

The Christian Messenger.

BIBLE LESSONS FOR 1876.

INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

SUNDAY, January 30th, 1876.—David and Jonathan.—1 Sam. xx. 35-42. B. C. 1062.

COMMIT TO MEMORY: Vs. 41, 42.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Proverbs xviii. 24.

DAILY READINGS.—Monday, 1 Samuel xviii. 17-30. Tuesday, 1 Samuel xix. Wednesday, 1 Samuel xx. 1-34. Thursday, John xiii. Friday, 1 John iv. Saturday, 2 Samuel i. Sunday, Rom. v. 1-8.

ANALYSIS.—I. Jonathan signaling David. Vs. 35-40. II. Meeting and parting. Vs. 41, 42.

HISTORICAL CONNECTION.—Again and again Saul tries, now to dishonor and now to kill David. Chap. xviii. 17. He breaks promises made to David. Chap. xviii. 19. He patronizes him. Chap. xviii. 22. He urges Jonathan his son to kill him, chap. xix. 1, who, instead of killing his friend, undertakes David's defence, and brings him again into the king's presence. Soon Saul's evil spirit returned, and David barely escaped being pinned to the wall by his spear, a second time thrown at him. David was then watched by the king's messengers, sent to his house. But Michal, his loving wife, and Jonathan's sister, let him down through a window, and he went, and fled, and escaped. Chap. xix. 11-17. He went to Samuel, to Ramah. Then both went to Natioh; hearing of which, Saul hastened to them, and assumed the prophet's role, probably from divine impulse. Chap. xix. 23, 24. David now fled to Jonathan, with whom a decisive experiment is arranged to test the sincerity of the king's professed reconciliation. Chap. xx. 1-35. This should be carefully read, for it is the key to the present lesson.

EXPOSITION.—Our last lesson exhibited Jonathan and David entering into a covenant of warm friendship, and David in need of protection from an enraged and envious king. Our present lesson presents to us David at a new crisis in his eventful history.

Verse 35.—In the morning. That is, next after the second day of the feast, when Jonathan left his father's table insulted and indignant. Vs. 27, 33, 34. It had been arranged that on this day David should be at hand (vs. 19), for according to usage to stay "three days" was to stay till the third day. The early morning had been agreed upon, perhaps for greater security. David had been at Bethlehem with his own family on the two first days. Vs. 6. Went out into the field. It seems that Saul lived at Gibeah, xvii. 6; xviii. 19. This was a few miles to the north of Jerusalem, in the hill country, and the town was called Gibeah of Saul. A little lad. Or a young servant. Saul would have treated Jonathan as a traitor if he had known that at such a time, in such a way he had done such service to one whose life he sought as though a traitor. Saul loved Jonathan and Jonathan Saul. The fit of passion, and its abusive expressions, were all the more violent just for the love and Jonathan never swerved a hair's breadth from filial loyal devotion to his father, even in behalf of David, his beloved other self. He parted with David and died with his father. In fact, David was to the last just as loyal to Saul as was Jonathan, or the closest of the king's friends; nay, more loyal, for it was the loyalty of principle, and stood such tests as rarely are encountered by principle. 2 Sam. i. 17, 27.

Verse 36.—Run, find out now the arrows, etc. See the agreement in vs. 21, 22. It is interesting that just this signal should have been agreed upon, because it shows Jonathan's love for the bow, already noticed in a former lesson. As the lad ran. While he was running, and therefore unable to see for himself where the arrow stopped, thus enabling Jonathan to give the concerted signal by calling aloud to the boy to tell him where to find it. Shot an arrow beyond him. That is, beyond the boy, sending it over his head. This was to be the signal of danger. Vs. 22. To the place, etc. Probably a spot to which he was directed to go as about the distance of an ordinary bow-shot. Is not the arrow

beyond thee? The signal words. Vs. 22. Verse 38.—Cried after the lad, make speed, haste, stay not. Not mentioned in vs. 22 as agreed upon, but doubtless a part of the arrangement. The boy thought nothing strange of this. They were meant for David. What a word was that to David! What another prospect than that which opened to him at the anointing, and the welcome to Saul's home and the nation's heart at the fall of the giant? What a method of providence is this! Gather up the arrows, etc. This was the meaning of the call to him, only this. His part how quickly, how easily done. His part that of the child. The man's, the prospective king's, how otherwise.

