

Vs. 4, 5.—All the elders of Israel. The leading men of the various tribes. We meet them as far back as Ex. iii. 16; iv. 29; when Moses and Aaron consulted them in Egypt concerning the proposed deliverance of Israel from bondage, before speaking to the people. They were a kind of senate, or executive council of the congregation, that made their voice heard in great exigencies, as upon this occasion. It is sad to see that the cry for such a radical change in the government was not from the restless and ignorant rabble; but from the chief men of the nation. The desire for a king was not a new one, and was not begotten of the then existing circumstances. In Deut. xvii. 14-20, this disposition was foretold. The people had offered the crown to Gideon (Judges viii. 22), which he refused. His son, Abimelech, however, had a brief period of royalty (Judges ix. 6, 22). The idea of royal authority had become popular, and these elders, in visiting Samuel, doubtless had expressed the minds of the people in their demand. They seized upon certain disorders in the administration of justice as a pretext, or as the occasion for making it at this time. They adduced two reasons to Samuel; viz., his advanced age, and the degeneracy of his sons. And back of these was a third, the desire to be like other nations. *Make us a king to judge us.* This would abrogate the judgeship in the form in which the Lord had established it, and would call men to rule by hereditary right, instead of by the voice of Jehovah. Thus the accident of birth would supersede the direct call of the Lord, and the question of fitness to rule be taken out of the hands of Jehovah.

Vs. 6.—The thing displeased Samuel. That he had some personal feeling in the matter is natural, and is shown by God's answer to him, when he tells him that it is not a rejection of him, but of God himself. But stronger than any wounded feeling at their ingratitude towards himself, was his grief at the insult offered to God. The government had been a theocracy; i. e., God was their king. The proposition was virtually to disown Jehovah, and set him aside for a weak and feeble man. Moreover, Samuel clearly saw that the plan was against the interests of the people themselves. It was not a change of national constitution they needed, but a drawing nearer to God. All the evils which they hoped to escape by the change, would but come with tenfold force upon them. Instead of seeking to be like other nations, it should have been their glory that they were unlike them, and under the immediate care and direction of the one true God. But Samuel, as was his wont, took the case to the Lord in prayer.

Vs. 7, 8.—God's answer came at once. *Hearken unto the voice of the people.* Sometimes God grants in his displeasure what he withholds in his mercy. *Not rejected thee, but . . . me.* Samuel was in good company. It is better to be rejected with God, than to be crowned without him. But alas for Israel in this far-reaching act! Like those who crucified Christ, they knew not what they did. *According to all the works which they have done, etc.* That is, this conduct is of a piece with all their dealings with Jehovah since he brought them out of Egypt. It has been one continued course of ingratitude, murmuring, unbelief, idolatrous tendency, and willfulness. The Lord makes a severe, but true charge against Israel. Is it, also, true of us? *So do they also unto thee.* "The disciple is not above his Master, nor the servant above his Lord."

Vs. 9, 10.—*Yet protest solemnly . . . and show them the manner of the king.* They are not to go unwarned as to the nature of the change. An absolute, Oriental monarchy is not so desirable a thing as to be eagerly seized upon. See the vivid and faithful picture of it which Samuel drew for these elders, in vs. 11-18. This was the manner of the king which they were likely to have, and often did have—a king who acted as an irresponsible despot, holding the property, lives, and virtue of his subjects at his disposal. Very different, however, is the picture drawn in Deut. xvii. 15-20, of what a king should be. *Samuel told all the words of the Lord.* As a faithful servant, he gave the message, irrespective of his own feelings. And the elders eagerly seized upon the reluctant assent, saying: "Nay, but we will have a king over us."

SUGGESTED LESSONS.
Like Samuel, let us learn to take every matter to the Lord.
Those who reject God's faithful servants, and their message, reject God; and to be rejected with God, and for his sake, is an honor.
God's mercy may sometimes be exercised in withholding what we ask; and the truest answer to our prayer may be in denying our request.

Help for Parents, or for the Teacher of the Primary Class.

