

The Christian Messenger.

Bible Lessons for 1880.

SECOND QUARTER.

Lesson XII.—JUNE 20.

QUARTERLY REVIEW.

- M. LESSONS I, II. Matt. viii. 18-34; xi. 20-30. T. LESSONS III, IV. Matt. xiii. 24-30, 37-43; xvi. 13-28. W. LESSONS V, VI. Matt. xvii. 1-13; xix. 13-26. T. LESSONS VII, VIII. Matt. xxii. 1-14; xxv. 31-46. F. LESSON IX. Matt. xxvi. 36-50. S. LESSON X. Matt. xxvii. 35-50. S. LESSON XI. Matt. xxviii. 8-20.

QUESTIONS.—Who wrote the Gospel we have been studying for six months? Give some account of this man. For whom, primarily did he write? In what language? About what year? What official view of Jesus does he make specially prominent? Some of the lessons deal particularly with the kingdom, giving its peculiarities. What shall these be called? "Characteristics of the Kingdom." Which lessons belong here? Lessons III, VII. Add as below. The remaining lessons deal with the persons who are in or about the kingdom. What shall these be called? "Subjects of the Kingdom." Here Lessons II, VI, VIII, may be placed; the last dealing mainly with the subjects, rather than with the King, and impressively closing the review.

KING JESUS AND HIS KINGDOM.

- I. Preparation of the King: 1. Royal power. 2. Characteristics. 3. Endorsements. 4. Humiliation. 5. On the Cross. 6. Resurrection Power. II. Teachings of the King: 7. A Feast Prepared. III. Glimpses of the Kingdom: 8. Iniquity Present. 9. A Kingdom: 10. Subjects of the Kingdom: 11. Judged. 12. Qualifications.

DAILY HOME READINGS.

A golden thread runs through and unites the lessons of this quarter. They each present some different and distinct characteristics of our Saviour. These eleven lessons show him to be just such a Saviour as we need.

- 1. An All powerful Saviour. Here he is seen to have power over men, over nature, over demons. In the verses preceding the lesson, his power over disease is set forth. 2. A tender Saviour. He pronounces woe upon the Chorazins, etc., that sin against great privileges and light; but he rejoices that the gospel is revealed unto babes. 3. A just Saviour. The wheat and tares grow together here; the sun and the rain come upon the one as well as the other; but a just Saviour makes the eternal separation at the end of this age. 4. A rewarding Saviour. So he declares himself in vs. 27. Such as choose, confess, and follow Christ here, shall receive the reward. 5. A glorious Saviour. Jesus, transfigured, gives us a glimpse of his eternal glory. Jesus is not simply "the man of sorrows," but the "beloved Son," "the brightness of glory" (Heb. i. 3.) 6. A gracious Saviour. Seen in his blessing little children; in his interview with the young ruler. 7. An inviting Saviour. The great gospel feast. The threefold call. The threefold rejection. The King's anger. The guests. No wedding garment. The speechless sinner and his doom. 8. An enthroned Saviour. Jesus is coming, and will come as Judge, brilliantly attended, to reward the righteous, and to punish the wicked. Negative conduct is fatal. 9. A suffering Saviour. What was this cup of sorrow, and why must he drink it? The sin of Judas, in betraying Christ, is often repeated. 10. An atoning Saviour. Jesus was crucified. He died. Bring out the great purpose. Refer to such passages as Isa. liii; 2 Cor. v. 21; 1 Peter ii. 24; 1 John i. 7, etc. 11. A risen Saviour. Notice the importance of the truth that Christ is risen. Without it, salvation is hopeless. Christianity falls. The great commission from the risen and exalted Christ.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.—Note to Teachers.—In using for the Quarterly Review

these condensed practical suggestions, drawn from the various lessons of the quarter, it will contribute at once to the interest and to the profit of the class, if the teacher will, encourage the class to give their views freely on the propriety of the practical suggestion as thus derived, its value, its applications, etc. Stimulate them to propose additional practical suggestions of their own. Or ask your class to bring in a written list of the points learned during the quarter that have seemed to them most interesting and valuable. A comparison of these lists will prove alike entertaining and instructive.

