

Poetry.

Jessie's Happy Secret.

Jessie had a happy secret,
What it is I'd like to know!
She is always gay and cheery,

Sabbath School Department.

[From the Christian Helper.]

International Bible Lessons.

VICTORY OVER DEATH.

JULY 27.—1 Cor. 15: 50-58.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.—John 11: 25.

EXPLANATION OF THE TEXT.

50. FLESH AND BLOOD. i. e., such bodies as are weak, liable to disease and pain, subject to death and decay. CANNOT INHERIT. A change is not only possible as seen in v. 37, but it is necessary. "KINGDOM OF GOD, i. e. heaven, the reign of Christ as perfected in the world to come. NEITHER DOTTE CORRUPTION, &c. The mortal cannot be immortal; the perishable, imperishable."—Hodge.

51. MYSTERY. Some above human insight and which must be made known by revelation from God. SHALL NOT ALL SLEEP, shall not all be in the grave; a generation of men will be alive upon the earth when Christ comes. ALL BE CHANGED. Though death shall not be universal, the change of body will be those who are alive when Jesus comes will undergo this change as well as those who have long been in their graves.

52. IN A MOMENT, &c. The suddenness of the change in those who are then alive; death will not intervene. THE LAST TRUMP. "As the trumpet was used for assembling the people, or marshalling a host, it became the symbol for expressing the idea of the gathering of a multitude."—Ploubet. At Mount Sinai the people heard the sound of a mighty trumpet. Whether such a sound will be actually heard on the last day, or whether the language here and in many other similar passages is only symbolical of the gathering of all nations, I will not say, although the literal sound as at Sinai seems probable. THE DEAD SHALL NOT, &c. There are three successive events; the sounding of the trumpet, the raising of the dead in incorruptible bodies, the change in them that are then alive.

53. The apostle emphasises the necessity of the change that it is to be wrought to fit us for the "inheritance which is incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away." We must bear the inheritance in these respects. The good things of this earth are all perishable, and we who enjoy them are perishable. These things which constitute heaven are imperishable also.

54. THEN SHALL BE BROUGHT TO PASS THE KINGDOM, &c. See Isaiah 25: 3. This one of the glorious things predicted of the Messiah's reign. SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY. "When the change above described has been accomplished, when once the resurrection has taken place, then, according to the language of Scriptures, death shall be completely conquered. Not only shall those over whom he has triumphed, and whom he had so long detained in the prison of the grave, be delivered from his power but there shall be no more death. The words, in victory, mean literally forever. They are, however, frequently translated as they are here rendered by the apostle. The sense is the same."—Hodge.

55. The apostle, anticipating the resurrection of the redeemed by the power of Christ, and their being clothed with immortality, bursts forth in a shout of triumphant joy. Death has had terrible power to destroy, and has stung the souls of men with terrors and with bitter grief; the graves has swallowed up in itself all the generation of men. But Christ takes the sting from death and robs the grave of its victory, takes away that which has given death such power and made it so terrible, viz., sin, and brings back from the grave, those whom it has swallowed up.

56. THE STING OF DEATH IS SIN. It is not simply that death is the result of sin, but that which makes it terrible to die, that which pierces the soul and fills it with terrors in views of death, is the consciousness of guilt and pollution. Death, it is felt, will bring us face to face with the Judge of men, and as the criminal fears being ushered into the court of trial, the sinner dreads being ushered by death into his Maker's presence. THE STRENGTH OF SIN IS THE LAW. That which gives sin the power to pierce and terrify in view of death is God's holy law, which ought to have been kept by us, and which, since we have not kept it, sternly demands the sinner's punishment. In view of death, conscience awakes, and asserts on the one hand the holiness and inexorableness of the law, and on the other the individual's guilt in the presence of that law.

57. GIVETH US THE VICTORY. This Christ does (1) by satisfying the righteous demands of the law we have broken. (2) by renewing our souls and making us fit to dwell with God, (3) by redeeming us from the grave and clothing us with glory and immortality.

58. THEREFORE. In consideration of the glorious truths which have just been stated. UNMOVABLE, &c. in faith and hope. Let no false teachers shake your confidence and expectations, since ye see by this

chapter what solid facts and ground ye build upon. But there is to be not only steadfastness in faith and hope, but also activity and continuance in good works, ALWAYS ABOUNDING, &c., FOREASMUCH AS WE KNOW, &c. "An activity full of effort, involving burdens and self-denial for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom,—all this were vain and fruitless if our salvation were not to be consummated in triumph, if no victory over death and no resurrection were to be hoped for. But, since this hope is sure, we know that our efforts will not fail of their goal, that the glorious end will be reached at last, which will compensate us for all our toil."—King.

TOPICAL ANALYSIS.

1. It is impossible that we with our present bodies, which are so weak, so subject to disease, and death, and decay, and which are such barriers to the soul, should enter the service and society and enjoyment of the heavenly state; we must have bodies fitted to that state. v. 50.

2. Accordingly, the bodies of all the redeemed will be changed, not only those who "have fallen asleep in Christ," but also of those who are alive upon the earth when he comes. v. 51.

3. The change in those who are then alive will be instantaneous. v. 52.

4. Events of last day as respects redeemed; sounding of trumpet, resurrection of dead, change of living. v. 52.

5. This will be the consummation of Christ's triumph over death, and of the Christian's triumph through Christ. v. 54.

6. Exultation in view of final and certain victory. Explanation of the power and terror of death and the grave. Victory over these through Christ. v. 55-57.

7. Practical conclusions, exhortation to steadfastness and good works, on the ground of the certainty of reward. v. 58.

The Sense of Justice.

It is obvious, then, that the human soul is created with a desire for justice—a desire not entertained upon a mere sense of duty, but a real love of it. The popularity of courts of justice as places of resort, the whole construction of a large part of popular literature, the policy of governments, the history of revolutions, show this. The crowds that fill the law courts enjoy the scene because it is judicial; they see the representative of justice on the bench, and feel happy in his presence? They vibrate with each turn of the evidence or the argument with the pleasing confidence of a perfect adjustment to come in the shape of a sentence; and they repose in that conclusion when it comes, as if something good and pleasant for its own sake.

"Please Sir, Don't Step There."

On a cold Sabbath morning in February, a gentleman was walking along, somewhat hastily, through the snow. He noticed a bright looking little lad standing upon the pavement, with his cap in his hand and his eyes fixed upon one spot on the sidewalk. As he approached him he looked up to him, and pointing to the place said, "Please don't step there, sir. I slipped there, and fell down." What a different world this would be if all Christians were as particular as this lad to warn others against dangers whether temporal or spiritual.

Important Discovery.

Late English papers inform us that the noted archaeologist, Mr. Rassam, who is carrying on the work begun by the late Mr. George Smith, has just discovered at Babylon an octagonal cylinder, on the sides of which are engraved a history of the campaign of Sennacherib against King Hezekiah. This important find is to be forwarded to London for safe keeping in the British Museum.

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