

The Christian Messenger.

BIBLE LESSONS FOR 1876.

INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

SUNDAY, June 4th, 1876.—The Apostles in Prison.—Acts v. 12-26.

COMMIT TO MEMORY: Vs. 17-23.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"If a man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God on this behalf." 1 Peter iv. 16.

DAILY READINGS.—Monday, Psa. xxvii. 1-7. Tuesday, Matthew x. 16-30. Wednesday, John xv. 18-27. Thursday, Ex. i. 8-14. Friday, Ezekiel xxxiii. 1-11. Saturday, 2 Thessalonians i. Sunday, 1 Peter iv. 12-19.

ANALYSIS.—I. Power and dignity of the apostles. Vs. 12, 13. II. Progress of the faith. Vs. 14. III. Miracles multiplied. Vs. 15, 16. IV. Imprisoned and delivered. Vs. 17-21. V. Investigation. Vs. 21-26.

EXPOSITION.—This lesson presents to us (1.) The gospel prevailing; (2.) The Sanhedrim resisting.

I. The Gospel prevailing.

Verse 12.—By the hands of the apostles. Nearly equivalent to the phrase, "by the apostles," but more vivid. The hand is the usual member by which we execute our work. This does not refer the power of miracles to the will of man. God, and he only, ever did, or can put forth the power of omnipotence. Many signs and wonders. In answer to the prayer recorded in iv. 30. The word miracle means wonder. The people. Publicly, and not in darkened rooms, before picked witnesses. And they were [that is, continuously, day after day] all. Some refer this only to the apostles. It seems more natural to extend it to Christians generally. It would not then mean that all the thousands were there, but there was the meeting-place of Christians, and all who there met were of one mind, etc. Solomon's porch. "Annexed to the outer wall were halls which surrounded the Temple, and were thirty cubits [forty-five feet] wide, except at the south side, where the royal hall seems to have been three fold, or three times wider than the other halls. The roofs of these halls were of cedar wood, and were supported by marble columns twenty-five cubits [thirty-seven feet] high."—Kurtz. Solomon's porch was a hall on the east, supposed by Josephus to have remained from Solomon's time. These halls were entirely public, and were naturally resorted to by the Christians at such a time.

Verse 13.—And of the rest. Those not believers in contrast with the "all" of vs. 12. No one durst, etc. Because of the judgment on the two convicted hypocrites. They dared not join save as by the divine Spirit they were joined. But the people, etc. That they were not doing, but this they were. "Magnified" is either to make great, or to recognize and treat as great. Here the latter. "The people" here is most naturally understood of the Jewish people generally.

Verse 14.—Believers. Indicating the distinction of character between the Christian party, and "the rest." The more. Not only notwithstanding, but just because of the awe, and its restraints. See above on vs. 13. Added to the Lord. That is, to Jesus Christ. A phrase very happily and forcefully showing that Christians are united together, each to each, only as they are all united to the common Head, members one of another by being members in Him. They are not a mere party with their own cause and interests, self-constituted, self-controlled. Multitudes. No longer numbered, i. 15; ii. 41; iv. 4. Both of men and women. The latter not less than the former were baptized, and standing thus in a relation somewhat different from that assigned them under the Jewish law. Gal. iii. 28.

Verse 14.—Insomuch, etc. It was known and felt that for mercy and not for retribution had God sent his servants, and clothed them with power. On beds and couches. These words designate the couches respectively of the wealthy and of the poor, all classes were reached, eager for help. The shadow of Peter. Showing a strong, but not necessarily superstitious faith.

Verse 16.—The cities round about. The tidings spread. Vexed with unclean spirits. The distinction between the diseased, and the possessed, is here, as elsewhere, maintained, and it is the

more significant, as Luke was a physician, and on such a point would speak with professional accuracy. They were healed every one. This "every one" is worth noting. It was a sign that no man should fail of eternal salvation if he would go to the Lord. They should be forgiven, accepted, cleansed, "EVERY ONE." John iii. 3; Joshua xxiii. 14-16.

II. The Sanhedrim resisting.—Verse 17.—The high priest. Either Annas or Caiaphas. And those with him. Of the same theological views, Sadducees, denying the resurrection. Rose up. Was "stirred up," as we say; roused from a state of indifference toward the Christians. Filled with indignation. Showing the nature and the degree of the passion that had aroused them.

Verse 18.—Laid their hands on, etc. The last argument of a bad cause.

Verse 19.—The [an] angel of the Lord. Sent by Jesus, as his servant. Heb. i. 14. Power is matched by power. Precious lesson of divine comfort.

