Feb 9 '81

THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.

Sabbath School.

BIBLE LESSONS.

Lesson 7.-Feb. 13.

Luke 3: 7-18.

THE PREACHING OF JOHN THE BAP. TIST.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance.-Luke 3: 8.

TOPIC .- John preparing the way of the Lord.

DAILY READINGS.-Monday, Feb. 7: Luke 3: 7-18. Tuesday, Feb. 8; Isa. 55: 1-7. Wednesday, Feb. 9: Matt. 11: 20-30. Thursday, Feb. 10: Mal. 3: 6-18. Friday, Feb. 11: Gal. 5: 16-Feb. 13: Ezek. 18:23-32.

NOTES BY A. C. KENDRICK, D.D. L.L. D.

Vs. 7.-THE MULTITUDES, including the whole company of those who came forth to John for baptism. So all John's language was that of austere and rigid summons to repentance. Luke, however, has selected that form of rebuke and exhortation which was more especially addressed to the higher and more influential, but more corrupt classes, namely, the Pharisees and Sadducees, of whom many resorted to his baptism (Matt. 3: 7). The whole country was stirred, but with every variety of feeling, from that of genuine contrition to hypocritical pre. tense. OFFSPRING OF VIPERS. "Offspring," hence race, brood, marking the general and deep-seated depravity of the times, especially of the higher classes (Matt. 23: 33). See the terrible picture drawn by Christ (Matt. 28). WHO WARNED YOU? Intimating his astonishment at seeing them coming to him on such a mission. Nothing but some cogent warning could have impelled them. THE COMING WRATH: The impending vengeance. The judgments, temo ral and spiritual, that hung over the people of Israel, unless, as a nation, and as individuals they repented. The elements of the wrath are mixed, involving outward and political as the precursor and symbol of spiritual and eternal woes (Mal 4; Luke 13: 2-5; 20. 16).

VS. 8.-WORTHY OFF YOUR REPENTANCE: COL responding to the repentance which ye profess; or "fruits" such as are demanded by sincere repentance. "Repentance" is here not the repentance of mere regret, but the change of mind which involves reformation. BEGIN TO SAY. He arrests the first rising of that pride of race and ancestory which was so prevalent among the Jews. Their shield against all rebuke and condemnation was their descent from Abraham John 8:33). This garment of national self-conceit must be entirely torn from them. They must know that the very stones beneath their feet can be made by omnipotence to take the place of the descendants of Abraham. There is no foundation for the idea that the "stones" here are a designation for the Gentiles. The Baptist expresses by a strong figure, God's complete independence of any class as heirs of the privileges of his kingdom. Vs. 9.-ALREADY THE AXE. When you see the woodman's axe lying near the root of a tree, it shows the imminence of its destruction? Just so imminent is the destruction of the Jewish without repentance. EVERY TREE people THEREFORE. Transfer of the figure to the people whom it represents. Only the bringing forth of the good fruit, the fruits of repentance, can save either nation or individual+ from the impending ruin; ruin symbolized by the cutting down of the tree, and throwing it into the fire. Vs. 10, 11 .- What must we do to avoid this threatened destruction. HE THAT HATH TWO COATS. The Baptist's preaching is in the spirit of the Old Testament; demanding outward works of righteousness, but of course, implying the spirit of righteousness at the bottom of them. John's ministry held an intermediate place between the old covenant and the new. He was the last great prophet of the old. He was more than prophet, he was the special herald of the new (Matt. 11: 11). The duty here inculcated is impartial benevolence. love to our neighbor, evinced practically in the supply of his wants (Luke 10: 36; James 2: 15, 16. linite; we have builded at the Vs. 12, 13 .-- PUBLICANS. Tax-gatherers under the Roman government; a class hated in themselves, and as ministers of a foreign despotism. EXACT NOTHING. Their bosetting temptation was to exorbitant assessments, putting the overplus in their own pockets. They were to keep within the [governmental requistion. No are rurely having a we Vs. 14 .- THEY THAT WERE SERVING AS SOL DIERS. Jewish soldiers in the Roman army; of the fact of there being such there are historical proofs. Some may have had political supervision, as in connection with the collecting of the revenues. DEAL VIOLENTLY. Properly, "to shake asunder," "shake to pieces;" then, "wrong with threats of violence;" and then later, and perhaps here, "to extort money by threats of violence." DEAL FRAUDLENTLY WTH NONE, Properly, "to play the malignant informer," then "to wrong with malice and chicanery," " to defraud." Vs. 15. -BEING IN EXPRCTANCY. Wondering as to the significance and issue of this appearing and preaching of John and wondering and debating WHETHER HE MIGHT PERCHANCE be himself the Messiah whom he announced (John 1: 19; 3: 28). From the brief hints of the evangelists, we know that the excitement from John's preaching was deep and wide-spread. Vs. 16 .- IN WATER. As the outward and formal symbol of his inward and efficacious bapism. COMETH AFTER ME. John preceded Jesus by a few months, the lesser preceding the ininitely greater; and destined to wane before him (MIGHTIER THAN I. See John 3: 28-31). To Loose THE THONG OF strap of his shoes (or s adals): To perform even the menial service of untying his sandals: IN THE HOLY SPIRIT, Author of the inward, spiritual Baptism which

