

Youths' Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

(From "Robinson's Harmony.")

Sunday, September 18th, 1870.

MATTHEW xxvi. 30, 36-46; MARK xiv. 26, 32-42; LUKE xxii. 39-46; JOHN xviii. 1; The agony in Gethsemane.

Recite—Scripture Catechism, 138, 139, 140.

Sunday, September 25th, 1870.

MATTHEW xxvi. 47-56; MARK xiv. 43-52; LUKE xxii. 47-53; JOHN xviii. 2-12; Jesus betrayed and made prisoner.

Recite, S. C., 141, 142.

ANSWER TO SCRIPTURE KNIGM.

- 1. A-rara-t Gen. viii. 4
2. M-oriu-h Gen. xxii. 2
3. O-se-e Rom. ix. 25
4. S-hilo-h 1 Sam. i. 24
5. O-ye Haggai i. 4
6. E-ather 2 Cor. vi. 18
7. T-ola-d 1 Chron. iv. 20
8. E-phi-su-s Rev. ii. 1
9. K-itti-m Gen. x. 4
10. O-meg-a Rev. i. 1
11. A-ro-n Exod. xxviii. 1

BIBLE SCENES.

NO. IV.

Find the narrative in the Bible where the following scene is described:—

See that narrow gorge which runs between two jagged points or teeth of the cliffs. Up the northern side of the steep ravine two men are climbing on their hands and feet. Encouraged by a sign from God, they advance fearlessly in face of their scolding foes, and soon lay a score of them in the dust. The enemy's dismay is increased by division in the camp, and the shock of an earthquake, and their overthrow completed by the arrival of an army.

ELIM.

A SONNET BY RICHARD WILTON, M. A.

(See Exodus xv. 27, &c.)

At Elim with its whispering grove of palm,
And clustered wells in cool abundance springing,
Israel encamped—their sighs exchanged for singing
And Marah's murmurs for a glad some psalm.
Earth has its Elims still of shadowy calm—
Sweet homes, with gentle vines about them clinging,
And olive branches green—young voices ringing,
And tried affection breathing grateful balm,
Lord, if such love makes glad, such beauty graces,
The desert tracts thy people tread below—
Such wells of comfort cheer earth's resting-places,
Such pleasant shades relieve the way we go,—
That heavenly land itself, how passing fair,
How passing sweet the home that waits us there!

THE FRIGATE BIRD.

Among the wonders of natural history there are few that surpass the Frigate Bird. An inhabitant of tropical coasts, in both hemispheres, it is well known to sailors, who admire its glossy plumage, and gaze with wonder upon its rapid movements, as it circles high over the mast head or sweeps amid the flying fish below.

The frigate bird, sometimes called the man-of-war bird, is remarkable for its powers of flight. It is seen on shore only in the pairing or breeding season. The remainder of its life it spends upon the wing, touching foot to neither land nor sea. How it can live and sleep in the air was for a long time a mystery, but naturalists have found that after deducting the weight of the wings and tail, and the muscles which aid the flight, the remainder of the body is so light that the bird has no difficulty in keeping itself suspended in the air. Its wings and tail are of immense size.

What a strange life! Fast asleep, soaring in the air, night after night, a mile above the sea! What child ever dreamed of anything so daring as this bird's flight? He awakens in the bright moonlight, and finds himself comfortably sailing far above the mountains that line the dim coast below; and then, rocked in the mighty cradle of the winds, shuts out the world, and drops away to sleep again.

Drifting along, now up, now down, he is awakened by a cold bath, and the wild shrieks of the storm. The sleep walker, treading on air, has passed into a snow cloud. He minds it no more than a little child that, awakened by some noise, peeps up from its bed clothes, and then turns over and goes to sleep again.

In the darkness of the night a more terrible storm rages around. The winds sweep like a hurricane, and the rains dash as if many floods had been let loose. The frigate bird, used to storms, mounts upward; and getting far above the tempest and the driving clouds, and when morning light comes, sails down to see whether the storm has not, some way or other, provided him with an easy breakfast.

But how is such a bird to find his food? He cannot wade for it, or swim for it, or dive for it. And yet he is a fisherman. Such of the finny tribe as air their fins above the water, like the flying fish, are in danger of being snapped up in

the sudden swoop of the frigate bird. His chief resource, however, is piracy. The gannet and other sea birds are glad enough to drop their fishy prey the moment they see the frigate bird bearing down upon them. By letting go their booty they save themselves a severe, and it may be a deadly shock, while the robber, with his eye upon the falling fish, first balances himself, and then shoots downward to catch the prize before it reaches the water.

