

The Christian Messenger.

Bible Lessons for 1880.

FIRST QUARTER.

Lesson XII.—MARCH 21.

QUARTERLY REVIEW.

DAILY HOME READINGS.

- M. Infancy of Jesus, Matt. ii. 1-23.
T. John the Baptist, Matt. iii. 1-17.
W. Jesus at his Work, Matt. iv. 1-25.
T. The Sermon Opened, Matt. v. 1-20.
F. The Sermon Continued, Matt. v. 33-48.
S. The Sermon Continued, Matt. vi. 1-34.
S. The Sermon Closed, Matt. vii. 1-29.

I. Subject-Matter.—The subject-matter of the quarter's work should be clearly in mind by Review day.

II. Analysis of Subjects.—About whom have we studied mainly this quarter? In what official character have we seen him? What name is given over that which he reigns?

KING JESUS AND HIS KINGDOM.

I. His Preparation: II. His Teaching:

- 1. Born a King. 5. True Children.
2. Preserved. 6. Righteousness.
3. Installed. 7. Righteousness.
4. Tempted. 8. Rewards.
9. Trustful Service.
10. Wise Service.
11. Foundations.

Prepare your questions carefully beforehand, making them very few and very select.

I. The King.—1. He is born. Where, when, and under what circumstances? Bring out about the visit of the magi, what guided them, their eagerness, their joy at seeing the star, their reverence, their precious gifts. Also about Herod, his hypocrisy and purposed cruelty.

2. He is preserved. In what manner, and from what danger? Doctrine: The ministry of angels. Practical Lessons: God's care over the infant Messiah suggests his care for his people; his word cannot be broken, as we see in the double fulfillment of prophecies.

3. He is installed, or equipped for service. Two wonderful scenes, the baptism of Jesus, and descent of the Holy Spirit upon him. Doctrines: Repentance and baptism directly taught; the doctrine of the Trinity suggested. Practical Lessons: Importance of bringing forth fruits meet for repentance, and of simple obedience to God's commands.

4. He is tempted. What are the temptations recorded, and how did Christ gain the victory? Doctrines: Existence and character of Satan; Christ suffering for us. Practical Lesson: Temptations may be overcome by the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

II. The Kingdom. Its nature, and the characteristics of the King's subjects, are clearly shown in this Sermon on the Mount.

1. True children. They are blessed, or happy. The Kingdom is one of peace and joy. The beatitudes in direct opposition to the world's views. Have them recited. Christians are both salt and light. How? Doctrine: Regeneration necessary; as this alone brings poverty of spirit, etc. Practical lessons in every verse.

2. Reconciliation. Christ came, not to destroy the law, but to interpret and fulfill it. Show how he interprets the Sixth Commandment. Doctrine: Christ fulfilled the law for us. Practical Lessons: Guard against angry feelings; seek reconciliation with either offended or offenders.

3. Retaliation. What is the teaching about swearing? About resisting evil? About loving our enemies? Doctrine: A perfect righteousness required. Practical Lessons: Control of temper and tongue; conduct towards those that hate us.

4. Rewards. How should we give? How should we pray? Doctrines: Prayer and almsgiving. Practical Lessons: God hears the secret petition, and notices the earnest service, and gives open reward.

5. Our Father's care. Doctrine: Special Providence. Practical Lessons: We cannot serve two opposing masters; we must not be anxious about worldly things; God's kingdom and righteousness come first. Our whole life is a failure, unless Jesus takes first place in the heart. We can safely trust him in all temporal, as well as spiritual matters.

6. The Golden Rule. Doctrines: Prayer, and necessity of personal holiness. Practical Lessons: Avoid censoriousness; one may waste instruction upon the scorner; there is rich and full encouragement to pray; do to others as ye would, etc.; the gate and way to life are narrow, and will not admit our sins.

7. Foundations. Doctrine: A hint of the Judgment Day. Practical Lessons: A tree is known by its fruits; mere professors will be grievously disappointed at the Judgment; the importance of building alone on Christ, the rock.

