

Youths' Department.

BIBLE LESSONS.

(From "Robinson's Harmony.")

Sunday, August 8th, 1869.

JOHN viii. 20-42: Jesus reproves the unbelieving Jews.

Recite.—Scripture Catechism, 37, 38.

Sunday, August 15th, 1869.

JOHN viii. 42-59: Address of our Lord to the Jews.

Recite.—S. C., 39, 40.

ANSWER TO A BIBLE PICTURE IN OUR LAST.

"SHIBBOLETH."—Judges xii. 1-6. Compare John iii. 26, and Acts iv. 12.

Dying souls fast bound in sin,
Trembling and repining,
With no ray of light Divine
On your pathway shining,
Why in darkness wander on,
Filled with consternation?
Jesus lives,—in Him alone
Can you find salvation.

SCRIPTURE ENIGMA.

No. XVI.

What made St. Peter his dear Lord deny?
What frailty held Paul's ship through midnight hours?

What does God give his servants when they die?
What will be wipe from these sad eyes of ours?
What shall we never suffer any more,
In mind or body, on the shadeless shore?

By these initials let us find
What would have strengthened Peter's mind
His suffering Lord to claim:
What keeps full many a spirit right,
Which else would sink and pass from sight,
In waves of sin and shame,—
And makes the peace and glory known,
Of that sweet home which is our own,
In our dear Saviour's name.

COUSIN MABEL'S EXPERIENCES.

BY MISS E. J. WHATELY.

No. XXVI.

THE TWO WORLDS.

"It was with mingled surprise and joy that I read Bertha's next letter:—

"I can now tell you, dear Cousin Mabel, that I have had friends raised up for me and comfort brought when I least expected it. You will never guess who have been my 'good Samaritans.' But will tell you all in order. I was lying solitary and sad on the sofa, listening to the splash of the waves on the beach, and with no prospect of any change till Mrs. Groves brought me my beef-tea for luncheon, when I was startled by her announcing that a lady wanted to see me. I was too languid to deny myself, though too depressed even to wonder who it could be—when, the next moment, who should appear but Miss Sarah Ferris! in the same old-fashioned costume we used all to laugh at, but with her face so beaming with benevolence, that I began to wonder how I could have thought her plain. She explained that on account of her father's health, they had just taken a house for a couple of months at Seaview, and having heard that very morning of my being here, ill and alone, she had come to see if she could be of any service. 'I know what illness is,' she said—'I have had a good deal of experience in nursing, and if your attendant has any commission in the town, perhaps you will allow me to sit by you till she comes back: I will read or talk to you, or sit silent, whichever you like best.' She spoke in such a gentle sympathizing tone, that I was quite overcome—the whole past seemed brought before me—I felt so ashamed to think how I used to turn her into ridicule,—in short I could do nothing but burst into tears. She soothed me, gently and tenderly, sat down by me, bathing my aching forehead with eau de Cologne—she had just got such a good sort which I must try,—and then she found my cushions were not comfortable, and settled them as I had never had them settled yet—and there was something in all these little actions which had a soothing, calming effect I can't describe. If any one could have told me this a year ago, I should never have believed it! I had thought her manners so awkward in a drawing-room full of company, but they seemed made for a sick-room. And when she repeated some verses of hymns in her low gentle voice, I felt as if a refreshing breeze had passed over me and cooled the inward fever. When she was obliged at last to leave me to hurry home to her father's early dinner, I felt calmer and more peaceful than I had been for very long. She promised to come again next day, and the same evening Corinne and Harriet brought me a beautiful basket of fruit and flowers. It seemed to me that their manners were wonderfully improved: at all events their wish to help me was so evident that I could not have been critical.

"I don't know, Cousin Mabel, if you have observed how one gets so long for the presence of a person who had soothed one when feeling ill and nervous: I found myself watching for Sarah Ferris' step on the stairs next day; and when she did come, I am sure if she had all the beauty and grace in the world, I could not have been

