

Youths' Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Sunday, January 13th, 1867.

Acts vi. Stephen's piety and zeal. 2 Kings vi. 1-23: Elisha's miracles.

Recite—ACTS V. 29-31.

Sunday, January 20th, 1867.

Acts vii. 1-16: Stephen's address to his accusers. 2 Kings vi. 24-33: The famine in Samaria.

Recite—ROMANS V. 6-8.

The Rills.

I have just been watching the little rills jumping and skipping merrily along, and it made me think of the talk a good doctor once had with some of them as he was travelling one day over the Alleghany mountains.

"What was it?"

Well, he asked them where they were going so fast.

"O," they said, "just down the mountain."

"And what are you going to do as you go down the mountain?" he asked.

"O, we shall make friends with other little rills, and grow bigger," said they.

"And what will you do when you grow bigger?"

"O, we shall turn saw-mills and grist-mills; and when we get down through all the rocks on the plains, we shall set some great iron factories and cotton-mills in motion."

"And what will you do then?"

"Then? why, we shall make the Alleghany and Monongahela rivers, and when we are big enough we shall make the great Ohio."

"And what will you do when you get to be the great Ohio?"

"O, then we shall take on our backs great rafts and steamboats and beautiful ships, and help build up all along beautiful towns and villages and cities."

"And what then?"

"What then? Why, we shall unite our forces—for we do not mean to live by ourselves and for ourselves—with the great Missouri and Mississippi, and help them carry a thousand ships to the great ocean."

"What, you going to do all this, you little rills?"

"Yes, sir, we are; and if you don't believe us, we can't stop to convince you of it, for we are in a hurry;" and off they ran on the jump.

If the little rills are going to do so much, what will not the children do, the boys and the girls who are growing bigger and stronger every day, and will by and by be felt for good or for evil in the world? Some who are bright and sparkling now, will I am afraid, run into the first snug and sunny spot, and there stay until they dry up. An easy, selfish life, blessing nobody, at last shrinks to nothing. Others who are promising now, will, I am afraid, by and by be diverted from the right way, and turn off into dark channels, where they will be lost; and others, a great number of our dear boys and girls, I pray God, may grow up strong and good, to unite their forces with all good and noble work, to bless the places where they live, and make the nation better for their having lived in it.

The Books of the Old Testament.

The following lines, if committed carefully to memory, and repeated occasionally, will enable you to keep in mind the order of the books of the Old Testament:—

The great Jehovah spake to us
In Genesis and Exodus;
Leviticus and Numbers see
Followed by Deuteronomy.
Joshua and Judges sway the land,
Ruth gleams a sheaf with trembling hand;
Samuel, and numerous Kings appear,
Whose Chronicles we wondering hear;
Ezra and Nehemiah now
Esther, the beauteous mourner, show;
Job speaks in sighs, David in Psalms,
The Proverbs teach to scatter aims.
Ecclesiastes then comes on,
And the sweet song of Solomon.
Isaiah, and Jeremiah then
With Lamentations takes his pen.
Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea's lyres
Swell Joel, Amos, Obadiah's.
Next Jonah, Micah, Nabum, come,
And lofty Habakkuk finds room.
While Zephaniah, Haggai calls,
Ezra Zechariah builds his walls;
And Malachi, with garments rent,
Concludes the ancient Testament.

Be Wise to Win.

Edward entered Yale College some thirty years since. His home was in Virginia. He had enjoyed the best Christian influences in his youth, had early formed a habit of daily prayer, and was considered by his friends to be a very hopeful, religious young man.

For some time his home-virtues clung to him after he had entered upon the new and tempting life of a collegian. He was particularly social in his feelings, warm in his affections, and easily influenced by those to whom he became attached. Several of the young men of his class, as is often unhappily the case, were loose in their habits, addicted to smoking and drinking, and much more disposed to cultivate

their opportunities for convivial meetings than to secure an honorable rank in their class. Edward failed to secure for himself the restraints of church fellowship, and to take at first a decided stand as a follower of Jesus. He became warmly attached to his pleasant and jovial classmates. Gradually he yielded his secret devotions, and now without other restraints than the upbraidings of conscience and the tender letters of his father, who was entirely unconscious of the peril, he gave himself up to the seductions of his lively companions. His studies were neglected, he fell into dissipated habits, and after repeated reprimands from the college Faculty, he was suspended for a period from the privileges of the institution; a letter giving an account of his course was sent to his father, and he was directed to return to his home.