First Lesson—Shows that the coming of Christ into the world mingled circumstances of humbleness and obscurity with circumstances of miracle and splendor, in just such a combination as was fit to his two-fold character of Son of man and Son of God.

Second Lesson—Gives us, in Joseph, a good example of readiness to receive commandment from God, and to obey it promptly.

Third Lesson—Gives us, in John the Baptist, an inspiring example of a preacher. We are in danger, all of us, of being hewn down and cast into the fire, unless we bring forth good fruit.

Fourth Lesson—Teaches us that there is a Personal Tempter, of whose existence and activity we ought to be aware, and whom we ought to resist. We are to trust God, and not to presume. Satan, when resisted, will flee from us, resist Satan with the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

Fifth Lesson—Should incite us to aim at fulfilling the conditions of blessedness that Christ describes, rather than at securing the blessedness itself. When persecuted for Christ's sake, be joyful—in view of the reward awaiting us. Should convince us of the folly of trying to be Christians secretly.

Sixth Lesson—Teaches us that Christ so adopts the Old Testament, as to make it impossible for us to believe Christ without also believing the Old Testament. We cannot, in any word or thought, do wrong to our brother, without virtually breaking the commandment, "Thou shalt not kill." To the sin of a word, Jesus, the gentle Jesus, attaches the penalty of hell-fire. Future retribution will have no end, we cannot pray acceptably to God, when we have failed to do what in us lies, to live peaceably with every man.

Seventh Lesson—Teaches us not to swear at all, in our ordinary mutual communication. Do not resist evil, but overcome it—without resisting it—with good; aim at perfection, rather than to claim perfection.

Eighth Lesson—Warns us of the danger always attending us that we shall be hypocrites. Do kind deeds, and be unostentatious about them, in praying have more regard to God's will, than to our own wish, forgive in praying, or rather, before praying and avoid temptation.

Ninth Lesson—Teaches us that we cannot serve God and mammon, be supremely careful to do what will help establish the kingdom of God in the world.

Tenth Lesson—As we judge, we shall be judged. Correct the faults of others, by first correcting our own, do as we would be done by.

Eleventh Lesson—We need to be saved, but can be saved in only one way. Now is God's time, and that our time must be now. Neglect will condemn us.

For the Teacher of the Primary Class.

This quarter's lessons ought to be like a strong chain—it is made up of eleven links. A link left out here and there makes the chain not so strong, or so pretty, or worth so much. Our lessons have been about Jesus—four about Jesus himself, and teaching us how to be his children.

Write the initial letter in each link, and interest the class in watching what word it will make.

- 1. J esus was born.
2. E nvy made him fly to Egypt.
3. S on of God baptized.
4. U p into the wilderness.
5. S ermon on the mount.
6. C hrist's word about true goodness.
7. H arm done by the tongue.
8. R ight way to give and to pray.
9. I s not our Father over all.
10. S avour's Golden Rule.
11. T rue and false ways and foundations.

—Abridged from the Baptist Teacher.

Boys' Department.

Bible Enigma.

No. 63.

The initials of the names here described give an important injunction of our Lord, contained in the Bible Lesson of the Sunday before last, which, if properly observed, would prevent much trouble among friends in the church and the world.

- 1. The third son of Issachar.
2. The place where he, or his namesake lived.
3. An industrious and benevolent tailor.
4. The city whose gates, gateposts and bars Samson took up and carried away at midnight.
5. The young man who slept at church under the preaching of Paul, and fell down dead.
6. A large city that had a small negative name.
7. A city of Egypt with a name of the same size and letters.
8. Another name of the good tailor.

CURIOUS QUESTIONS.

No. 36.

- Make a Word square of
1. A fierce animal.
2. A lady which changes its color.
3. Ladies' open work.
4. To run swiftly.

Answer to Bible Enigma.

No. 62.

- T oken. T ongs.
H usks. H eron.
E arth. E lect.
K nife. J udge.
I vory. E mpty.
N orth. W ater.
G race. S atan.

THE KING OF THE JEWS.

ANSWERS TO CURIOUS QUESTIONS.

No. 35.