A full grown frigate bird measures from tip to tip of its wings ten or twelve feet, though the body is not more than three feet in length. Its beak is large and strong, and opens into a pouch which adds to the lightness of the bird by being filled with air. The lungs and other cavities are capable of being swelled out with air also. The feet are of little use and are therefore quite small.

There exists no more active bird in the air; and yet, when the frigate bird trusts himself to the shore to make a nest, he is stupid enough to be caught by the hand. Once on the ground his feet are so small, and his wings and tail so large and long, that he cannot rise without difficulty.—Young Folks' News.

THE INVITATION SOCIETY.

Some years ago a man residing in one of our cities was deeply impressed and grieved by seeing multitudes who neglect public worship; and he determined to make the effort to induce the Sabbath breakers to frequent the house of God. It required some little effort at first, but he overcame his timidity. The Lord's day evening he went forth with his holy purpose, and meeting a young man who did not appear to be on his way to a place of worship, respectfully addressed him, got into conversation with him, and persuaded the stranger to accompany him to worship, and, as an inducement, offered him a seat in his own pew. Succeeding in the case, he was emboldened to proceed in this line of Christian activity and usefulness. And now, mark what a blessed result!—he has been the means of leading one hundred young men to become stated attendants of the sanctuary, many of whom have been truly converted to God.

A minister of the gospel mentioned this at one of the prayer-meetings, when the plan was caught by some persons present, who at once said, "How admirable a plan this is for doing good." A little association was immediately formed, called "The Invitation Society." In sixteen months, two hundred persons were persuaded by eight or ten of its agents no longer to forsake the assembling of themselves in the house of prayer. One of these agents, an earnest christian in humble life, devoted himself to this work, and was the means of bringing forty to hear the word of life.—Rev. J. A. Adams.

A POINTED ARGUMENT.

Dr. Mason Good once asked of a young seofer, who was attacking Christianity on account the sins of some of its professors: "Did you ever know an uproar made because an infidel had gone astray from the path of morality?" The young man admitted he had not. "Then you allow Christianity to be a holy religion, by expecting its professors to be holy; thus, by your very scoffing, you pay it the highest compliment in your power."

People are not surprised when they find a rejecter of the Bible living in immorality; but let them detect a man who professes to obey it pursuing a sinful course, and forthwith, with sneers and scorn, they publish his "inconsistency."—What a condemnation they thereby write against themselves! They see that christianity requires purity of life in its adherents. They censure those who fail to conform to its requirements.—Because of that failure, they excuse themselves from obeying it. Yet they know it condemns the inconsistency of professors as strongly as they do. Will the sins of disciples excuse them?—Did the treachery of Judas lessen the guilt of the Jews and Romans who killed the Lord? It is a tribute to the divinity of the gospel that it has triumphed over the stabs which it has received from its recruits. Nothing but God's truth could have survived such treachery. But that does not justify either the man who thus wounds it in the house of its friends, or the bitter enemy who makes it responsible for the wounds which are inflicted.—Central Presbyterian.

TO DRAW, NOT TO DRIVE.—The following hints are from an article in the Sunday School Workman, on the way to start a school. They may give a shove in the right direction to some schools already started:

Make your school intensely interesting. Compel the children to come. Do not drive them to school, but make them love it so that they are unhappy when they have to stay away. They never will learn much if they do not enjoy it. We may pound religious truth into their heads as the multiplication table has been birched and switched into many a boy who never could bring himself to love it. But if we want the softening and saving influence of the gospel of Jesus Christ to enter their hearts, we must carry it in by the power of Christian love.

Have as little "Constitution and Byelaws" as possible. Many a youthful Sunday school has been strangled to death by copious convolutions of red tape. Officer the school with men and women who promise to attend to their duties and who will faithfully fulfil their promises. Put nobody in office merely as a compliment, nor for any other reason than that he is the best person who can be found to fulfil the duties which are expected of him.

"When will talkers refrain from evil speaking?" When listeners refrain from evil-hearing.—Hare.

Musical.

SINGING IN THE FAMILY.

Singing in the family adds greatly to the interest of devotional exercises, especially among children. It makes the family altar a pleasant place.

The moral influence of vocal music is of a sanctified character, has always been happy in the extreme.

