

Family Reading.

Over and Over Again.

Over and over again, no matter which way I turn, I always find in the Book of Life some lesson I have to learn, I must take my turn at the mill; I must grind out the golden grain; I must work at my task with a resolute will, over and over again.

We cannot measure the need of even the tiniest flower, Nor check the flow of the golden sands that run through a single hour; But the morning dews must fall, and the sun and summer rain Must do their part, and perform it all, over and over again.

Over and over again, the brook through the meadow flows, All over and over again, the ponderous mill-wheel goes; Once doing will not suffice, though doing be not in vain; And a blessing falling us once or twice, may come if we try again.

The path that has once been trod, is never so rough for the feet; And the lesson we once have learned is never so hard to repeat. Though sorrowful tears must fall, and the heart to its depths be riven, With storm and tempest, we need them all to render us meet for heaven.

Strange Wedding Fees.

We knew a clergyman who once received from a wealthy groomsmen, a bright penny, enclosed in a dozen wrappers. He always persisted in believing that the intention was to give him a twenty-dollar gold piece. We were not so credulous. A clergyman, who was formerly located in Hartford, Conn., but now in New York, married, not long ago, a couple who at once started for Europe. The bridegroom was a man of wealth, and before he presented himself at the bridal altar he had placed a one hundred dollar greenback in his vest pocket to give the parson for the marriage fee, and did pay it to him, as he supposed. While crossing the ocean he discovered, greatly to his astonishment, the bill in the pocket where he had placed it, and could account for its presence there only on the theory that he must have had another bill of a different denomination, which he had donated to the clergyman by mistake. On getting back to this country he determined to solve the mystery, and waited upon the reverend gentlemen, who did not recognize him, and inquired if, on a certain date, he did not marry a certain couple. The clergymen remembered the occasion perfectly.

'I know I am about to ask an important question,' said the visitor; 'but I should like to be informed what fee you received for performing the ceremony?'

The clergyman recognized the man as the one he had married, and said that he would of course gratify him since he was so anxious to know.

'I received,' he then went on to say, 'a very small quantity of fine-cut chewing tobacco folded in a very small piece of paper.'

That was enough. The only thing remaining to be done was to apologize for the curious blunder, laugh heartily, and make the one hundred dollar deposit good.

An old uncle once brought his niece to a rectory on a cold, rainy day, to be married, and then after the ceremony was over he fumbled about for a two dollar bill, and not being able to find it said, as he handed the parson a five dollar bill:

'Take the change out of that for a \$2 job. It's kind o' wet and cold to day, and I guess two dollars will be about the thing.'

Of course the amount of a marriage fee is a delicate question, which clergyman are generally too modest to determine, much more to ask; but we never heard it disposed of so neatly as this:

A Quaker married a woman of the Church of England. After the ceremony, the vicar asked for his fees, which he said were a crown.

The Quaker, astounded at the demand said if he would show him any text in the Scriptures which proved his fees were a crown he would give it to him.

Upon which the vicar directly turned

to the twelfth chapter of the Proverbs, and fourth verse, where it is said: 'A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband.—Ez.

The three P's

Here they are; Purpose, Pluck, and Perseverance. They are winning P's. They make a boy's spirit strong; for lack of them many fail to accomplish anything in life. Purpose sees something that ought to be done; Pluck dares to undertake it; Perseverance sticks at it till it is accomplished. To these P's the world is largely indebted.

Boys and girls, I want to tell you about a man who is not often referred to in society, though millions of people are constantly enjoying the fruit of his Purpose, Pluck, and Perseverance. We do not eat this fruit, but we wear it on our heads, backs and feet, and it is used for many household, mechanical, and scientific purposes. To this man you are indebted for your nice gum overshoes and ulster. While you are enjoying their protection from the dampness, you do not think to honor the name of Charles Goodyear, whose noble Purpose, Pluck and Perseverance gave to the world one of its most useful improvements. He was a native American, born in New Haven, December 29, 1800. He had not the favorable opportunities for obtaining an education that the boys of to-day have. He received a very limited course of instruction in the public schools. When he was quite young his father moved with his family to Philadelphia, and opened a hardware store. Charles grew into familiarity with the business. When he became of age his father took him into the store as a partner. The firm for several years enjoyed a fair degree of prosperity. The financial crash of 1836 threw both father and son into bankruptcy.

During the time he was engaged in the hardware trade, Charles had his attention directed to the experiments being made with India-rubber. Now, being out of business, he determined to investigate the subject. With this purpose he went to New York, and sought an interview with the agent of a company that had been operating in India-rubber; here he received a discouraging account of the whole business. He was told that every effort successfully to work it was a failure; and that the most sanguine friends of the enterprise had abandoned it, because no durability could be imparted to goods made of India-rubber. He listened attentively to all this, and to an explanation of the process employed in the effort to manufacture rubber goods.

