

For the Christian Messenger. An Acrostic (with alliteration.)

DEAR BROTHER,— The following Acrostic on the name of Mrs. Churchill, our much esteemed missionary to the Telegos, now on a visit with her husband to their native land, has afforded the writer some refreshing moments of relaxation from heavier mental labor, and if you deem the effusion deserving of a place in the Messenger, you will confer a favor by inserting it.

Yours truly, SILAS T. RAND. Hantsport, Nov. 22, 1884.

P. S.—The parties implicated have kindly expressed their willingness, and even wish, that the verses should be published.

"And they that be wise shall shine as the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever.—Dan. 12: 4. "Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead, our Lord Jesus, that Great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever, Amen."—1 Pet. 5: 10, 11.

Made of one blood, Their Maker God, ruled by his "rod,"

All Adam's offspring are even all earth's erring ones;

Infinite grace, In every place, To all our race,

In rippling rural rills, in royal rolling run,

Supreme in power, God grants each hour, through brake and bower,

Ceaseless compassion, consolation, constant care;

Thus ringing round The world's wide bound, The solemn sound;

"Salvation! O salvation!" such sinners saved shall share;

Round every spot, city, castle, cot, country cottage, grot, noticed, known or not,

Majestic, mercifully meeting man's miserable estate;

Eternal grace, God's love displays, To Adam's race,

Granting God's goodliest gifts, giving them graciously great.

Sank helplessly, in poverty and misery Although they be,

Prostrated, plundered, plagued, palsied, piteously pressed;

Still, saved and blest, Their souls may rest, of peace possessed,

Bought and brought back, borne blessedly beyond bold Beelzebub's behest;

Midst myriads bright, In the land of Light, Made pure and White,

Shall sevenfold sinners sing Salvation's song;

Around his throne, Who rules alone, The "Three in One,"

Angelic armies all aflame, around, among, Thou need'st not fear Therefore, but cheer serenely here

Trials, temptations, toils—times tenderest tendrils torn,

In darkness dread, Faith feebly fed, Hope dying, dead,

Fearful, forsaken, feeble, flagging, faint, forlorn,

Love liveth still; All will fulfil, God's word and will,

Pitying, protecting, prospering, purifying, pleading still;

Dealing so kindly: O follow thou blindly; Look not behind thee;

Faith's full fruition, firmly, faithfully fulfil;

All, whosoever wrought, works Wisdom's wondrous will.

Face them all fear! He is always here, Thy soul to cheer,

Christ's coming kingdom cometh—comes the conqueror's crown;

Alone He reigns, And power maintains, All glory gains,

Bestowing blood-bought blessings, brought by balmy breezes blown.

Upon his breast, Still sweetly rest, Him trusting best,

Grace guards, gives glory, gives glad guerdes graciously;

Lost in his love, Thy soul shall prove, Help from above,—

He hearkeneth, heareth, helpeth heartily, holdeth, healtheth thee.

Keep Him in view, His path pursue, Steadily true,

Threading still tranquilly this thorny thoroughfare through.

Nature may fail, Pierce foes assail, And fears prevail,

God's greatness, goodness, governs gloriously.

Endure, stand fast, Till the storms are past, Buffeting the blast,

Wait working, watching warily—wear wisdom's well-worn wreath;

Redeemed, arrayed, In Christ your Head, Made meet to aid,

Singing sweetly, serve, still standing steadfast, strong till death.

Crosses and cares, Oft unawares, Flood our affairs,

Worrying, wounding with wasting war, fare, "watch and ward."

Heaven's help is near, Your soul to cheer Even then and there,

Beholding, blessing, bounteously bestowing,—Bless the Lord

Upheld by Him, The time redeem, Though days be dim,

Defying death, dare dangers, difficulties, devils, dire and dread.

Rest in His love, Who reigns above,—His promise prove, Shielded, serenely safe, shedding soft silvery sunshine still, in sun and shade. Calmly come on, Till day is done, And wages won, Bravely battling, believing boldly, bearing bliss. His word, his will, God will fulfil, Guarding you still, Providing plentifully, preparing pure perennial peace In glory bright, In love and light, Pure peerless white, Borne beautifully bright, beyond time's boisterous sea, Lending the Lamb, The GREAT LAMB, Sound- ing His name, Joining Jehovah's joyful, general jubilee, Loud lofty lays, There thou shalt raise, To endless days, Swelling salvation's song—sweet sound- ing symphony, Tireless the thrilling tones to trill, to all eternity.

For the Christian Messenger. To the Rockies and back. VIII.