John's water baptism but symbolized FIRE: Not here theantithesis (torment, punishment), but the "illustrator," of his spiritual baptism. What the more penetrating, purifying powerful element of fire is to water, such is his spiritual baptism to mine. So also in Matt. 3: 11.

VS. 17 .- WINNOWING FAN FOR THE THRESH-ING-FLOOR, which is here the people of Israel, and ultimately all nations. On this spiritual threshing-floor he will discriminate character. and assign to each its proper destiny. The righteous (the wheat) he will gather into his heavenly mansions(the storehouse, thegranary); the wicked (the chaff) will be destroyed with irretrievable destruction (unquenchable fire).

LIGHT FROM BIBLE LANDS.

BY REV. GEORGE E. POST, M.D., BEIRUT, SYRIA. VIPERS (Luke 3: 7).-The poisonous snakes of Palestine give no warning by rattle, and they are moreover of small size, and their color close-26. Saturday, Feb. 12:1 John 4: 9-19. Sunday, ly conforms to that of the gray rocks where they live. They are therefore peculiarly dan gerous. The reason of the comparison of the multitudes who came to be baptized by John with vipers is not quite clear, unless the allusion be to the poisonous nature of their doctrines and its insidious character. The tendency of Asiatics from earliest ages has been to rely upon inherited religion rather than individual piety. They say, as in v. 8, "We have Abraham to our father." Now this is poisonous and deadly doctrine, enticing and illusive, as insidious as a serpent's gliding motion, and as fatal as a serpent's fang to all true devotion. They come to John in the self-righteous spirit of those who have a natural title to religion. He reproaches them as a poison brood of deadly serpents. It is by repentance alone that they can have true religion. God can recreat the chosen race out of stones.

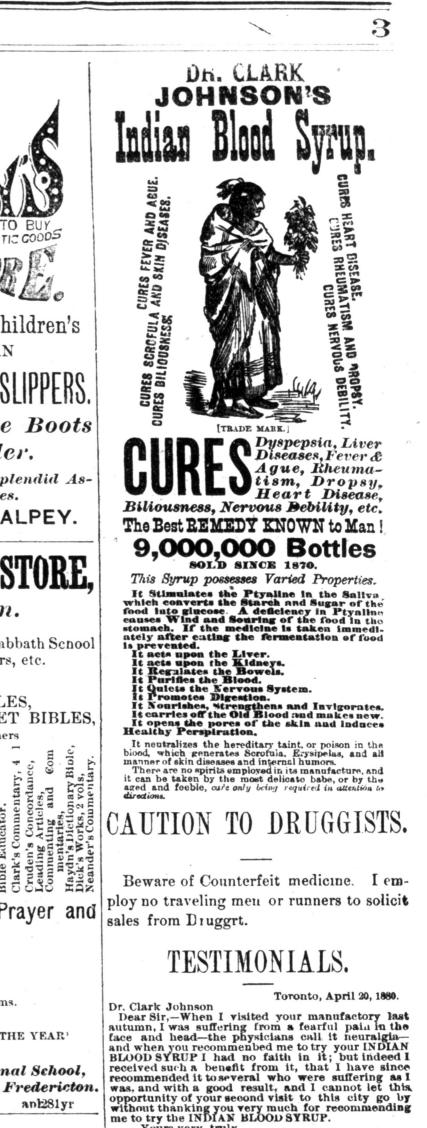
THESE STONES (v.8) are everywhere in Palestine. It is a rock-ribbed, rugged country.