He saw that mankind would be greatly benefited if this business could be so perfected as properly to utilize gum elastic; formed the deliberated Purpose to undertake to accomplish what many others had failed in trying to do. His Pluck was displayed in attempting such an enterprise under the most unpromising circumstances. He was in feeble health, embarrassed by debts caused by his failure in business; besides this, his children were young, entirely dependent upon his efforts for support. Pluck said, 'I can surmount these difficulties; this thing ought to be done, and I can do it.' With this thought he began the work, determined to make any sacrifice in order to succeed. He began his experiments without taking 'Can't' into his counsel, each failure gave place to renewed effort. For some time every experiment was a failure; but from each new trial additional knowledge was gained.

So he kept trying till all of his own money and all he could borrow from friends on 'prospects of success' was exhausted. Everything he possessed was sold for debt, his family reduced to actual want. The people looked upon him as a poor, crack-brained enthusiast. Friends and kindred used every argument to induce him to give up what looked to them as a hopeless enterprise. At last his wife, pleading their poverty and the helplessness of his family, besought him to cease his efforts with India-rubber and provide for his family; this plea was more powerful than all arguments, for he was a man of tender feeling, and loved his family ardently. He would have yielded to his wife's entreaty, had not

Perseverance said, 'Oa, keep on, you

are near the realization of your hopes. The secret that has so long eluded you is within reach, another effort will unfold it.' The effort was made, the secret obtained, glorious success crowned the efforts and sacrifices made during ten years of constant application to one purpose. He was the first man to produce a perfectly vulcanized India-rubber. By doing this he gave to the world a new material that could be used in a great variety of ways for man's benefit. Out of it are manufactured various articles of clothing, boots, shoes, caps, and many articles for family use, besides toys, mechanical, surgical, and scientific instruments. It is a blessing to men on land and sea, and is the fruit of Charles Goodyear's Purpose, Pluck, and Perseverance.—Western Christian Advocate.

A White Elephant.

The King of Siam lately received a di-patch by which the governor of a province announced to him that a brand new god had been discovered in a distant district in the shape of a snow-white elephant, which was already on its way towards the capital; the message was received at the royal Siamese Court with great rejoice, and the monarch decided immediately to go and meet the divine pachyderm. He placed himself at the head of a procession, which consisted of the ministers, court dignitaries, and the superior priests. After the procession had travelled for a few miles they met the elephant, which they approached with deep bows and the greatest signs of respect. Kneeling down, he placed the proboscis on his own head and shoulders, and prayed to the animal for protection. At the end of this ceremony the King drew his sword and placed himself at the right side of the quadruped, whilst a high priest, with a golden staff, placed himself on the left side, and the procession returned to the capital in this manner. On entering the town the new god was received with military salutes from the guns and cannons; the troops lined the roads leading to the royal palace, and the people loudly applauded. The King led the elephant to an apartment situated quite close to his own splendidly furnished rooms and gave him the title of reigning monarch, and decorated him with the grand cordon of the Siamese Order of the White Elephant. The household of the divinity was organized with the utmost splendour, and all the utensils used for his food were of either massive gold or costly china. During the first two days after his arrival the pious people brought to his altar gifts worth more than 100,000 rupees.—Deutsches Familienblatt.

Paws and Claws.

'Mother,' said little Nannie, 'sometimes pussy has paws, and sometimes she has claws. Isn't that funny? She pats with her paws and plays prettily; but she scratches with her claws, and then I don't love her. I wish she had no claws, but only soft little paws; then she would never scratch, but would be always nice.'

'Well, Nannie, dear,' said her mother, 'remember that you are very much like pussy. These little hands, so soft and delicate, when well employed, are like pussy's paws; very pleasant to feel; but when they pinch or scratch or strike in anger, then they are like pussy's claws.'

'Well, that's funny enough, mother. I never thought I was so much like pussy.'

'You love pussy much, said her mother, 'and you may learn a good lesson from her. When you think kind thoughts, and speak gentle, loving words, then you are like pussy with her nice, soft paws, and everybody will love you; but when you think bad thoughts, or give way to ugly tempers and speak cross and angry words, then you are like pussy with her sharp scratching claws, and no one can love you.'

Nice soft paws are much pleasanter than sharp, tearing claws. And so gentleness is much pleasanter than anger or wrath, and this is a good reason why we should try to learn this lesson.—S. S. Visitor.

Under the Ocean.

THE EXPERIENCE OF A DIVER.

'How does it seem,' said a Boston reporter the other day to George W. Townsend, a diver of twenty-three years' experience, 'to go down into the water, fathom after fathom?'

