

The Christian Messenger.

Bible Lessons for 1881.

FIRST QUARTER.

Lesson XII.—MARCH 20.

QUARTERLY REVIEW.

GOLDEN TEXT.—There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.—Acts iv. 12.

DAILY HOME READINGS.

- M. Zacharias and Elisabeth, Luke i. 1-17. T. Son and Prophecy, Luke i. 46-79. W. Birth and Infancy of Jesus, Luke ii. 8-38. T. Boyhood of Jesus, Luke ii. 39-52. F. John and Jesus at Work, Luke iii. 7-18; iv. 14-21. S. Jesus Working and Teaching, Luke v. 12-26; vii. 19-28. S. Jesus The Sinners' Friend, Luke vii. 36-50.

By review-day the entire school should know the titles, topics, outlines, and Golden Texts of all lessons. Review may begin by the recitation of all the titles in order; then all the topics; then all the Golden Texts. Then let the Superintendent state a topic, and the school give the accompanying outline.

When these are all passed in order, promiscuous calling will further test knowledge and fix the facts.

Where such work has been omitted during the quarter, it is the more necessary on review-day.

To remember is good; to think is better. As a basis for thought, the leader may ask for the characters presented in the first lesson, by name, by office, by nationality. Having elicited so much, it will be easy to link up all the characters of each lesson, and to draw instruction from the grouping.

Or seek an analysis of the subject-matter of the lesson. For example: Who has been the most prominent character of these lessons? Who stands next in prominence? Jesus and John will assuredly be named here. Which lesson concern John chiefly? Which Jesus chiefly? Which have about equal reference to both?

THE LESSON.

I. Jesus Foretold.—1. Zacharias and Elisabeth, Luke i. 5-17. 1. The Godly Couple, (5-7). 2. The Son Promised, (8-14). 3. His Character and Mission, (15-17).

2. The Song of Mary, Luke i. 46-55. 1. Joy for Personal Blessings, (46-49). 2. Joy for World-wide Blessings, (50-53). 3. Joy for Covenant Blessings, (54, 55).

3. The Prophecy of Zacharias, Luke i. 67-79. 1. Concerning the Messiah, (67-75). 2. Concerning John, (76-79).

II. Jesus Born.—4. The Birth of Jesus, Luke ii. 8-20. 1. Joy among the Angels, (8-14). 2. Joy among Men, (15-20).

III. Jesus a Child.—5. Simeon and the Child Jesus, Luke ii. 25-35. 1. The Messiah Expected, (25, 26). 2. The Messiah Recognized, (27-32). 3. The Messiah's Mission, (33-35).

6. The Boyhood of Jesus, Luke ii. 40-52. 1. At the Passover, (41-45). 2. In the Temple, (46-50). 3. At Nazareth, (51, 52).

IV. Jesus Heralded.—7. The Preaching of John the Baptist, iii. 7-18. 1. The Call to Repentance, (7-9). 2. The Inquiry meeting, (10-14). 3. Heralding Christ, (15-18).

V. Jesus Preaching.—8. The Preaching of Jesus, Luke iv. 14-21. 1. The Preacher, (14-16). 2. The Text, (17-19). 3. The Sermon, (20, 21).

VI. Jesus Working.—9. Christ Healing the Sick, Luke v. 12-26. 1. The Leper, (12-15). 2. The Paralytic, (16-26).

10. Witness of Jesus to John, Luke vii. 19-28. 1. The Inquiry, (19, 20). 2. The Answer, (21-23). 3. Christ's Tribute to John, (24-28).

11. The Sinners' Friend, Luke vii. 36-50. 1. The Sinner's Approach, (36-38). 2. The Pharisee's Cavil, (39, 40). 3. The Parable, (41-43). 4. The Application (44-50).

NETS.—1. The above Analysis can be readily learned by the classes, and will serve to keep in mind the prominent teachings of the lessons. The whole eleven lessons are about Jesus, and the progress of thought in them is simple and natural. By a few well considered

questions on each of these six general divisions, the teacher will be able to have this outline filled in, and to send the class home with a good knowledge of the quarter's teachings. Perhaps a better plan would be for the teacher to give out one, or a part of one, of these divisions, according to the number in the class; to each pupil, the Sunday preceding review day. Then let the pupils tell the story of Jesus Foretold, Jesus Born, etc.

