The Christian Messenger.

Bible Lessons for 1882. FIRST QUARTER.

Lesson IV.-JANUARY 22, 1882. POWER TO FORGIVE. Mark ii. 1-17.

COMMIT TO MEMORY: Verses 8-12.

GOLDEN TEXT .- " I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."-Isaiah xhii. 25.

DAILY HOME READINGS. Mark ii. 1-17. M. The Lesson, T. All Men lost Sinners,

Rom. iii. 19-31. W. The Way of Salvation, Acta xiii. 23-41.

T. Penitence and Humility, Luke xviii. 9-17.

F. Blessedness of forgiveness, Psalm xxxii. S. Christ came to Save Suners, Luke xix. 1-10. S. Joy in Heaven over R-penting Sin-

THE SAVIOUR'S GREAT WORK.

Luke xv. 1-10.

LESSON OUTLINE.-I A Sinner Saved, Vss. 1-5. II. Proof of Christ's Power to Save, Vss. 6-12. III. What the Great Work is, Vss. 13-17.

QUESTIONS .- Where was Jesus' home while working in Galilee? What is the Saviour's great work?

in Jesus grown less? How was his teaching interrupted? What blessings God." were they seeking?

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Vss. 6-12 -Who were in the audience? Wnat did they think of Jesus' words to the paralytic? Why? How ing them. This was his one mission did Jesus perceive their thoughts? (i. 38) till he came to the cross. As What proof did Jesus give of power to forgive?

Vss. 13-17.-Where did Christ go to teach? What did he do? What class of people did he invite? Why? What does Paul say in 1 Tim. i 15? Are there any really "righteous" who need no Saviour?

Special Subjects .- Breaking through the roof. Bearing of the miracle on the point at issue. Did Christ read hearts and forgive sins by inherent or derived power? Duty of Christians to the abandoned classes.

The healing of the leper occurred in "a certain city" of Galilee, the name of which is not given. His ill-timed zeal in publishing abroad his cure, created such an excitement, that Jesus withdrew from that city into "desert places," to which the crowds came to be healed. " After some days," Jesus returned to Capernaum, where he lived, (Matt. ix. 1), and which was the scene of the paralytic's cure. Luke re lates what is an evidence of Christ's growing influence at that time, that there were present "Pharisees and doctors of the law, out of every town of Galilee and Judæa and Jerusalem," who had congregated to come to some definite judgment concerning him. Luke also adds, what is evident from the miracles, that "the power of the Lord was present to heal."

Notes. - I. The Paralytic, (Vs. 1-12.) Verse 1, 2.-In the house. In what house is not known; probably Simon's, for Jesus had none. See Matt. viii. 20. The New Version has, in the margin, "at home." Whatever home he had was in Capernaum. His return, as noised abroad, brought a great crowd to his door, as Mark graphically describes. He preached the word. The great aim of Jesus was not to excite wonder by his miracles, but to open the Scriptures concerning himself and salvation to the people; and the miracles were but the means to this end.

body,-sometimes of one half, sometimes of all below the neck, sometimes | let a soul perish. of the whole system. This man's case was one of the most aggravated, and he was, evidently, incurable. Borne of four, On a couch (Matt. ix, 2), or mattrass, or, perhaps, a blanket on a stretcher. The act of these four deserves to be remembered. They belonged to the class of helpers who, being unable themselves to cure the paralytic, were willing to press through all difficul ties to bring him to one who could. They were of the class that make sunny and efficient workers in the Church of Christ. Uncovered the roof. Took up the "tiling," or burnt clay, of which the roofs were made. Dr. Thomson, in Land and Book, says that he has frequently seen roofs uncovered, after the method implied in this lesson. To get to the roof, they must have gone up by the outside stairs. Their faith. The faith of five. Shown by all of them in their persevering through all obstacles. Thy sins. Jesus read the paralytic's heart, and saw that more than his bodily palsy affected him. Be forgiven come from quarreling, etc.

thee. Rather, " are forgiven thee." An

sins belongs.

sees," (Luke v. 21) These were the delegation that had come from all Galilee, and from Judea and Jerusalem | Teach the children that the man's sin (Luke v. 17), to watch Jesus. Speak blusphemies. He arrogates to himself his palsy, for Jesus said to him, before the office of God. Who can forgive sins but God only? None, indeed; and yet Jesus declares that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins. The inference is obvious; and we have here the calm and quiet assumption, on the part of Christ, of his Divinity and | which the man went to his home. There Deity. Why reason ye these things,or, as in Matthew: "Wherefore think but he walked away so strong, carrying ye evil,"-in your hearts. Their diffi- his bed, that the people were all aston culties were not so much those of honest doubt, as of jealousy and batred Whether is it easier to say? It was much easier to say, "Thy sins be forgiven thee," because it could be put to no outward test. The visible fulfill- into the depths of the sea;" "Their ment would prove his right to say the other, and his power to forgive sins. Son of man. His favorite title for himself; here significantly linked with the power to forgive, and, in John v. 27, with judgment. All dealing with our sin belongs to the Son of man. He arose. At Christ's word of command.