Verse 39.—But the lad knew not anything. Nothing of the meaning of his act as agreed upon by the two friends. We can see now one way in which God uses a man to serve his purpose, though the man be as free as was the boy, and as ignorant of the purpose he serves. Indeed, none of us know what purpose God is working out by us, any more than the lad knew Jonathan's use of him. Only Jonathan and David knew the matter. They two and not a soul beside in all the wide world. They two and beside only God. The man who cannot keep a secret is not fit for a close friendship. Secrecy is often truth, not falsehood.

Verse 40.—Gave his artillery, etc. At present the word artillery usually designates cannon, etc., or the division of the army using these. In this passage, translated in the olden time, it means weapons. Go, carry them to the city. He wishes to be left alone for a little space. Why then did he bring the lad? Why not come alone? Suspicion will have no chance to rise for a few minutes, at least till the lad reaches home. Meanwhile a brief, brief interview. Short it must be, but the lovers must meet. Now is the last, the only chance.

Verse 41.—As soon as. No delay, delay would have been peril, perhaps death. Fell on his face to the ground, and bowed himself three times. Jonathan was the oldest son, and hence represented to David the royal honor. To Jonathan, therefore, he bowed in token of loyalty, of loyalty to Saul and his house even now, despite his rejection and ejection. They kissed one another, and wept one with another. Brave, manly, heroic men, yet with large, generous, tender, loving hearts. It would have been hard for these two kindred spirits to separate for a long time, even at the best; but to separate thus! No wonder they wept, being such. David exceeded. His grief was the greater. He was indebted to Jonathan for more than life.

Verse 42.—Go in peace. It took both love and courage to say that then, for Jonathan understood, or at least divined that David was to be king, and that he was not. Forasmuch as we have sworn. See xix. Both feared God. The Lord be between, etc. A renewal of their covenant. Between my seed and thy seed. As though forecasting the successor of royalty in David's family, and the need and peril of his own descendants as of a disowned, rejected house. And he arose and departed, and Jonathan went into the city. Sad, sad hearts did each bear. They met once more, only once, xxiii. 16-18.

QUESTIONS.—To what town did David flee from Saul's hate? Chap. xix. 18. Whence did he then flee? Chap. xx. 1. How did Jonathan test his father's professed peace with David? Chap. xx. 18-23.

Vs. 36. Why was the arrow cast beyond him?

Vs. 37. Why did Jonathan cry after the lad?

Vs. 38. Why did he say, "Stay not"?

Vs. 39. Of what was the lad ignorant?

Vs. 40. Why did Jonathan send him away with the artillery? What is meant by artillery?

Vs. 41. Why did David fall on his face before Jonathan? Why did his emotion exceed Jonathan's?

Vs. 42. Why was the interview speedily cut short? How many times, and where, did Jonathan meet David again?

Abridged from the Baptist Teacher.

DR. JOHN HALL, has one golden sentence in one of his Yale Lectures, which we transcribe and emphasize for the benefit of all the young men who may be looking up to the high places of the church, and wondering how they will get there. "The best way for a man to get out of a lowly position is, to be conspicuously effective in it."

YOUTHS' DEPARTMENT.

The Naughty Fingers.

"Mamma," said Lizzie, before she was undressed for bed, "this finger and this thumb have been naughty to-day."

"What have they done?" asked mamma.

"They took some raisins from your cupboard," said the little girl.

"Did nobody tell them to do it?" asked mamma. Lizzie looked down.

"I did not hear anybody tell them," she answered softly.

"Did they eat the raisins?" asked mamma.

"They put them in my mouth," answered Lizzie.

"Were you not to blame to take them?" asked mamma. "Your fingers had no right to them, you know."

"They gave them to me," said the little girl.

"But the Bible says, 'If thy right hand offend thee, cut it off.' Must we cut any part of this little hand off?" asked mamma.

"What is offend?" asked the child.

"Making you do wrong," said mamma.

"But it was only one finger and one thumb," said Lizzie.

"They are two thieves, then, for they took what did not belong to them. They can no longer be trusted; we must shut them up," said mamma.

Lizzie looked very sorry, while her mother found some black cloth and wound it around the finger, then the thumb. Her hand felt very clumsy. She went to bed, and arose in the morning with them still shut up.

"Shall I take this ugly black cloth off now?" she asked, on going to be washed.