'Well,' was the reply, 'the first time a man goes down, he is apt to be considerably scared on account of the pressure. If a man is lowered too fast it will kill him. Divers are seldom or never killed by drowning but by an unequal pressure. A diver could cut a hole in the lower portion of his suit without danger of being drowned; as long as air was supplied by the air pump, the water could not reach his mouth. In deep water the pressure is very great, and usually a diver can descend as deep as he can stand the pressure. You see we are in a vacuum. There is no pressure perceptible to us on the copper helmet about our heads. The pressure is all upon the lower garments, and if it is too great it drives all the blood in the body to the head, and the result is death. I have seen men killed in this way, whose heads were fairly split open, and whose eyes were driven from their sockets. A more horrible death could not be imagined; and I, and almost all other divers, have narrowly escaped it. Divers seldom descend over one hundred and seventy feet, and rarely as deep as that. Under the water the ears feel stopped up, but sometimes we can make ourselves understood by putting two helmets together and shouting but then it doesn't sound louder than an ordinary whisper. A man who went down for the first time, would be likely to signal to come up after feeling the pressure in the ears, which is very unpleasant until you are used to it.'

'How about the fish; do they never molest you?'

'Very seldom. You see, we make it a rule not to disturb them. We know they are in their element, and we are not in ours. As for sharks, we don't care for them. They are cowardly and easily frightened off. We are much more afraid of the baricots, a surface fish, with teeth three inches long. Talk about fish—why, one can't have any conception of them until he has been under the water and seen them of all sizes and colors of the rainbow. The noise made by a school of fish sounds under the water like the rumbling of thunder.'

'One of the greatest curiosities in this line was the Jew-fish I encountered when diving in the Bay of Camana, on the coast of Venezuela. The fish are from six to fifteen feet in length, and have a large mouth with small teeth. The Jew-fish have a great deal of curiosity—more than any woman I know of—and used to eye us while we were at work. We were a little afraid of them at first, but found that they would not harm us. I suppose you have heard of the electric eel, which has the power to give a shock equal to any battery. When we were diving at the West Indies, one of our divers received a severe shock from an electric eel, and for a time he seemed almost paralyzed. Mules and other animals, when fording streams in that country often receive a shock.'

'Is it dark under water?'

'That depends upon how clear the water is. I have been down twenty fathoms, where I could see to read the finest print, and I have been down ten feet where you could not see your hand before you. It is not very pleasant exploring a wreck, especially where there are dead bodies, when you are in utter darkness. I remember working in March, 1861, on the ship John Trux which was sunk at the Arch street wharf, Philadelphia. The water of the Delaware River is so thick and muddy that you can't see anything five feet below the surface, and as the steward and stevedore were both drowned, I knew I should not have a very pleasant job in recovering their bodies. I went down, groped around in the darkness, found the skylight, and after I got into the cabin, the first thing that my hands touched was the body of the steward.'

'Isn't it a horrible sight among the dead bodies in a vessel's wreck?'

'Well, yes; we got used to these sights, and, while I can't say we don't mind them, I can say they don't deter us from going down. I am one of those

who believe that drowning is an easy death, comparatively, because I have noticed that the face of a drowned person looks as if he had gone to sleep and seldom d-notes pain. Sometimes we find drowned persons with a death-grip upon a piece of rigging or the side of a bunk, and it is very difficult to loosen their hold. Before we see a body or an object under the water, we always see the shadow first. In looking for a body on a vessel's wreck we sometimes find it closely following the sediment in the water.'

'How about the bottom of the ocean?'

'In many places it is beautiful, especially where the coral reefs are. Coral looks like a forest of trees that has been cut down. I have seen coral as large as the stump of any tree you ever saw, with enormous limbs running downward, the trunk and branches being of the purest white coral. I have encountered a coral reef after descending three fathoms, and a bottom of pure white sand after descending two fathoms more.—Interior.

Are you Safe.

Two little girls were playing with their dolls in a corner of the nursery, and singing as they played,

'Safe in the arms of Jesus,
Safe on his gentle breast;
There by his love overshadowed,
Sweetly my soul shall rest.'

Mother was busy writing, only stopping now and then to listen to the little ones' talk unobserved by them.

'Sissy, how do you know you are safe?' asked Nellie, the younger of the two.

'Because I am holding Jesus with both my two hands—tight!' promptly replied Sissy.

'Ah! that's not safe,' said the other child, 'Suppose Satan came along and cut your two hands off?'

Little Sissy looked very troubled for a few moments, dropped poor dolly, and thought deeply. Suddenly her face shone with joy, and she cried out, 'Oh, I forgot, I forgot! Jesus is holding me with his two hands, and Satan can't cut his hands off; so I am safe!'

Yes, my dear young friend, that is the secret. If you want to be happy you must not be thinking about yourself, and your 'feeling safe,' but rest in the happy knowledge that Jesus has you safe.