ing, taking up his bed, and going forth perfectly whole; his movements more eloquent than words to prove the Lordship of Jesus. All amuzed, and glorified God. The Scribes were, doubtless, Vss. 1-5.-Had the people's interest amazed; but only the people, or "the multitude," (Matt. ix. 8), "glorified II. The Call of Matthew, (Vs. 13, 14)

Wonderful change! He who could

scarcely move a muscle, standing, walk

He taught them. That is, kept teach he passed by. From the scene of the paralytic's cure to the sea side; or, as he passed along the coast. Matthew may have been the collector of the ferry-tax, for the transit of persons and goods across the lake. Levi. So Luke also calls him; but Matthew, in his Gospel, never speaks of himself as Levi. This may have been his Hebrew and family name. At the receipt of custom. New Version, "at the place of toll,"-at the toll house, or booth, where the collector sat. He was one of the detested company of publicans; and, in his humility, he calls himself "Matthew the publican," in giving the list of Apostles, (Matt. x 3). He arose and followed him. Luke says, (v. 28), "left all" Doubtless, the position he

held was a lucrative one. III. Receiving Sinners, (Vs. 15-17). In his house. The house of Matthew, who made Jesus "a great feast," and invited "a great multitude of publicans," to meet him, (Luke v. 29). Jesus went, with his disciples, and sat [re clined | at meat with many publicans sinners, To Pharisaic eyes, this he eateth and drinketh with publicans of teaching them, but of eating and drinking with them. They that are whole, etc. The physician's place is with the sick; nor does he refuse to touch them, and to minister to their needs, as a successful physician. I came not to call the righteous, etc. Taking the Pharisees at their own estimate of the publicans as true, his conduct is justified. There is a difference between keeping aloof from polluted association, as "having no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness," and that ass ciation of sympathy and love for souls which enables us to save the lost.

SUGGESTED LESSONS.

The triumph of faith and an earnest spirit over hindrances, xis seen in the Verse 3-5 .- Palsy. A paralysis of the four helpers. It is better to break a roof, and conventionalisms too, than to

> The paralytic was unable to move; yet he did not say, "I can't," or "How can I?" to the command of Jesus to arise and walk; but obeyed, trusting in Christ to give the strength.

God is no respecter of persons. He cails the publican of Capernaum as well as the cultivated Paul, the eloquent Apolios, or the golden mouthed Chrysos-

Culture, which is so refined as not to come into personal and living contact with the sului, in order to save them, is not Christian culture.

For the Teacher of the Primary Class.

Let the teacher spend a little while in showing the children how bodily infirmities are frequently the result of sinful acts. Redness of eyes and wounds result from taking strong drink. Broken limbs and noses, and bruised eyes often

Tell of the man, sick of the palsy, break in pieces, but not a life is lost authoritative declaration of the man's who was brought to Jesus, and was except by divine pertuission.

pardon by Him to whom forgiveness of cured by him. In order to make this story seem plausible, the teacher will Verse 6-12.-Scribes,-" and Phari need to represent, in some way, the one story houses with movable roofs, which were used in the time of Christ. must have had something to do with even he began to cure his body, "Thy

> sins be forgiven thee." Describe the "bed" as a thick may or blanket.

Bring before the children's mind with vividness, the perfect health in was no trace of his former weakness. ished. Repeat a few passages concerning the forgiveness of sin, such as " As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us;" "Thou wilt cast all their sins sins . . . will I remember no more."

Things not Discovered.

-Abridged from the Baptist Teacher.

We are generally quite ready to tell or listen to the tale of modern discovery and invention. All smilingly assent to the proposition that we live in a wonderfully progressive age. The advance that has been made in utilizing the forces of nature for our profit is a topic of endless self-congratulation. And this, when duly restrained by a sense of our obligations to Divine Providence, is not censurable. But it is well to look at the other side, -to contemplate some of the things to which we have not attained, the preventable evils that still prevail unchecked, the apparently practicable good that remains as yet out of our reach. Mr. Edward Atkinson, in his address at the festival of the Mechanics' Association, advocated the setting apart of a portion of the exhibition building for the perfecting of inventions, and other methods of advancing technical education. We enforced this recommendation by enumerating some of the things which science and art have not accomplished; and a suggestive list "Our waste of fuel is awfal-the best