II. The lessons are rich in Topics, which may be studied to great advantage. Take, for instance, the topic of the Appearance of Angels. In how many, and in what lessons are they found? To whom, and for what purpose do they appear? There is one special angel spoken of. Who was he? Where in the Old Testament times was he employed? The interest of angels in our salvation (Luke xv. 10), in the scheme of redemption (1 Pet. i. 12), and their work as ministering spirits (Matt. xviii. 10; Heb. i. 14), become a legitimate subject of teaching. Note an expression of two words, with which the angel begins. Search for these Fear Notes throughout the Scriptures.

There are four inspired Songs of Praise in our lessons. Where are they found, and who uttered them? Give an analysis of each, and tell the circumstances calling them forth. They are model expressions of praise. Call attention to this fact, and to the duty and privilege of continued praise.

The Model Boy is presented to us in another lesson. The Model Son, obedient to his parents, and subject to them. The Model Pupil, hearing, asking, answering questions. The Model Servant, doing his heavenly Father's work, and waiting his time and will.

The Model Preacher is before us in another lesson. Show in what respects he is such. The Model Teacher shines out in the eleventh lesson, where, by means of a simple parable, Jesus causes the Pharisee to condemn himself. The Great Healer appears in the ninth lesson, working upon cases that were desperate and hopeless, and restoring them by a word.

As all the lessons centre in Christ, there is the best of opportunities to set him forth as the needed Saviour, and to press home to the heart the personal matter of an immediate surrender to him.

III. The Golden Texts are most appropriate and significant this quarter. The review-day should be the best day of all.

For the Teacher of the Primary Class.

Children are interested in persons; we can lead the children to recall the names of all the persons mentioned in the lessons. Each name will suggest its associations.

WHO?

Lesson I.—Zacharias, Elisabeth, Angel.

Lesson II.—Mary.

Lesson III.—Zacharias, Child John.

Lesson IV.—Shepherds, Angels, Mary, Joseph, The Babe.

Lesson V.—Simeon, Child Jesus, Joseph, Mary.

Lesson VI.—Child Jesus, Joseph, Mary, Doctors.

Lesson VII.—John, The People.

Lesson VIII.—Jesus, The Minister, The People.

Lesson IX.—Jesus, Two Sick Men, The People.

Lesson X.—John, Two Disciples, Jesus, The People.

Lesson XI.—Simon, Jesus, The Woman.

The teacher may question as follows:

Since the new year began we have been talking in our lessons about different people. In our first lesson, we talked about an old priest and his wife. Who were they? What did they want very much? Who came to tell them that they should have a son? What kind of people were they? Golden Text.

In the second lesson, we heard about some one who sang a sweet song. Who? Why? Do you remember any of the words? Golden Text.

In one of our lessons, we heard about some men who were out in the fields at night. Who were they? They heard sweet music. Who sang to them? What did the angels sing? Golden Text. Whom did the shepherds find when they reached Bethlehem?

I wonder if we have thought more about Jesus since the New Year! I wonder whether we have grown more like Jesus! What Golden Text tells us how Jesus grew? We have been studying these lessons to help us grow as Jesus did. —Abridged from the Baptist Teacher.

Booth's Department.

Scripture Enigma.

No. 115.

1. When Jewish quibblers would deny Their aged parents their supply, They said my first, which strictly meant An offering to the temple sent: Yet in pretence the word was spoken, And God's command and promise broken.

2. "How lovely is God's dwelling place!" So sang the choirs of Korah's race, While journeying on from strength to strength In hope to reach his courts at length; 'Twas but the sparrow's home, they reckoned, And there the swallow found my second.

3. An ancient riddle comes to mind, How from the strong the sweet to find: The sweet should be God's faithful word, But 'tis the strong that makes my third; Yet soon the Lamb will this resemble, And sinners shall before Him tremble!

4. My fourth the purposes make plain Why Christians ought to work for gain; Things necessary—Paul would say, Should be provided day by day: Yet ah! too oft, with toil unceasing, We get the gain, but lose the blessing.

5. These several parts divide in two, And lo! my whole is brought to view: A Roman soldier, one who heard, And was baptised at Peter's word. 'Twas thus the Gentiles were elected, And Peter's prejudice corrected. —Selected.