Twenty years of peace and prosperity under the rule of Samuel, brought the people many comforts; and one might suppose that they would have been satisfied. But they saw the nations about them under the rule of kings. It seemed to them like a more permanent form of government than the primitive Judgeship of Samuel, however good that might be. They saw that he was growing old, for he was now about seventy years of age. They did not look with favor upon the sons of Samuel. These sons had three very serious charges made against them: 1. They "turned aside after lucre." That is, they were covetous: 2. They "took bribes." 3. They "perverted judgment." Because they were covetous they accepted bribes, and then, of course, true judgment was impossible. There was reason, then, for strong dissatisfaction.
The idea of having a king was not a new one. Gideon had been offered a crown, but had refused. Gideon's son, Abimelech, at Shechem, had tried on a little royalty. Then, they doubtless remembered the words of Moses, who had anticipated such action as was now contemplated. See Deut. xvii. 14-20. For these were the elders who came to Samuel; and it is most likely that they were familiar with the words of Moses. And there is in the passage quoted no apparent disapproval of a monarchy. They wanted to see their king. All this implied a lack of trust in God, a going away from God, which could not fail to be displeasing to him.
—Abridged from the *Baptist Teacher*.

Booths' Department.

Original and Selected.
Bible Enigma.
No. 246.
DOUBLE ENIGMA.

Find the answers to the following questions. Place them in order and their initials give the name of a famous general in the time of David, and the initials the name of the king who preceded him:

1. The ruler of the Jews who had his daughter restored.
 2. A name given to Jesus in the book of Revelation.
 3. A son of Aaron who came to a sad end.
 4. An idol which was worshipped by all except 7,000 of Israel.
- No. 247.
A word of five letters—three of which are repeated, is the name of a raised place called a Pavement:
- 1, 8, 6, 7, was a famous city near Jerusalem.
 - 2, 3, 4, 5, is a Syrian word for kind father.
 - 4, 5, 6, is a flying quadruped.
 - 3, 5, 6, 7, is an immersion.
 - 3, 2, 1, is a convenient receptacle.
 - 7, 8, 6, is head covering.

QUIRIOUS QUESTIONS.
No. 127.
Building of words.

1. One thousand.
2. The name of mother.
3. The name of father.
4. What belongs to father.
5. A parsonage.

No. 128.
Numerical and Phonetic Spelling.
Form words of the following:

1. Five hundred and anger,—meaning dreadful.
2. A plant and a vase,—meaning to revolve.
3. Five and congealed liquid,—meaning wickedness.
4. One thousand and a poem,—meaning method.
5. A plant and a fairy,—meaning riches.
6. One hundred and an insect,—meaning a corrupt dialect.
7. An insect and the conclusion,—meaning a curve.

No. 129.
1. Behead, and reverse "the foundation;" and have "a sentence added to a device."
2. Behead, and reverse "relating to tragedy;" and have "a roll of leaves for smoking."
3. Behead, and reverse "to set free;" and have "to reproach;" "to vilify."

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

Answer to Bible Enigma.
No. 245.

1. Rache 1.....Gen. xxix. 17.
2. A 1.....Josh. viii. 19.
3. V ai 1.....Ex. xxiv. 33.
4. E l 1.....1 Sam. i. 18.
5. N azarene.....Matt. ii. 23.
6. S ong s.....Psa. cxxxvii. 3.

RAVENS AND LILIES.—Luke xxii. 24-27.

ANSWERS TO QUIRIOUS QUESTIONS.
No. 124.

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No. 125.

1. Ahaziah.
2. Jezebel, daughter of Ethbaal.
3. Workmen at the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem.
4. Adronicus, Junia, Herodian.
5. Phebe of the church at Cenchrea.
6. Forty and two thousand three hundred and three score.
7. Before the water-gate.
8. Ezra.
9. A pulpit of wood.

No. 126.
"If ye love me, keep my commandments."—John xiv. 15.

FARM AND GARDEN.