results yet obtained in a stationary engine are, I believe, less than eleven per cent of the absolute value of the coal-in the locomotive only about three per cent. The true pavement can only be seen in western Kentucky, where the ferruginous gravel hardens under wear into a natural concrete, and excels any artificial pavement yet invented. The true material for covering roofs remains to be discovered or perfected. We are saved the smoke nuisance only by the accident of our position. We have no incombustible varnish with which to retard the action of heat upon wood, so as to give us a little more time to put a great scandal. How is it that out a fire The doctors cannot tell us how to avoid obesity, and hardly know and sinners? The question of apparent what the germ of some diseases is social equality was the vexed one; not Good accustic properties are the accident of architecture rather than the result of science, unless our Mr. Preston has solved the secret and really planned the admirable properties of this hall. Whoever improves on Arkwright and finds a true substitute for the leather cover of the top rolls of our spinning frames will add five or ten per cent. to the capacity of every spindle in the world. The baneful electricity developed in all our textile factories waits to be put to use. The potato-bug is too much for us, and the cotton worm not only cuts off a large part of every crop, but fills the rest with the pernicious bits of leaf, when he bites off more than he can chew. Our domestic furnaces dessi cate the atmosphere of our houses, and gi e us all the catarrh. The best loom in use makes a dreadful clatter, and will sometimes almost shake a mill to pieces, unless its vibrations are set to a niff-rent beat on a portion of the number. Who can pretend to have solved the problem of disposing of the sewage and keeping our water pure and sweet ?"

Certainly there are still plenty of reasons why we should say, "We have not attained." There remain many things to be found out, a good many fine inventions that sadly need perfecting. There is room and scope for scientific discovery, and an undimished demand for disciplined minds to pursue it. Still more provocative of thought would be a consideration of the moral wants of our best ordered communities, and the spiritual energies that can alone avail to satisfy them. There is work for all willing workers in the cause of God and man .- Watchman.

WHEN God proposes to accomplish any given end, it matters not how great the obstacles in the way, nor how weak the agents he employs. The sea may roar, the storms may beat, the ship may

Educational.

Elementary Educational Matters in England.

The position of the lady members of the London Scio I Board is more than a mere compliment to the ladies. In a report of the proceedings of the Board on a recent occasion, we perceive that Miss H. len Taylor, with the view to stay expenditure duri g the course of th

ho idays moved the foll wing resolution: - "Tha all expenditure and other pro ceedings towards purchase of land for building, furnishing, or organizing the additional industrial (or t u nt) schools voted by this Board be stayed until the result of the measures promised by the Home Secretary in his letter of the 22nd November, 1881, has been communicated to the Board.

Mr. B. Lucraft seconded the motion, which, how ver was with rawn on Mr. Spicer giving an understanding that nothing would be done during the hol-

Subsequently, in a discussion of a resolution on the appointment of a Superintendent for Physical Exercises, Miss Helen Taylor moves that the matter be referred back to the School Management Committee to carry out literally the resolution of last week, and to see the two candidates.

Mr. Ross seconded the amendment, which was lost.

The resolution was then carried. A lengthy report is given of several deputations waiting on the Educational Department of the Government, Earl Spencer, the Lord President of the past four or five months the teachers of the country have been anxiously dis-

cussing the proposals for the revision of the Code put forth by the Education Department, and for a still longer period the Executive of the National Union of Elementary Teachers have been making the most earnest efforts to ascertain the exact wishes of their constituents on the subject.

that the manner and tone of the teachers' representatives had their due effects an twe cordially congratulate the profession on the ability and character of their leaders. In the speech of Mr. Langler, the President, we observe the gentleness and culture which always characterize him, combined with a directness of statement so desirable in a representative man. His graceful acknowledgment of the attention paid to the previous representations of the Union, of the conce-sions made in reference to the cancellation or suspension of teachers' certificates, and of the various clauses affor ing relief from clerical work, will be indorsed by all. His denial of the accuracy of the statement recently contained in a leading article in The Times to the effect 'that teachers viewed the Proposals with mistrust, the profession.

will also command the general assent of The replies of Earl Spencer and Mr. Mundella indicate a sincere and almost anxious desire on their part to secure the advice and support of the profession. No higher compliment could have been paid to the National Union than that con ained in the opening emirks of the Lord President. Mr. Mundella too, when alluding to a statement that the teachers had felt compelle 1 ' to follow the line of the Government Proposals,' referred to the memorial presented by the Union to the Depar ment last year, and sait, 'I think you mu t be conscious that the Proposals which have been laid before the country have evidently been considerably influenced by your own views. Agun, furtuer on, the Vice-President says: 'I think it would be more correct to say that we hav followed the lines of your Proposals.' It is clear, from the account of the interview, that much imp rtance was attached to the occasion, and that the Lord President and the Vice-President are actuated by a sincere desire to legislate on practical

A famous teacher, celebrated for his shrewdness in handling the irresistiole American boy in the schoolroom, tells us that he succeeded in breaking up a disagreeable habit of crunching apples and sucking molasses-candy in his schoolroom by placing a peck of apples and a platter of candy on his desk, and insisting that every offending boy and girl should march up and partake in the presence of the whole crowd. That style of recitation was an effectual cure, being founded on a law of human nature, teat a good way to cure a bad habit is an overdose of the forbidden fruit.

lines."