Show us the family where good music is cultivated, where the parents and children are accustomed often to mingle their voices in song, and we will show you one in almost every instance, where peace, harmony and love prevail, and where the grosser vices have no dwelling place.

Music, like an angel from the courts of Paradise, can throw around the soul a thousand heavenly influences, and charm it into the paths of virtue.

Is it not to be regretted that good men—heads of families—who are regular in their morning and evening devotions, should omit singing?

What more delightful scene this side of heaven, than parents with their sons and daughters surrounding the domestic circle, devoutly uniting their voices in sacred song.—Apples of Gold.

THE ORGAN CALLED THE EAR.

In the Church the ear performs a important function. What it hears of interest it conveys to the cerebrum and sara-bellum in a instant, but if the sermon don't amount to much it keeps mum, and oftentimes persuades the inner man to go to sleep in his pew. But perchance, however, if the parson makes a grammatical blunder in his discourse, whatever be its prosiness, then the ear is on hand in a hurry, which in turn informs the facial muscles and the jaws, and THEN THE LAUGH COMES IN." Or if the quire get hold of a wrong key, or are forced amid the breakers by a high note, then the ear pretends to be shocked, and tells the tongue to pronounce a severe criticism on the performers, and drives complacency and satisfaction from the brow with the thong of its indignation.

The quickness and faithfulness of the ear to convey sound is never more completely illustrated than in the sanctuary. Be it in the midst of the invocation or sermon, or when the quire and people is singing their loudest, should anybody come late, the ear is the won who detects the laggard footstep, even on the outer steps of the temple, and compels the hull awgience to turn completely round in their seats to see who tis that cometh in at their gates.

The ear is really a true guardian to humanity, though it often gets it into trouble. If a earthquake rumbles, it telegraphs the fact to the legs in the most celeritous manner and concise words, saying "flea unto the mountains for safety;" if language is being uttered in its presence which it judges to be pernicious and untrue, it quickly says to the body corporate, "let us vacate the settlement;" if the steam or the horse cars rumble behind us, how suddenly it gives the warning "clear the way;" and we are saved from accident; if the conflagration rages, the thunder and the tempest mutters, the glorious bells ring out for worship, for thanksgiving, or for victory, the melody of sweet voices or the clarion notes of trumpets stir the air, that faithful sentinel the ear, doth bear the message to us in our waking and in our sleeping hour.—B. Phlat in The Singing People.

SPEAK DISTINCTLY IN SONG.

Song, lacking distinct pronunciation of words, is becoming what may be properly termed a musical vice. The lady at the piano, the choir singer, and the accomplished vocalist seem to have become impregnated with the evil to an alarming extent. If they are not aware of having caught the disease, there is a very large class of persons who do know it, and these are termed listeners. When we visit the opera we know that we shall pay our entrance for words we cannot understand, if we do the music; but when we visit the concert, or the church, or the drawing room, we expect something else besides unintelligible jargon, which robs song of its chief beauty and power. Musical pronunciation needs to be cultivated in the same ratio as musical sound, and it will be a happy-day when professionals and non-professionals accept the fact.—Jb

SCATTER SEEDS OF KINDNESS.

Let us gather up the sunbeams,
Lying all around our path;
Let us keep the wheat and rye,
Casting out the thorns and chaff;
Let us find our chiefest comfort
In the blessings of to-day.
With a patient hand removing
All the briars from the way.
Cho.—Then scatter seeds of kindness
For our reaping by-and-by.

Lamartine was once asked by a friend if he did not spend too much money in advertising. "No," was the reply, "advertising is absolutely necessary. Even divine worship (le bon Dieu) needs to be advertised. Else what is the meaning of church bells?"

The keynote of good manners is, B natural.

When a cat sings, does she do it on pur puss?

When is it dangerous to go to church? When the organist is drowning the choir, and a great gun is firing away at the congregation?

THE AMERICAN ORGAN, made by S. D. & H. W. Smith, of Boston, is beyond question the best reed instrument ever offered to the public. A full investigation is solicited. Circulars, with descriptions and prices sent on application.

Scientific, &c.

NATURAL GAS WELLS.

