

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

LESSON XIII.

March 26, 1882.]

REVIEW EXERCISE.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**—"He hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives."—ISA. 61:1.

ORDER OF SERVICE.

[Allow ten minutes before the service for collecting the library books and for attention to class details.]

1. Two taps of bell, call school to order.
2. One tap, silent prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert.
3. Singing (all standing).
4. RESPONSIVE READING:

*Superintendent.*—How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!

*School.*—My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God.

*Supt.*—Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee.

*School.*—Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee.

*Supt.*—O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob.

*School.*—Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.

*Supt.*—"For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand."

*School.*—I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

*Supt.*—One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after;

*School.*—That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to enquire in his temple.

*Supt.*—We have thought of thy loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple.

*School.*—Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.

*Supt.*—According to thy name, O God, so is thy praise unto the ends of the earth.

*School.*—For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death.

*All.*—O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

5. Singing: Doxology.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

6. Repeating the Ten Commandments or the Apostles' Creed in concert.

7. Prayer, led by the superintendent.

*Less. I. Superintendent.*—What was John's testimony to Jesus?

*School.*—There cometh one mightier than I after me...he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost. 1:7, 8.

*Supt.*—How did the Father testify to Jesus at his baptism?

*School.*—"Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." 1:11.

*II. Supt.*—What did Jesus do when John was cast into prison?

*School.*—Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. 1:14.

*Supt.*—What effect had his teaching?

*School.*—They were astonished at his doctrine, for he taught them as one that had authority and not as the scribes. 1:22.

*III. Supt.*—What did the leper say to Jesus?

*School.*—Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 1:40.

*Supt.*—How did Jesus answer him?

*School.*—Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. 1:41.

Singing.—Hymn.

*IV. Supt.*—What did Jesus say to one sick of the palsy?

*School.*—Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. 2:5.

*Supt.*—How did he prove his power on earth to forgive sins?

*School.*—He saith to the sick of the palsy, I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all. 2:10-12.

*V. Supt.*—What did Jesus say about the Sabbath?

*School.*—The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath. 2:27, 28.

*VI. Supt.*—Whom did Jesus choose as apostles?

*School.*—He ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach. 3:14.

Singing.—Hymn.

*VII. Supt.*—Who did Jesus say were his nearest relatives?

*School.*—Whoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother. 3:35.

*VIII. Supt.*—Who are they which are as seed sown on good ground?

*School.*—Such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty and some an hundred. 4:20.

*Supt.*—How did Jesus close the parable of the Sower?

*School.*—He said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. 4:9.

*IX. Supt.*—To what did Jesus liken the kingdom of God?

*School.*—It is like a grain of mustard-seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth; but when it is sown, it groweth up and becometh greater than all herbs and shooteth out great branches;

so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it. 4:31, 32.

Singing.—Hymn.

*X. Supt.*—How did Jesus still the tempest?

*School.*—He arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. 4:39.

*XI. Supt.*—Who met Jesus in the country of the Gadarenes?

*School.*—There met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit. 5:2.

*Supt.*—What did Jesus say to him?

*School.*—Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. 5:8.

*Supt.*—In what condition did the people find the man?

*School.*—They came to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind. 5:15.

*XII. Supt.*—What was the prayer of the ruler of the synagogue?

*School.*—My little daughter lieth at the point of death: I pray thee, come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live. 5:23.

*Supt.*—What did Jesus say when they heard she was dead?

*School.*—Be not afraid, only believe. 5:36.

*Supt.*—What did Jesus do when they came to the house?

*School.*—He took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. And straightway the damsel arose. 5:41, 42.

Singing.—Hymn.

Review drill on titles, Topics, Golden Texts, Catechism and Review Questions.

Close in the usual manner.

SECOND QUARTER.

LESSON I.

April 2, 1882.]

[Mark 6: 1-13.]

THE MISSION OF THE TWELVE.

COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 10-12.

1. And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him.

2. And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue; and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

3. Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joseph, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him.

4. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

5. And he could do there no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

6. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

7. And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by twos and twos; and gave them power over unclean spirits.

8. And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

9. But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.

10. And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.

11. And whosoever shall not receive you nor hear you when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.

12. And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

13. And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**—"He that receiveth you receiveth me: and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me."—MATT. 10:40.

**TOPIC.**—Jesus Offering Life.

**LESSON PLAN.**—1. THE REJECTION AT NAZARETH. 2. THE TWELVE SENT FORTH.

Time.—Winter, A. D. 29. Place.—Nazareth and Lower Galilee.

HELPS TO STUDY.

**INTRODUCTORY.**—Jesus, on his return from the house of Jairus, restored two blind men to sight (Matt. 9:27-31), and healed a dumb demoniac. Leaving Capernaum, he went with his disciples into Lower Galilee and again visited Nazareth. Rejected there a second time, he went through the cities and villages of that region. During this circuit he sent out the twelve apostles.