NORTHERN DAKOTA—NORTHERN ILLINOIS. It seldom pays to leave trunk lines even if railroads do cross the country and make the distance much shorter. Better take the round about way where connections are surer and trains run quicker.

After leaving the place from which my last was written (and the week there I cannot forget) I went to Pierre, on the Missouri, where thirty-six hours were spent in eyeing things curiously, except when sleep had possession of me. It was interesting to watch the great teams of the North Western Transportation Company getting ready to start for the Black Hills, two hundred and ten miles to the west. Had Mr. Bergh been there he would have interceded on behalf of the oxen, nine yoke of which suffered under the lash of one driver. It might seem that where one man had charge of so many that what he could inflict on each would be small when the sum was divided up. But indeed it is not so. The whip in the first place has sixteen feet of lash tapering down from an inch-and-a-half in thickness; and when swung from a handle five feet long and wielded by the hands of a skillful "bull-whacker" the poor animals orange under the cutting strokes. But the fear lest a specimen of the genus homo might become the victim of that weapon made me conclude that silence would be golden. A railroad across the Reservation would ere this have been completed had it been possible to secure the right of way from the Indians. The round trip is at present made in thirty days with oxen, when the weather is favorable, and tireless with mules. It seems probable that this Reservation, with many, and perhaps all, others will be opened up for settlement at no distant day, thus bringing benefits to the white, and let us hope, also to the red men. I spent half a day staring at the Indians between old Fort Pierre and a point a mile back from the river; and recalling the abuse the aborigines have received, I hoped for the day when those at whose hands they have been wronged should arise in might to make amends for the past and pay the debt incurred. The power of Christianity is yet to be marvelously displayed in its uplifting influence upon the neglected red-men.

With Cooperstown, in Northern Dakota, as my destination I leave Pierre on Friday morning, the 14th, and go west to Huron, on the Northern Pacific, and turning north reach Aberdeen at 7 P. M., where a slight occurrence delayed me twenty-four hours. The town was a lively place so that I easily put in the time. On Saturday, from the upper piazza of the hotel, I looked, with many others, upon a foot race between two young men on the street below, and wondered at the excitement over such an event. The suspense regarding the Presidential election was for a while forgotten in this local interest; and those who had money left after betting upon Blaine or Cleveland ventured it on this occasion. It is at such times that man shows himself in one of his most contemptible phases.

Ortonville, Minnesota, was the next place touched, and here I spent the Sabbath. It was a cold day, the wind blowing wildly from Big Stone Lake—a pleasant summer resort. Not till 4 P. M. on Monday was I able to leave here, and not till 9 o'clock was Fargo reached. This enterprising town of ten thousand inhabitants, stands on the bank of the Red River, a river which drains the waters from a section of Uncle Sam's farm into the Queen's dominions. When I got there you may be sure I was glad at what seemed at the time an unfortunate delay in Aberdeen. It was my plan to be at Fargo Saturday night to spend Sunday,

but it proved well that I was not, for early Sunday morning the hotel at which I intended stopping was burnt, and the guests lost all their belongings. Here I met Rev. G. W. Huntley, Baptist missionary of this part of the Territory; and when on my way to Sibley he accompanied me to Power City, the seat of a projected Baptist College. A year hence it is expected that classes will be opened in a fine stone building soon to be begun. Northern Dakota now has 150,000 inhabitants of whom about 35,000, if I am rightly informed, are Canadians. Three years ago there was only one Baptist Church: now there are thirty-two, and energetic workers are everywhere needed. If some think the region inhabited by ignoramuses, cow-boys, and wild-Indians they are greatly mistaken. There are here very many of just as intelligent people as are anywhere to be found; and even for those apprised of this before coming, there is in store a surprise when they see for themselves. The West calls for well-qualified preachers. Brainless men can do better in the East.

At Cooperstown, reached on Tuesday night, I met some good Nova Scotia friends, and had a pleasant stay among them. During the ten days I was there I was helped by contact with warm-hearted Baptists and Congregationalists in the religious services which were held; and I am thankful if I was used by the Master to do them any good in return.

The weather from my coming to going was cold and disagreeable; but the autumn has been exceedingly fine; they tell me. The matter of tree-planting has had a stimulus all over the North-West by a law of Congress which gives one hundred and sixty acres of land to any one who will plant ten of them with trees and look after them for eight years. When these grow up the winds which are now so hard to hear will be less violent, and blizzards will diminish in intensity and frequency. "The Dakota blizzard," says a writer in the Century, "usually blows three days from the north then three from the south. It drives the dry snow before it with such force that the particles sting the face as though a storm of needles was raging. It is impossible to see any object a dozen yards away. While the storm lasts people shut themselves in their houses and all business in the towns comes to a stop." Sometimes there are five or six of these "dusting" winters, but usually less. Although the thermometer registers a much lower degree of cold than in Nova Scotia, the dampness in the latter makes the cold there nearly as hard to bear, excepting when the winds sweep wildly over these prairies. Nearly every Dakota has his fur-cap and gloves and buffalo coat, which render him almost impervious to jack-frost.