The blow fell with great severity, as it was so unexpected, upon the father. The mortification he felt, almost overcame his grief. His pride was so much shocked, that, at first, he was almost inclined to close the door of his home upon Edward. From such a course, which would have driven the young man to desperation, and have proved his certain ruin, his brother-in-law, the uncle of the boy, withheld him.

"Place Edward in my hands," said he, "I will manage the case, and with God's blessing, I will try to win him back again to duty."

Kindly he received the now deeply mortified and humbled boy. He made but little allusion to the painful events that had lately occurred, but he talked of old times, and of former pleasures. He interested himself in the studies and recreations of Edward, and sought to awaken hopes of future success and honor. They talked together, walked together and were rarely separated. Edward began to seem quite like himself again. One evening just before the time of taking their usual walk, the uncle quietly placed a temperance pledge upon the table in Edward's room. They went out together, apparently, with no definite direction in their minds, but the uncle gradually drew his young companion on until they reached the village church-yard. They sat down together upon a well known grave. It was just at the close of day. The sun had gone down, but the clouds were still golden. The silence was unbroken, save by the low notes of the insects.

"Eighteen years ago, my boy," said the Uncle, "you had a mother, and I had a sister. She had been sick for many days, and we had given up all hope of her recovery. She suffered so much pain, that we had come to be resigned to her death, if it were God's will that she should be taken, but we earnestly prayed that she might once more enjoy her reason. For days she had been unconscious of the presence of her friends, and uttered only the words of delirium. About this time one evening, we were called suddenly into her sick room. The blessed light had returned again to her eyes. She was as calm as ever in her life, and the old smile of love welcomed us as we drew near her bed. She called for her babe, and you, my boy, then an infant, was placed in her arms. Such a prayer as she offered for you only a devoted, dying mother could pour into the ear of our Father in heaven. Then she placed you in the hands of your father, and then looking first at him and then at me, she besought us both, as we loved her to watch over her boy, and to be sure that he followed her to heaven. It was her last act, and these were her last words. In a moment more, her body only was with us, her spirit had ascended."

Nothing farther was said. Silently they sat above a mother's sleeping remains, their tears mingling with the evening dew. In the still night they walked without speaking, to the house.

The next morning the Uncle found the Bible open upon the table, and the Pledge was signed. "He that winneth souls is wise."—Zion's Herald.

BRAZIL.

Professor Agassiz has recently, in Boston, given a series of lectures on the explorations he and his associates have made on the South American continent. In these he has brought forth a larger amount of information on the geography, topography, and natural history of the country than has been hitherto available in the English language. Respecting the climate he remarked it "differs from that of other regions in the same latitude, by reason of the great moisture prevailing there. The combination of heat and moisture, he observed, produces a more luxuriant vegetation than is to be found anywhere else. Though most persons are somewhat familiar with descriptions of this vegetation, derived from books of geography and travel, yet when one comes to live there, he is surprised at its extent and beauty.

The life and habits of the Brazilians are modified by the climate. There are not four distinct seasons, as with us; but perpetual summer reigns. There is more or less of rain throughout the year, but no such special period of great prevalence as marks the climate of other tropical regions, where a very dry season succeeds months of copious rain. The rains do not prevail over all sections at the same time, but beginning at the south in September, they progress northward till they reach Guiana in March and April. As a consequence, when the southern tributaries of the Amazon are most swollen, the northern tributaries are at their lowest ebb, and vice versa, and thus a balance is maintained between the upper and lower parts of the basin.

The temperature of the whole valley is remarkably even, varying from the minimum to

the maximum not more than fifteen degrees. The temperature of the water of the Amazon is also even, the maximum being 84 degrees, and the minimum 78. Other streams show a little variation in this respect. In consequence of this evenness of temperature, there is a feeling of comfort most agreeable to the inhabitants.