"Oh no," said mamma. "We have no proof that they are sorry yet, therefore it is not safe to trust them; they may go right away into the cupboard again."

"I think they are very sorry," said Lizzie, in a painful tone.

"But they have not said so," said mamma.

"Lizzie went down to breakfast with the ugly black rags on. How she held her spoon I cannot tell. I do not think she ate much, for she looked unhappy. By-and-by the little girl came to her mamma, with tears rolling down her cheeks. "Mamma," she sobbed, "it was I made my fingers naughty—I'm naughty; I'm to blame;"—and soon the black rag was off from the little fingers.—S. S. Visitor.

A Hint to Grumblers.

A hint to grumblers—"What a noisy world this is?" croaked an old frog, as he squatted on the margin of the pond. "Do you hear those geese, how they screech and hiss? What do they do it for?"

"O just to amuse themselves?" answered a little field mouse.

"Presently we shall have the owl's hooting; what is that for?"

"It's the music they like the best," said the mouse.

"And those grasshoppers; they can't go home without grinding and chirping; why do they do that?"

"O they are so happy they can't help it!" said the mouse.

"You find excuses for all. I believe you don't understand music, so you like the hideous noises."

"Well, friend, to be honest with you," said the mouse, "I don't greatly admire any of them; but they are all sweet in my ears compared with the constant croaking of a frog."—Aples of Gold.

PETER'S PRINCE WANTED.—Archdeacon Matthias writes—"When in Newcastle-under-Lyne in the beginning of this year, I went over to Bulmer to see one of the pottery manufactories. Amongst other sights I saw there were two sets of dinner service—one for the Duke of Edinburgh, the other for the Pope. The person who showed them put one of the Pope's dinner plates in my hand and asked me what I thought was the price of that individual plate. Of course I could not say; he then told me it was £22."

1. The covetous man is not to come to the Lord's Table.—1 Cor.

2. He is never to be a deacon.—1 Tim. iii.

3. He is never to be a minister.—1 Tim. iii.

4. He is never to enter to heaven.

An Alphabet of Proverbs.

A grain of prudence is worth a pound of craft.

Boasters are cousins to liars. Confession of faults makes half amends. Denying a fault doubles it. Envy shoots at others and wounds herself.

Foolish fear doubles danger. God reaches us good things by our hands. He has hard work who has nothing to do. It costs more to avenge than to forgive. Justice lives with benevolence. Knavery is the worst trade. Learning makes a man fit company for himself.

Modesty is a guard to virtue. Not to hear conscience is the way to silence it.

One hour to-day is worth two to-morrow. Proud looks make foul work in fair faces. Quiet conscience gives sweet sleep. Richest is he that wants least. Small faults are little thieves that let in greater.

The boughs that bear most hang lowest. Upright walking is sure walking. Virtue and happiness are mother and child.

Wise men make their own opportunities. You never lose by doing a good turn. Zeal without knowledge is fire without light.

—Christian Advocate.

John and the Postage Stamp.

John was a boy who "lived out." Every week he wrote to his mother, who lives on a small rocky farm among the hills. One day John picked up an old envelope from the kitchen wood-box, and saw that the postage stamp on it was not touched by the post-master's stamp to show that it had done its duty, and was henceforth useless.

"The postmaster missed his aim, then," said John, "and left the stamp as good as new. I'll use it myself."

He moistened it at the nose of the teakettle, and carefully pulled the stamp off.

"No," said conscience; "for that would be cheating. The stamp has been on one letter; it ought not to carry another."

"It can carry another," said John, "because, you see, there is no mark to prove it worthless. The post-office will not know."

"But you know," said conscience, "and that is enough. It is not honest to use it a second time. It is a little matter, to be sure but it is cheating. God looks for principle. It is the quality of every action which He judges by."

"But no one will know it," said John faintly.

"No one!" cried conscience. "God will know it; that is enough; and He, you know, desires truth in the inward parts."

"Yes," cried all the best-part of John's character; "yes, its cheating to use the postage stamp the second time, and I will not do it."

John tore it in two, and gave it to the winds. The boy won a glorious victory. I hope he will grow up to be a man and a follower of the Lord Jesus.

Gathering Pearls.

Would it not please you dear little ones, to pick up strings of pearls, or drops of gold and diamonds, as you pass along the street? It would make you happy, and I will not do it.

John tore it in two, and gave it to the winds. The boy won a glorious victory. I hope he will grow up to be a man and a follower of the Lord Jesus.