ROOTS OF TREES-Stumps are not seen in the East. The roots (v. 9) are likewise grubbed up and used for fuel. The Orientals plant no shade trees by the roadsides. The trees which one generally sees by a fountain are walnuts, preserved for the "fruit." A few noble oaks terebinths are preserved through religious feelings in the neighborhood of the welys.

THE COATS (v. 11) are the loose outer cloak or mashlah. Very few persons have two. This would be rather an unnecessary extravagance. Meat" is to be understood of food in the general, as where Jesus says, "I have meat to eat that ye know not of."

PUBLICANS (12) .- The system of farming the taxes is one which has always afforded an opportunity for rapacity. The taxes are payable on produce before it is brought to market. As the government does not wish to charge itself with the collection of tithes, they sell the business of taking in the tenth of wheat and barley to the highest bidder. When the government as obtained the lump sum so paid, it no longer cares for the amounts wrung out of the poor farmer. The government furnishes horsemen to aid the tax collector and to escape their ravages the people are often glad to compound by a large payment for their speedy departure. The producers, instead of losing a tenth, may lose from a fourth to a half. The publican who would be content with what was appointed (v. 13) might be considered to have the essence and substance of religion. Nothing but religion could so restrain the universal covetousness of humanity. SOLDIERS (v. 14) .- As the soldiery of the Romans was foreign in the eastern provinces. like the Turkish troops, they were constantly temped to consider the property of the people legitimate plunder. Again, as the soldiery were then as now the police, they would exact blackmail by false accusations and arrests, and by violence to those who had no legal redress. Ottoman gensd'armes are notorious for barbarity. To be contented with the beggarly allowance which has always been the lot of an Oriental soldier from earliest times would indeed argue a high state of piety. The Turkish soldiers received little or no pay, and the worst of rations and appointments, during all their desperate struggle with Russia. THE FAN (v. 17) is the pitchfork with which the mingled grain and cut straw is tossed in the air.





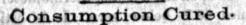
Yours very truly, GEO. LOVEYS, lumber merchant,

THE CHAFF is the smaller dust and debris of the straw which is blown outside of the threshing floor, and is too fine to be eaten by cattle. It is not mixed with the courser straw, and is good for nothing except to burn.

THE SHOE (v. 16) was a sandal. Slippers with no heel band, a mere sole with a pocket for the toes, are largely worn here. To touch the feet or unlose the shoes was an extraordinary act of humilation.

YOU GAN BE HAPPY.

If you will stop all your extravagant and wrong no-tions in doctoring yourself and families with expen-sive doctors or humbug cure-alls, that do harm al-wsys, and use only nature's simple remedies for all your ailments—you will be wise, well and happy, and save great expense. The greatest remedy for this, the great, Wise and good Will tell you, is Hop Bittərs—believe it. See "Proverbs" in another col-num. nmn.

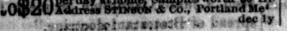


Consumption Cured. An old physician, retired from practice. having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure for Consumption. Bronehitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after having tasted its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has fet it his duty to make it known to his suffering fel-lows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to re-lieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who desire it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Send by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper. W. W. SHEBAR, 149 Powers' Block. dec22

Take Advice.