CURIOS QUESTIONS.

178. Took U She 2 go S.

179. Take four-fifths of the back bone and you have an evergreen. Take four sevenths of a moulding and have a city of France. Take four sixths of a tribe of Indians and have a bird of prey. Take four sixths of a current and have 240 sheets of paper.

180. (Supply the vowels in the following lines): Mk ltl fnc f trst rnd td Fll th spo wth lvg wrk nd thrs st; Lk nt tgrth th shlrng brs pn tmrr. Gd wll hlp th br wht oms f j rrr.

181. A four word square. 1. Part of every dwelling. 2. A Bible king. 3. Metals unrefined. 4. Venture.

Answer to Scripture Enigma.

No. 114.

1. B a g.....John xii. 6. 2. A i.....Josh. vii. 8. 3. R ache l.....Matt. ii. 18. 4. Z ebulonit e.....Judges xii. 12. 5. I thr a.....2 Sam. xvii. 15. 6. L eopar d.....Dan. vii. 6. 7. L ev i.....Num. xviii. 1, 2. 8. A methys t.....Rev. xxi. 20. 9. I nccas e.....Isa. i. 13.

BARZILLAI—GILEADITE. 2 Samuel xix. 31-39.

ANSWERS TO CURIOS QUESTIONS.

174. The man who went to view the sky, By some mishap had but one eye. The tree he saw two apples bore, He took one off, and took no more; Thus while no apples he obtained, No apples on the tree remained.

WORD SQUARES.

175. C L O G L A M A O M E R G A R B

176. P U L S E U Z E M A L E P E R S M E L T E A R T H

176. 1. John, the disciple 2. 3/4 of gild-gil 3. pin.

JOHN GILPIN.

The old clothes that we wear no longer, may give comfort and confidence to a man in naked destitution. The truths that are so familiar to us that we never think about them may raise the utterly ignorant to a sense of their human brotherhood.

Select Serial.

A Thorny Path.

BY HESBA STRETTON.

CHAPTER X.

MRS. CLACK'S HOLIDAY.

There was no difficulty in finding work for Hagar. She had always been quick and clever with her needle, and Abbott's cousin was glad enough to employ her. Her work was done in her own room at first, because her clothes were too poor for her to join the other dressmakers in the work-room below; and afterwards, by her own choice, for she was still too sick at heart to bear the common chit-chat of the workroom. It was very quiet and still up there under the roof; and she had time enough for brooding thoughts as her busy fingers stitched away from hour to hour. She had more comfort and leisure than she ever remembered in her life, for when her husband was alive, and her father was a musician at the theatres, they had spent their incomes recklessly, with no thought of the future and its possible calamities; and very often she had spent their last shilling in utter uncertainty as to where the next would come from. She could not keep herself from dwelling upon that now, and reckoning up the foolish and extravagant waste of money which might have saved her from the extreme straits she had fallen into.

She was learning eagerly what Abbott had to tell her of the love of God, and of Jesus Christ, whom He has sent. Abbott spoke with the certainty of one who knew what he was saying. God was no dread being far away in some distant heaven, nor was Christ an absent Saviour dwelling in a marvellous and unapproachable glory. He told her what he himself felt of the constant and abiding sense of the presence of God with him, and she listened, almost afraid of having the same feeling. As yet it was only as a lesson learned by the memory; she could not give herself up to it, and receive it into her very heart. The long night of her despair was not quite ended and it seemed to her as if the day could never dawn, unless she heard something of her lost ones. Abbott sympathized so fully in this feeling of Hagar's, that he could not himself be at rest concerning her old father and little Dot. He set on foot inquiries after them wherever he thought there was a chance of their being traced. The policemen in Kensington Gardens recollected having seen a blind old man and a little girl, led by a cripple on crutches, who had been seeking for some one a few weeks before Christmas but they had not been seen for a long while. Abbott spent his spare time in going from workhouse to workhouse, and from refuge to refuge, often taking half the night for his search, yet he was unable to find any clue to their fate. More than once, after hearing a vague rumor of a blind fiddler, he travelled to the farthest end of London only to find himself disappointed, and to make Hagar still more heart-sick with baffled hope.

