

The Sunday-School.

SECOND QUARTER.
LESSON XII.—June 19.

CHRIST RISEN.

Matthew 28: 1-15.

THE LESSON includes the story of the Resurrection.

GOLDEN TEXT.—*Now is Christ risen from the dead.*—1 Cor. 15: 20.

HISTORICAL SETTING.—*Time.*—Jesus rose from the dead Sunday morning, April 9, A. D. 30, and ascended forty days later, May 18.

Place.—The resurrection was from the tomb in a garden near Calvary. The home of the disciples during the forty days was in Jerusalem and vicinity. The ascension was from the Mount of Olives near Bethany.

LEARN BY HEART.—Vs. 1-4, 6; 1 Cor. 15: 20, 53-58.

THE THREE DAYS IN THE TOMB.—Jesus was, probably, placed in the sepulcher about four o'clock Friday afternoon. The sepulcher was closed, sealed and guarded. In this tomb Jesus' body remained till early Sunday morning.

THE MYRRH-BEARERS.—V. 1. *In the end of the Sabbath.* That is, the end of the night following the Sabbath. *As it began to dawn toward the first day of the week (Sunday), came Mary Magdalene. And the other Mary.* The mother of James the less and Jesus, together with other women. They were bringing the spices for embalming the body of

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.—Vs. 2-4. *Behold there was a great earthquake.* Before the arrival of the women. *For the (an) angel of the Lord descended from heaven.* A divine messenger, to overawe the guards, and show that Jesus rose. *Rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it,* as a guard waiting to give information to the disciples. *His countenance (his appearance) was like lightning, in brightness. And his raiment white as snow.* This was heavenly apparel. *And for fear of him the keepers (the Roman guard) became as dead men,* through fright.

With what Body did Jesus Rise?—The body Jesus rose with was the same body which died on the cross. There is no possible way to prove that Jesus rose from the dead, if the body was not the same. Jesus takes special pains to show his disciples that he is the same. He declares that he is flesh and bones; he bids Thomas put his hands in the prints of the nails and in the wound made by the spear; he eats before them the same kind of food he ate before he died. Jesus' body was, doubtless, changed at the ascension into a spiritual body. Then took place what Paul declares is to take place on the resurrection day in those who are alive.

THE MESSAGE OF THE ANGELS.—Vs. 5-7. Mary Magdalene first reached the tomb, and seeing the stone rolled from the door, hastened to tell the news to Peter. The others then came, and "found not the body of the Lord Jesus." They saw the two angels sitting on the stone. *And the angel, one of the two whom Mark and John mention, answered the perplexity and fear of the women. Fear not ye.* They had more

reason to rejoice than to fear. *For I know that ye seek Jesus.* He understood them, and had come to help them. *He is not here (in the tomb) for he is risen as he said.* He had assured them several times that he would rise again. *Come, see the place,* so that they may be fully convinced. *And go quickly, and tell his disciples,* that their sorrows may end, their doubts be removed. *And behold, he goeth before you into Galilee,* where all the eleven belonged, and the largest body of believers. *There shall ye see him.* So Jesus himself had promised them before he died. *They departed . . . with fear.* A solemn awe at the truth made known. *And great joy* that their Saviour was alive.

JESUS APPEARS TO THE WOMEN.—Vs. 9-10. *First.* To Mary Magdalene, who was the first of the women to arrive at the sepulcher. Returning to the sepulcher, she reached it after the other women had left, and near by it Jesus appeared to her. *Second.* The other women went to tell his disciples by some other route. *Behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. Held him by the feet.* Clasped his feet, in reverent, affectionate joy. *And worshipped him,* by falling on the knees and touching the ground with the forehead after the Oriental fashion. *Go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee.* The same message which the angels had given them in the sepulcher.

VAIN EFFORTS TO DISPROVE THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.—Vs. 11-15. *Now when (while) they were going,* on the way to the disciples, *some of the watch (guard) . . . shewed unto the chief priests,* at whose request the guard were stationed at the tomb. *All the things that were done.* They told the simple truth. *When they were assembled with the elders.* A secret meeting of the special enemies of Christ. *They gave large money unto the soldiers,* as a bribe to make a false report. *Say ye, His disciples came by night, and stole him away while we slept.* The absurdity and stupidity of this statement is apparent. For if they were asleep, how could they know that the disciples stole him away. The disciples had no motive for stealing the body. They did not expect a resurrection. They did not know its importance. *If this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him,* perhaps by bribes, and secure you from the penalty of sleeping on guard. *And this saying,* the story made up by the soldiers. *Until this day.* That is when the Gospel was written, thirty to thirty-nine years after the resurrection.

