and since all of us present in this dining-room are responsible for it, I propose to you that each one have his pocket searched by the landlord, and I am willing that mine should be searched first. The landlord and I will take our position at the door, and I propose that nobody leave the hall without the landlord examining his pocket. In fact, there is nothing else that we can do, if we want to save ourselves against the supposition that some one of us is a thief!"

It appeared that everybody was agreed to this proposition, and one after another had his pockets searched by the landlord. Finally, the officer who had given but little attention to the piece when it was handed to him, said,—

"Gentlemen, I do not agree to have my pocket searched, though I give you my honor as a soldier that I have not in my possession the piece of money. Here is my name, and that is all I can submit to!"

All eyes were now directed to this officer, and immediately every one else seemed to have a suspicion that he was the one who had the money in his pocket. A number said to him that, as they had been searched, it was nothing more than right that he should be also. But he protested against it, and said that he would submit to it under no condition whatever.

"Then," said they, "we shall have to consider that you are the thief, unless you agree to have your pockets searched!"

"I am no thief, gentlemen; and yet I will not consent to have my pockets searched."

Just in the midst of the excitement, a rap was heard at the door. The landlord opened it, and seeing the chief waiter of the hotel before him, asked him what he desired. Said he,—

"I wish to tell you, sir, that in one of the napkins which has just been brought from the table there was found this gold piece, which fell out when the napkin was thrown into the pile of soiled ones. I have come to give it to you, that you may return it to the owner."

The whole company were greatly surprised, and there was a universal feeling of satisfaction; and those people who had accused the officer of being a thief felt very much ashamed of themselves, and would have been glad to find any place in which to hide. The officer, now seeing that they could no more call him thief, stood up before the company and said,—

"Gentlemen, I think you will now allow me the privilege of saying a word. The reason why I did not allow my pockets to be searched was, that I had in my portmanteau a piece of gold just like the piece which the waiter has returned to the owner. If it had been found in my pocket, and the other piece had never been found, I should have been called, and with some right, perhaps, a thief. There are strange things in this world, and we can never be too sure we are right. See, here is my piece of money!"

And with that, the officer took out a piece of gold which was in every respect like that owned by the merchant.

FRIENDLY WORDS.

"What religious paper do you take?" "Why, really, my time is so much occupied that I do not find leisure to read any. Sometimes neighbor Brown brings his over with some article that he wishes me to read and discuss, but I do not take any myself."

"That is a pity, you can certainly find some

odd moments to devote to religious reading, and I should think you would like to hear the revival news, and know what is going on in the church."

"Well, my wife enjoys neighbor Brown's journal very much, it seems to encourage her to read of those who have died happy in the Lord, and like most women she is fanciful about reading verses and such like; she has asked me to subscribe to some religious periodical; but I tell her to consider the expense."

"You take one or two daily papers?"

"Of course; a man must keep up with the business and politics of the day. He must look sharp if he wants to get on in the world and provide for a growing family. I would like a religious newspaper if I could afford it, but I am obliged to economize in such matters."

"Don't you think it would benefit your children to have some religious weekly?"

"I am sorry that my children take no interest in anything of the kind. I have some first-rate books in my library, commentaries and sermons, and several standard works on theology, but I don't believe they ever look at the inside of one, and they are fond of reading too, but it is only light reading."

"Perhaps if they had some religious journal coming weekly, and they saw you interested in its columns, they would be apt to read it. May they not argue that father don't care enough about revival news to pay for it, and so put down religion as a humdrum, prosy affair, very good for sick people and old people, very respectable and proper, but not worth taking so much trouble about while they are young. It is a living religion that is attractive to young people, they do not yet know the value of the past, but are eager and curious to know what is going on now. They will often read and remember a short paragraph, when they would be appalled at the idea of venturing on some large book. You will find too, that it will warm your own heart to be reminded of the work of the Lord."

"You seem to be very earnest about this matter."

"There are so many evil agencies at work, so many busied in polluting and destroying souls, that it becomes us as Christians to be active and earnest in forwarding all means of doing good, and the religious press can certainly be made a most valuable agent in God's service, and if the expense is your only objection"—

"O indeed, I have no other."

"Then suppose you try it for a year, and watch its effect on your own heart, and in your household, and see if it don't pay."—Er.

THE PRESERVING LEAVES.

I once heard a story about a man who was travelling on horseback. As he passed along, he saw a bird acting very strangely; so he stopped to watch it. The little thing seemed very much frightened; its wings fluttered, and it kept flying into a tree, with leaves in its mouth. He dismounted, and going to the tree he found that the bird had a nest of young ones in the branches, and that with all the speed of which it was capable, it was placing the leaves around the nest.—The young birds opened their mouths for something to eat, but the mother did not give them anything; she only placed the leaves around them. The traveller wondered why she should do this; but he soon saw the reason. The mother was sitting on a distant tree, showing signs of terror, and the traveller saw a snake crawling up the tree towards the bird's nest. Slowly, slowly it comes up. See, its mouth is close to them. It will devour them. But no: it touches the leaves which the mother has placed around the nest, and immediately it drops to the earth. It crawls up again, but again it drops as soon as it touches the leaves. They are poison to it, and the little ones are safe.