The wheat crop of the North was excellent this year. I was a little late to see the twenty five self-binders working at one time on the "bonanza farm" of the Cooper Brothers, a farm of some thirty five or forty thousand acres. From the Cooperstown Courier I have clipped this item: "One hundred and forty-three cars of wheat sailed out of Cooperstown, for the effete East, so far this month (20 days). About twice as much wheat remains to be shipped during the present month. And yet this is an alkali desert, surrounded by blue sky and icebergs." It is unfortunate, however, that the price of wheat has been very low, so that many farmers will not be able to pay their bills and must be carried over until another year by the merchants. This makes it trying for the business men who have a small capital. Some of the poorer settlers will have it hard enough to pull through the winter.

The trade in buffalo bones has brought a good deal of money into the Territory. The skeletons of 80,000 buffaloes have been shipped to the older fields this year to be ground into fertilizers. The bones bring about \$8.00 a ton at the shipping station.

With regard to emigration from the East to this new country, it may be said that those who have even fairly good prospects where they are ought to consider the matter well before making a change. Privations there must be in newly settled parts. The resources of Nova Scotia, for example, are far from fully developed, and there is plenty of room there yet for enterprise and money-making in many departments of labor, and will be for a long time to come. There are advantages in an old country which are not always outweighed by the greater wealth-producing facilities on the frontier. I have ceased to wonder that those who come West usually remain. It is not easy on taking up land, or starting business, to pull up stakes and go back. And there is a fascination about life in the far West which most everybody comes to feel, sooner or later; so that not unfrequ-

ly those who are so homesick for a while that they fear they are not going to die, come to fall in love with the country, and cannot be drawn to the land of the rising sun by any magnet whatever.

My promise to make this letter shorter than my last prevents me from writing of the return journey to Illinois across Minnesota to St. Paul, on the Mississippi's bank, 2,200 miles from its mouth where I spent six hours of a bright, cold day; of the run along the Mississippi on the west, and over it at La Crosse into Wisconsin; and of the quick passage through Wisconsin, allowing a glance at beer-brewing Milwaukee, on the Western shore of Lake Michigan, together with divers interesting events which occurred at intervals throughout the way.

As I write I am once again in the midst of Chicago's phenomenal activity. On looking back there comes to me a strengthened confidence in that Unseen Hand which has so kindly preserved me during these four months of travel, from even the slightest accident. Shortly I take a train which will bear me to a noble band of Christians among whom I shall hopefully take up, for a time, a pastor's work, and to whom I am immediately indebted for the benefits, past, present, and future, accruing from the now completed trip "To the Rockies and Back."

RYE. 151 Wabash, Av., Chicago. Nov. 29th, 1884.

ADVICE TO A YOUNG MAN.—And then remember, my son, you have to work. Whether you handle a pick or a pen, a wheelbarrow or a set of books, digging ditches or editing a paper, ringing an auction bell or writing funny things, you must work. If you look around, you will see the men who are most able to live the rest of their days without work are the men who work the hardest. Don't be afraid of killing yourself with over work, son. It is beyond your power to do that, on the sunny side of thirty. They die sometimes, but its because they quit work at 6 p. m. and don't get home until 2 a. m. It's the interval that kills, my son. The work gives you an appetite for your meals, it lends solidity to your slumbers, it gives you a perfect and grateful appreciation of a holiday. There are young men who do not work, my son; but the world is not proud of them. It does not know their names, even; it simply speaks of them as old so-and-so's boys. Nobody likes them; the great busy world doesn't know that they are there. So find out what you want to be and do, my son, and take off your coat and make a dust in the world. The busier you are the less devilry you will be apt to get into, the sweeter will be your sleep, the brighter and happier your holidays, and the better satisfied will the world be with you.—Burdette.

The career of Henry Fawcett, late Postmaster-General of England furnishes a remarkable instance of what pluck, energy, and perseverance can accomplish in the face of terrible odds. Blind almost from the opening of his career, he yet grasped a high place among the representative Englishmen of his day, and left an indelible impression upon the legislation of his country. His affliction seems, just as of embarrassing his progress, to have sharpened his powers quickened his perceptions, and ripened his judgment, a not unfamiliar experience in the history of the blind. Mr. FAWCETT was also materially assisted in his life work by his estimable wife. He himself pronounced her the author of his success, the chief guiding and sustaining influence of his life.