A GREAT RANCH IN CALIFORNIA.—The South California statistics of fruits, grain, wool, honey, etc., read more like fancy than like fact, and are not readily believed by one unacquainted with the country. One of the very best ranches, if not the best, for this purpose is Baldwin's ranch, in the San Gabriel valley. It includes a large part of the old lands of the San Gabriel Mission, and is a principality in itself.
"There are over a hundred men on its pay-roll, which averages \$4000 a month. Another \$4000 does not more than meet its running expenses. It has \$6000 worth of machinery for its grain harvests alone. It has a dairy of forty cows, Jersey and Durham; one hundred and twenty work-horses and mules, and fifty thoroughbreds.
It is divided into four distinct estates: The Santa Anita, of 16,000 acres; Puente, 18,000; Merced, 20,000; and the Potrero, 25,000. The Puente and Merced are sheep ranches, and have 20,000 sheep on them. The Potrero is rented out to small farmers. The Santa Anita is the home estate. On it are the homes of the family and of the laborers. It has fifteen hundred acres of oak grove, four thousand acres in grain, five hundred in grass for hay, one hundred and fifty in orange orchards, fifty of almond trees, sixty of walnuts, twenty-five of pears, fifty of peaches, twenty of lemons, and five hundred in vines; also small orchards of chestnuts, hazel-nuts, and apricots; and thousands of acres of good pasturage.
"From whatever side one approaches Santa Anita, in May, he will drive through a wild garden—asters, yellow and white; scarlet pentstemons, blue larkspur, monk's-hood; lupines, white and blue; gorgeous golden eschscholtzia, alder, wild lilac, white sage—all in riotous flowering.
Entering the ranch by one of the north gates, he will look southward down gentle slopes of orchards and vineyards far across the valley, the tints growing softer, and blending more and more with each mile, till all melt into a blue or purple haze. Driving from orchard to orchard, down half-mile avenues through orchards skirting seemingly endless stretches of vineyard, he begins to realize what comes of planting trees and vines by hundreds and tens of hundreds of acres, and the Equalization Board Statistics no longer appear to him even large. It does not seem wonderful that Los Angeles County should be reported as having sixty-two hundred acres in vines, when here on one man's ranch are five hundred acres. The last Equalization Board Report said the country had 256,135 orange and 41,250 lemon trees. It would hardly have surprised him to be told that there were as many—as that in the Santa Anita groves alone. The effect on the eye of such huge tracts, planted with a single sort of tree, is to increase enormously the apparent size of the tract; the mind stumbles on the very threshold of the attempt to reckon its distances and numbers, and they become vaster and vaster as they grow vague.—*Oct. Century*.

GETTING MILK.—A writer in the *Southern Farmer* says that his cow gives all the milk that is wanted in a family of eight, and that from it, after taking all that is required for other purposes, 290 pounds of butter were made last year. This is in part his treatment of the cow: "If you desire to get a large yield of rich milk, give your cows every day water slightly warmed and slightly salted, in which bran has been stirred at the rate of one quart to two gallons of water. You will find, if you have not tried this daily practice that your cow will give twenty-five per cent. more milk immediately under the effects of it,

and she will become so attached to the diet as to refuse to drink clear water unless very thirsty. But this mess she will drink almost any time and ask for more. The amount of this drink necessary is an ordinary water pail at a time, morning noon, and night."

At a recent Short-Horn sale in Chicago, 51 head were sold, of which 39 were cows and 11 bulls. The total amount received was \$10,540, an average of \$195.18 per head.

Whitewash stables, etc., while the stock is at pasture, by slaking a bushel of fresh lime in a tight barrel, and fill up with water after slacking.

Give the milk cow a chance to take shelter at night if they choose as it is often very cool, and you can't afford to lose milk.

SCIENCE.

TAME BUTTERFLIES.—A lady living in London writes in the "Open letters" of the *October Century*: "In THE CENTURY for June, 1883, Mr. Gosse describes a monument in which the sculptor has carved a child holding out her hand for butterflies to perch on. He goes on to say that this was criticised as improbable even by so exact an observer as Mr. Tennyson. It may therefore be of some interest to your readers to record the following facts from my personal experience:
"One summer I watched the larva of the swallowtailed butterfly through their different stages, and reserved two chrysalides to develop into the perfect insect. In due time one of these fairy-like creatures came out. I placed it in a small Indian cage made of fine threads of bamboo. A carpet of soft moss and a vase of flowers in the center made a pleasant home for my tiny 'Psyche.' I found that she greatly enjoyed a repast of honey; when some was placed on a leaf within her reach, she would uncoil her long proboscis and draw up the sweet food with great apparent enjoyment. She was so tame that it became my habit, once or twice a day, to take her on my finger; and while I walked in the garden she would take short flights hither and thither, but was always content to mount upon my hand again. She would come on my finger of her own accord, and, if the day was bright, would remain there as long as I had patience to carry her, with her wings outspread, basking in the sunbeams, which appeared to convey exquisite delight to the delicate little creature.
"I never touched her beautiful wings. She never fluttered or showed any wish to escape, but lived three weeks of tranquil life in her tiny home; and then having, as I suppose, reached the limit of butterfly existence, she quietly ceased to live.
"On the day of her death the butterfly emerged, and lived for the same length of time. Both were equally tame, but the second showed more intelligence, for she discovered that by folding her wings together she could easily walk between the slender bars of the cage; and having done so, she would fly to a window and remain there, basking in the sun folding and unfolding her wings with evident enjoyment, until I presented my finger, when she would immediately step upon it and be carried back to her cage."