A Good Recommendation.

'Sir,' said a lad coming down to one of the wharves in Boston, and addressing a well-known merchant, 'Sir, have you any berth for me on your ship? I want to earn something.'

'What can you do?' asked the gentleman.

'I can try my best to do whatever I am put to,' answered the boy.

'What have you done?'

I have sawed and split all mother's wood for nigh two years.'

'What have you not done?' asked the gentleman, who was a queer sort of a questioner.

'Well, sir,' answered the boy, after a moment's pause, 'I have not whistled once in school for a whole year.'

'That's enough,' said the gentleman; 'you may ship aboard this vessel, and I hope to see you the master of her, some day. A boy who can master a wood-pile, and bridle his tongue must be made of good stuff.'

Trouble with a Whale.

A whale was recently stranded on an outlying point of the Island of Walls, Orkney. Glorifying in their prize, inhabitants of all ages and both sexes hastened to the spot with knives, pitchforks, clubs and whatever other weapons they could lay their hands on and began to cut, stab, slash and maul the monster. At length, when their victim was pronounced dead, they fastened ropes to the prize and began to tow it into the harbor on the rising tide. Suddenly the whale, feeling his native element about him, made a bold dash for liberty and rushed out to sea, dragging the fleet of screaming acadians in their behind him. Not until they had been towed three miles did the captured captors succeed in cutting the ropes and saving themselves and their boats from shipwreck.

THOUGHTS ABOUT HEAVEN.—If you reach heaven, you will not think that you gave it too much thought and care while you were on earth. If you fail of heaven, you will feel that nothing else was worthy of a moment's attention. Andover, Mass. B. F. B.

Home love is the best love. The love that you are born to is the sweetest you will have on earth. You, who are so anxious to escape from the home-nest, pause a moment and remember this is so. Never again, after strangers have broken the beautiful bond will there be anything so sweet as the little circle of mother, father and children, where you are cherished, protected, praised, and kept from harm. You may not know it now, but you will know it some day.

Arrangements are said to have been made for the emigration of 12,000 Russian Jews to America.

Booth's Department.

Scripture Enigma.

No. 173.

1. A book of the Old Testament which gives the history of a woman who left her country and the worship of idols, and by her marriage in the land of Judea became the ancestor of the royal family of David.
2. Another book of the same Testament which records the life of one who was left in orphanage when a child, and adopted by her uncle (a captive Jew of the family of Saul), and afterwards became the wife of one of the most distinguished of the monarchs of the East.
3. A book of prophecy which treats of a youth who was carried among other captives to Chaldea, who was early distinguished for his piety and wisdom, and was ultimately raised to an exalted station in the Court of the king of Babylon.
4. The prophecy of one who was carried into captivity with Jehoachin, king of Judah.
5. A historical book of the Old Testament, written by a priest and scribe who was succeeded by Nehemiah in his government of Judea.
6. The book written by the last of the inspired prophets under the old dispensation.
7. A book written by a king of Israel.
8. A book of the New Testament which contains a communication direct from Jesus to one of His disciples, a prophetic history of the church to the end of time.

The initials of these names compose a name or title of Christ, used both in Old and New Testaments.

—Selected.

CURIQUS QUESTIONS.

391. Supply the vowels to the following, and make four lines from Tennyson's 'Last Hope':

S n n kn sprt
B gld crn grw
B wds frm hvn shk th crn
nd f lid tn cp with dw.

392. Transpositions.

A large measure for land; Transpose the letters, and make a word meaning thoughtful; Transpose again and form the human family. A number of domestic animals; Transpose, and form a book in the Bible; Transpose, and form to throw. Take the first letter, and you have a beverage; Change the second, and you have the hair of an animal; Change the third letter, and you have a long measure; Change the fourth, and you have a money making establishment.

Find answers to the above—write them down—and see how they agree with the answers to be given next week.

Answer to Scripture Enigma.

No. 172.

1. B rethren.....Gen. xxxvii. 8, 11.
2. E gypt.....Gen. xxxvii. 28.
3. N ation.....Gen. xxxv. 11.
4. J oseph.....Gen. xlv. 5-9.
5. A see.....Gen. xlii. 26.
6. M oney.....Gen. xlii. 25.
7. I nnocent.....Gen. xlv. 1-10.
8. N eck.....Gen. xlv. 29.

BENJAMIN.

ANSWERS TO CURIQUS QUESTIONS.

386. The Passover; The Feast of Pentecost; The Feast of Weeks; The Feast of Wheat Harvest; The Feast of the First Fruits; The Feast of Tabernacles.
387. Rufus.
388. e, (bee), leap, b, (he), ant.
389. I L O V E
I R O N
L O L L
O N L Y
390. C R A B
R O S E
A S I A
B E A R