Verse 20.—Go, stand, etc. God was determined to match and overmatch the adversary at every point. All the words. Not holding back through fear. This life. Eternal life as revealed and assured through Christ's resurrection.

Verse 21.—Early in the morning. Literally, at the early dawn. In the warm East the people "commence the day much earlier than is customary with us." But the High Priest, etc. The opposite party, too, is early astir on the same morning.

Verses 22, 23.—With vs. 19 we can understand this failure.

Verse 24.—Doubted. They began to feel that they were not masters of the situation.

Verse 25.—Then came, etc. If they before doubted, this news would well-nigh change doubt to despair.

Verse 26.—Without violence, etc. The officers were afraid, but unable to inspire fear.

QUESTIONS.—Vs. 12. How were the wonderful powers of the apostles shown? What is meant by "with one accord in Solomon's porch?" Where was this porch? John x. 23.

Vs. 13. To whom do the words "the rest" refer? Why did "the people," and not the rulers, magnify the apostles? In our prayers for our rulers for what should we pray? 1 Tim. ii. 2.

Vs. 14. Why the phrase "men and women?"

Vs. 15. Did this miraculous power fulfil any promise of Jesus? Mark xvi. 18.

Vs. 17. What was it that enraged the rulers? What preaching did they in particular dislike? For what were the Pharisees noted? Ans. For what were the Sadducees? Which party had the majority in the Sanhedrim? Ans. The Sadducees.

Vs. 18. Were all the apostles probably imprisoned?

Vs. 19. Are "sealed graves," or "closed prison doors," hindrances to Omnipotence?

Vs. 20. What had Peter already said of "this life"? John vi. 68.

Vs. 21. On the discovery of the escape of the apostles from prison, what is the Sanhedrim chiefly concerned to know?

Vs. 26. Why should they fear the people, if innocent of wrong doing?

—Baptist Teacher.

SUNDAY, June 11th, 1876.—The Apostles before the Council.—Acts v. 27-42.

YOUTHS' DEPARTMENT.

Don't take it to heart.

There's many a trouble
Would break like a bubble,
And into the waters of Lethe depart,
Did not we rehearse it,
And tenderly nurse it,
And give it a permanent place in the heart.

There's many a sorrow
Would vanish to-morrow,
Were we not unwilling to furnish the wings;
So sadly intruding,
And quietly brooding,
It hatches out all sorts of horrible things.

How welcome the seeming
Of looks that are beaming,
Whether one's wealthy or whether one's poor
Eyes bright as a berry,
Cheeks red as a cherry,
The groan and the curse and the heart-ache can cure.

Resolved to be merry,
All worry to ferry
Across the famed waters that bid us forget,
And no longer fearful,
But happy and cheerful,
We feel life has much that's worth living for yet.

—GEORGINA C. CLARK, in *Tinsley's Mag.*

Macaulay's Precocity.

Master Macaulay was the most precious little boy of whom we have any account in English literature. There is extant a letter from his mother dated in his eighth year, and narrating his literary doings. He had written a compendium of universal history from the creation down; he had written three cantos of "The Battle of Cheviot," a metrical romance; and two cantos of a heroic poem entitled "Olaf the Great; or, The Conquest of Mona;" and he had composed she knew not how many hymns. Good Mrs. Hannah More, who was a judge of that staple, pronounced these hymns to be "quite extraordinary for such a baby." He was a constant visitor at Barley Wood, where he was encouraged, and not spoiled. All the Misses More made a companion of him and relished his conversation. Mrs. Hannah, who was in her sixties, superintended his studies, his pleasures, and his health. She kept him with her for weeks, listening to him as he read prose by the ell and declaimed poetry by the yard. She discussed and compared with him his favorite heroes, ancient, modern, and fictitious; coaxed him into the garden walks under the pretense of a lecture on botany; and sent him from his books to run a bout the ground, or into the kitchen to play cooking. She gave him Bible lessons, which always ended with theological arguments. When the conversation turned on her more dramatic days, she could tell him of the great English Roscius, who was her dear friend; of that singular coxcomb, James Boswell, who died about twelve years before; of the great Dr. Johnson ("who bullied your grandfather so, Tom, at Inverary, as you read last week in Boswell—the doctor was a good Christian, but he was rather rough at times, more's the pity;") of Sir Joshua, Miss Burney, Mrs. Thrale now Mrs. Piozzi, who is seventy, if she is a day, Miss Patty declares. She could tell him of old Lord Bathurst, who had known Pope and Swift and the wits of Queen Anne's time. When he was six, she wrote him: "Though you are a little boy now, you will one day, if it please God, be a man; but long before you are a man, I hope you will be a scholar. I therefore wish you to purchase such books as will be useful to you then and that you employ this very small sum in laying a little tiny corner-stone for your future library."—R. H. STODDARD, in *Harper's Magazine* for June.