The annual eclipse of the sun occurring on the 31st October next will be visible only from two or three spots on land, the principal being the Island of Nippon, Japan; and the next total eclipse, in Sept. 1885, will have a centre line traversing New Zealand, and will not be observable from land elsewhere.

Miss Mary E. Lovejoy, of Bangor, Maine, is quite largely engaged in the silk business. She has at present 3,000 silk worms. In thirty days from hatching the worms begin to spin, and in nine days more the cocoon is ready to be reeled and spun. It is thought that the silk raising business can be made profitable in Maine.
"The Queen of Denmark, mother of the Princess of Wales, is an accomplished painter, and has lately presented the little village of Klitmoiler, in Jutland, with an altarpiece, entirely executed by her own hands.

5 DOLLAR GOLD PIECES FOR THE BOYS AND GIRLS.

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Rev. Father Wilds' EXPERIENCE.

The Rev. Z. P. Wilds, well-known city missionary in New York, and brother of the late eminent Judge Wilds, of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, writes as follows:
"78 E. 54th St., New York, May 16, 1882. MESSRS. J. C. AYER & Co., Gentlemen:
Last winter I was troubled with a most uncomfortable itching humor affecting more especially my limbs, which itched so intolerably at night, and burned so intensely, that I could scarcely bear any clothing on. I was also a sufferer from a severe catarrh and catarrhal cough; my appetite was poor, and my system a good deal run down. Knowing the value of AYER'S SASSAPARILLA, by observation of many other cases, and from personal use in former years, I began taking it for the above-named disorders. My appetite improved almost from the first dose. After a short time the fever and itching were allayed, and all signs of irritation of the skin disappeared. My catarrh and cough were also cured by the same means, and my general health greatly improved, until it is now excellent. I feel a hundred per cent stronger, and I attribute these results to the use of the SASSAPARILLA, which I recommend with all confidence as the best blood medicine ever devised. I took it in small doses three times a day, and used, in all less than two bottles. I place these facts at your service, hoping their publication may do good."
Yours respectfully,
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People's Home Mission Agency.

The Society has been in operation 15 years. Colporteurs to the number of 102 have been employed, who have distributed Bibles and good books worth \$141,286 by sale, and books and tracts valued at \$10,081 by grant. Total grants by the Society, including those from Depot, more than \$16,000 worth. Time served by the Colporteurs equals that of one man for 142 years. One Island, Newfoundland, Cape Breton, P. E. Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and a portion of Quebec have been explored. There have been found 1,525 families without God's Word; 2,582 families with no other religious book; and 2,545 families who habitually neglect attending any place of worship. The 26 Colporteurs employed in 1882 performed labor equal to that of one man for 124 years; found 205 Protestant families without Bibles, 279 with no other religious books, and 373 families who never enter the House of God. They sold books worth \$13,332, and made free grants to the value of \$913, as they made 31,679 family visits, and held 625 religious meetings.
The books circulated are sound and good, teaching the truth of man by the full regeneration by the Holy Spirit, and redemption through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. They are eminently designed to spread abroad Divine truth, and they are accepted by those that in every place call upon the name of the Lord. They give no uncertain sound upon the essential doctrines of the Cross; justification through the blood of the Redeemer, holiness through the sanctification of the Spirit, and complete redemption through God's grace alone. Books and tracts designed especially to awaken the impenitent and point to Jesus are imported in great numbers. Almost 10,000 "Come to Jesus" were distributed last year.
The prayers of all God's people are earnestly requested for the Spirit's power to accompany the reading of the books and the evangelistic efforts of the Colporteurs. A copy of the last Annual Report, giving much interesting information and the extracts from the Colporteurs' reports, will be sent on application to the Secretary.
American Baptist Publication Society.

As advertised last year, we continue to order the publications of the above Society upon which we allow a discount of FIFTEEN per cent, excepting periodicals, from the catalogue prices. As compared with the issues of the British houses these books are expensive. Catalogues will be supplied upon application, and those ordering can decide for themselves.
The Psalmist, published in the United States for 85 cents, we continue to sell for 75 cents. From our Depot and through Colporteurs about 5,000 Psalmists have been already sold.
Donations to Dec. 31st, 1882, in aid of Colportage, \$40,127; amount paid by Society to Dec. 31st, 1882, for Colportage, \$63,250.
Patronize the Depository and thus aid Colportage, to which all accruing profits are applicable. Jan. 31. 1y.

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