

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

MAY 11th, 1856.

Subject.—THE HYPOCRISY OF THE SCRIBES AND PHARISEES REBUKED.

For Repeating. For Reading.
John vii. 37-39. | John viii. 1-20.

MAY 18th, 1856.

Subject.—CHRIST CONTINUES HIS TEACHING.

For Repeating. For Reading.
John viii. 12-18. | John viii. 21-38.

LONDON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

LONDON, March 28th, 1856.

DEAR BROTHER,

I congratulate you on the vigorous and successful commencement of your undertaking, and I am much pleased to notice the prominence given in the Christian Messenger to matters connected with the religious education of the young. Your column headed "Teachers' Department," is a boon to the Sunday School cause. It has occurred to me that some of your subscribers might be pleased to make a visit to a London Sunday School. I would gladly take them, and have written the following which may serve instead, as we are at so great a distance.

Yours faithfully,
FELLOW LABOURER.

A Day in a London Sunday School.

Proceeding one Sunday morning to Lion street, New Kent Road, and having found the Sunday School connected with the Baptist Church there, I entered and ascertained that the school commenced at 9 after 9. The Superintendent made his appearance about ten minutes before that time, with him some of the Teachers. The School-room is 60 feet by 20—at one end is the Library with Librarian's table, Superintendent's and Secretary's desks.

The classes are arranged on each side of the school-room, and each is provided with three forms about five feet long, making a hollow square in which a small table in placed—the teacher sitting at the end. In this way the scholars are comfortably accommodated in each class.

Exactly at the time for commencing, the superintendent's bell rang. I was much pleased to notice that of the 30 teachers, 26 were present. The secretary took his stand at the top of the stairs, to prevent late scholars disturbing the opening service. A hymn was given out—the superintendent called—"attention"—every scholar's eye was directed to the desk—then a pause—"Rise" which command was simultaneously obeyed—and the hymn was sung. After singing a pause was made of one minute, giving time for the hum and bustle to be completely settled, a solemnity and decorum attached to the service, which I could but think desirable in some of our larger assemblies. After this pause, all being kept standing, the word—"sit down" was given. The late scholars then were allowed to enter and go to their classes—a short portion of God's word was read, each scholar and teacher using their Bibles. One of the senior teachers was called to the desk, who offered a very short and appropriate prayer. The same punctilious order was observed in this part of the service, with the addition of every scholar facing the desk, and each having his hands clasped together. The pause after the prayer was very imposing, and seemed to have an excellent effect in keeping order and giving solemnity to the service.

Teaching then commenced—the lessons and notes prepared by the Sunday School Union being used by the teachers throughout the school all having the same subject for the day.

The classification was as follows:—

1st class—"Infants," taught on the children's gallery of the chapel, using a box of letters and pictures for scripture illustration.

2nd class in three divisions—"Elementary," using a class book containing the lesson for the day—lately published.

3rd and 4th classes, each in four divisions—Junior scripture classes, using bibles and repeating verses from the last Sunday's lesson.

Two senior classes consisting of girls and youths above fourteen years of age.

Two select senior classes, meeting only in the afternoon and taught separately. I was very much gratified to find twenty-five females in the girls' class, many above twenty years of age, and more so, when informed that eight of these were members of the church—most of whom owed their conversion to the sabbath school.

At a quarter before eleven, the bell rang—"Time to close teaching" was announced, and the special duties of the teachers for the day notified. These duties were arranged quarterly, and each teacher supplied with a card, on which his or her duties were written, so that all might be provided for, and equally shared. They consisted of—

1st. Teachers to sit with the scholars in chapel.

2nd. Teachers to remain with the scholars at the separate service.

3rd. Teachers to give the address at this service.

4th. Teachers to give an address in the chapel school in the afternoon.

5th. Teachers to address in the school-room.

After these notices, and during perfect silence, the superintendent said—"Let us pray to God," "attention"—"rise." After the prayer, the usual pause—then "sit down."

Each class was then directed to proceed to the chapel with the teacher at its head, who saw all seated, and then left them in charge of the teachers whose duty it was to remain with them that day. I was glad to see that every scholar had a bible and hymn-book, and did not fail to use them. On looking in at the "separate service," I found 100 or 120 of the youngest children, under the care of three teachers—one to conduct the service and give the address, the others to maintain order. This service is closed and the children dismissed at 12 o'clock.