If you are troubled with Indigestion Jaundice, Bil-ious Complaints, Bad Breath, Sick Headache, Heart-burn, Waterbrash, Loss of Appetite, a sense of full-ness or oppression after eating, a furred tougue, lan-guor and aversion to exercise of mind or body, dejec-tion of spirits, dimness of vision, or any other diseases arising from Dyspepsia.try Fellows' Dyspepsia Bit-ters. They will give you instant relief Frice 25. cents

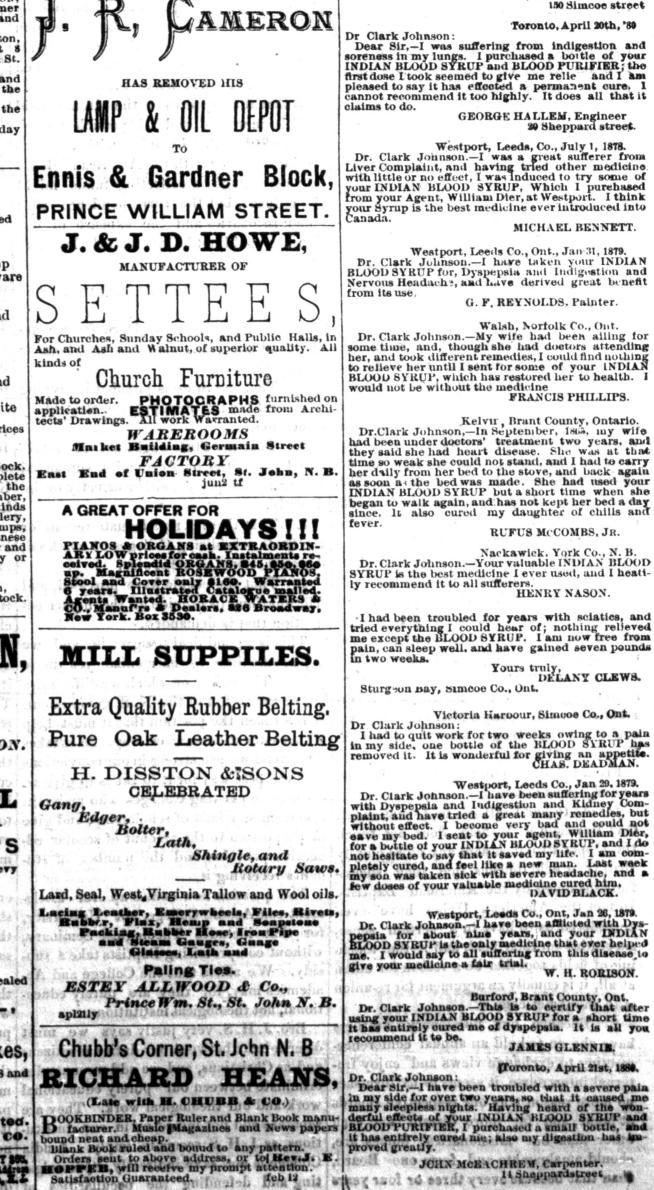
If yen are going West, purchase your Tickets from G. A. Freeze, the agenton Water Street, St. John Passengers for Winnipeg or other western points have choice of route. Cushioned seats provided for all classs and baggage checked through. \$6.0\$20 Address STINSON & Co., Portland Me



We are finishing them up and can make prices below, every other store. TO CARLETON COUNTY READERS.

TO CARLETON COUNTY READERS. I have opened a Branch Store in Connell's 'Biock. Woodstock, where may be seen the only complete stock of House Furnishing Goods ever opened in the County. Furniture suitable for Parlor, Chamber, Dining Room, Hall or Kitchen Crockery of all kinds imported direct from Staffordshire; Table cullery, Bohemian Vases, Silver Ware, Majolica, Lamps, Table Glass Ware, New Silver Jewelry, Japanese Fancy Goods and "a thousand and one" fancy and useful articles suitable for Christmas, Birthday or Bridal presents. JAS. G. MCNALLY,





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