The "fruit of the vine" in Palestine is not always the harmful drink which so often fills the sacramental cup of today. The Rev. Chail Jamal, a native missionary in Salt, a city supposed to be one of the three cities of refuge east of the Jordan, writes to an English missionary periodical that in that locality there are upwards of 2,500 vineyards and yet intoxicating wine is not known to the natives. The grapes that are not consumed fresh are either made into raisins or pressed, and the juice made into dibs (a kind of honey) and milban (a kind of sweetmeat) which are stored up for winter use. They are used also to make the madooca of raisins, which is composed of crushed and mashed raisins made into a good sized lump, which also is stored against the winter. Salt is famous for its grapes, which are very fine indeed, and their deliciousness and beauty are known only to those who have seen and tasted them.—Signal.

The ideal charity is that rare and large thing which is at ease, and is at work up and down and around itself. It is, in fact, an atmosphere, rather than an avenue.—E. S. Phelps.

The Christian Messenger.

Bible Lessons for 1884.

FOURTH QUARTER.

Lesson XIII.—DECEMBER 28, 1884.

QUARTERLY REVIEW.

Three months have been profitably spent with Solomon and the Books of Wisdom. In review we may, for the better understanding of the whole ground we have gone over, consider

I. SOLOMON'S EARLY CAREER.—Lesson I. Solomon Succeeding David. 1 Kings i. 22-25. Lesson II. David's Charge to Solomon. 1 Chron. xxii. 6-19. Lesson III. Solomon's Choice. 1 Kings iii. 5-15. When he was a youth of 18 or 19 years of age he had been designated by David as his successor to the kingship of Israel; but a conspiracy was formed by Adonijah and his adherents to defeat David's purpose, and to make Adonijah king. Lesson I gives an account of the wise measures of Nathan the prophet, and of Solomon's mother, to counteract this conspiracy, and to arouse David, in the feebleness of old age, to the danger. They were successful. The grand old king, with all the energy of his best days, at once moved in the matter. Solomon was anointed king, was caused to ride upon the royal mule, and was publicly proclaimed David's associate and successor; and thus the wicked plot fell to pieces. In Lesson II. we have David's solemn charge to Solomon concerning a work which was on the heart of the old king, i. e., the building of a Temple for the service of the Lord. He tells him of his desire to have erected it himself, but how the Lord forbade it; how he had by great effort and economy prepared a vast amount of material for the work; rehearsed to him the promises of God in the matter of the kingdom; and charges him to set his heart and soul to seek the Lord, and to build the Temple, that the ark and holy vessels may have a suitable abiding place. Lesson III. relates the beautiful story of Solomon's choice of wisdom over riches or honor. He had gone to Gibeon where the Tabernacle was, to offer sacrifices before it. In a state of religious fervor, he had a dream or vision of the night, in which the Lord appeared to him, bidding him ask whatever he desired. The choice of Solomon was a preternatural sagacity or wisdom which would fit him for ruling so great and favored a nation. This choice pleased the Lord, who gave it, and added thereto both riches and honor.

2. SOLOMON'S GREAT WORK—the Building of the Temple. Lesson IV. The Temple Built. 1 Kings vi. 1-14. Lesson V. The Temple Dedicated. 1 Kings viii. 22-36. Lesson IV. gives the date of the beginning of this work which, according to the received chronology, was B. C. 1012; the dimensions of the Temple proper and the porch; the materials employed in building; the construction of the roof; relates the manner of reaching the upper chambers; tells of the quiet preparation of the stones—so significant of the Holy Spirit's quiet work in preparing the living stones for the Heavenly Temple; and gives God's message to Solomon, and his promise to dwell in the Temple. Lesson V. relates the story of its dedication, and gives a portion of the marvelous prayer of Solomon upon that occasion.

3. SOLOMON'S WISDOM.—Lesson VI. The Wisdom of Solomon. 1 Kings x. 1-13. This lesson furnishes a specimen of the wonderful wisdom with which the Lord had endowed Solomon. A great queen, in her far off kingdom, had heard of it and came to test it. She was herself noted for wisdom, and had many deep questions in her mind which she desired to be solved; and Solomon readily answered her questions. So profoundly impressed was she with his greatness, his wealth, and his wisdom, that her verdict was: "The half was not to do me."