KISSING RHYMES.—supplied.
The captain strode from fore to—AFT,
As lordly on his simple—RAFT,
As though it were some noble—CRAFT.
He shouted, shoved, and ordered—AND
The floating warehouse brought to—LAND;
Then changing tone, from blunt to—BLAND.
He criss his cargo, tons of—ICE,
Coals, linens, jewels, apples—RICE,
Who'll buy my wares at any—PRICE?
And buyers came, with eye and—EAR,
Bought large and little, pearl or—PEAR,
From book to barrel, spoon to—SPEAR.
He sold by inch, and sold by—ELL,
Sold plough & screw, sold type &—WELL,
Sold clothing fit for any—SWELL.
Sold pipes of wine and casks of—ALE,
Sold drums and fifes, the camp to—HALE,
Sold game, from rabbit up to—WHALE.
Sold fish, from salmon down to—EELS,
Lumber for pencils and for—REELS,
Dishes from silver cup to—CREEPS.
He sold to scribes and printers—INKS,
To florists, lily buds and—PINKS,
Sold sparrows' cages filled with—SPINKS.
He sold to sketchers India—INK;
Sold chains of gold, and many a—LINK;
That blacksmith's forge & teamsters—CHINK.
He sold to seedmen hemp and—RAPE,
To milliners, sold silk and—CRAPE,
To dentists, tools that pull or—SCRAPE.
He sold to wear, to drink, to—EAT,
He vended coal and trafficked—HEAT,
The buyers voted him a—CHEAT.
The sale was out, the tide was—IN,
The float, renewed by plank and—PIN,
Again adown the stream did—SPIN.
[We should like to know if any of the boys and girls who read the Messenger found out the above supplied words without help from others.—Ed. C. M.]

Select Serial.

Florence Walton, OR, A Question of Duty.

BY MAY F. MCKEAN. CHAPTER V.—MRS. HARTFORD.

All this time Dr. Ronsellé was leaning against the trunk of a neighboring tree, a little apart from the rest watching for the final issue with more interest than he would like to admit, even to his own heart. Was Florence, then, going to deny her visit to the Hartfords? The reputation of Christianity hung upon a very slender thread just at that moment in the doctor's mind. It would take but a breath to dash it in pieces under his feet. He remembered the verse she had repeated the other morning while standing in the bay-window: "Ye have done it unto me." Was she, then, going to deny him who spoke these words? He leaned forward eagerly, that he might not lose a word or an expression.

Mr. Walraven was saying, "As was returning from business this evening I overtook Maud Glensing, who told me that she saw you coming from one of those poor tenant-houses out on the Seventeen Acres; that is; this tract of land here to the east of us, occupied by only the lowest of Westown's inhabitants. I think she said from the house of that poor drunkard Hartford. Of course I told her it was quite impossible—that your associates were of an entirely different class—but she would not be convinced, even though I clearly proved to her that you spent the afternoon with Ethel. You see, it is nothing serious after all." He laughed.

But Florence looked very sober; shall we say there was no struggle going on in her mind? It would be so easy for her to remain perfectly silent as to that afternoon's occupation; they had arranged it all for her. She had not known how they would regard such a visit; why not laugh with them and let the whole matter drop? But it was only for one moment that she remained undecided; then in the clear moonlight they could see a bright flush mantle her cheek, succeeded by an ashen palor, telling of how hard the victory had been won in the presence of these smiling enemies and she replied almost firmly, "I am sorry you disagreed with Miss Glensing. She was right; I was at Mr. Hartford's this afternoon to see his sick daughter."

"What?" Mr. Walraven's voice uttered a dozen exclamation-points in the one word, while he gave her the benefit of a stare which could scarcely be termed "well bred."

Ethel uttered a little shriek of consternation, and then, a second after, burst out in agitated tones:

"I declare, Florence, this is really too much. It is positively unpardonable. How can you be so thoughtless? You will make us all town-talk with your foolishness yet. Oh, it is too bad, too bad!" and the delightfully refined young lady really looked quite agonized at the thought.