In speaking of the extraordinary profuse vegetation of the valley, Professor Agassiz said it covered the whole surface of the land, and encroached upon the water. Indeed, the quantity of water plants is as remarkable as that of terrestrial plants. The density of the land vegetation is so great that the only means of traversing the country is by the water courses, and when the traveller leaves these, he must cut his way with the axe; so that, however civilization may extend here, there can never be any extensive land communication, on account of the great expenditure which would be required for bridges. There is a peculiar charm in these water paths. In some places they are only wide enough for the passage of a boat constructed of a hollow log and are arched with foliage. In other localities they have sufficient width for the passage of ships. These streams so intersect one another that it is often difficult for the voyager to determine whether he is sailing in a branch or in the main channel. There is no direct course in which the water finds its way; but it takes innumerable channels, sometimes at right angles with each other and all containing an astonishing number of islands. The presence of islands in the Amazon makes it impossible to see across the whole breadth of the stream; and even if there were no islands, the great width of the stream would prevent a view from shore to shore. Not till the traveller gets above the Rio Negro, twelve hundred miles from the ocean, can he see both sides of the river from the same point.

Words are wanting to express the variety, beauty and combinations of this vegetation. One of its most striking characteristics is its heterogeneity. There are not simply a few kinds found together, presenting sameness and monotony, as at the north. On the contrary, there are hardly ever two plants of the same species, found side by side. The trees do not stand alone, in open spaces, but are clothed and interlaced with vines, creepers and parasites, hard to penetrate. This character of the vegetation extends over the whole basin. In the lakes the aquatic plants grow so thickly that the traveller threading his way among them with a boat sails for miles without seeing either water or earth. Nothing, said the professor, is to be compared to this view, especially when the water is covered for many miles by that magnificent water lily, the Victoria Regia, with its splendid whiteness. On these plant covered water-flocks of birds heighten the variety of the scene. Storks, herons, and other fowl run over them as if upon dry land.

Professor Agassiz exhibited some of the smaller leaves and fruit stalks of the palm, to give an idea of the immense growth to which they attain, and of their remarkable fecundity. The leaves of some species were so large that he had seen two men sitting in the axil of one of them. Some of those leaves measure thirty to forty feet in length, and ten to fifteen in width; and even when dry one of them was a heavy load for one man to drag.

Professor Agassiz gives a most glowing account of the birds of Brazil. He said:

"One of the glories of South America was the family of humming birds. They are found not only in the low lands, but in all the valleys of the Andes, in hundreds of varieties. It is quite remarkable, the lecturer observed, that there are no humming birds on earth, except those found on the American continent. It is also a peculiarity of the birds of brilliant plumage, that those having the most brilliant colors are the least remarkable in their song.

With reference to the mammalia, the localization of the different species was still more striking. The lecturer described several families of aquatic mammalia found in Brazil, both cetaceous and pachydermatous—the tapir and the peccary being the only genera of the latter. There were evidences, he said, that the rhinoceros, the elephant and the megatherium, (the latter a genus of itself,) once had representatives in this country; and a Dutch naturalist had discovered a larger number of extinct species of animals in Brazil than now exist there of living species. It was evident, therefore, that if the animal world began with a small number of varieties, as some contended, then we know nothing of that beginning.

In the family of ruminants there are no bulls, cows, sheep or antelopes. Even the deer, so numerous in North America, Europe and Asia, are in Brazil reduced to a few small species, not exceeding the size of the common goat. The whole host of fur animals characterizing northern regions are wanting, and they are replaced by many varieties of skunks.

The closing portion of the lecture was devoted to the subject of the monkey tribes, and he felt bound to express his convictions on this subject. While regarding the monkey tribes as the highest of the quadrupedal mammalia, and as next to man, he could not sanction the doctrine of the final transformation of monkeys into man, and was not inclined to admit that we are descendants of the highest monkeys. In this connection the lecturer remarked in an interesting manner upon the characteristics of the monkey the orangoutan, the chimpanzee, the gorilla and the gibbon, marking them as families distinct from man, and though in many points having affinity, yet having different parentage.

We should see the evidence of a thinking mind in the whole creation, and recognize ourselves as the children of God, and not as the children of monkeys.

Prayer in a Bar-room.