John tore it in two, and gave it to the winds. The boy won a glorious victory. I hope he will grow up to be a man and a follower of the Lord Jesus.

THE OCEAN EED.

Professor Wyville Thompson, in his report on a cruise of H. M. S. Challenger from June to August, 1875, says:—"There seems to be little doubt that the enormous mass of cold water which fills up the trough of the Pacific is like the cold bottom-water of the Atlantic, an indraught from the Southern Sea. The more the question is investigated the less evidence there seems to me to be of any general ocean circulation depending upon differences of specific gravity. It seems certain that both in the Atlantic and in the Pacific the bottom-water is constantly moving northwards; and I am now very much inclined to refer this movement to an excess of precipitation over the water-hemisphere, a portion of the vapour formed in the northern hemi-

phere being carried southwards and precipitated in the vast southern area of low barometric pressure. The temperature of the water is greatly lower in the Pacific for the first thousand fathoms than in the Atlantic in the corresponding latitude of 35° N. There is one very remarkable difference between the two basins. While in the Atlantic it seems certain that the temperature sinks gradually, though very slightly, for the last thousand fathoms to the bottom, it appears that in the Pacific the minimum temperature of 1° . 7 C. is reached at a depth not greater than 1,400 fathoms, and that from that depth to the bottom the temperature is the same. The soundings from Yokohama to Honolulu are remarkably uniform in depth, the twenty-two soundings on one line which are unaffected by the neighbourhood of land giving an average of 2,858 fathoms. The nature of the bottom is also very uniform; and, according to the nomenclature which we have adopted, it is in each case noted on the chart as "red clay." It is usually, however, somewhat greyer in colour than the typical "red clay," and contains a large proportion of the tests of siliceous organisms, a proportion which increases with increasing depth, and a considerable proportion of pumice in different states of comminution and decomposition. The clay contains scarcely a trace of carbonate of lime, although the surface swarms with ooze-forming foraminifera. In some cases the trawl came up half full of large lumps of pumice, which seemed to have been drifted about till they were water-logged, and to be softening and becoming decomposed; these pieces of decomposing pumice were often coated and pervaded throughout with oxide of manganese. Over the shale area the red clay was full of concretions, consisting mainly of peroxide of manganese, round, oval or mammillated and very irregular, varying in size from a grain of mustard-seed to a large potato. When these concretions are broken up, they are found to consist of concentric layers having a radiating fibrous arrangement, and usually starting from a nucleus consisting of some foreign body, such as a piece of pumice, a shark's tooth, or a fragment of any organism, as for instance in one case a piece of a Hexactinellid sponge, of the genus *Aphrocallistes*, which was preserved as a very beautiful fossil in the centre. We were particularly successful in getting good samples of the fauna from great depths; and we found that the fauna of the North Pacific at depths of from 2,000 to 3,000 fathoms, although not very abundant in species, is by no means meagre. For each of six dredgings and trawlings at depths greater than 2,000 fathoms, we found along with a few fishes a fair representation of all the larger invertebrate groups; and in one dredging at a depth of 3,125 fathoms, we took a small sponge, a species of *Cornularia*, an *Actinia*, an annelid in a tube, and a *Bryozoon*. We were again struck with the wonderful uniformity of the fauna at these depths; if not exactly the same species, very similar representatives of the same genera in all parts of the world.

Heat from South America.

Monsieur Tellier, has purchased a vessel called the *Frigorifique*, of about 900 tons burden, which is being fitted up specially for the transport of food and other organic matters preserved by cold. In an experimental voyage to the River Plate, she will have a cargo composed of wine, beer, butter, cheese, yeast, hops, vegetables, &c., and other things affected by heat, which, up to the present time, it has been impossible to convey across the tropics in a good condition. On the return voyage the *Frigorifique* will bring back a cargo of fresh meat, game, fruit, skins, silk-worms, eggs, &c., in fact all sorts of productions which abound there, and which hitherto have not been attainable in this country in their fresh condition. Thus the solution of a great problem will be made by this expedition on a large scale, and Monsieur Tellier offers to the Academie des Sciences, facilities for any committee named by them to try any experiment that in their discretion they may think desirable, and he places the appliances of the ship during the voyage at their disposal.

Greatness stands upon a precipice, and if prosperity carries a man ever so little over his poise it overbars and dashes him to pieces.