more glad to see her. She said almost as soon as she was seated by me—'Do you know I have been thinking almost ever since I left you yesterday of your being so lonely and uncomfortable here. I am sure these rooms are close and noisy for an invalid; and I have been talking to my father about it; and he commissions me to ask you to come across to us and take up your abode with us while we stay here, or till you are tired of us and able to go elsewhere. Our house is not far off, and is too large for us; Rosie and Lizzie are staying with an aunt at S—, and we really have more room than we know what to do with. We could give you a nice little apartment for your own use, a sitting-room and bedroom opening into each other, and one for your attendant close by, and you need not join our circle more than you liked. The rooms are so quiet that no noise would trouble you; the girls would run your errands and wait upon you; and I would help nurse you and do whatever I could for you; we could make all the arrangements here that are wanted, with Mrs. Groves' help, and have an easy carriage to take you, and my father would have a real pleasure in receiving you.'—in short she made it all so easy, and made me feel so truly that they all wished it, that I could not refuse; and the next day, without any trouble on my part, I was lifted into the carriage and moved to No. 4, Marine Villas, and installed in the quietest rooms in the house, with everything arranged in the most thoughtful way for my comfort. I found fresh flowers and books in the pretty cheerful sitting-room, my sofa placed where it would command the prettiest view from the window and carefully screened from draughts, indeed every wish seemed to have been forestalled. When Corinne and Harriet came in to show me some of the seaside curiosities they had been collecting, their voices and manner seemed wonderfully toned down from what I remember them; and when I saw how eager and ready they were to oblige me, and observed their evident affection and respect for their father and sister, I could not help contrasting them, much to their advantage, with some I had left, when I remembered Georgina Bouvrie's impertinent sallies, and even her sister's often flippant and disrespectful manners to both parents.

"The next day I was well enough to join the circle at their cheerful tea-table, and I never can forget the family reading that evening: Colonel Ferris' few simple remarks after the portion of Scripture had been read, quite went to my heart. I don't know that he said anything particular that was new to me, but he spoke of looking away from ourselves and up at Christ, and not letting ourselves be kept back by despondency or doubts from 'drawing nigh unto God'; and all was said so simply and from the heart, and the prayer so fervent and natural, that I felt inexpressibly calmed and cheered, and went to rest that night with a sense of quietness and repose I had not felt for months.

"Next day I had a long talk with Sarah Ferris alone in my dear little sitting-room. I do not know exactly how it happened, but as she sat by me with her knitting—she is always knitting something useful for somebody or other—we got insensibly into confidential discourse; and I found myself led on by her gentle sympathy into telling her a good deal of my past life. She said she was not at all surprised at my being repelled and chilled by her relations the Mordaunts; for she herself used to be terribly afraid of 'Aunt Catherine'; and it was only of late years she learned really to understand her and appreciate the real goodness and valuable qualities which lay hid behind so much dryness and reserve of manner. 'Aunt Catherine's education had been much neglected,' she said, 'and she's had to work hard to make up for early deficiencies; and then she had had much early trouble and sorrow, and in a way which obliged her to repress all outward expression of feeling. She has naturally very strong feelings, and they have been forcibly driven inwards, and it seems as if a coat of ice covered them over. And she is so anxious about Laura and Charlotte's enjoying advantages which she was deprived of, that I think she does keep them under too much of the 'high pressure' system. But she has had a severe lesson, poor thing, for Laura has been alarmingly ill lately, and they think the brain has been overworked; I used to be uneasy about her frequent headaches when I was there, and feared there was something wrong. And now she is forbidden all mental labour and ordered perfect idleness and change of air. Uncle Mordaunt has been out of health too, and they are all going abroad soon, and Lizzie will most likely go with them. I am sorry you won't see her; but I think when you are well enough to see more of Harriet and Corinne, you will think them improved. I know you thought they had dreadful manners that summer at Pelham,' she added, smiling. I felt quite embarrassed and tried to say something civil, I hardly knew what. She told me that after I went, Fanny Lonsdale and her sister had been laughing a great deal at the four girls, and had been showing some friend of theirs a caricature Annette Bouvrie had drawn of them. This friend had let it out to another, and so it had come round to poor Sarah and the Colonel, and they had been greatly hurt and pained. 'I knew,' said poor Sarah, humbly, 'it was very much my fault; they had always been very affectionate and respectful to my father and me, and having a great deal to take up my time and thoughts, I was sadly blind, I am afraid, to their faults of manner. Poor girls! I think the mortification did them good, as it did me; but since then my cousin Frank Ellis has been a good deal with us, and I am sure his advice and influence has done them great good. You did see some change for the better, did not you?' she added anxiously.