We yesterday afternoon "interviewed" the recently completed gas wells of Messrs. Buseck, Clark & Co., put down to supply their oil works on East Tenth street, with fuel. This well, if it were possible, is even more of a success than that of Messrs. Oliver & Bacon, noticed two days since. It was commenced about six weeks or two months since, and is 503 feet deep. The total cost of drilling, casing, and the necessary pipe and fixtures to convey gas to the stills and boiler of the engine, foots up to about six hundred dollars. When we arrived at the works, but one fire was lighted, that under the boiler, and the pressure of gas on the safety-valve of the well was so great, that although the weight was at the extreme end of the lever, as much was escaping as was being consumed under the boiler. The stills being charged and ready to fire up, the manager proceeded to apply the match to the gas in each furnace, and immediately eleven fires were in operation, sufficient for the purpose of distilling oil. Those of our readers who are acquainted with the distillation of oil, or who have been around a refinery, know the amount of fuel it would be necessary to operate on a two-hundred barrel still; and yet, here by the application of a match, eight fires were started under this still, together with two others under smaller stills, besides the fire under the boiler, and yet the supply was not near exhausted. The pressure on the safety-valve of the well was, we should judge, at least one third of what it was before the eleven fires were started. The fire produced was steady and uniform, and having had some years' experience in the business of refining oil, we express the opinion that it will be found on practical trial that the oil distilled by this fuel will be much more uniform in color, and the percentage obtained greater, for the simple reason that the heat will be perfectly uniform, and at all times under the control of the distiller. But it was not to write on the distillation of petroleum that we sat down, but simply to record another success in a development that we firmly believe is to revolutionize the manufacturing business of the city. The amount of horse power the gas from this well would produce, if applied to the production of steam, we have no means of correctly stating, but it can not be far from two hundred.—Erie Republican.

AN APPROVED WHITEWASH.—The following is sent out by the Light-house Board of the Treasury Department: "The following recipe for whitewashing has been found, by experience, to answer on wood, brick, and stone, nearly as well as oil paint, and is much cheaper. Slake half a bushel of unslaked lime with boiling water keeping it covered during the process. Strain it, and add a peck of salt, dissolved in warm water; three pounds of ground rice put in boiling water and boiled to a thin paste; half a pound of powdered Spanish whiting, and a pound of clear dissolved in warm water; mix these well together, and let the mixture stand for several days. Keep the wash thus prepared in a kettle or portable furnace, and when used put it on as hot as possible, with painters' or whitewash brushes."

INGENIOUS PLEAS.—An action for a breach of promise has just been decided, in which the defendant, a clerk in the service of one of the city companies, pleaded almost every conceivable defence: 1st, That he had not promised, 2d, that he had not broken his promise, 3rd that a reasonable time had not been allowed for its fulfilment, 4th, that the lady had released him, and, lastly, that he was quite willing to fulfil the engagement. This reminds one of the celebrated dog-biting case, where the defendant pleaded, 1st, That his dog was always chained up, 2d, that the dog was too good-tempered to bite, if he were free, 3rd, that the animal had no teeth, and couldn't bite if he wished, and, 4th, that he never had a dog. The jury, however, were not sufficiently impressed with the ingenuity of the defendant, for they mulcted him twenty dollars damages.

Men spend their lives in anticipations, in determining to be vastly happy at some period or other, when they have time. But the present time has one advantage over every other,—it is our own. Past opportunities are gone, future are not come. We may lay in a stock of pleasures, as we would lay in a stock of wine; but if we defer the tasting of them too long, we shall find that both are soured by age.—Colton.

There is not a line of form, a tinge of color, a tone of sound which you study reverently here, which is not giving you the key to the forms, the hues, the harmonies of celestial worlds. All that is grand and beautiful on earth, is an Apocalypse, a glimpse through the veil, of the pomp and beauty of eternity.—Brown.

A fair reputation is a plant, delicate, not rapid in its growth. It will not shoot up in a night, like the gourd of the prophet; but like the gourd it may perish in a night.—Taylor.

The most astonishing cure of Chronic Diarrhoea we ever heard of is that of Wm. Clark, Frankfort mills, Waldo Co., Maine; the facts are attested by Ezra Treat, Upton Treat, and M. A. Merrill, either of whom might be addressed for particulars. Mr. Clark was cured by "Johnson's Anodyne Liniment."

Hon. Joseph Fawcett, Mayor of Rockland, Me., Isaac M. Bragg, Esq., Bangor, and Messrs. Pope Bros., Machias, Me., Lumber merchants, fully endorsed the "Sheridan Cavalry Condition Powders," and have given the proprietors liberty to use their names in recommending them.