**I. THE REJECTION AT NAZARETH.**—(1-6.) V. 1. FROM THENCE—Capernaum. HIS OWN COUNTRY—Nazareth. V. 2. ASTONISHED—they could not deny his wisdom or his miracles, but their envy and malice were so strong that, while they wondered at them, they rejected him. V. 3. IS NOT THIS THE CARPENTER—Jesus probably had worked at this trade at Nazareth. THE BROTHER OF JAMES—see Mark 3:31. OFFENDED AT HIM—made to stumble, led into error with regard to him. NOT WITHOUT HONOR—a Jewish proverb expressing a truth to which the case of Jesus was no exception. They could not overcome the prejudices arising from their knowing him familiarly. V. 5. NO MIGHTY WORK—his power was not changed, but the unbelieving would not come to be healed, and thus unbelief prevented the exercise of his healing power. So unbelief now hinders us from receiving the blessings he is both able and willing to give. Isa. 59:1, 2; Mark 9:23; Heb. 4:2. V. 6. HE MARVELLED—Their unbelief was a real wonder to him. Compare Matt. 3:10.

**II. THE TWELVE SENT FORTH.**—(7-13.) V. 7. THE TWELVE—he had chosen them some time before. ch. 3:13-19, TWO AND TWO—that each might have a companion in labor. Eccles. 4:9. GAVE THEM POWER—he not only worked miracles himself, but he also gave others the power to work them. V. 8. TAKE NOTHING—their work required haste, and they were not to burden themselves with baggage; they must trust that God would provide for their wants while in his service. SCRIP—a bag or knapsack for provisions. V. 9. TWO COATS—they were to go in the simplest manner, believing that they would not lack the necessities of life. V. 10. THERE ABIDE—do not waste time or seem over-anxious for comfort by going from house to house. V. 11. RECEIVE YOU—hear and believe your message. SHAKE OFF (Acts 13:51; 18:6)—a sign that they were given over to destruction. FOR A TESTIMONY—that Christ had been offered to them and they would not receive him. MORE TOLERABLE—their punishment will be more easily borne than that of the people who reject the gospel. V. 12 THAT MEN SHOULD REPENT—this was both the subject and the object of their preaching. V. 13. THESE MIRACLES WERE PROOF THAT GOD HAD SENT THEM, ANOINTED WITH OIL—as a sign of the spiritual grace by which the miracle was wrought.

TEACHINGS:

1. Eternal life is freely offered to us in the gospel.
2. We should receive the offer with thankful hearts.
3. We should not let unbelief keep us from Christ.
4. A superficial knowledge of Jesus may prevent a truer and more spiritual acquaintance with him.
5. Those who receive the gospel are greatly blessed.
6. If we neglect the gospel, we are more guilty than the heathen, and will be more sorely punished.

**REMEMBER** that Jesus sends ministers and teachers to point out to you the way of life. If you listen to these offers and instructions, he will give you the promised blessing. If you neglect and reject them, you cannot enter into life. Receive the gospel offer yourself, and then do all you can to give it to others.

CONSCIENCE.

Conscious sin creates dangers for itself, and imagines an accusing voice in everything.

Bessus, a native of Pelonia, in Greece, was seen one day by his neighbors angrily destroying some birds' nests near his house and killing the young. They rebuked him and asked the reason of his cruelty, and the wretch finally confessed that the notes of the birds had become intolerable to him, for they never ceased twitting him of the murder of his father.

In the bar-room of a certain tavern the landlord sat in a corner talking in a low tone with one of his neighbors about a swarm of bees. Two travellers in another part of the room overheard a little of the conversation, and one of them whispered in alarm, "Didn't he say beans?" "I think he did," said the other; and a moment after both of them were missing. Several years before, these very men had swindled the same landlord out of the price of a night's supper and lodging, and stolen from him a bag of beans besides.

An old man dying in a poor-house sent for a minister to hear a confession he had to make. Forty years before, (he said) while crossing a common, he saw two men putting up a guideboard, and as soon as they were out of sight he went and turned it in an opposite direction. It had always been a heavy burden on his conscience to think how many poor travellers he had sent the wrong way.—*Monthly Cabinet of Illustrations.*

SIMPLICITY OF FAITH.

Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.—John 20:29.

A pastor in visiting a member of his Church found her very sick, apparently dying. He said to her—

"Mrs. M. you seem to be very sick."  
"Yes," said she, "I am dying."  
"And are you ready to die?"

She lifted her eyes upon him with a solemn and fixed gaze, and speaking with great difficulty, she replied—

"Sir, God knows—I have taken him—at his word—and—I am not afraid to die."

It was a new definition of faith.  
"I have taken him at his word." What a triumph of faith. "God knows I have taken him at his word, and I am not afraid to die." It was just the thing for her to say. What else could she have said that would have expressed so much, in so few words.

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