"I could honestly say I had already, little as I had seen of them. I found that 'Cousin Frank' was a nephew of Colonel Ferris, and

had been chaplain to his regiment in India for several years.—He had now come home, being recently appointed to a college living; and being on terms of very close intimacy with the family, and also being a very keen observer, and possessing and discrimination and good sense, he was able to give them advice about their deficiencies in manner as no one had ever done before. They were really candid, well-disposed girls, and when once their eyes were opened to the disagreeable impression they had created wherever they went, they saw the duty of setting themselves seriously to correct their faults; and I have been quite surprised to see the improvement in all their ways. A little rusticity there may still be, but ill-breeding there certainly is not, and their thoughtfulness and consideration for my comfort has been unvarying. Sarah Ferris and I have also had much conversation about my experience of fashionable life. She said how thankful she felt that their position and circumstances had been such as to guard herself and her sisters from influences she saw in the case of others to be really dangerous. 'I may say,' she said, 'that I had no youth, for my dear mother died when I was still but a girl, and I had to be mother to them all. I entered too early on serious duties to have time for any girlish day-dreams. If I had been brought into the world, I might have felt mortification at my own deficiencies, for of course I could never have expected to attract any admiration, or have what worldly people call success. But there was never any question of such a life for any of us. My father would not have approved of it; and living in a cheerful circle of near connexions and old friends in the country, my sisters never felt the want of society. I often feel very thankful we have all been so sheltered. But you, Bertha, who have experienced these difficulties and temptations, and now been brought to see your way rightly, you may be of more use to others who are in danger from such influences than my sisters and I could be, for you know the kind of life from experience, and that helps one always to warn others better.'

"I told her I felt I was brought too low to hope to be of use to any one again.

"My father always says it is when people have been brought low that they are most likely to be useful to others,' she replied; 'and that when God is going to make use of any of his people, he often begins by humbling them very deeply. He says he has experienced this himself very often, and I think I have too. No, dear Bertha, I think you have been undergoing this severe discipline just to prepare you to be really useful in a suter way than you could have been otherwise. You have learned very useful lessons. They have been burnt in by sorrow and trial, as my father calls it, and now you are going—are you not?—to give yourself up to the Lord's service in good earnest, and make use of all the powers he has given you, and the large means you will have at your command, for him. I am sure he will use you as an instrument of good to others and to glorify his name, and what could any one wish for better than that?'

"I have given her words, to show you what a kind and wise counsellor I have in her. I cannot tell you how cheered and encouraged I have felt since this conversation. It has made me feel I have still a future of active usefulness before me; and I trust, dear Cousin Mabel, you will see that the lessons of the past year have not been thrown away upon me. I had been, I now see, trying to do what our Lord had said was impossible—to serve two masters; and so I was led more and more to go the way of the world and forsake what I knew was the right path. I can now look back and thank the Lord for opening my eyes in time; and I trust, with his blessing, to be enabled henceforth to live as his faithful disciple, endeavouring 'to walk worthy of my high calling,' and to 'use this world as not abusing it.'

"And so end Bertha's letters; at least, all of those I had selected to read to you. I have only to tell you, in conclusion, that she has been enabled to act on these resolutions in strength not her own, and to live as becomes a real, earnest Christian, working for the Lord, cheerful and bright, and ready to enter into innocent engagements, and yet keeping clear of all that is inconsistent with an earnest, decided Christian life."

"But did she remain with these friends?" said Lucy; "or what became of her? Where does she live now?"

"I have purposely altered all the proper names in my narrative, so I could not give you her present residence. But I can tell you that she is now mistress of a happy home of her own. She remained, I believe, for some months an inmate of the Ferris' family, she and her hosts becoming more and more endeared to each other; and when her health was entirely restored, she accompanied them to their own home. There she was introduced to the 'Cousin Frank Ellis' of whom Sarah had spoken, a sensible, intelligent Christian man, and one whose merits she was fully able to appreciate. Their acquaintance led to a mutual attachment, and before another year had passed Bertha became his wife. I have been their guest since in their pretty parsonage, and rejoiced in seeing my dear young friend the model of a happy, useful, active Christian wife and mother, as she is to this day. And now it is time we should separate, my dear girls, for you know I am a friend to early hours. Bertha's history, I think, needs no comment; and if it impresses on you more strongly the importance of Christian wisdom on the one hand, and Christian consistency on the other, of cultivating those things that are 'lovely,' as well as 'of good report,' and, at the same time, being watchful against that love of the world which is so fatal a snare to all who would walk as Christians, I shall not have read this little narrative in vain."