The order of proceeding in the afternoon is very similar to that of the morning. The school meets at 2 before 2. The same opening service and teaching until half-past three, at which time teaching is closed, and generally some little piece is sung. Afterwards the teacher appointed to give the address proceeds to the desk and occupies the attention of the scholars with summing up and bringing to bear upon the heart and consciences of all, the general lesson of the day. Closing at 4 o'clock.

The library contains about 450 vols—for the use of which the scholars subscribe one penny per quarter. The librarian collects the books in the morning, and supplies each class with a change at the close of teaching in the afternoon, when the teacher distributes them.

Several things struck me in the conduct and arrangement of this school as worthy of imitation.

1st. The punctuality and regular attendance of the teachers.

2nd. The solemnity and importance attached to the opening service.

3rd. The whole arrangement being conducted with great regularity and decision by the superintendent, whose authority was evidently so exercised as to secure cheerful but implicit obedience.

4th. The distribution of special duty cards—the teachers punctually fulfilling their engagements or providing a substitute.

5th. The maintenance of a spirit of love and hearty co-operation by all engaged in the work.

The teachers elect their officers annually, have regular business meetings, hold a monthly prayer-meeting, which is attended by many of the senior scholars, after which, as many of the teachers as possible stay and take tea together. One of the male teachers either gives an address or reads a paper on some practical subject connected with the work. The minister, Rev. Wm. Howieson heartily co-operates with his teachers—gives the address to the school once a month and meets the teachers two evenings in the week to assist in the study and preparation of the subject for the following sabbath.

A Juvenile Missionary Association is connected with the school. The first Sunday afternoon in the quarter being set apart as a missionary prayer-meeting in which the whole school takes part—two prayers and a short address on Missions engage their attention. This association subscribe about £24 per annum with which they support a mission school in Ceylon, and an orphan child in Africa.

The girls meet once a month, to work for the missionary cause by making articles of clothing to send abroad. Another good practice I was told of. On the first Wednesday in March of every year a meeting of Former Scholars and Teachers is held; at which all who have been connected with the school are invited to attend or communicate by letter, and these reunions are often found most interesting and profitable. The annual meetings are held in June, by a series of gatherings, embracing each section. Sunday afternoon, public examination; Sunday evening, annual sermon; Monday evening, special prayer

meeting; Tuesday evening, scholars treat; Wednesday evening, parents meeting; Thursday evening a public meeting.

During the past winter a course of lectures has been delivered by the teachers, at which some 250 of the scholars have attended. A weekly Singing class and a Writing class for girls are also connected with the school, and the result of the whole appears to be a well ordered, vigorously conducted and successful Sunday school, comprising some 450 scholars with about 84 teachers; and I could but lift up my heart to God, that as in years past he had blessed this school, so in years to come he might yet more abundantly bless it and make it a blessing.

PARIS AS IT IS:

And what I saw there.

LETTER IV.

On the first morning after our arrival at Paris, we paid a visit to the Palace of Industry, in which were arranged the contributions from different nations to the French Exhibition. The first portion we entered, was a large oblong building, with open stalls and glass cases, filled with every variety of manufacture, specimens of caoutchouc from America—cotton goods from Manchester—muskets and bayonets from Belgium—pottery from Stoke-upon-Trent—silks from Lyons—while in the galleries above were a number of Chinese curiosities, and the valuable collection of Indian produce belonging to the East India Company.

Leaving this we passed into the Rotunda, in the centre of which were suspended some of the finest specimens of Gobelins Tapestry, and Aubusson Carpets; while on the tables below, were many of the most valuable productions in Porcelain, which had been brought from the Imperial Works at Sevres: the great attraction in this apartment, however, was, a circular glass case, in which were the Crown Jewels of France, including the celebrated Regent Diamond, not so large or valuable as the Koh-i-noor, but still of great value, and forms part of the Imperial Crown—these diamonds attracted a continual stream of visitors from morning till night, and it was only by the exercise of much patience that a sight of them could be obtained. From this a covered wooden bridge which crossed a railway, led to a building of iron and glass of immense length, erected parallel with the river, known as the *Annexe*, and contained the whole of the machinery, in motion, from all countries, and the heavier description of produce, such as Coal, Iron, Timber, &c.

The Exhibition of Fine Arts, comprising a collection of the works of Artists of all Nations, was a suggestion of the Empress Eugenie, the paintings were exhibited in quite a separate building; the works of each country were kept distinct, those from England being for the most part of smaller size, than those by Continental artists.

