#### CHRISTIAN THE VISITOR.

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# Sabbath School Department. [From the Christian Helper.] International Bible Lessons.

Lesson XI. March 16.

DELIGHT IN GOD'S HOUSE.

Psalm 84. 1-12. GOLDEN TEXT.—Blessed are they that dwell in thy house; they will be still praising thee. V. 4.

## Exposition.

V. 1. How amiable. "How lovely, how worthy of being loved! But the Hebrew is more personal: how dear to my heart!"-Cowles Thy tabernacles. The Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands. His ear is ever open to the cry of His children, whether they lift up their voices in secret and alone, or in the company of others. But still there are blessings to be found in the tabernacles of God which cannot be obtained elsewhere. "The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob." Ps. 77: 2. And the blessings of the tabernacle are not confined to any particular edifice or locality. "Neither in this mountain, nor yet in Jerusalem," must we assemble in order to obtain them; but wherever the "true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth," there will the Lord be in the midst of them. O Lord of Hosts. Observe the manner in which God is addressed in this psalm. Four times He is addressed as Jehovah of hosts. The psalmist delights in his house, not only because it is the house of the God of leve, but because the great God, omnipotent, terrible, dwells there. All of God's attributes are sources of blessing and joy to His people. His mighty power, which crushes His enemies is the defence and support of His children. " O God, thou art terrible out of thy holy places; the God of Israel is He that giveth strength and power unto His people." Ps. 68: 35. V. 2. Longeth, fainteth. "Expressions of

heart and my flesh His whole being was, as it prayer meeting? were, consuming in the flames of holy desire. presence, not for the company of God's people 3. It is a marvellous privilege to be allowed but for the living God Himselfy the only satis-to head a soul out of darkness into the light;

que of Omar. "The Swallow Many species of has been confided to us, the way to attain that swallows are found in Palestine Thine altars; blessedness. or rather, in the place of sacrifice, that is, the sacred enclosure generally. In the East any bird that builds its nest around the habitations of men, is held in great respect, and is regarded as under Divine protection. This said that an A devoted minister in Scotland recently for the sake of the rhythm. This great God despises not the little birds. The shelter of His tabernacle is thrown over them. "God fails not to find a house for the most worthless, and a nest for the most restless of birds," some one God, to abide in His presence. V. 4. That dwell in thy house. "This is true, blessedly true, of all who trust in Jesus now. But though God's children are all priests by all, alas! priests by consecration. Comparatively few know their priestly place at the golden altar. Many of them are doubting as to whether their sins, root and branch, were all consumed outside the camp; and, consequently, such are afraid to come within the court; and, as to being assured of their full justification and sanctification in the risen One, they gravely doubt and lear that such blessedness can ever be their happy lot. Hence, that state of soul which answers to priestly consecration at the laver, and happy worship at the golden altar, is unknown and unenjoyed. They are not priests by consecration." (See Ex. xxix.)-Things New and Old. They will still be praising thee. Those who understand their right to dwell in God's house, who sun themselves continually in His smile, these have cast away their fears and doubts. They are occupied now with His praise.

V. 10. A day in thy courts, &c. One day of such pleasure as God gives is better than a thousand of the best we can have away from Him. A doorkeeper. Rather, one who sits on the threshold, a beggar. Better to take the meanest and most despised position, if it will only secure us a share in the blessings of the sanctuary, than to be an inmate in the house where God is forgotten.

V. 11. A Sun. A wonderful comparison, and yet inadequate to represent what God is to us. What the earth would be without the sun, dark. cold. dead-unimaginable chaos; such is the soul, upon which the light of the Sun of Righteousness hath not shined. All the life. the light, the warmth, the force, the motion of the earth, is drawn from the sun. So from God we derive every good thing we possess-every good thing He possesses which we are capable of receiving. Grace and Glory. Grace here, glory hereafter. "Heaven in the heart now, the heart in heaven by-and-by," as a French writer says. No good thing will He withhold Whatever is withheld, then, however good in tself, is not good for us. Uprightly. This wonderful assurance is given only to those who walk uprightly. It is not strange that those who walk in His ways should so love Him and the tabernacle where He is worshipped.

V. 12. The psalmist, after dwelling upon his deep delight in God and in His house, fittingly closes his psalm with the exclamation, Blessed is the man that trusteth in thee. Even while still only seeing through a glass darkly, knowing only in part, he can say from his own experience, "Blessed is the man." And truly any, man is blessed who can feel that the relationship between God and himself is that described in the dith verse in their traders and training

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1. In this psalm, the delight in God's house is not referred to the social religious pleasure of the assembly, but to God's own peculiar presence there. Do we look forward eagerly to intense, languishing desires." Cowles. My meeting with God, when we go to church, or 2. A fitful religious life is generally a life of For the living God. It was not for the empty much doubt and murmuring. If we would live courts of the Lord's house that the psalmist a joyful, grateful life, let us dwell, with God.

