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REV. J. McLEOD.]

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[EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.]

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Jan. 14-17

The Intelligencer.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON VIII.—Nov. 25.

(For Questions see Star Quarterly and Lesson Papers.)

DAVID AND GOLIATH.

DAILY READINGS.

M. David and Goliath. 1 Sam. 17: 35-51.

W. The challenge given. 1 Sam. 17: 1-31.

T. The challenge accepted. 1 Sam. 17: 32-38.

F. Deying Goliath. 2 Chron. 29: 2-24.

S. Triumph of faith. Heb. 11: 32-40.

S. Thanksgiving for victory. Ps. 18: 1-50.

GOINGS TEXT.—The battle is the Lord's.—1 Sam. 17: 47.

TOPICS.—David armed. David despised. David victorious.

TIME, B. C. 1063.

NOTES AND HINTS.

Connecting Link.—Two or three years after the

annoying of David, the Philistines invaded the

land of Israel and encamped on one side of the

land of Israel. Saul and his army occupied the other

side of the land. The Philistines sent a champion,

Goliath, a giant, who was to fight with David. Saul

sent a man to fight with him and to decide the fate

of all in a single combat. For a long time no one

was found to accept the challenge. At length

David appeared and asked to be allowed to fight

Goliath. This lesson tells the story of the battle.

I. David armed. When the youthful shepherd

heard made known his purpose of accepting the

challenge insolently given by Goliath, the Philistines

giant, in seemed to him to hear him make a

piece of reckless folly for him to undertake such

an enterprise. His own brother, Eliab, who

knew something of his skill and courage, rebuked

him sharply, and so did many of the people.

When Saul heard of it, he sent for David, who

assured him that he would not be allowed to fight

Goliath. He would fight him. When the king

reminded him of the difference between

himself and the giant, he told him of the lion

and the bear which he had killed, and added,

"This untrained Philistine shall be as one of

them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the

living God." The Lord who had delivered him

from the fierce, wild beasts, would, in like manner

deliver him from this ungainly and insolent

man. Then the king, anxious for his safety,

clothed him in his own armor of brass and gave

him his sword to use, but David was unused to

these things and declined to go into

battle with them. He was trusting not in ac-

countments furnished by man but in the power

of the living God, and he desired it to be clearly

shown that his help was from the arm of Jehovah

himself. Laying aside the armor of Saul, he

took his staff and his sling, and as he went

forward to the battle, gathered five smooth

stones from the bed of the brook in his way,

and with his sling in the other hand, drew near

to the Philistine.

II. David despised. As soon as Goliath saw

him, he despised him, for David was a youth,

and beautiful youth, and he was dressed in a

simple manner. Goliath said to him, "Thou art

but a youth, and thou art naked, and I am a

warrior, and I have come to thee with the

arm of the Lord, and I have come to thee with

the sword of the Lord, and I have come to thee

with the spear of the Lord, and I have come to

thee with the shield of the Lord, and I have

come to thee with the helmet of the Lord, and

I have come to thee with the breastplate of the

Lord, and I have come to thee with the greaves

of the Lord, and I have come to thee with the

shoes of the Lord, and I have come to thee with

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shoes of the Lord, and I have come to thee with

the sword of the Lord, and I have come to thee

with the spear of the Lord, and I have come to

photo, and it was that that Peter recognized; and

what Peter recognized the Pharisee Church re-

cognizes. We say that the authority for the

church is the truth; and that it rests on the truth

centering in Christ. Jesus had a personal name

and an official name and relation. The Queen has

a private and an official name and relation. Many

in our day, as in the past, acknowledge the man

Jesus as a good man, but deny His official character

and relation as the Christ—the Messiah. His

acknowledgment of His humanity, but deny His divinity.

Peter acknowledged Jesus in His official character

as "the Christ, the Son of the living God," and the

church rests on that confessed truth. If we acknow-

ledge Jesus in His official character, we are bound

to accept His teachings. If we accept Him as the

Christ, we are bound to accept the offering He has

made for sin. The one involves the other.

General Howe, commander of the British forces,

in the days of the American rebellion, addressed a

letter to "George Washington." It was returned

unopened. Three months later, when sent, and

returned. Why? Because the letter was sent, and

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phatic teaching of the word. The Messiahship of

Jesus is everywhere in the Word, in one way or

another, taught. Yet none to-day, with freedom

before their eyes deny it, and will not acknow-

ledge Jesus in His official character. It is not plain

that if Jesus is the Christ, His teaching must be

authoritative? That the church of which He is

the founder rests on Him? And that we know

Him by His teaching, in the truth He has given

us to us through those who were divinely inspired?

Thus, the claim of the papacy has no support from

the clear teaching of the Word of God.

In a hospital, a patient, several patients

one had his special cause for mangled hope and

tear, while all alike were fortifying the heart

of the common assurance of the Gospel. At the

end of the day, a patient who had been expected

to die, was found to be alive, and all kinds of

stones, a spiritual house, applying to them a

designation of the same import with that which had

first been given by the Saviour to himself, and even

showing their relation to the church to have been

precisely the same as His own. Did the other

patients acknowledge him as the head of the

church? No. But Peter, writing to the Galatians

says, "But when we were come to Antioch, I with-

stood him to the face, because he was to be blamed."

Looking honestly at the subject we are forced to

conclude that the church of Rome, while it

claims to be the church of Christ, is not the church

of Christ. The great question to each one of

us is, "Whom do we really know as the church of

Christ? We have accepted Jesus as the Messiah

and we know Him as "Christ" not historically

but experimentally. Peter was blessed, but

because he was "a faithful and true witness,"

"reveling" that indwelling spiritual life, the

presence of the quickening spirit of God, in Christ.

Who do we know as the church of Christ?—

Christ in the soul—the essence of the church—

2. Whatever Christ has taught and given to us

rests on authority, not proof. Christianity may be

preached under two heads, viz. Christ and His

teaching. The former rests on proof, the latter on

authority. By proving that Jesus is the Messiah,

He established every doctrine and ordinance

taught by Him. He speaks with authority. Jesus

the foundation, teacher, head. The church

built on this foundation is the church. Any church

called a Christian church has no right to be

taught by any other than Jesus. The church

taught by any other than Jesus is not the church

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