THE INFALLIBLE PROOFS OF THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS.—The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the best attested fact in history. During forty days Jesus appeared ten or eleven times to individuals or to companies of disciples. The disciples were completely convinced. Multitudes of enemies were convinced and believed. The transforming change in the apostles, the pentecostal gift, the existence and prevalence of the Christian church, and its triumphs, the change in the day of the Sabbath, the appearance to Paul—are all proofs of the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection fits into the life of Christ, the Saviour, as an essential part. His life and the whole plan of salvation would be incomplete without it.

Final Instructions.—Jesus, during these forty days, gave his instructions to the apostles, restored Peter to favor, and gave the commission to preach the Gospel to all the world.

The Ascension from Olivet, near Bethany, with his promise of return, was the fitting completion of the earthly life of Jesus.

Our last view of Christ is not upon the cross, but ascending from Olivet into glory; not in seeming defeat, but in manifest triumph.

THE HEART OF THE LESSON.

1. The resurrection of Jesus is the crowning proof that he is the Son of God.
2. It proves that we have a living Saviour, sitting on the right hand of God.
3. It is the proof of immortal life beyond the grave; that death does not end all, but the soul lives after the body dies.
4. We find in the resurrection of Jesus an assurance of our resurrection.

ABOUT READING.

When I was principal of a school, parents would frequently say, on entering their sons: "My boy is a great reader; he has read so and so." Now I am sorry to have to say that in most such cases I was likely to find the boy inclined to be scatter-brained.

Young people are sometimes given to measuring their reading by the yard. If you are conscious of this little vanity, let me advise you that getting rid of it is the beginning of wisdom in the matter of reading. The best way to cure yourself is to take some book that is known to be a great book, and make yourself read it three or four times.

Read it till you know something about it, till you can shut your eyes and recall the arguments or the substance of what you have read. A young boy who has read very much in quantity, cannot very easily have read much in quality.

If you want to cultivate the habit of good reading, I would advise you to compel yourself for a while to pause after reading, and see whether you can go over in your mind what you have gone over with your eyes. This is not an easy thing to do. It is hard mental work. But it is just the best self-education that a young man can give himself. In fact, if he gets hold of the right books, I am not sure but it is the best education that can be had.

Of course it is a good thing to have a wise man around to discuss the points with, and to have him question you. One of the clearest and truest thinkers on many subjects England has ever had was John Stuart Mill. He tells in his famous autobiography how his father educated him. The boy would be given some article or chapter to read, and in the afternoon, while they were taking a walk, he would rehearse to his father the line of thought and they would discuss it. This was an ideal education, and we may imagine that the reading which young John Stuart Mill did during the mornings, in preparation for the afternoon talks, was real reading.

Whatever you read, give yourself the trouble and pleasure to think about it. If it be a matter of argument or opinion, see whether you agree with what is written. There is no special reverence due to print. Be open minded and at the same time independent. There is no conceit in honest disagreement, even with an author with a famous name, provided you can give a sensible reason for your dissent.

Above all, be honest to yourself, and

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do not pretend that you understand what you do not. That you may not at once get the full thought of a writer is no proof of dullness. He may not have written clearly. At any rate, what required time and thought in the writing may naturally require time and thought in the reading.—*The Evangelical.*

To Cleanse the System Thoroughly.—Parnelle's Vegetable Pills clear the stomach and bowels of bilious matter, cause the excretory vessels to throw off impurities from the blood into the bowels and expel the deleterious mass from the body. They do this without pain or inconvenience to the patient, who speedily realizes their good offices as soon as they begin to take effect. They have strong recommendations from all kinds of people.

Teachers who sometimes grow discouraged from what seems to be useless iteration, may take heart of hope from Susanna Wesley. Her husband once asked, concerning their son Charles, "How can you tell that boy a thing twenty times?" She replied, "Because if I told him only nineteen times I should have lost my labor."

A General Favorite.—In every place where introduced Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil has not failed to establish a reputation, showing that the sterling qualities which it possesses are valued everywhere when they become known. It is in general use in Canada, the West Indies and Australia as a household medicine and the demand for it each year shows that it is a favorite wherever used.

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