

Family Reading.

Christmas Hymn.

It was the calm and silent night!
Seven hundred years and fifty-three
Had Rome been growing up to night,

Within that province far away,
Went plodding home a weary boor!
A streak of light before him lay,

Oh strange indifference!—low and high
Drowns over common joys and cares,
The earth was still, but knew not why,

It is the calm and silent night!
A thousand bells ring out, and throng
Their joyous peals abroad and home

New Select Serial.

MRS. HURD'S NIECE:
Six Months of a Girl's Life.

CHAPTER VI.

"IN SOCIETY."

Saidee's light knock comes again
Just before dinner. She enters, looking
So radiant and dazzling that Lois stands

Saidee is in haste. She puts down
The box she has in her hand. 'Now,
We will see—what we shall see.'

She unpins Lois' prim collar, denudes
The brown hair of its modest brown ribbon,
The delicate wrists of their stiff

'There, little sprig of Christmas
holly, go admire yourself!'
Lois can but smile at the girl in the
mirror.

Saidee, too, stands smilingly regard-
ing the transformation. 'Come now,'
she says, 'I hear them going into the
dining-room.'

The unusual gaiety of Lois' costume
makes her very conscious of herself as
she descends the stairs: but she finds
her little torch suddenly quenched in

her stately aunt is presiding; opposite
sits Uncle John, carving and chatting,
altogether a different personage from
the silent man at breakfast.

She follows Saidee to her place,
where she finds herself seated by a
gentleman, whom Saidee, as she goes

As they speak, Saidee adds something
in merry undertone. 'I can specially
commend this little cousin to you, Mr.
Max, as one of your own old-fashioned

Mr. Max turns again to 'this little
cousin.' She is coloring so exquisitely
that Saidee smiles. The glance of Mr.
Max is strangely placid and serious for

For a moment, in the laughter and
hum, the two faces, each so pure and
serious, seem to question one the other.

Then Mr. Whitney says, in a matter-
of-fact way. Let me shake hands with
you, when we meet after dinner, Miss
Gladstone,' and she nods, and it is only

Mr. Whitney is talking with Saidee,
and she has ample opportunity to study
her aunt's friends, and above all to look

Lois starts to hear her address one
of the gentlemen as 'Dr. Guthrie.' Her
future pastor—she leans eagerly
forward. She sees a face of strength,

In the shadow of her tall neighbor,
she looks upon this side and that, and
listens. Her poor little heart dies with-

She looks across the table, over the
tall callas and the beautiful orchids.
Two august matrons busy over some

But a little farther up, speaking to
her neighbor in a soft voice, sits another
lady, whom she sat at once pronounced

Her gaze is so earnest, the lady her-
self becomes conscious of it; and turns
that way. All Lois' heart is in her

Lois has thought to flit back up stairs
as they pass from the dining-room; but
Saidee, unwisely perhaps, she herself
thinks afterwards, prevents. The even-

her seat in a corner. The two girls
are a great contrast. Saidee is no
older, but Lois seems a mere school-

'Do let me introduce someone to you,
cousin, Saidee begs. Let me bring
Miss Clay to you, she is very lively

'No one, not to-night,' pray let me
by quite by myself for to-night.' Lois
entreats. She is depressed by a fresh

As she sits brooding, Mr. Whitney
comes towards her. He reaches out his
hand with a smile for the promised

'My usual look among strangers, I
dare say.'

'But you might dispense with it
here, by this time, I should think.
Some of our pleasantest people are in

Mr. Whitney marks the slight
shiver which accompanies these words.
'Our is a large church—I think too

'Yes,' answers she, with simple
directness. 'I fully expect to be
chilled to death, just as you say. I
could bear any other friendlessness

Mr. Whitney turns hastily away
from the full gray eyes lifted to his.
The directness, the simplicity, startle

But as Mrs. Whitney moves away,
Saidee's smiling face clouds over; and
without a word of warning, she falls

'Cousin, do you know you have
managed it so that it must look to
others as if we mean to neglect you,

There is an electric quiver, the
quiver of utter earnestness, in the low
voice. Lois grows strengthened.