4. SOLOMON'S SIN.—Lesson VII. Solomon's Sin. 1 Kings xi. 4-13. It is sad to turn from the bright picture of piety and wisdom to see that luxury, disobedience, and prosperity had had the same influence upon Solomon that they exert upon others. He fell from his high estate into sensualism and idolatry. His numerous wives led him astray, and he endeavored to mix up the worship of false gods with the service of Jehovah. His failure was ignominious and complete, and his punishment was the subsequent disruption of the kingdom of which he was so proud.

5. SOLOMON'S TEACHINGS.—Lesson VIII. Proverbs of Solomon. Prov. i. 1-16. Lesson IX. True Wisdom. Prov. viii. 1-17. Lesson X. Drunkenness. Prov. xxiii. 29-35. Lesson XI. Vanity of Worldly Pleasure. Eccles. ii. 1-13. Lesson XII. The Creator Remembered. Eccles. xii. 1-14. Lessons VIII. IX. X. are his teachings as found in the Book of Proverbs. The design and value of proverbs is stated; the path of wisdom pointed out; her call comes to our ears; her characteristics are mentioned; warnings against evil are given; and a special promise is recorded for the young to induce them to seek wisdom. The lesson on Drunkenness is a vivid picture of that terrible evil, and a powerful sermon on Total Abstinence. Lessons XI. and XII. give a specimen of his teachings in the Book of Ecclesiastes. Vanity of vanities is the key note of the book. His thorough search, with exceptional advantages, for satisfaction of soul in worldly goods, is fruitless; and his earnest exhortation to the young is to turn away from worldly seeking to God; while he sums up for them the simple rule which will lead to happiness here and hereafter; "Fear God, and keep his commandments."

The lessons may all be grouped under three heads: What Solomon was told to do; what he did, both wise and foolish; what he said; summing all up in his own words. Eccl. xii. 13, 14. Or the following Bible Reading may be given. Written slips containing the references being distributed to different persons in the School in advance:

- What is wisdom? Psal. iii. 8. Commands to be wise. Prov. ii. 2; iv. 5-9. Describe wisdom. James iii. 17. Where can you find true wisdom? 2 Tim. iii. 14, 15. How can you get wisdom? Jas. i. 5. Who gives wisdom? Job xxviii. 12, 23, 28; Prov. ii. 6; 1 Cor. i. 30. Prayer for wisdom. Ps. xc. 12; 1 Kings iii. 9. What is the beginning of wisdom? Prov. i. 7; Ps. cxl. 10. Describe the happiness of wisdom. Prov. iii. 13-24. What is the value of wisdom? Prov. viii. 10, 11; Prov. xvi. 16. How is wisdom shown in the speech? Eccl. ix. 17; x. 12; xii. 11; Luke vi. 45; Col. iv. 6. Name some promises to the wise. Dan. xii. 3; Ps. cvii. 43. Teacher's wish for the class. Deut. xxxii. 29. Wish of class for teacher. 2 Tim. ii. 7, last clause. By all.—To God, the only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen. Rom. xvi. 27.

—Abridged from the Baptist Teacher.

Booth's Department.

Original and Selected. Bible Enigma.

No. 309. A Harvest Enigma.

My five initials show the precious seed Which in his field the mighty Master sows;

My final the destructive weeds disclose Which from the adversary's hand proceed.

1. Say first, what he who keeps his field in view, Desires his servants till the end to do?

2. Next, name that prophet, who in days forlorn, Declared that Israel should "revive as corn."

3. My next by golden hues through all the land, Its ripeness shows, and asks the reaper's hand.

4. What the good householder did with all those Who for his vineyard, first and last, he chose.

5. My last the native town of him will show Who warns us that we reap even as we sow.

No. 310. Find an exhortation of our Lord in three words comprising twelve letters:

Nos. 10, 6, 3, are a small mischievous quadruped.

4, 2, 3, are its professional enemy.

9, 2, 3, 4, 5, are a poor mend.

3, 6, 10, are a product of the pine tree.

5, 11, 3, are a head covering.

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. 308. John, Obadiah, Nehemiah, Haman, JONAH.

ANSWERS TO CURIOUS QUESTIONS.

No. 345. 1. Tars; 2. Star; 3. Arts; 4. Rats.

No. 346. If you get wet from that old spout, Blame no one near with such a pout. You must for your own self look out.

You are, I reckon pretty smart; Now take your paintings to the mart, Where you can sell your works of art.

Pray do not be just like a snail, But bind the wound made by that nail. If not at once you lope may ail.

No. 347. A LOCOGRAPHS—S-nail (snail).

No. 348. M. J. O. B. M. O. S. E. S. B. E. L. S.