

Sabbath School Lessons.

November 9th.

THE MANNA.—EXOD. xvi. 9-31.

1. THE PEOPLE MURMUR.

After their crossing the Red Sea, the pillar of the cloud, which guided them, took a direction almost southward. They were led near the coast, to keep them in mind of their great deliverance. They seem to have taken only a month's provision with them out of Egypt, as their supplies were now exhausted. They had their herds with them, but it appears that it was customary with them to live on the produce of their cattle; they rarely used their flesh as an article of food, except it were to show respect and hospitality to some extraordinary guest. After the abundant proofs, however, which they had so recently experienced of the power and goodness of the Lord, their complainings were most unwarrantable, most criminal. They murmured against Moses and Aaron, as if their leaders had not acted by Divine authority. They looked back with fond regret on the past, for the cruel bondage which had made them cry unto the Lord, and remembering only the fleshpots of Egypt.

2. THE FOOD PROMISED.

When the Lord might have justly rained fire upon them from heaven, he promised to rain bread upon them v. 4. The congregation was summoned, and looking towards the van, they beheld the glory of the Lord in the cloud, which probably assumed a dazzling brightness. As Moses said, v. 8. Their murmurings were against the Lord.

3. THE QUAILS AND MANNA.

The quails came up—a small migratory partridge about the size of a pigeon. The supply of them was not permanent like that of the Manna. *It is Manna.* v. 15. It is called angel's food. Ps. lxxviii. 25. Manna is a Hebrew word, and signifies, What is this? indicative of the surprise of the Hebrews on seeing it. It appears to have been a seed-like substance, of a white colour, and like hoar frost. It was not the same as the medicinal, vegetable yam, which is now called manna. It was capable of being baked into bread, after being ground in a mill or beat in a mortar; Num. xi. 8. *An omer for every man*—the omer was about six pints. The quantity gathered, was miraculously increased or diminished to an omer. The manna was a beautiful emblem of our blessed Redeemer—the bread of life which came down from Heaven; Jno. vi. 49-

51. *The people rested on the seventh day.* This is an interesting proof of the observance of the Sabbath before the giving of the Decalogue.

1. Learn.—*How unreasonable it is to murmur against God.* We deserve not the least of mercies. How thankful should we be that we are not suffering eternal punishment.

2. *We should never distrust God.* He can and will support his people in every emergency. He could maintain a nation for forty years in a wilderness.

3. *The Christian's daily bread is sure.* He who taught us to pray for it, Matt. vi. 11, will also supply it.

4. *Not to hoard up wealth.*—"Having food and raiment, let us therewith be content" 1 Tim. vi. 8. The superfluity of our wealth we should dedicate to God.

RAISING OF JAIRUS' DAUGHTER

MARK. 5. 22-24. 35-43.

Jairus was a Jew, and must have been an influential man among his people. He was a ruler of the Synagogues. He was probably comfortable in his circumstances, and evidently respected. He had an only daughter, which was about twelve years of age. She was likely in the circumstances to be the idol of her father's heart, the chief attraction in her home. For years her presence would be as sunshine on the engagements and enjoyments of her father's life. But this was likely to come to an end. The family horizon was to be covered with clouds. The little daughter was to take sick and to draw nigh to the gates of death. None but a parent can fathom a parent's fears. No parent who has undergone similar experience can understand the parental anguish, of dreading the life of an only child. Any trial but that, the parent might think would be easy. Spare me this might be his cry. But the child rather grew worse than better. One means after another was tried, but all failed to make any improvement. Every physician was consulted, but their efforts were of no avail.—Driven from all earthly resources he went at the last moment to Jesus.

Observe. 1. *The trial of his faith.*—When Jairus asked the Lord to go to his home and heal his daughter, he received a favourable response. The Lord immediately set out. His disciples and the multitude went with him, and thronged him. This thronging would delay Jesus reaching the house of Jairus, and every moment was precious to him in order that his child might be saved.—His patience was further tried by the delay caused by the cure of the woman who had an issue of blood. He feared that these de-