Four scholarships of the value of £40 each have been founded by the Bishop of Salford in St. Bede's Manchester College. "St. Bede's Scholarship " are partially.

open to Catholic boys not above fourteen years of age, and are "intended to promote the highest and best talent to be found in Great Britain, among a respectable class to whom such scholarships would be of the greatest advantage."

An Elucational Syndicate has been established for British Burmah by the Chief Commissioner, the duties of which will be to direct and control publie examinations, which will be held under certain new rules designed to promote the study of medicine, law, engineering, and technical arts.

Bemnerante.

The Old Man's "Temperance Talk."

In the beginning of the Temperance Reformation on t e East end of Long Island some forty years ago, there resided in the village of Greenport, two young men who often u-ed to make public ad resses. One evening they spoke to a crowded audience in a neighboring school-house. Most of the people were fishermen and had shown no interest in the temperance movement. After the speeches had been made, an invitation was given to sign the pledge. The people looked smilingly at one another, but none went forward to sign. The moment was critical, and one of the speakers made some remarks about the influence which each exerted over the others to help or to hinder any good work. Still no one moved. After a few moments, an old man, who, in former years, had been a successful "fishing captain," and was beloved and Council, being in the chair. For the honored by all, arose, trembling, and he stood awhile in silence, being evidently A sec under strong emotion. In breathless quiet the audience awaited theold man's voice, as in trembling measured tones he b gan:

"I'm e'en a most-eighty years old -and sometimes - but not very often-I take a stimulus-I luv licker-un I think it doz me good. I don't think-Im in eany danger of ever be-in a The Schoolmaster says: "It is evident a drugkard-and I don't know's licker ever hurt me-but there was Jim-(meaning a well-known inhabitant), you all know him. We wuz boys tu-gether -un-er finer feller never strole the deck. We uste ter drink together a a little in them days -un I dunno's it done me enny harm-but, Jim-poor feller! he died-a drunkard - you know'd him !"

> The old man talked on in this strain, wiping the tears, as he recalled one after another of his youthful companions with ind-scrib ble pathos. The names were well known and were dear to many of his hearers, who wept in sympathy with him.

Again the old man continued: "I dunno's licker ever dun me enny

harm - un I'm e'ener most eighty years old. I don't 'spoze I'm in enny danger now-uv ever bein a drunkard-but, these young men hev' been a talk-in about influence. I don't 'spose-I've got much influence-but-mebbe I hev er little-I think er little licker-wunce 'ner while mebbe duz me good-un I've luved ter take it-but ef I could influence enny uv these young men, mebbe I orter do it-I 'spose ef I did sign, you wouldn't object to a little home-brewed | Oct. 26. ginger-beer wunce 'ner while? That seems ter warm my old bones as good as licker sometimes. But ef they do object, I dunno but I orter sign. Its tru-I dunno's licker ever dun me enny harm, but it did Harry, and he wuz er better fisherman 'un I wuz. Mebbe, I orter sign - mebbe, 'twill help sumbody. Yes! Young man! you may bring on the pledge! I'LL SIGN IT!" The pledge was taken to the old man,

and with trembling hand he wrote his name first on the list of those gallant fishermen. The hush was now broken, as the young men rose en masse, and pressel forward to sign the pledge. Nearly all the inhabitants signed and kept the pledge with a sacredness rarely known elsewhere. The above was related to us by one of the speakers mentioned. He is now a successful New York merchant with an abundance of this world's comforts, a loving family, and withal he is a real Christian at work. The other became a noted physici in, a distinguished legi-lator and editor, first in New York and afterwards in California; and having finished a history of the last named State, died, and his resting place is marked by a granite shaft in the "Old Burying Ground" of Southold. The Christian at Work says : -- This incident is said to be the commencement of the Temperance wave which, forty years ago, swept over the East end of Long Island, and extended throughout the country.

Four things belong to a judge: to hear cautiously, to answer wisely, to consider soberly, and to decide im-

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The action of my heart, which was terrific, and which was said to be organic disease, but which you denied, is perfectly right now. Indeed, everything in my case turned out exactly as you said it

1 remain, Yours very truly, W. S. WILSON, Late of 81 Barrington St.

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