Taverns are generally regarded as hopeless places for Christian effort. Since, at the birth of the Saviour, there was no room for Him in the inn, it has been thought wise to pass them by in attempts to do good. But they ought not to be neglected. The following is in point:

A colporter in Minnesota, visiting a low grogery, found a man stretched at full length on a bench, sleeping off the fumes of very bad whiskey, and put a tract in his bosom. He has since learned that this man has spent his last cent for strong drink. While there, the wife of the bar-keeper came in, and looked at his books, and purchased three. The colporter began to converse with her about religion, and asked her if she read the Bible. She replied, bitterly, "I wouldn't have it in my house."

"Do you not want to be saved?" he asked.

"The Bible won't save any one," she said.

"We have the assurance that if we follow its instructions we shall be saved," he replied. As he continued his conversation she began to soften, and finally sat down and listened attentively. He tried to persuade her to purchase a Bible; but failing to do so, offered her a beautiful gilt pocket Bible, the only one he had, on condition that she would read it. After some hesitation, she consented. He then proposed to read and pray with them. She readily consented. "Taking the book from her," he says, "I read a portion of Matthew; and then, kneeling in the fifth of that bar-room, breathing that whiskey-tainted atmosphere, I lifted my heart to God in earnest, fervent supplication, offering my first prayer in a saloon. I can never find more attentive listeners than the poor, debased inmates of that house. 'O, sir,' said the woman, as I arose from my knees, 'I wish you would come every day.' The bar-tender gave an expression of approval. As I returned the Bible to her, I solemnly impressed upon her the importance of keeping her promise."

Lawsuit about a Comma.

Shortly after the commencement of the war of the Rebellion, some gentlemen in New York chartered a vessel for carrying freight. In the articles of agreement this sentence occurred: "The said vessel is to carry 2100 tons or more provided she does not draw over 15 feet of water." Upon loading the ship it was found that when 1800 tons had been received, she drew 15 feet of water, and the captain, under instructions from the owner, refused to take in any more. Upon this, the company who had chartered her, refused to pay the price agreed upon, and a lawsuit for \$14,000 followed, which is now in progress. If a comma had been placed after the word *tons* in the contract, the meaning would have been perfectly clear, showing that 2100 tons were to be carried in any case, and more, if the draft of the vessel would permit it with safety. As it now stands, the meaning is at least doubtful, and as both parties read it to suit their own interests, it will cost them many dollars and much trouble to have the matter settled by the lawyers.

SHAKING HANDS.—It is a very old fashioned way of indicating friendship. We read in the Book of books that Jehu said to Jehonadab, "Is thy heart right as my heart is with thy heart? It is, give me thine hand." And it is not merely an old-fashioned custom. It is a natural one as well. It is the contact of sensitive and magnetic surfaces through which there is, in something more than merely a figurative sense, an interchange of feeling.

CAUSES OF DRUNKENNESS.—Of four men who were recently convicted at one of our police courts of drunkenness and disorderly conduct on the Sabbath, the first pleaded that he had been to a funeral; the second that he had been to a wedding; and the two last, that they had been to christenings. Fathers, mothers, and teachers! labor to break down these ruinous drinking customs, and let not another generation be blighted by them!

Allow me to say a word for myself. I have been using Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup in my family since first introduced in this city. I think it an excellent article, and would not be without it on any consideration.

Extract from J. D. Adams' letter to Chicago Times:—It softens the gums, reduces inflammation, regulates the bowels, cures wind colic and corrects acidity, gives rest and health to the child and comforts the mother.

DESERVING OF CONFIDENCE.—There is no article which so richly deserves the entire confidence of the community as "Brown's Bronchial Troches." The Troches have received flattering commendations from the most celebrated Clergymen, Lawyers, and Public Speakers, who speak from personal experience. Those suffering from Asthmatic and Bronchial Diseases, Coughs and Colds, should try the Troches.

Persons troubled with cramp in the stomach, side or bowels, sore throat, &c., by a combined internal and external application of Johnson's Anodyne Liniment cannot fail of certain and speedy cure.

Old and apparently worthless horses can be rejuvenated and stimulated to newness of life by the use of Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powders. Try them—it will not cost much, and the money will be refunded if satisfaction is not given.

When an extravagant friend wishes to borrow your money, consider which of the two you had rather lose.