#### Sabbath School Department.

### International Bible Lessons.

THE HEAVENLY CITY.

DEC. 14-Rev. 21: 21-27, 22: 1-5.

GOLDEN TEXT. For he looked for a city that hath foundations whose builder and maker

EXPLANATORY.

is God."

Our lesson contains the conclusion of the prophetical portion of the Revelation. In the chapter preceding, we have described the final victory over Satan, the general resurrection, and the last judgment. The chapter containing our lesson begins with a description of the New Jerusalem. "It was a square, 12,000 fur-longs, or 1,500 miles, around it—probably ,000 furlongs between each of its twelve gates—each side was 375 miles, and its height is said to be the same." Its size is meant to give us some conception of the vast numbers of happy beings that shall live in it. Its description is designed o enable us to have some faint idea its wonderful beauty. Our lesson tells who shall be its inhabitants.

EXPLANATION OF TEXT. TWELVE GATES. Three gates on each of the four sides of the city, corresponding with the encampment of the twelve tribes around the tabernacle. Num. 2. EVERY SEVERAL GATE, Every individual gate. STREET. The broad places, squares, and public places, as well as streets, are meant. PURE GOLD - TRANSPARENT GLASS, "Ideal gold—transparent, sur-passing real gold in splendor." No TEM-PLE. The chief glory of the earthly Jerusalem was its temple, "No place of worship is needed where the object of worship is continually present." THE AMB IS THE LIGHT THEREOF. Literally, her lamp, the Lamb." "Lamp" may refer to some special office of illumination given to Christ. Of THEM WHICH ARE SAVED. The oldest MSS. omit these The meaning is not affected by e omission. Kings of the Earth, etc. sually kings seek their own glory, but hen it will not be so. GATES OF IT SHALL OT BE SHUT. They stand open all the while. There is the most perfect secur-None will go in except those who fitted so to do. By DAY. As there ill be no night there, that will be all the eas THAT DEFILETH. "Anything un-No impure thing shall enter that ode of purity. WORKETH ABOMINATION. auses sin of any kind. BUT THEY WHICH RE WRITTEN IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF E. He keeps a record of all that he leems. Is your name written there? The best authorities omit this RIVERS OF WATER OF LIFE. The am of blessing that gives spiritual IN THE MIDST, etc. The sense is the trees were on each side, on the der of the river, while the stream itflowed through the middle of the eet. THE TREE OF LIFE. Evidently

#### ple shall be both kings and priests. ILLUSTRATION.

re than one tree-for one tree could

t be on both sides of the river. The idea

ainly is that there was a long line, or

ow, of trees on each side. TWELVE MAN-

EALING OF THE NATIONS. Of all their

ritual maladies. No MORE CURSE. Or, erhaps, "accursed thing." THRONE OF OD AND THE LAMB. This throne is one

the same. SHALL SERVE. That will

be a place of idleness. THEY SHALL

GIGN FOREVER AND EVER. All of God's

of fruits. One for each month.

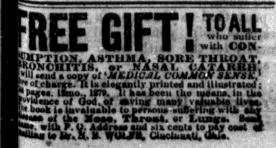
A city never built with hands, nor ary with the years of time; a city whose abitants no census has numbered; a through whose street rushes no tide business, nor nodding hearse creeps wly with its burden to the tomb; a without griefs or graves, without sins sorrows, without births or burials, hout marriages or mournings; a city h glories in having Jesus for its king, gels for its guards, saints for citizens; those walls are salvation, and whose ates are praise.—Dr. Guthrie.

### ROTHER, WHAT IS YOUR HOPE?

interesting story has been related in one ir missionary periodicals concerning a ul minister now laboring in the forield. While travelling once in India, he vered in a retired spot by the wayside a ying on the earth. Seen at a distance, peared to be asleep. He judged him to of those singular heathen devotees, so in that land encountered upon their painligrimages, and supposed that, fatigued his protracted journey, he had fallen on round for rest.

ming up to him, however, he found that man was really in a dying state, just breathis last. Kneeling down by his side, and solito give help or bring comfort to one in such extremity, he put the question in the language: "Brother, what is your hope

utly, but with an expression of delighted ise, the man replied: "The blood of Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all His strength failed him with the mere ition of these inspired words; and in a ent more, the soul of this unknown behad passed out of human sight, and was presence of God. Subdued into unuttermotion at thus suddenly confronting death in so secluded a retreat, the missionary upon the lifeless body, silently wonderthis strange fellow-Christian might be. e caught a glimpse of a fragment of pasely clasped in the dead man's hands. mination, this proved to be a detached the Bengalee Testament. On it were the words which that Hindoo convert eated with trustful reliance, as he floatalone upon that shoreless sea of existence which roll all around the



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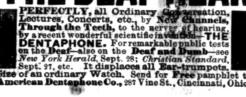
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