The Stained Window.

Lord Macaulay tells us that in an English cathedral, there is an exquisite stained window, which was made by an apprentice out of the pieces of glass which had been rejected by his master, and it was so far superior to every other in the church, that, according to tradition, the envious artist killed himself with vexation.

All the builders of society had neglected the "sinners," and made the painted window of the "righteous." Jesus Christ took this neglected and rejected material, and out of it made the fairest and best specimens of manhood. The brightest stars in the moral galaxy—the most exquisite window in the heavenly temple.

Earth's outcasts become God's noble-men and heaven's heirs, through redeeming grace.—*Christian Voices.*

Here is a Centennial contrapt. First as "Poor Richard" had it in 1776:

"Farmer at the plow,
Wife milking the cow,
Daughter spinning yarn,
Son thrashing in the barn,
All happy to a charm."

And now for the modern improvements in 1876:

"Farmer goes to see a show,
Daughter at the piano,
Madam gayly dressed in satin,
All the boys learning Latin,
With a mortgage on the farm."

ABOUT SHUTTING DOORS.—Boys and girls will always show to strangers whether they are well bred and polite or not, by the manner in which they open and shut a door. If they open it in a hurry and in a rush, or if they neglect to shut it, or shut it carelessly, or with a slam, they show they are not well behaved or polite. You should always open and close doors gently and carefully. The proverb says: "Actions speak more loudly than words."

The Centennial Exhibition.

The papers are largely filled with descriptions of the various parts of the Exhibition, and suggestions to their readers how to proceed when visiting Philadelphia so as to get the full benefit of the sights. We shall not follow them in all this as our space is largely required for other matters. A few points may however be offered to our readers as of sufficient interest to secure their attention.

IN MACHINERY HALL.

Perhaps the great Corliss steam engine which gives motion to all the other machinery is one of the most stupendous triumphs of engineering skill. Its fly wheel weighs 70 tons.

The Hall is 1,302 feet long by 360 feet wide, covering a space of fourteen acres. It is intended to be permanent, and is a more durable structure than its gigantic neighbours. The ground floor consists of two main avenues, each 90 feet, with a central aisle on either side 60 feet in the centre of the building, at the junction of which the various machines are in motion.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.

Is a temporary structure. Covering about ten acres, being 820 feet long by 540 feet wide. A portion of the building is to be set apart for the purpose of exhibiting the various machines in working order. The show of fruit, from tropical as well as temperate climates, will take place in the Agricultural Hall.

HORTICULTURAL HALL.

In which the luxuriant vegetation of the torrid zone and the more moderate dimensions and solid character of the northern flora are amply represented, is intended to be a permanent addition to Fairmount Park for horticultural purposes, and has been made as durable and handsome as the state of the Centennial fund would allow. The city of Philadelphia has also aided in defraying the expense of erection, which cost over a quarter of a million of dollars, exclusive of heating. The materials are principally iron and glass. The edifice is 383 feet long, 193 wide, and 72 feet high. The ground floor is occupied by a huge conservatory in the centre, four forcing houses, and a number of vestibules, restaurants, offices, &c.

THE ARTS GALLERY.

is thoroughly fire-proof, in order to induce the possessors of rare works of art to place them on exhibition, and is constructed entirely of granite, glass, and iron, at an expense of one million and a half of dollars. It is 365 feet long by 201 feet wide, and is surmounted by a spacious central dome which rises to a height of 122 feet from the ground. There seems, to have been a tacit but general desire on the part of the various nations to completely outdo each other in this department. The result is by far the most magnificent art display ever brought together on this continent, and one of the finest ever seen anywhere or at any time.

THE WOMEN'S PAVILLION.

was erected by the "Women's Centennial Executive Committee," at a cost of \$40,000, and the expenses of transporting and arranging the articles for exhibition will amount to several times that sum. The Pavilion contains nothing except specimens of women's work, and is a most interesting spot.

The Empress of Brazil inaugurated this department by pulling a golden cord, thus setting in motion a six horse power Baxter's engine which moves the machinery. The latter consists mainly of two or three looms. There are various other mechanical contrivances on exhibition here. But the great bulk of the articles are of an ornamental and not especially useful character. There are some paintings, etchings, engravings, crayon drawings, etc., and several pieces of statuary.

The following from the *Globe* will interest Nova Scotia readers:

THE CANADIAN GEOLOGICAL EXHIBIT.