Dr. Ronsellé had given a quick sigh of relief when Florence had first spoken. She, at least, was true to her colors; yes, he was glad of it. He came forward now:

"Miss Walton, I fear this evening air is too chilly for you; we must retrace our steps immediately. You are shivering already," he added as he drew her trembling hand under his arm.

The walk homeward in the solemn moonlight was a very quiet one, each seemingly occupied with serious thoughts; but as they parted at the door, the doctor going to make a professional call, the latter said as he took her hand for a little moment in his own,

"You have been a brave girl this evening; goodnight, Miss Walton."

"Once more Florence sought her mother's counsel. Could it be there was anything wrong in what she had done? She had before thought only of herself in the matter, but if it involved the whole family, why, maybe that made a difference. Mrs. Walton sighed deeply when Florence had laid the whole case before her.

"You have done perfectly right, my dear," she said thoughtfully. "I cannot think that all the people of West-

town will look upon your call as seriously as Miss Glensing and Mr. Walraven and your cousin. And even if they do, you have our Saviour's sanction, even command, to sustain you. We, you and I, can be a little family by ourselves, not interfering with Aunt Grace's arrangements. We are to be in the world, not of it. We should obey God rather than man. You have done right, my daughter, and I pray that you may ever have strength given you to be faithful."

Ethel had already retired when Florence went to their room some time afterward. She was glad, for she wanted time to be alone—to think of the day's occurrences and to pray over them alone.

She had found the Christian warfare much harder this last week than she ever had before. Was it always to be thus? She should need much strength if she would come off conqueror.

Her Bible fell open of its own accord at the twenty-second chapter of Luke, and her eyes rested on the thirty-second verse: "But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not." Had Christ indeed prayed for her? What strength came with the thought! Ah, with his help she was sure of the victory. Let others scan her actions and motives as they might, Christ loved her; he had prayed for her; would she, could she, ever hesitate again? She hoped she should not.

But everything looked so beautiful now, so almost fresh from God's own hand; perhaps when she awoke in the morning to the stern realities of life again she would see it differently.

Ah me! what a pity that we cannot always feel his love as sensibly as Florence did this evening! What a pity that we cannot always walk in the sunshine of his smiles, with never a cloud between to dim the brightness!

CHAPTER VI.—ETHEL AND CLIFFORD WALRAVEN.

Day after day passed, each fraught with its burden of cares and joys, each bearing upward its measure of victories, heart-victories, won or lost—bearing them upward, there to remain "as a tale that is told" until that time shall come when each moment must give up its record of good or evil; one by one they fitted by, until weeks took the place of days, and months the place of weeks. The Christmas holidays with their merry greetings and tokens of remembrance had come and gone, and now the drear February was near at hand.

Florence's head and hands and heart had all been full. There were her school-duties, which, though comparatively pleasant, were still a labor, though a "labor of love;" then there were frequent visits to the Hartfords' cottage, which of late began to wear a more cheerful and inviting appearance, for little by little Florence had made it dawn upon Mrs. Hartford's befogged mind that she could never hope for improvement from her husband until she had made improvement herself. Indeed, Florence was beginning to feel quite hopeful in regard to "that drunkard" and his family, as if she were being doubly repaid for her sacrifices in continuing her attentions to them. On one of her visits she had found Nellie, propped up with pillows, busily engaged copying a pencil-sketch, the materials for which had been furnished by Dr. Ronsellé. And of late Eben Hartford was busy again upon a new work.

Besides this, Florence had taken a class in the Sunday-school composed of six or eight interesting young girls who were also her scholars at the academy, which, with the Sunday-afternoon readings with her mother, had kept her very busy. Only once or twice had she been lured from these to the parlor below, and then had hastened back as soon as possible, glad to escape the frivolous gaiety which found in her no response. Another thing: there were extra religious services held in the church. Evening after evening was the house of worship filled with eager crowds to listen to the word of God as it fell from the lips of their venerated pastor. Very earnest appeals were they, and many had raised the cry, "What must I do to be saved?"

AN APOLOGY: "But, Freddy, how could you ever think of calling aunty stupid? Immediately go to her and tell her that you are sorry." Freddy goes to aunty and says, "Aunty, I am sorry that you are stupid."