'I suppose I am a very poor sort of
Christian,' she says, 'to feel so unable
to stand alone.'

sincerely sorry that I leave to-morrow,
for I might make some things easier
and pleasanter for you. Have you

And yet Mr. Max Whitney knows
it ought to be strange that Mrs. Hurd
has not hours ago introduced the new

'Yes,' he resumes, 'when Dr.
Guthrie becomes once absorbed in an
argument, that's the last of him socially.'

The one who looks back to answer
is the lovely lady of the dinner-table.
So she is Mr. Whitney's mother—Lois

Aunt Alice, with swift side look,
must know that this is the time to
present her niece; but she doesn't do

Mr. Whitney beckons his mother.
'Miss Gladstone, mother, a niece of
Mrs. Hurd. She is to remain, and is

'Which is pleasant to hear.' The
lady takes her hand, and Mr. Whitney
leaves them together.

With a few cordial inquiries, Mrs.
Whitney gathers whatever she wishes
to learn of this shy girl. Mrs. Whit-

Lois steals out; and the wretched
evening, the wretched day, is over.

had much better have let me go up stairs
as I wished. Oh dear! is Dr. Guthrie
coming here?

'Yes, Mr. Whitney is bringing him.
The metaphysical gray eyes approach-
ing, rest upon her with a mixed ex-

'This is Miss Gladstone, Doctor, my
own and only cousin,' she says, keep-
ing Lois' cold hand in her own. 'She

'Saidee! Saidee!' Lois, all blushing
and confusion, struggles away from her
gay cousin.

Dr. Guthrie, possessed of the other
hand, can but smile. 'If you have

Left alone with him, the trembling
girl manages to make known that she
has brought a church letter. He nods

'I shall often see you, of course,'
he says, as he rises. 'Mr. Hurd's
family are particular friends of Mrs.

Saidee comes back to her then, and
tells her that since she has not actually
risen and run off while Dr. Guthrie

The Christian Messenger.

Bible Lessons for 1885.

FIRST QUARTER.

- 1. Jan. 4—Paul at Troas. Acts xx. 2-16.
2. " 11—Paul at Miletus. Acts xx. 17-27.
3. " 18—Paul's Farewell. Acts xx. 28-38.
4. " 25—Paul Going to Jerusalem. Acts xxi. 1-14.
5. Feb. 1—Paul at Jerusalem. Acts xxi. 15-26.
6. " 8—Paul Assaulted. Acts xxi. 27-40.
7. " 15—Paul's Defence. Acts xxii. 1-21.
8. " 22—Paul Before the Council. Acts xxiii. 1-11.
9. Mch. 1—Paul Sent to Felix. Acts xxiii. 12-24.
10. " 8—Paul Before Felix. Acts xxiv. 10-27.
11. " 15—Paul Before Agrippa. Acts xxv. 1-18.
12. " 22—Paul Vindicated. Acts xxvi. 19-32.
13. " 29—Review.

SECOND QUARTER.

- 1. April 5—Paul's Voyage. Acts xxvii. 1, 2; 14-26.
2. " 12—Paul's Shipwreck. Acts xxvii. 27-44.
3. " 19—Paul Going to Rome. Acts xxviii. 1-15.
4. " 26—Paul at Rome. Acts xxviii. 16-31.
5. May 3—Obedience. Eph. vi. 1-13.
6. " 10—Christ our Example. Phil. ii. 5-16.
7. " 17—Christian Contentment. Phil. iv. 4-13.
8. " 24—The Faithful Saying. 1 Tim. i. 15-20; ii. 1-6.
9. " 31—Paul's Charge to Timothy. 2 Tim. iii. 14-17; iv. 1-3.
10. June 7—God's Message by his Son. Heb. i. 1-8; ii. 1-4.
11. " 14—The Priesthood of Christ. Heb. ix. 1-12.
12. " 21—Christian Progress. 2 Pet. i. 1-11.
13. " 28—Review.