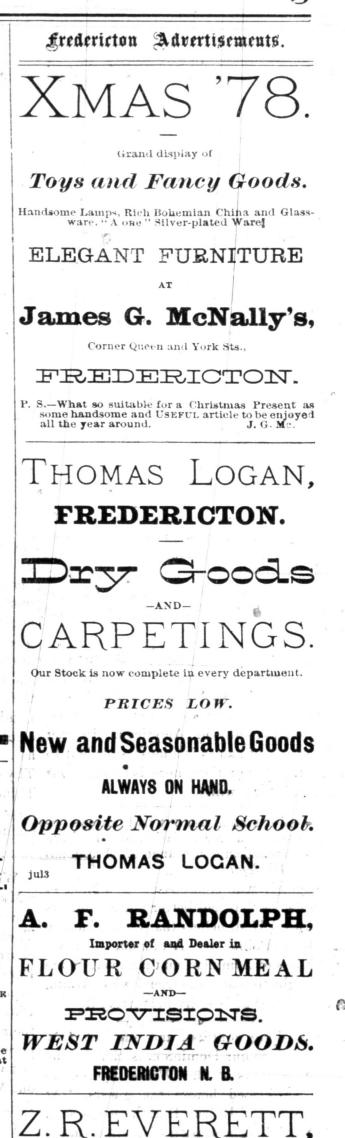
fier of souls leaded but lutitud enclosed out of the gloom of sin, into the blessedness of V. 3. The Sparrow. The English tree spar-row is very common in Palestine, and seen in numbers on Mount Olivet and around the Mos-clearly to those young minds, whose teaching out of the gloom of sin, into the blessedness of 100 is forty-throa miles from Chioacola

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the Athenians put a man to death for molesting related the following incident as an illusa sparrow in the temple of Esculapius. No tration of the way our Father answers dwelt securely within the sacred precincts. O from a funeral, fatigued with the day's Lord of Hosts, my King, and my God. These work. After a long ride, I had accompansolemn names are not thrown in here merely ied the mourners to the churchyard. As neared my stable door, I felt a strange prompting to visit a poor widow, who, with her invalid daughter, lived in a lonely cottage in an outlying part of the parish. says: The psalmist longs to be at home with My natural reluctance to make another visit was overcome by a feeling, which I could not resist, and I turned my horse's head towards the cottage. I was thinking birth, as were the sons of Aaron, they are not only of the poor widow's spiritual needs; but when I reached her little house I was struck with its look of unwonted bareness and poverty. "After putting a little money into her hand, I began to inquire into their circumstances, and found that their supplies had been utterly exhausted since the night before. I asked them what they had done. I just spread it out before the Lord!' 'Did you tell your case to any friend?' Oh no, sir; naebody kens but Himsel' and me! I kent He wadna forget, but I didna ken hoo He wad help me till I saw you come riding over the brae, and then I said, "There's the Lord's answer!"' Many a time has the recollection of this incident encouraged me to trust in the loving care of my heavenly Father."





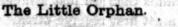
V. 5. Beginning of second stanza. In whose hearts are the ways of them. That is, who love the paths leading to the tabernacle.

V. 6. Valley of Baca. The valley of mulberry trees, dry and sandy, or the valley of weeping. (Bochim Judges ,2: 1-5.) Make it a well, etc. "That which seemed an impediment turns to a furtherance; at least, no misery can be so great. no state so barren, but a godly heart can make it a well, out of which to draw forth water of comfort."-Sir R. Baker. "Little as there may be of water, that little suffices on their way. It is 'a well' to them.-A. Bonar.

V. 7. From strength to strength. The pil grims, setting out for the holy feasts at Jerusalem from a great distance, would be few in number. But every place they passed through would add recruits to their number, so that at each halting place they found themselves stronger than at the last. In the Christian pilgrimage, no one perishes on the road. Every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

V. 8. In this prayer, we have God represented first, as the great Lord of all, and second. ly as our God, the God of men, the God of Jacob, the God of Bethel.

V. 9. Beginning of third stanza. Our Shield. This explains the delight in God as the Lord of Hosts. The Omnipotent God is our shield. His strength is exercised for us, if we are on His side. Thine Anointed. Thy Christ. "We can not always say, 'Look on us;' but we can always say, 'Look on Him.' . . . True faith can only rest on God's estimate of Christ, not on inward thoughts and feelings."-Things New and Old. "Look upon Him as our Representative, and look upon us in Him."-Rogers.



When L was in Europe Mr. Spurgeon told me a story of a boy who was in an orphan asylum. This little boy came up to Mr. Spurgeon and said: "Mr. Spurgeon, would you allow to speak to you ?" He said, 'Certainly, get upon my knee. The little fellow got up and said: "Mr. Spurgeon, supposing that your mother was dead, and that your father was dead; and that you were put into this institution, and that there were other little boys that had no father or mother, but they had cousins and uncles and aunts, and they brought them fruit and candy and a lot of things, don't you think that you would feel bad ? 'Cause that's me." Why, Mr. Spurgeon put his hand in his pocket and gave the little fellow some money right off. The little fellow had pleaded his cause well. When men come to God and plead their story-I don't care how vile you are, I don't care how far down you have got, I don' care how far off you have wandered-if you will tell it all in His ear, the relief will come .-Moody's Child Stories

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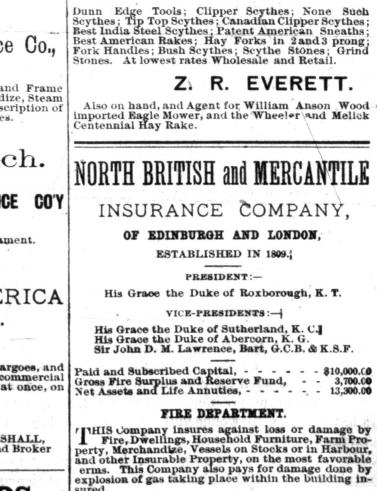
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