Leaving the Exhibition, we crossed the river to the *Hotel des Invalides*, which affords an asylum for many hundreds of the veterans of the French army—here are deposited also the remains of the great Napoleon—brought from St. Helena a few years ago at the request of Louis Philippe; a magnificent Mausoleum has been erected to receive them. The interior of the dome is magnificently painted and richly gilt in every part, the circular chamber is composed almost entirely of marble. Napoleon's coffin is covered with a velvet pall surrounded by many personal relics of the Emperor, such as the sword he wore at Austerlitz, one of his cocked hats, &c. Altogether the aspect of this Tomb is very fine indeed.

Here is exhibited also a collection of models of all the various fortifications in France, moulded in relief on a large scale, representing the course of rivers, position of the towns and batteries in connection with each fortress; and as they were explained to us, the collection proved very interesting.

We then engaged an open cab, to take us to the *Place de la Bastille*; the site of the celebrated State Prison of that name, which had been for centuries a terror to Frenchmen; it was demolished in 1789, and not a vestige of it now remains. It was Napoleon's intention to have adorned this space with the celebrated Fountain of the Elephant, a model of which he had constructed, on a gigantic scale, its height being upwards of 70 feet. He was soon afterwards banished from France, and nothing more was done until another Revolution, in 1830, had

placed Louis Philippe on the throne, when he resolved to erect a column on the foundation built by Napoleon, and to dedicate it to the memory of those who fell fighting for the cause of liberty during the three days of July; this plan was carried out, and a bronze pillar erected, called the "Column of July," on the shaft of which appear in gold letters the names of the victims, 500 or 600 in number; the column is surmounted by a figure of Liberty, in the act of flying off a large globe, both of which are gilt; visitors may ascend to the top, which is another of the many places from which a fine view of the city can be obtained.

The *Boulevards*, on the north side of Paris, are about three miles in length, and extend from the *Bastille* on the east, to the *Madeleine* on the west, they were, with the *Boulevards* on the south, formerly the boundaries of Paris, until extended, and the present walls built by Louis XVI.

It the day-time the lines of *Boulevards* perhaps, is the busiest part of Paris; its double row of trees, combined with the traffic of a large city, is very striking.

CH. CABINET.

Agriculture.

New Ideas in Agriculture.

Pumpkin seeds should not be fed to milk cows, unless you wish them to decrease in milk. Girdling an apple tree the last of June, or when its fruit is of the size of a common walnut, will not kill the tree, but improve the fruit. Gathering fruit from the apple and currant trees, when green, or before they are fully ripe, makes them more prolific the following year. Trees designed for clayey soils do best when transplanted in the spring. Currants bear in three years from cuttings.

Bees.

It is an error to suppose that bees need the sun in winter—they want an equable temperature, and that may be a pretty low one, down to the freezing point, or even lower, all winter, if it be regularly so. Hives protected on the north, and open on the south where the sun will strike them freely, will become so warm, even in February, as to set the bees all in motion; they will then pass out of the hive to relieve the promptings of nature, become chilled or blinded, or both, fall upon the snow, and die. They may be safely kept in a cold chamber or attic, in a cool, dry cellar, and we have heard it stated, buried in the centre of a hay-mow, the aperture being closed with stout wire gauze.—N. E. Farmer.

Sunflowers.

Last fall, I planted a few sunflower seeds around the the stumps and about the corners of the fences. Three of the largest size heads, representatives of the mass, I counted; one numbering a thousand seeds, the second, one thousand two hundred and fifty—the third, one thousand five hundred. The same stalks yielded in addition to the above, from one to four more heads.

Now, if one seed will raise a thousand, the smallest number counted in one head, the seed being one foot apart in the row, and two feet apart wide, on an acre, we have, as I have counted and measured, two hundred and twelve bushels, why might not the seed be sown and harrowed in the same as oats, care being taken to have the seed far enough apart. I harvested the heads with a knife, and put them under cover, and fed them out to my poultry, who do all the threshing, and pronounce a bushel of sunflower seed equal to a bushel of oats.

The sunflower contains a very nice oil—would it not be well to cultivate it on that account? It is said to burn well in lamps, and as the plant is hardy, and of vigorous growth, it seems that a sufficient produce might be attained, to make it an object of cultivation.—Ib.

Green Manure.

Clover is better than any other grass, for the purpose of plowing in. Some soils are liable to be too loose when there is a large quantity of vegetable matter plowed in. Wheat land needs to be well pulverised and not very loose. Clover roots bring up a large portion of alkali from a great depth, to the surface; and then when plowed in, they furnish the alkali for plants that could not reach to so great a depth. Clover obtains much nourishment from the air, and thus becomes a good fertilizer when plowed in.