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mr. Ness, who was for some time co-pastor with Mr. Spurgeon at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, but who was compelled through ill-health to seek another climate, has recently commenced a college at Melbourne, Australia, on the same principle, we mistake not, as that on which the pastors of large cities. Mr. Spurgeon regarding this institution as a branch of his own, has made Mr. Ness a grant of £100.

It was so dark in Manchester the other day that for several hours gas-light was necessary to any one who wished either to read or write. There was no thunderstorm, no rain, and no fog.

The losses or liabilities incurred by the Government in respect of deposits in Post-office Savings-banks through forgery, embezzlement, &c., otherwise have amounted, in the whole sea and a quarter years since their establishment, to £1,367. The amount received from depositors and interest thereon has been £27,153,571; the payment to depositors, £15,486,915.

In the Court of Queen's Bench, on Tuesday a lady named Warren, a teacher of dancing, sued the Great Northern Railway Company for compensation for injuries received at Spalton Station. Her foot there caught in a hole in the waiting-room carpet, and she fell with such violence that she could no longer pursue her calling—the jury gave her £1,500.

UNUSUAL.—A case of liberal giving is reported in the *Daily Review* of Manchester. On Sunday last at the Baptist chapel Rochdale-road (Mr. A. B. Taylor's formerly the Rev. W. Gadsby's), the collection to defray the expenses of painting and repairing the church amounted in the morning to £229 16s. 8d., and the minister announced that there would be no collection in the evening, as the sum received was more than enough for the purpose.

It is said that the Rev. H. Stowell Brown, of Liverpool, intends to visit America.

Dr. Strelbel, of Wurtemberg, has a book against Methodism, in which he styles it "spiritual brandy."

A petition signed by a great number of German Protestant clergymen has just been presented to the Prussian Reichstag, with the object of having a check put on the increasing immorality of theatrical representations.

A singular charge was recently investigated at the Middlesex Sessions. About five weeks ago a man, calling himself William Johnson, went to an infant-school in High Street, Marylebone, and under the pretence that he was the father of a little boy three years old, took the child away, and had since employed it for the purpose of imposing upon charitable persons. He was sentenced to be kept to hard labour for twelve months.

A ROYAL TRAVELLER.—The Duke of Edinburgh was to have left New Zealand last month for the Fiji Islands, and was afterwards going to Tahiti and the Hawaiian group. In August he will visit Japan, in September and October China, and thence in November he will go to Singapore and Penang, but will arrive at Calcutta before the close of the year. In April, 1870, he purposes to be in Ceylon, at Mauritius in May, the Cape of Good Hope in the first of June and July, and at St. Helena in August.

A LITERARY RUSSIAN.—A few weeks ago a man dressed in the coarse suit of a Russian peasant, entered the office of a publisher at St. Petersburg, and asked him for employment. The publisher thought he wanted a place as a porter, or to do other manual labor; to his great surprise, however, he was told that such was not the case. The peasant, on the contrary, wanted employment as translator from the English, French, German, Spanish, or Italian. He said his name was Ivan Pronin, and he owned a hut and a small piece of ground. All the above mentioned languages he had acquired from grammars and dictionaries. An examination showed that he was able to translate the most difficult passages in a very pure and fluent style. The publisher engaged him immediately to translate one of Lewis' philosophical works from the English. The most curious feature about this learned peasant is that he works all day in the field and devotes only his leisure hours in the evening to literary employment.

Queen Isabella says that if she had known how nice Paris was she would have abdicated long ago.

The stock certificates, bonds, deeds, and other representatives of money left by Baron Rothschild, weighed over a ton.

The Rothschild family mausoleum is fitted up like a drawing-room and made as cheerful a chamber as one could desire for the long sleep.

The relaxing power of "Johnson's Anodyne Liniment" is truly wonderful. Cases are already numerous where bent and stiffened limbs have been limbered and straightened by it. When used for this purpose, the part should be washed and rubbed thoroughly. Apply the Liniment cold, and rub it in with the hand.

A crowd of "horse men," and others, daily throng the stores in country and town for "Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powders." They understand that horses cannot be kept in good condition without them, and with them can be on a much less quantity of grain.

A fact worth remembering.—Five cents worth of "Sheridan's Cavalry Condition Powders," given to a horse twice a week, will save double that amount in grain, and the horse will be fatter, sleeker, and every way worth more money than though he did not have them.