Once, if she had but known it, old Lister and little Dot crept slowly along the very street where she was living, but her garret-window opened to the back of the house, and though she caught the distant notes of a violin, the sound was too frequent to arouse her attention especially as her father's old fiddle had been broked months ago. She thought of him and sighed heavily. Scarcely an hour passed by when she did not only mourn and sigh over the unknown lot of him and her little child. If she had only seen them die, and had closed their eyes, and laid their heads in the coffin, she thought she could be at rest. But what were they doing? Where were they dwelling? When the bitter east winds of March whistled past her attic window, and the sleet fell aslant on the roofs, drifting into every little niche where the sparrows were shivering, and when the darkness of the night stole over the crowded mazes of the city, she wandered with an aching heart, where her father's gray head and her child's tender limbs were sheltering. Oh, if they should be without shelter such nights as these, hiding under an archway or crouching down on some doorstep! It would be better to know that they had found a refuge of the grave.

But the whole month of March was not wild and wintry. The week that Mrs. Clack was spending in the country was a fine and sunny one, with a few April showers falling before their time. The leaf-buds in the hedgerows opened their fresh young green, and some daises peeped out where snow had been only a few days before. The brown brooks were full of swirling, chattering streams, and the birds, busier than they had been since last spring, were flitting from tree to tree seeking house room for their nests. Mrs. Clack had been so long in London that she felt herself in a new world. She had not watched lambs at play since she was a school-girl, and her heart throbbed almost painfully when she first caught sight of them. To many an eye, overwheeled with sight-seeing, there was nothing very beautiful in the quiet country scenery about her, but to her every common thing she saw was full of pleasure, and she could hardly believe she was herself the same woman who used to trudge wearily along the hard pavements, and up and down area-steps, burdened with her bag of cast-off clothes.

But the week came to an end, and though Mrs. Watson was going to stay longer, she felt bound to return to her neglected business, as well as to little Dot and her own home. She carried with her a tolerably heavy basket of country fare: fresh eggs, gathered from the nest by her own hand, butter just churned, and some early vegetables, such as she had seldom tasted. She was right glad to be seen and hailed by Abbott on the Reading platform, for she had taken care to return by his train, and he found her a seat and fitted her basket in for her, just as if she had been a lady, she said to herself. It was not a long journey, for the train only stopped once for taking the tickets but in the crush and hurry at Paddington Station Abbott sought out the timid old woman, who was looking scared to death at the confusion about her.

"I knew you would be frightened he said, lifting out her basket;" my mother was always scared at this station, so I waited a minute to look after you, for generally I'm off like a shot. Which way do you go home? and how do you mean to go?"

"I live in Chelsea, sir," answered Mrs. Clack, and I can walk home very well through Kensington Gardens."

"That's partly my way, at least as far as the Gardens," said Abbott, "so I can carry your basket as far as we go together. It's pounds too heavy for you. If you'd only take an egg or two by way of return," cried Mrs. Clack, quite overcome by his kindness; "they're real country eggs, laid by country hens, as your wife'd relish ever so much, I'm sure."

"I'm not married," said Abbott looking down at her flushed old face with a smile.

"Dear! dear!" exclaimed Mrs. Clack. They had turned into the street, and the rattle of wheels and tramp of horses along them, made her feel as if she could not make her new friend hear her feeble voice. She glanced up at him in silent admiration, nodding and smiling whenever she met his eye, and putting out her utmost strength to keep pace with him. It was a marvel that such a man should not be married.

When they reached Kensington Gardens Abbott hesitated a few seconds, balancing the basket in his strong hand, and looking down at Mrs. Clack's small, spare figure.

"About as little as my mother," he muttered. "I'll step across the Gardens with you," he added aloud; "it's mazy a month since I've been here, and it will be quite a treat. I used to come sometimes with my mother."

"And she's dead?" remarked Mrs. Clack, with timid pity.

"Yes," he answered.

"Dear, dear!" she said, "it would be a bitter trouble to her to leave a son like you. I never knew anything of men except quite the outside till lately, and now those I come across seems as good as gold! I've just been visiting a good man down in the country; and it all comes of Don picking up a blind old man and a little girl, in these very Gardens, and bringing them home to me. I said, I'd rather have ten dogs than a man; but I didn't know what a blessing a man could be."

"A blind old man and a little girl!"