

SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for
TEACHERS
AND
YOUNG PEOPLE.

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The Teacher's Dream.

DISCOURAGED and weary, I laid me down
On my bed the other day,
Weary of life and its ceaseless toil,
Too weary to sing or pray.
I saw not the beauty of earth or sky,
But all seemed one sombre gray;
And heaven is far, far off, thought I,
And the angels—where are they?

Why do my burdens heavier grow?
Why am I so oppressed?
Where is the help I am needing so?
Where is the promised rest?
Ah, doubts were crowding thick and fast,
And my burdens seemed heavier to be,
And faith, and God, and all things else,
Seemed slipping away from me.

All at once there seemed to stand
By my side a shining one.
His raiment was pearly and glistening white,
And his face shone like the sun.
"Why art thou so anxious, weary one,
To lay thy burdens down?
For only those that bear the cross
Can wear the victor's crown.

"Dost thou not know that only those
That faint not by the way
Shall rest at last with Christ's weary ones
Through one long, endless day?
And then he seemed to float away,
And up through the azure blue,
And I was left sitting there alone,
But life wore a different hue.

For I was discouraged no longer,
And heaven seemed nearer to me;

Again I arose to life's duties,
Feeling both happy and free,
Knowing that if we are faithful,
And bear what God gives us to bear,
We at last shall sit down in his kingdom
And be resting with Jesus there.

Beirut.

THIS is one of the loveliest and most prosperous towns in Palestine, and by far the best of its very few seaports. It is the ancient Berytus. Herod the Great adorned it with the splendid edifices of a luxurious Roman city. Since the Crusades it has been held by the Saracens and Turks, and has degenerated into a squalid Turkish town. A new Beirut has grown up in recent times, of much importance and beauty. It is the centre of influential missionary operations, and has several Christian schools and churches which are leavening the social and religious life of Syria. Dr. Dullis, whose book we review elsewhere, attended a teachers' meeting for the study of the lessons here, when seventy-four young men and women were present and took an intelligent part in the exercises. The situation of the town is most beautiful. The view of the winding shore, and of the snow-capped range of Lebanon, is described as of peculiar magnificence. A good road leads over Lebanon to Damascus, which is described as the oldest city in the world, and which is still a populous centre, with important commercial and missionary relations.

NOTE.—Owing to the very extensive Lesson Notes in this number of the BANNER, much of our usual reading matter is unavoidably held over till next month. The Opening and Closing Service will be found on page 160.