These leaves were to those little birds what the leaves of the Bible will be to you. Many of you had them placed around you by loving mothers when you were very young. Oh! see that nothing blows them away. Let them ever be around your hearts. If you have not yet had them placed there, place them there yourselves. Then the serpents of sin may come near you, but they cannot bear the touch of these precious leaves. Though they are life to you, they are poison to these your enemies. With prayer for your sword, with the Bible for your charm, you may pass through a world full of these serpents, unslung and unharmed.

CHRIST AND SINNERS.

By going to the lowest stratum of human nature, Christ gave a new idea of the value of man. He built a kingdom out of the refuse of society. To compare small things with great, it was pointed out by Lord Macaulay that in an English cathedral there is an exquisite stained window, which was made by an apprentice out of the pieces of glass rejected by his master, and it was so far superior to every other in the church that, according to tradition, the envious artist killed himself with vexation.

All the builders of society had rejected the "sinners," and made the painted window of the "righteous." A new builder came; his plan was original, startling, revolutionary; his eye was upon the condemned material; he made the first last and the last first, and the stone which the builders rejected he made the head stone of the corner. They always specially cared for the great, the beautiful, the righteous; it was left to Christ to care for sinners.—Eccle Deus.

Next year completes a thousand years since Alfred the Great, founder of the University of Oxford, ascended the English throne. The English are proposing to celebrate the occasion.

THE ABIDING WORD.

On the door of the old mosque in Damascus, which was once a Christian church, but for twelve centuries has ranked among the holiest of the Mohammedan sanctuaries, are inscribed these remarkable words: "Thy kingdom, O Christ, is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations." Though the name of Christ has been regularly blasphemed, and the disciples of Christ regularly cursed for twelve hundred years within it, the inscription has nevertheless remained unimpaired by time and undisturbed by man. It was unknown during the long reign of Mohammedan intolerance and oppression; but when religious liberty was partially restored, and the missionaries were enabled to establish a Christian church in that city, it was again brought to light, encouraging them in their work of faith and labor of love.

SOMETIME.—It is a sweet, sweet song, warbled to and fro among the topmost boughs of the heart, and filling the whole air with such joy and gladness as the songs of birds do when the summer morning comes out of darkness, and day is born on the mountains. We have all our possessions in the future, which we call "sometime." Beautiful flowers and singing birds are there, only our hands seldom grasp the one or our ears hear the other. But O, reader, be of good cheer, for all the good there is a golden "sometime;" when the hills and valleys of time are all passed; when the wear and fever, the disappointment of life are over, then there is the place and the rest appointed of God. O, home-stead, over whose roof fall no shadows or even clouds, and over whose threshold the voice of sorrow is never heard; built upon the eternal hills and standing with thy spires and pinnacles of celestial beauty among the palm trees of the city on high, those who love God shall rest under thy shadow, where there is no more sorrow nor pain, nor the sound of weeping, "sometime."

Ministers in our day rarely object to an increase of salary, but we find in an exchange, a capital story of an old Connecticut Pastor who declined it for very substantial reasons: His country parish raised his salary from three hundred to four hundred dollars. The good man objected for three reasons: "First," said he "because you can't afford to give more than three hundred. Second, because my preaching isn't worth more than that. Third, because I have to collect my salary, which heretofore, has been the hardest part of my labors among you. If I have to collect an additional hundred, it will kill me."

Scientific. &c.

FABER'S SPEAKING-MACHINE

is attracting attention in Germany. It pronounces each letter distinctly, and even laughs and sings. German philologists have heretofore declared it impossible to imitate the letter I, as pronounced in German, by artificial means, but this machine speaks the word Mississippi very plainly. During a performance at Berlin, a slip of paper containing the words, "Long live King William of Prussia," was handed to Mr. Faber, and correctly pronounced by the machine, whereupon there was a great deal of applause.

COLOR OF LEAVES.

The green color of leaves, one element of which must be a vegetable blue, sometime since led an American experimentalist to the conclusion that leaves turn red at the end of the season through the action of an acid, and that the green color could be restored by the action of an alkali.—The conclusion has been verified, the London Athenaeum now declares, by experiment. Autumnal leaves placed under a receiver with vapor of ammonia in nearly every instance lost the red color and renewed their green. In some, such as the sassafras, the blackberry, and maple, the change was rapid, and could be watched by the eye, while others, particularly certain oaks, turn gradually brown, without showing any appearance of green.

A down-East paper says that persuasive and humbugging agents are about in that neighbourhood selling lightning-rods. One old lady told an agent she had no fear of lightning, but she had always been afraid of thunder. "Just so," he replied, "we can meet your case exactly. The square rods are lightning-rods, and the round ones thunder-rods."

African monkeys have learned to catch oysters by rolling a pebble stone inside the bivalves' mouths, saving their own paws from grief, and dining at leisure.

THE NEW PRESS STYLE.—Some of the newspapers have adopted a new way of relating horrible accidents and pathetic events, which is quite effective as well as concise. Here is an example:—

"That was a bitter joke of the man in New Jersey who put a quantity of jalap in some beer his friend was about to drink. The funeral was very generally attended."

A great many people have asked us of late, "How do you keep your horse looking so sleek and glossy?" We tell them, it's the easiest thing in the world; give "Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powers" two or three times a week.

A gentleman in the eastern part of the State who was about having his leg amputated on account of its being bent at right angles and stiff at the knee, heard of "Johnson's Anodyne Liniment." After using it a short time, his leg became straight, and is now as serviceable as the other.