I.

- 1. Learn that the claims of Jesus on our obedience supersede, in a case of conflict, all other claims whatsoever. 2. That Jesus was truly man, learn from his sinking in exhausted sleep, on ship-board. 3. That Jesus was truly more than man, learn from his stilling of the tempest with a word. 4. Learn, from the example of Jesus, that our strength is not given us for ourselves, but for others. 5. Trust Christ sufficiently, not to be "afraid with any amazement." 6. Trust Christ practically enough, to go to him for help in trouble. 7. Beware, lest your conduct bid Christ "depart" from you.

II.

- 1. Remember that by as much as your privilege is great, great, too, is your responsibility. 2. Consider how much heavier is your guilt, if you reject Christ, than the guilt even of those among whom Christ wrought his mighty works in vain. 3. Think how the inhabitants of Chorazin may rise up in judgment against you. 4. Be simple and child-like, that God may reveal to you the precious secrets of his word. 5. Seek rest, not by freedom, but by obedience to Jesus; not by indolence, but by toil in the true service.

III.

- 1. Do not press parables too closely, by violent interpretation. 2. Consider that parables like this, being virtual prophecies, constitute a method of teaching which provides for perpetual development and cumulation of evidence on behalf of the truth taught. 3. Learn that Christ's angels will be to you his ministers of love, or his ministers of wrath, according as you choose to have them. 4. Learn to be patient and tolerant toward evil, for the sake of what is good. 5. Remember that future punishment, so far from making you holy, will fill you with wicked rage. 6. Use your ears to hear Christ, while you still retain them.

IV.

- 1. Be ready, like Peter, to think God's thought about Jesus, disregarding the thoughts of men. 2. Be ready, like Peter, to confess with your mouth. 3. Consider always that God will reveal to you as much of his thought that concerns you to know, as you on your part are willing to receive. 4. Beware lest God's confidence to you puff you up with spiritual pride. 5. Remember that self-seeking is suicide, and that self-sacrifice, for Christ's sake, is life eternal. 6. Live in expectation of a judgment to come, in which your Saviour will be your Judge. 7. Remember that your sentence will be according to your doing.

V.

- 1. Let the sequel of the Transfiguration teach you to regard any season of special religious exaltation as a preparation for trials and sufferings to follow. 2. Let the eagerness of Peter not gratified, teach you not to seek to prolong, self-indulgently, your experiences of rapt religious enjoyment. 3. Doubt not that the dead are alive unto God. 4. Remember that twice, heaven has opened, and God spoken, to let men know that Jesus is Lord, to be obeyed. To disobey Christ, is to rebel against God.

VI.

- 1. Bear ever in mind that Jesus is ready to welcome little children to his arms.

- 2. Beware of forbidding, in any way, little children to come to the Saviour. 3. Let parents learn from the precept and the example of Jesus, not indeed to have their children baptized in unconscious infancy, but to bring them, by prayer, to Jesus in their tenderest age, to receive his blessing. 4. Know that to be saved is impossible to human merit, but, by God's grace, possible. 5. Throw yourself, without reserve and without delay, on God's grace in Jesus Christ.

VII.

- 1. Wonder and adore, as you contemplate the unspeakable grace of God in his dealings with a fallen world, and with you, a fallen soul. 2. Ask yourself, "How shall I escape, if I neglect so great a salvation?" 3. Be sure that however you neglect it, none of God's great purposes of grace will fail. His Son's wedding will be furnished with guests. 4. Remember that you must have a wedding garment, if you come. 5. Remember that this garment is the righteousness of Christ. 6. Remember that it may be had by simply believing. 7. Remember that, without this garment, you will be speechless when asked your reasons for not having it—there being no good reason. 8. Remember that God's angels will bind you helpless, and cast you out. 9. Remember that in outer darkness you will grieve and rage for ever—and in vain.

