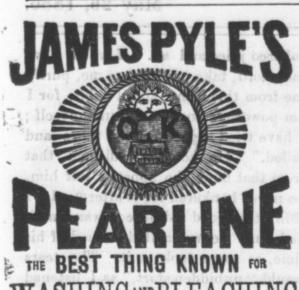
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### OH! TO BE READY.

Oh! to be ready when death shall come! Oh! to be ready to hasten home! No earthward clinging, no lingering gaze, No strife at parting, no sore amaze; No chains to sever that earth hath twined, No spell to loosen that love would bind.

No flitting shadow to dim the light Of the angel-pinions winged for flight; No cloud-like phantoms to fling a gloom 'Twixt heaven's bright portals and earth's dark tomb.

But sweetly, gently to pass away, From the world's dim twilight into day.

To list to the music of angel lyres, To catch the raptures of seraph choirs. To learn to trust in the risen One, Till borne away to a fadeless throne, Oh! to be ready when death shall come! Oh! to be ready to hasten home!

### The Sabbath-School.

### INTERNATIONAL LESSONS.

[FROM PELOUBET'S NOTES.]

Second Quarter.-Lesson 9.-May 30. JESUS FEEDING FIVE THOUSAND -John vi: 1-21.

GOLDEN TEXT.—Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life—John vi: 35.

Nearly a year of Christ's life comes between the last lesson and this. The events are recorded in Matt. 4:12 to 14:12. Mark 1 14 to 6: 26. Luke 4: 14 to 9: 9. John omits nearly all of this Galilean ministry, and only touches certain salient points out of which special discourses of Jesus grew, and confines himself chiefly to Jesus' work in Judea.

MULTITUDES GATHERING AROUND JESUS NEAR BETHSAIDA.—Vers. 1 4. After these things. Spoken of in the last lesson and the discourse which followed. The events recorded in the preceding chapter were at the time of a passover. According to ver. 4, a passover was now near, and there is therefore an interval of a year between the two times. Jesus went over the sea of Galilee. From the western side, probably near Capernaum, to the eastern shore. Two reasons are given: (1) because he had just heard of the death of John the Baptist. He went to the nearest place outside of He od's dominions. (2) The disciples bad just returned from their missionary tour in Galilee, and needed rest, which could not be easily obtained at this time amid

the crowds.

And a great multitude followed him. Great multitudes follow him wherever he goes. From every part of the land they come to listen to his teachings and to be healed. The circumstance that the Passover was nigh at hand, so that many must have been starting on their journey to Jerusalem, partly accounts for the multitudes. The multitude, recognizing Jesus and his disciples as they sailed away, started for the same place by land, and some had reached the place before Jesus and his apostles. The largest proportion arrived later, and soon swelled to the immense number saw his miracles which he did. They were attracted by curiosity; by his teachings which accompanied his miracles; by a desire to be with the great prophet, and perhaps aid or at least have part in the coming of his kingdom; some doubtless had special needs or were friends of the

Jesus went up into a mountain. The mountainous part of the district. There he sat with his disciples. Though they came hither for retirespent. The disciples had time for struction and prayer.

And the Passover...was nigh. festival in a new and wondrous way,—its heart, but not its form.

FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND .-Vers 5-11. When Jesus then lifted the hills where he was sitting with | with the help of God, as he had his disciples, and from which eleva- more than two years before, in the tion he could see far over the plain. great temptation in the wilderness. And saw a great company come. The Stilling the Tempest on Gali-THE SUBSCRIBER begs leave to in- multitude spoken of in ver. 2. Jesus, LEE. -Vers. 16-21. And when seeing them, came out from his re- even (evening) was now come. His tirement in the hills and, moved disciples (the apostles) went down with compassion, taught them many into the sea. The words imply that things, and healed their sick. He they went reluctantly. They would saith unto Philip. Much is omitted not leave Jesus alone in this desert here that is recorded in the other place, except by his express and Gospels (Matt. 14: 14, 15; Mark | urgent command. And entered into 6:34,35; Luke 9:11,12). A large a ship. Fishing boat large enough part of the day was spent in teaching to carry Christ and the twelve, and healing. The multitudes, ab- besides the sailors, but not too large sorbed in these matters of exciting to be propelled by oars. And went interest, found themselves, toward over the sea toward Capernaum. evening, wearied and hungry, and a But a contrary wind (Mark 6: 48), long distance from their homes or blowing strongly from the northfrom any supplies, and probably east, drove them back, so that the many of them without money to real direction in which they went purchase any. The disciples, learn- was westerly, toward Capernaum. ing of the destitute condition of the It was now dark, and Jesus was not people, go to Jesus and suggest that come to them. They had been unhe dismiss them, and send them able to make the land where they 'For me,' as much as if I were the away to obtain food (Luke 9: 12). expected to take Jesus on board the only sinner in the world. 'For Whence shall we buy bread? It boat, and now it had grown too me,' that I may have a whole would seem impossible to obtain dark to see him and too stormy to Saviour. How many of you, my food enough for so great a multi- reach the place. And the sea arose. dear pupils, can say from the tude. This he said to prove him. It is a common occurrence for the heart, 'Jesus died for me; he

and the impossibility of supplying Jordan valley from the Lebanon it by any human means.

answer shows that he had not fully thirty furlongs. Three or three and learned the lesson of perfect trust in a half miles, or half way across the Jesus' divine power. Two hundred lake. Mark says that Jesus saw pennyworth. Two hundred denarii' them, perhaps from the mountain, worth. The denarius was a Roman | where he had long been praying. silver coin worth about fifteen cents. | Alone or in company, in sickness or The whole amount mentioned is, in health, by sea or by land, in perils therefore, about thirty dollars. That in the city, in perils in the wilder-Even this would be a scant supply. disciples tossed on the lake is ever There is a lad here. And therefore looking at us. We are never behath five barley loaves. The ordin- way is never hid from bim. ary coarse food of the lower orders knows the path that we take, and is (Judg. 7:13). Two small fishes. still able to help. He may not pickled, fish eaten with bread, like best, but he will never allow us our "sardines." Millions were utterly to fail. Jesus sees us, and caught in the lake.

For the sake of order and ease in (Matt. 14:25), which began at 3 the distribution of the food. There o'clock in the morning. It was was much grass in the place. This while they were endeavoring to is not inconsistent with its descrip- come to Jesus that he came out upon tion by the other Evangelists as a the sea to meet them. And they desert place, the word desert imply- were afraid. Because they did not ing simply solitude, not an arid soil. recognize Jesus but thought it was So the men sat down. The women a ghost or apparition. It is I; be and children were probably apart not afraid. That which calms our by themselves, as oriental custom tears most of all in trouble is the would require.

without thanksgiving is as though | cease. That they did receive him he robbed God. He distributed to into the ship is stated by St. Matin it, as he ever does in giving spiritual food to the world.

by "pieces" the fragments broken from this shore, (see ver. 19), it or unconsumed because of the abun- large latitude of expression, underdance of the supply.

THE DESIGN of this command is since the wind at once ceased (Matt. to bring out the preciousness of the | 14:32), they had no further diffifood which Jesus had given. He culty in reaching their destination. likewise exhorts his disciples to fru- Or the word rendered "immedigality. It completes the proof of ately "-which is more exactly our the miracle, for more remained than straightway-may find its full meanthere was to begin with.

the world. Foretold in Deut. 18: our Lord was received into the 15, 16, and referred to by the dele- boat, and in the sense of safety and gation sent from Jerusalem to in- peace afterwards. quire of John the Baptist as to his character and authority (John 1

JESUS PRAYING ALONE.—Vers. 15. When Jesus therefore perceived. Either by reading in their hearts the half-formed design; or perceiving it in their whispered conferof "about 5,000 men," "besides ence; or informed of it by the aposwomen and children." Because they | tles, who doubtless shared the enthusiasm of the multitude, and who may have been as eager as any for the coronation of their Lord. Take him by force. They would compel him to appear what he really was, and what they imagined perhaps that he was too modest or too timid to assert for himself. To make him a king. Carry him up to Jerusalem and proclaim him king at the Passover. For they expected this Messiah to be a temporal king, and to reign in great glory in the royal ment and rest the time was not idly city. He departed again into a mountain himself alone. Mark says reporting more fully their missionary | that he retired for prayer. Before journey, for conversation and in- he went he dismissed the people to their homes. The action of the people to make him a king was the The Passover this year was April | renewal of one of his greatest temp-16. As Jesus and his disciples could | tations, -to obtain a worldly kingnot attend the Passover feast at dom and greatness and honor, with Jerusalem, they would keep such ease and plenty and immediate success, instead of a spiritual kingdom and the salvation of men by the hard and slow way of self-denial and the cross. He must fight this up his eyes. From the place among | battle out alone, in the presence and