THIRD QUARTER.

- 1. July 5—Revolt of the Ten Tribes. 1 King xii. 6-17.
2. " 12—Idolatry Established. 1 Kings xii. 25-33.
3. " 19—Omri and Ahab. 1 Kings xvi. 23, 24.
4. " 26—Elijah the Tishbite. 1 Kings xvii. 1-16.
5. Aug. 2—Elijah meeting Ahab. 1 Kings xviii. 1-18.
6. " 9—The Prophets of Baal. 1 Kings xviii. 19-29.
7. " 16—The Prophet of the Lord. 1 Kings xviii. 30-46.
8. " 23—Elijah at Horeb. 1 Kings xix. 1-18.
9. " 30—The Story of Naboth. 1 Kings xxi. 4-19.
10. Sept. 6—Elijah Translated. 2 Kings ii. 1-15.
11. " 13—The Shunamite's Son. 2 Kings iv. 18-37.
12. " 20—Naaman the Syrian. 2 Kings v. 1-16.
13. " 27—Review.

FOURTH QUARTER.

- 1. Oct. 4—Elisha at Dothan. 2 Kings vi. 8-33.
2. " 11—The Famine in Samaria. 2 Kings vii. 1-17.
3. " 18—Jehu's False Zeal. 2 Kings x. 15-31.
4. " 25—The Temple Repaired. 2 Kings xii. 1-15.
5. Nov. 1—Death of Elisha. 2 Kings xiii. 14-25.
6. " 8—The Story of Jonah. Jonah i. 1-17.
7. " 15—Effects of Jonah's Preaching. Jonah iii. 1-10.
8. " 22—Hezekiah's Good Reign. 2 Kings xviii. 1-12.
9. " 29—Hezekiah's Prayer Answered. 2 Kings xx 1-17.
10. Dec. 6—The Sinful Nation. Isa. i. 1-18.
11. " 13—The Suffering Saviour. Isa. liii. 1-12.
12. " 20—The Gracious Invitation. Isa. lv. 1-11.
13. " 27—Review.

Bouths' Department.

Original and Selected.

Bible Enigma.

No. 311.

Form a word square of the following:
1. The name of one of the Apostle Paul's companions at Rome—abbreviated to 'what belongs to a city.'
2. The young woman who opened the door for Peter to go into the prayer meeting.
3. A piece of wood such as saved some of the lives when Paul was shipwrecked.
4. The sea in which the ship was driven previous to Paul's being shipwrecked.
5. One of the young men—a son of Aaron who offered strange fire before the Lord.

CURIOS QUESTIONS.

No. 349.

What city was called the "Lady of Kingdoms"?

No. 350.

What city was called the "Perfection of Beauty"?

No. 351.

What city is said to be the "Mother of us all"?

No. 352.

What two men went down into a well for security?

No. 353.

Who called upon the Lord to send thunder and rain?

No. 354.

Who rested under a canopy, woven with purple, gold, and precious stones?

No. 355.

Anagrams.

Find the word of three syllables which the letters of the following make:—'Absurd tales.'

No. 356.

Find the word of three syllables in: 'Ten hives came.'

No. 357.

The two words of six syllables which are formed of the following: 'Not in a silent voice; I count on last unit.'

No. 358.

Five words all formed of the same letters: Throughsummer's heat and winter's cold, I've carried news since days of old.

Transpose me and I'll spin and run, But never thread by me is spun.

Change me and I express disgrace, Yet with me Belle adorns her face!

Transpose again and you'll agree The cook cannot dispense with me.

Another change; what does it say? It bids us pause; we will obey.

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. 310.

"Watch and Pray."

ANSWERS TO CURIOS QUESTIONS.

No. 309.

- 1. W at T
2. H oshe A
3. E a R
4. A gre E
5. T aras S

WHEAT—TARES.

Her Reckless Extravagance.

Mr. Winks—'Now, see here, Mary, this is too much, too much. You say you want \$20 this morning for pin money, and it was only yesterday that I gave you \$20 for the same purpose?'