VIII.

- 1. Know that that Saviour whom you now sometimes regard as a suppliant for your acceptance, will one day sit enthroned as King and Judge of mankind. 2. Be sure that there will be but two classes of men there considered by him, and that you will be included with the one or with the other. 3. Observe that, if you are blessed of Christ's Father, you will be found to have done acts of ministration to the needy. 4. Consider that Jesus regards kindnesses done to the needy, as kindnesses done to Him. 5. Consider that you, if told to depart, will be told it by the voice that now says, Come. 6. Tremble and rejoice that the punishment and the life will alike be endless.

IX.

- 1. Be persuaded, by the craving for human sympathy evinced by the Lord, that he was touched with the feeling of our infirmities, and was therefore truly man. 2. Feel, and be unspeakably sad and glad to feel, that your sin, if you love Christ, was in the cup which he took that night from the hand of his Father. 3. Learn from the Lord's example, to pray, and pray, and pray again, when you are tempted. 4. Learn that the chief struggle of all praying is to say, "Not my will, but thine, be done." 5. Observe that, in the ministration of the angel strengthening, Jesus, was a fulfillment of the promise, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." 6. Doubt not that, if needful, for you, too, an angel will be sent to strengthen you, when wrestling with temptation. 7. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation."

X.

- 1. Consider that you, if you do not accept Jesus for King, are guilty of the same spirit of rebellion that once sent Jesus to the cross. 2. Think of Jesus, numbered with the transgressors, crucified between two robbers, for your sake; and never refuse to accept shame, if need be, for his name and cause. 3. Whenever tempted to use harsh language in retort, remember Jesus, who, "when he was reviled, reviled not again." 4. Hereby perceive the love, because he laid down his life for you, and acknowledge that so you ought to lay down your life for the brethren. 5. And if your life, how much more other things short of life! 6. Redeemed by such blood, beloved, let us love one another.

XI.

- 1. Note that the Lord risen is even more gracious than before he rose to call his disciples brethren, though they had all forsaken him and fled.

- 2. Observe what hard work it is to make a good lie, and don't try it. 3. Observe that Jesus is universal Lord, and be sure that you acknowledge him as such betimes. 4. Remember that you are both to observe, and to teach to observe, whatsoever he has commanded. 5. Remember that even in this solemn last message of his he has commanded baptizing, as something to be done, and so as something to be taught.

For the Teacher of the Primary Class.

The memory may be aided and the truth taught through the eye by the use of the following emblems, or "memory objects," with their mottoes: Lesson I. Ship; "Even the winds and the sea obey him." 2. Yoke, or a Bible in a heart, "Learn of me." 3. Sheaf of wheat. Am I wheat or tares? 4. Scales. One soul, worth more than the world. 5. A mountain. Jesus only. 6. Child's head. Jesus calls us. 7. An open door, with "Come, for all things are ready," or a letter of invitation with same words. 8. Scroll, with unto me. 9. Cup, with Sorrow on it. 10. Cross. Died for me. 11. Crown. Jesus lives.

Word-pictures may be given on each lesson. Encourage the older scholars to tell some of these stories; it is wonderful how well they can do this after a very few trials.

Give one or two samples of what is meant:

1. I think I see a ship; it is tossing very much; the waves are rolling very high. Oh, how the wind blows! Some men are on the ship; they look frightened. Let us count and see how many there are. (All count, one, two, etc.) Yes, twelve. There is another; he is not frightened; he is asleep on a pillow, in the back part of the boat. See, the others call him; he rises; he speaks. Hark! The winds do not roar; the waves do not dash. All is still. What could he have said? Can any one tell? What was the name of the sea? Where did they go next? Who met them? What did Jesus do?

2. There was a high mountain. Some men asleep. There are one, two, three; tell their names. There is another, not asleep, but praying; he looks tired and sick, as if he needed the sleep the rest are taking. A change comes, how bright it is! The sorrowful man is changed! His face is all shining; his dress no longer plain and worn! How many men were asleep? Now; there are more than that; count,—five! Who are the other two? Where did they come from? What do we call such a change? What did they talk about? Who spoke some words after which it all changed back again? Why were those words wrong? What words were spoken from heaven? What do they mean? —Abridged from the Baptist Teacher.