To test and try him, to call his at- winds to arise suddenly upon this loves me and I love him '?"-Kind tention to the greatness of the need, lake, drawing down through the Words. deal longer then " several days," and bis prayer. " Here Lord Jesus I am, ' manded to leave him.

range in the north. So when they Philip answered him. Philip's had rowed about five and twenty or every one of them may take a little. ness, the same eye which saw the able to carry very little. Which | youd the reach of his care. Our Small, and generally dried or come to our aid at the time we like will not forsake us. They see Jesus. Jesus said, Make the men sit down. It was the fourth watch of the night conscious presence with us of a And when he had given thanks. Saviour who loves us with an ever-Asking a blessing upon food before lasting love, and who controls all meals was a universal custom the powers of nature, and of the among the Jews, and was practiced spiritual world, one who is both both by Christ and by the apostles able and willing to save. Then they (Luke 22: 17, 19; 24: 30; Acts willingly received him. They are re-27: 35). He that enjoys aught assured by his voice, and their fears the disciples, etc. Jesus did the thew and St. Mark, and is implied work; and yet he used the disciples here. And immediately the ship was at the land. As soon as Jesus entered the boat the sea was calm, -Vers. 12-14. Gather up the frag. since, when they saw Jesus walking

GATHERING UP THE FRAGMENTS. and they reached the land. And ments. It is usual to understand on the water, they were three miles by the multitude during their meal; must have been by miracle that they but it is more probable that they reached it so suddenly. Or we may were pieces broken by our Lord, - adopt either of the following: We pieces that remained undistributed may give to the word immediately a standing it merely to mean that ing in the straight line of the boat's Then those men, those who had after course, as contrasted with its been fed. When they had seen the being tossed hither and thither durmiracle. The miracle was a sign to | ing the storm. The whole context them that God was with Jesus. seems to find its full meaning in the That prophet that should come into sense of difficulty and danger before

Monday. Took Ragged Bill's last ime for whiskey. Tuesday. Had a visit from Char-

DIARY OF A RUM-SELLER

lie Piper, who swore off three months ago and signed the pledge; gave him three drinks on tick. Wednesday. That poor fool, Dick Plaster, who gets wild and nervous

after one drink, came in to-day; sold him a quart. P. S.—Hear he killed his wife in

drunken rage. Thursday. Johnny Slogan's wife egged me never to sell another lrop to him. She cried till I prom-

P. S .- Sold him enough this very day to make him smash furniture and beat his children. Ha! ha a! Business is business.

Friday. Phil Carter bad no money: took his wife's weddingring and silk dress for an old bill sent him home gloriously drunk.

Saturday. Young Sam Chap took his third drink to-day. I know he likes it, and will speedily make drunkard; but I gave him the value of his money. His father imclored me to help break up the practice before it became a habit; but I told him if I didn't sell to him some one else would.

Sunday. Pretended to keep the Sunday-law to-day, but kept open my back door. Sold beer and wine to some boys, but they'll be ashamed to tell of it. Bet my till is fuller to-night than the church-baskets are.

N. B.—My business must be respectable, for real gentlemen patronize my bar. And yet I guess I won't keep a diary, for these facts look very queer on paper.

### FOR ME.

" For whom did Jesus endure so much, William ?"

" For sinners." "Yes; but can you not bring it nearer home?"

"Yes; for us-for all our class." "Ah, that comes nearer; but we must bring it closer still. James, you love this Saviour. For whom did he suffer and die?"

" For me." "Yes. We all want to say and feel and know that 'Jesus died for me.

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