Beyond all question the most interesting and attractive feature of the Canadian Department in the main building is the geological section. The arrangement of the whole has been entrusted to Professor Selwyn, the successor of the late William Logan, who has been efficiently aided by Dr. Honeyman, Director of the Provincial Museum of Nova Scotia. The display embraces only economic minerals, most of them being taken from mines or quarries in actual and paying operation, while the others are from locations where such operations will yet inevitably be carried

on. No one, without looking at such a collection, can form an adequate idea of the extent or value of our mineral resources, which are, to all appearance, equal to those of any other country represented at the Exhibition. In coal, for example the only rival we have is the State of Pennsylvania, the Exhibition from which is neither as extensive nor as varied as our own. The great feature of the Pennsylvania show is a column of anthracite coal from the Lehigh Valley, which exhibits by its height—29 feet 6 inches—the actual thickness of the coal seam from which it is taken. But the Albion mine, in Pictou, N. S., can make a better exhibition than even that. It is true that the pillar of coal from the Albion mine is lignite, and is only 12 feet high, but this is only a third of the thickness of the seam, and the mineral is of the best quality. The specimens of iron ore exhibited embrace almost every known variety. They are sent from a great number of places, located chiefly in Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Ontario. The Ottawa Iron and Steel Company exhibit a number of specimens of ore and its products, and the Steel Company of Canada, whose works are situated at Londonderry, N. S., show several kinds of ore and quite a variety of manufactured articles including car wheels. The exhibition of building stones, slates, &c., is exceedingly varied and beautiful, embracing sandstones, marbles, serpentines, gypsums, and brick clays in great varieties, with less numerous specimens of gneiss, conglomerates, hydraulic cements, and other allied minerals of value. There is a specimen of kaolin from Wentworth, N. S., which ought to be valuable if perfectly genuine. Kaolin is a clay formed by the decomposition of potashfeldspar, and from it the finer kinds of porcelain have long been manufactured. If the Wentworth specimen is genuine it is the first ever found in America, although it is abundant in China, and also in Cornwall, England, some of the finest kinds of stones for lithographing purposes have been discovered in Canada, as several specimens here on exhibition amply testify. The display of mineral waters, including brines and products, is also excellent. Specimens of a number of valuable mineral manures, such as phosphate of lime, shell marl, gypsum, etc., are on exhibition, a number of miscellaneous but highly useful substances, such as blenders, pyrolusite, amethysts, agates, mica, asbestos, whetstones, grindstones, millstones, and paints. The show of gold, silver, and copper ores is quite varied, embracing native metal, auriferous quartz, argenteiferous galena, copper, pyrites, glance, etc. The method taken to represent the amount of gold which has thus far produced in British Columbia is an exceedingly good one, though not peculiar to ourselves. A large gilt pyramid has been constructed, of such dimensions that if made of solid gold it would equal in weight all the metal obtained from the British Columbia mines during the years 1858-75 inclusive. The value of this mass of solid gold would be \$37,829,851. A small octagonal crystal of gold surmounting the pyramid represents the annual average yield. The best specimens of silver ore and ingots are from the Silver Islet Mining Company. Amongst the most interesting articles in this section are several large and well executed monuments and vases in Canadian granite and marbles. The most conspicuous is a very large and heavy monument of red granite from St. George, in New Brunswick. A single glance at the texture and color of this now celebrated stone shows it to be equal if not superior to anything of the same class in the world. A much grayer, but still very beautiful granite is obtained from Gananoque, Ontario and an elegant monument made from its graces the section, as also a handsome pillar cut out of the beautiful mottled and veined dark grey marble of Annapolis.

There was much anxiety felt respecting the closing of the Exhibition on Sundays. Some of the most active men on the commission were firmly determined that they would have nothing to do with it if the grounds and buildings were opened to the public on the Sabbath. It was eventually decided that it should be closed. The following article in the *Scientific American* is a good summary of the pros and cons on this matter:

SUNDAY AT THE CENTENNIAL.

It has at last, after much discussion, been decided that the Exposition shall remain closed on Sundays, the Centennial commission voting the ratio of three to one against adopting the minority report to the contrary. All the buildings and grounds will be closed to the public on the Sabbath.

We think the decision of the commission is one which will please the majority of our people best. The strong argument against closing lay, first in the fact that Sunday is the only opportunity afforded to working men to visit the Exposition by daylight; and second, that many citizens and foreign visitors do not observe the Christian Sabbath, and hence should not be debarred entrance on a day which, to them is no different from any other in the week. While there is considerable reason in these views, they manifestly should not prevail when the Exposition is regarded in the light of a national undertaking. The workmen