There is a man in Australia who carries the rule requiring the "delivery of the goods before the payment of the money" to an unusual extent. He is the executor of a Catholic merchant who left \$7,000 to the church, to deliver his soul from purgatory. The executor wants proof of "the delivery of the soul" of his friend, and refuses to pay until the proof is furnished. There would be a good deal of money saved if others would pursue a like course.

Boys' Department.

Bible Enigmas.

No. 76.

- 1. An ancient sea-town in Philistia located; 2. Of the tribe of Judah, to King David related; 3. An idol in which Philistia confided; 4. Part of a kingdom which from sin was divided; 5. A strong man whose birth by an angel was foretold; 6. Whom Jesus raised from the grave so cold; 7. A tree in Palestine widely diffused; 8. An assuring word by the Master used; 9. A righteous man who walked with God above. The discovered initials show the true source of love. —Selected.

CURIOUS QUESTIONS.

- No. 56. Make a square of words from the following: (1) A river in a distant land; (2) A flower of varied hue; (3) A city by Peru's fair strand; (4) A mighty hunter, too.

Answer to Bible Enigma.

No. 75.

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

- 1. B eelzebu B 2. E agl E 3. P hili P 4. A llelui A 5. T rumpe T 6. I tta I 7. E unie E 8. N aama N 9. T arge T 10. T en T 11. O rinoe O 12. W illo W 13. A rimathe A 14. R eindee R 15. D iamon D 16. A lph A 17. L ega L 18. L awfu L 19. M iria M 20. E v E 21. N atha N

"BE PATIENT TOWARD ALL MEN." 1 Thess. v. 14.

ANSWERS TO CURIOUS QUESTIONS.

- 56. Opal. 55. L I L A C I V I C A L I A R S A C R E S C A S S Y

The Complements of Broken Rhymes.

- Scold, cold, old. Skate, Kate, ate. Brink, Rink, ink. Trice, rice, ice. Crash, rash, ash. Sledge, ledge, edge.

Select Serial.

Florence Walton,

OR, A Question of Duty.

BY MAY F. MCKEAN.

CHAPTER XVI.—DR. RONSELLE'S REFUSAL. For a whole week Florence studiously avoided the pleasant walks and drives with the doctor which before had been—unacknowledged, it is true—the sweetest part of her day, though to do so she was forced to frame many a pretext of being unusually detained after school; or, this failing, she would walk homeward with some of the elder scholars, most of whom considered such an invitation as a personal honor.

But perhaps the very steps she had taken to avoid an avowal were those which brought her to the trial sooner than otherwise; for as "blessings brighten as they take their flight," so in the absence of Miss Walton's favors Dr. Ronnelle learned how much he really thought of her, and one week of alienation was sufficient to resolve him upon his course of action.

It had been a week of heart-suffering for both, of which he in his strong will gave no token, and she but manifested in a slight change of color occasionally—a week in which he had thoroughly examined his own heart and her sweet life, and could draw but one conclusion—a week in which she had been severely tempted both from within and without; for, besides the arguments which she and Ethel sometimes held upon the subject, which generally left the matter in both minds just where they found it, though conscience had honorably won the victory, yet even now sometimes heart arose to contest it.

And so we find them at the end of that time when one afternoon he saw her wending her way along the serpentine walks toward a summer bower, whither she often resorted to read or study. He followed her there now and stood before her, determined that this hour should end his suspense. She would fain have escaped, but he would not permit it; he could not let her go until he had told her all that was in his heart; and this lie at once proceeded to do in his own straightforward way.

Thus forced to listen, Florence sank upon a seat, covering her face with her trembling hands, and remained silent until he had ceased speaking. Then, when she looked up, there were tears in her eyes and her voice was far from being steady as she made answer: