

Teachers' Department.

Sabbath School Scripture Lessons.

JANUARY 25th, 1857.

Subject.—PETER AND JOHN REPRIMANDED BY THE COUNCIL AND RELEASED.

For Repeating.— Acts iv. 9-12. For Reading.— Acts iv. 13-22.

FEBRUARY 1st, 1857.

Subject.—THE RETURN OF PETER AND JOHN TO THEIR OWN COMPANY.

For Repeating.— Acts iv. 18-20. For Reading.— Acts iv. 23-37.

Ephraim Holding's Homely Hints to Sunday School Teachers.

DO YOU TURN PASSING OCCURRENCES TO ADVANTAGE?

After all the plans and contrivances which have been laid down for Sunday school teaching, the common routine of your accustomed duties is, perhaps, the most important. There can be no doubt that especial advantages are obtained by addresses, striking remarks, visits of talented and christian-minded strangers, the introduction of new, interesting, and profitable books, and by private conversation with your scholars; still, I do not think that these advantages are altogether equal in importance to those which are secured by a punctual, patient, and persevering attention to your common routine of instruction. If you do no more than teach them to read God's holy word, and impress their minds with the value of prayer and holy things, you will be to them real friends, and kind benefactors.

The Sunday school teacher who can avail himself readily of the little incidents which are continually taking place in every situation, may do much good to those under his care by his apt remarks: he will spread cheerfulness abroad; lighten labour; win the good will of his scholars, and increase his influence among them.

Now, let me give a few instances of what I mean, by way of illustration; it will be odd, indeed, if out of a dozen homely hints, you should not be able to pick out two or three which may be worth remembering.

If a scholar come to school early, let him not suppose that you are unmindful of the circumstance, but rather encourage him with a cheering remark, after the following fashion: "This is something like! A good beginning is the way to a good ending. Give me the boy with a willing mind; one that comes to school by the rail-road, and not by the broad-wheeled wagon."

If a scholar come late. "How is this? A quarter behind time! Had I given notices that a plum cake would have been divided among the early comers you would have been here half an-hour ago; and yet your Sabbath instruction, with God's blessing, will be worth more to you than all the plum-cakes in the world. Now do not come again with heavy heels, take all the lead out of your shoes and see if instead of coming a quarter after time, you cannot get here a quarter before."

When the sun shines. "You see, boys, the sun is doing his duty, now let us do ours. If it would be a shame to sit in idleness by the light of twenty candles, it would be a sin as well as a shame to waste the light of the sun, that millions of candles could not outshine!"

On a dark day. "If we cannot see the sun to-day, it is a great comfort that we can see our books. The people at the Blind Asylum, who have no eye-sight, are as busy as bees on a week-day; let us, then, who have eye-sight, be as busy as bees on the Sabbath."

On a sharp frost. "This is a cold day; but he who sends us the sunshine, sends us the frost; and if the one is intended to do good, so is the other. If there were no frost, there would be no ice, and if you had no ice, you would have no coasting or skating."

On a hot day. "If we were in the East or West Indies, or in an African desert, with no tree to afford us a shade, we should have some cause to complain of the heat; but as it is, we must try to make ourselves easy."

When it rains. "It comes down now, however! It would be a hard task to count the drops of rain, but a much harder one to count God's mercies. In some parts of the world they have no rain for years together, and in other parts it keeps on raining month after month incessantly. Whenever it rains we should thank God for two things; the one, that we have rain enough; the other, that we have not too much."

After a clap of thunder. "If God were al-

ways to speak to us in thunder, it would indeed terrify us. How thankful then should we be for the gentle whisperings of his Holy Word! Every thunder-storm should make us value our Bibles more than ever."

On beginning school. "Now, boys, to business, to business! A Sunday school is like a flower-garden: the books are the flowers, and the scholars are the bees. That is the best bee that gets the most honey, and he is the best boy who gets the most wisdom."

When the clock strikes. "Do you hear the clock, boys? It tells us two things; the one, that we are living; the other that we are dying, for time is hastening on. The striking of a clock should make us thankful for life, and remind us to prepare for death."

To a diligent scholar. "A little wisdom in the head, is worth more than a great deal of money in the pocket; and your diligent habits will do you more good than a gold mine. Only continue as you are going on now, and we shall some day be glad to turn the scholar into a teacher."

To the scholars when about to return home. "Now boys, forget not at home what you have learned at school. I remember many years ago two parties quarreling; the one was determined to build a wall which was wanted, and the other was equally determined that the wall should not be built: so every day a portion of the wall was built by the one party, and every night it was pulled down by the other. Now mind, boys, that you do not pull down during the week the wall we have built together at the Sunday school on the Sabbath."

These instances are merely given, as I said, by way of illustration; they are homely hints which you may turn to advantage, by improving upon them as occasion may serve. You have heard of many such savings as these. "Time and tide wait for no man." "An opportunity lost is never to be regained." "If you lose the ship, you lose the voyage," and "A minute too late is too late forever." Now all these are meant to set forth the wisdom of taking advantage of occasions and opportunities. It is wise to do this through life; it is wise to do it at home and abroad! and it is wise to do it at the Sunday school.

But when I ask, if you turn passing occurrences to advantage, I wish not to confine the inquiry altogether to the hours you pass at the Sunday school. Every day you may do something to render yourselves more capable in the discharge of your duty. Everything that adds to your knowledge, and improves your character; everything that increases your interest in the welfare of young people; deepens your convictions of the hatefulness of sin, imparts an additional value to God's Holy Word, and heightens your desire for the Redeemer's glory, is an advantage. There is as much difference between the teaching of one who is in love with his vocation, and the teaching of another who is influenced by inferior motives, as there is between a real fire and a painted flame. The one is warm, glowing, and grateful; the other is cold and cheerless.

Do not undervalue my hint of laying up on a week-day what may be useful on a Sunday. For several years I was accustomed to spend a few hours, on a certain day of the week with one who was much confined within doors. Invalids are cut off from many enjoyments, and the call of a friend, and the narration of any passing occurrence of interest is often a great gratification to them. Well, I used to store my memory through the week, as well as I could, with such profitable remarks and interesting particulars as came within my reach, so that when the day came round, I had a well supplied budget of welcome intelligence. This became a sure source of mutual gratification; and I question much whether my poor invalid friend received more pleasure in hearing, than I did in narrating the several particulars I had collected together. Try to profit by my experience; and what I did for my invalid friend, do you for your Sunday school.

It has been said that you may walk abroad the whole year without once seeing a pin lying on the ground, but that if you go out with the intention of picking up a pin, you will be sure to find one; if this be a truth, and I am quite inclined to believe it is, there is no reason why it should not be applied to a useful lesson for young people, as well as to a pin. Make it a business to look for something that may be made useful to your scholars, and there is very little doubt but you will find it.

If you see a sun-rise or a sun-set, or a moon-light scene, that impresses your mind with the greatness or beauty of God's glorious creation; or a text of Scripture which exhibits in a striking light the grace of the Redeemer, say to

yourself, "I will mention this at the Sunday school, it has impressed me, it may impress others; if it has called forth gratitude in my heart, it may make the hearts of my Sunday scholars thankful." This custom, persevered in, will become pleasant to you, and pleasant and profitable to those under your care.

Certain it is that young people often remember what we do not suppose has made a lodgment in their minds, and forget what we take the most pains to impress on their memory. The habit of sowing freely is the most likely to secure a good harvest.

When I fall back on my experience, and consider how many of the words and deeds of those who acted kindly to me in my boyish days are treasured in my memory, it operates as an encouragement to pay attention to young people; and willingly would I turn every passing occurrence to their advantage, not even losing my present opportunity of impressing you with the propriety of doing the same thing. Not yet have I forgotten the days of my youth; not yet have I ceased to feel a lively interest in the welfare of young people; and so long as Ephraim Holding truly desires that the world may increase in knowledge, kindness, goodness, and the fear of the Lord, so long must he respect and honour Sunday school teachers, for their christian labours on behalf of the rising generation.

The Newspaper.

In promotion of this desirable object—the union of the intellectual with the useful—the newspaper is an auxiliary. It is more. It is typical of the community in which it is encouraged and circulates. It tells its character, as well as its condition; its tastes as well as its necessities; the moral, as well as the physical stamina of population and soil. It is the map whereon is traced out tendencies and destinies. The chart to direct the traveler and the settler, to divert them from the shoals and quicksands of social degradation. At home, it brings to our firesides, it imparts to our household, it inculcates on our children its sentiments of propriety, or its tone of contamination. Abroad, it is regarded as our oracle, and speaks volumes for or against us. In its business features may be discerned the indications of our prosperity, in a worldly sense, or otherwise; but in its general complexion will be discovered our moral and spiritual healthfulness or disease. It is the portrait of our imperfections as well as the chronicle of our advancement.—Wheeling Intelligencer.

How much for your Body?

The following advertisement appears in some of the London daily papers.—"Skeleton,—"Immortal" finds it impossible to answer the numerous persons wishing to negotiate for the sale of his body, but takes this means of stating that he has received letters from persons sympathising with his views, who are also desirous of disposing of their temporary habitations, and of avoiding the horrors and indignities of burial. No immediate payment is required, but a contract with bona fide security for its fulfilment must be entered into for the payment of the purchase money, not less than 10L, to the representatives or heirs of the deceased; the purchaser to bind himself to prepare the skeleton by cold water maceration, being, however, at liberty to make preparations of any of the soft parts without the body attachments. Offers from public museums will have the preference. As this proposed negotiation is made in good faith, "Immortal" requires his correspondents to give their real names and addresses.—32, Northumberland-place, Bayswater."

Mothers, remember this.

Every loathsome inmate of Penitentiaries and State Prisons was once a gentle, inoffensive and prattling child; and every criminal who has expiated his crimes on the gallows, was once pressed to a mother's breast and drew from her bosom his life-giving nourishment. But immoral training, wrong influences, and debasing examples do their work, and transform endearing offspring to be ferocious men; they shock humanity by the foulness of their guilt and monstrous audacity of their crimes. Yet how seldom has one of the direful transformations been effected without the aid of strong drink.

RE-OPENING OF MADAGASCAR TO MISSIONS.—Authentic information has, says the Evangelical Magazine, been received of the safe arrival of Mr. Ellis at Tamatave, where he received on landing a cordial welcome from the local authorities and foreign residents. In further prosecution of his important enterprise, Mr. Ellis was, upon the invitation of the Queen's Government, to set out for the capital on the 5th of August.

Agriculture.

"Plow deep to find the Gold."

Plow deep to find the gold, my boys; Plow deep to find the gold! The earth has treasures in her breast Unmeasured and untold.

Clothe the mountain tops with trees; The rides with waving grain; Why bring over stormy seas? Whither we may obtain?

Earth is grateful to her sons For their care and toil; Nothing yields such large returns As drained and deepened soil.

Science lent thy kindly aid Her riches to unfold; Moved by the plow or moved by spade Stir deep to find the gold.

Dig deep to find the gold, my boys! Dig deep to find the gold! The earth hath treasures in her breast, Unmeasured and untold.

Uses of Snow.

"The snows," says Count Rumford, "which cover the surface of the earth in winter, in high latitudes, are doubtless designed by an all-provident Creator, as a garment to defend it against the piercing winds from the polar regions which prevail during the cold season.

"These winds, notwithstanding the vast tracts of continent over which they blow, retain their sharpness, as long as the ground they pass over is covered with snow; and it is not till meeting with the ocean, that they acquire, from a contact with its waters, the heat which the snows prevent acquiring from the earth, the edge of their coldness is taken off and they gradually die away and are lost.

"The winds are always found to be much colder when the ground is covered with snow, than when it is bare, and this extraordinary coldness is by many supposed to be communicated to the air by snow; but this is an erroneous opinion; for these winds are in general much colder than the snow itself. They retain their coldness, because the snow prevents them from being warmed at the expense of the earth; and this is a striking proof of the use of snows, in preserving the heat of the earth during the winter in cold latitudes.

"It is remarkable that these winds seldom blow from the poles directly towards the equator, but from the land towards the sea. Upon the eastern coast of North America, the cold winds come from the north-west; but upon the western coast of Europe they blow from the north-east.

Foot Rot in Sheep and Cattle.

A. B. Dickinson, of Steuben County, New York, delivered an address some two years ago before the Courtland County Society, in which, among other things, he spoke of the mode of curing the foot rot in sheep, and foul in the feet of cattle. He said, "I have had some experience for twenty-five years, with what I once considered as one of the most injurious diseases to cattle, and more especially to sheep. I now regard it as of little consequence, and I will trouble you with one of the twenty-five years' operation, and to that end will take the year in which the disease was most malignant, which was in 1850. I purchased in that year more than 30,000 sheep and not less than 1,000 head of cattle upon my farm. During the pasturing seasons more than one-half of all my sheep were affected with the rot, and because they were thus diseased, I purchased so largely. Men came all the way from Ohio to sell me their sheep, expressly on this account. My remedy is simple and plain, and my cure equally sure. I fenced a three-cornered field and at the pointed corner I made a lane. In this lane, or neck of the field, I set a trough twelve feet long, twelve inches deep, of the same width, in which I fasten some scantling with boards, so that only one sheep or other can go through the lane at a time. In a trough I place 50 or 100 pounds of blue vitriol, fill and keep it as full of water as it should be, covering the liquid over with straw, and set the sheep or cattle marching through. By leading a tame ox, the rest will follow. A good shepherd dog will drive through 10,000 in one day. This vitriol will kill the disease. It makes or relieves hoofs, or parts that have rotted off.—Mr. Farmer.

TO MAKE LENS LAY.—Provide them with a warm, light, dry place and not crowded. Give them easy access to clean water, and a variety of food, such as corn, corn and cob meal, into which are stirred a few scraps, with boiling water in cold weather, together with boiled potatoes, pounded oyster or clam shells, gravel, pounded dry bones and oats, barley or wheat, if convenient. But the corn, cob meal, potatoes and scraps are the chief items. Under such treatment, we have never known any broods fatten that did not lay liberally.