



GREAT BRITAIN.

FRANCE.

RUSSIA.

ITALY.

GERMANY.

AUSTRIA.

UNITED STATES.

RELATIVE SIZE OF NAVIES OF THE WORLD.

This picture brings out very strikingly the superiority of the navy of Great Britain to that of all other countries. The stalwart marine who leads the procession is a true type of British superiority on the seas. But still more striking than this is the supremacy of the British commercial navy. Her consuls are in every port, her ships are on every sea, her flag floats in every breeze that blows and is everywhere the sign of prosperity and progress. Secure from invasion in her "tight little island," and protected, as Burke has said, by "those ancient and unsubsidized allies, the winds and waves that guard her coast," she makes the sea a highway for her trade and commerce to all the world. It is greatly to her advantage of the United States that her isolated position in this western continent has made it unnecessary to have either an army or navy worth the name—only some 25,000 soldiers, and some dozen of war vessels. Britain's superiority at sea is not purchased without heavy cost to the nation, as many of her ships cost over £1,000,000 sterling each, and some of the largest two or three millions. But they are a sort of police of the seas and in the present state of the world are necessary for the protection of her far extended commerce and her many colonies throughout the world.

OCEAN ICEBERGS.

DURING a recent passage of the steamer *Helvetia* from Antwerp to New York, the wind blowing a nice breeze from the westward, a sudden change in the temperature was noticed. An hour before the weather was quite sultry, awnings being spread fore and aft; but at about three o'clock in the afternoon, although the sun was shining brilliantly, a cold blast from the north west set in. The rapidity of the change from a sweltering summer day to an Arctic frost naturally caused considerable amazement, especially among the greenest members of the crew. The more experienced knew what was coming; and when the cry was heard of "Icebergs on the starboard bow!" followed immediately by notification that others were visible on the port side, the mystery was explained. Then, right in the track of vessels, were seen monstrous mountains of ice, some of them pure white, others crossed in many directions by broad stripes of blue. Some of them were two hundred feet high and one thousand feet long. There were at least thirty of them, extending for many miles. The sea broke against them, forcing torrents of spray up the steep acclivities of their sides. The rays of the sun had melted the upper surface of many of them into the most fanciful shapes, and imaginary likenesses of crags, cliffs, and castles could be traced in those parts more exposed to the lines of the heat. Streams of water in picturesque cascades were flowing down into the sea, and the huge majestic masses seemed to be moving slowly to the south-east. The *Helvetia* passed near enough to several of them to distinguish plainly the noise of the waves as they broke against the rugged sides of the berg. As night closed in, and the moon arose, the sight was indeed beautiful.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

A. D. 30.] LESSON I. [July 3.

THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST.

Acts 1. 1-12. Memory verses, 8-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

When he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.—Acts 1. 9.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The Jesus who lived and taught on earth is still our Saviour and Lord in heaven.

INTRODUCTION.

Jesus was crucified on Friday, April 7. He rose Sunday, April 9, and then for forty days appeared to the disciples on various occasions, teaching them and fitting them for the great work of founding the Church. The lesson to-day reviews these forty days, and gives an account of Jesus' last words on earth.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

Former treaties—The Gospel of Luke. *Shed himself alive*—He appeared ten or twelve times. *Infallible proofs*—He ate and drank and walked and talked with them. They could not be mistaken. *The promise of the Father*—The Holy Spirit, the sum of all the promises. (See Joel 2. 28, 29; Isa. 44. 3.) *Not many days*—Ten days. *Come together*—At Jerusalem, or on the Mount of Olives, where he led them from Jerusalem. (Luke 24. 50, 51.) *Restore again*—They were looking for the promised time when all the world should be subject to the Jews, and the reign of peace and of God should come to all the world. *In his own power*—Under his own authority. God controls, and he only knows. *He was taken up*—His last act and words were of blessing. (Luke 24. 50, 51.) *Two men—Angels*. (Luke 24. 4, with Matt. 28. 2-5.) *Jesus . . . shall so come*—It is not stated when this will be, but the fact is certain. It shows that Jesus still lives—the same Jesus as he was here; the same in his nature, his love, his power. We worship a living and not a dead Saviour. *Sabbath day's journey*—Two thousand cubits—three-fourths of a mile.

Find in this lesson—
The proof that Jesus is still living.
Two promises from God.
What we all most need.
What we should all be.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. How long did Jesus remain on earth after his resurrection? "Forty days." 2. How did he prove that he was alive? "He appeared eleven times in various places; ate, drank, spoke, and was touched by his disciples." 3. What then took place? "He ascended to heaven." 4. From what place? "From Mount Olivet." 5. What did the disciples do? "They waited in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father."

CATECHISM QUESTION.

28. What benefits do Christ's people receive from him at death?
Their souls immediately pass into the presence of the Lord, while their bodies rest in their graves till the resurrection.
Having the desire to depart and be with Christ.—Philippians 1. 23.

Canada.

BY WILLIAM H. ROSEYEAR.

HAIL, Canada, home of the free!
Long may thy flag with Britain's wave
O'er the fair land, whose liberty
Has ne'er been marred by foot of slave.

A glorious heritage is thine—
Of noble deeds and lofty aim—
Source of a power almost divine
To inspire the soul with patriotic flame;

Heroes alike who battles gained,
Or for United Empire, lost,
Who naught but loyalty retained,
And for thy flag the border crossed.

O, patriot hosts! your fame how fair!
Brightening as age on age tolls on;
Be ours to guard, with grateful care,
The treasures by your conflicts won.

Endowed with full self-government,
Vast realms whose bounds three oceans lave;
Thy task their grand development,
What more can nation have?

On every sea, by every coast,
Thy ships sail forth, fair climes to greet;
Of rank the third thy seamen boast
In wide world's merchant fleet.

Free to retain the ancient tie—
Love's golden link—to Britain's throne,
For which thy patriots dared to die:
Yet free to stand alone.

Conscious of manhood's ripening power,
The heroes of thy storied past
Are reproduced in danger's hour,
When sweeps rebellion's blast.

Yes, 'mid the leaden storm, thy call
Fired loyal souls, like flaming torch;
Victors to be, or nobly fall—
Witness their charge, Ratoche!

Self-sacrificing, valiant, strong
To guard with life their country's fame;
What nobler traits to those belong
Who boast a nation's name?

O Canada, speed on thy course
True to thy past; bid changelings wait
Till federation's growing force
Unites an empire great.

For Britain shall her lustre shed
On myriad states in compact bound,
Not colonies, but empire, spread
Wherever British hearts are found.

In that grand phalanx, thine shall be
A foremost place, high in esteem;
And thy brave sons shall glory see,
Surpassing far their proudest dream.

O Canada, thy destiny
Of splendour may thy statesmen find,
Pledge of the coming harmony,
"The federation of mankind!"

BIRD LIFE IN WINTER.

How do birds obtain their food supplies for the winter, is a question we have often thought upon. It is indeed surprising that during the long winter season, with the ground much of the time covered with snow, and hard frost everywhere, they should be able to keep them alive until the spring. It is to be remembered, too, that most all the birds are great consumers. The amount of food taken by them sur-

passes, in proportion to their own weight, that of all other creatures whose habits are familiar to us, unless indeed some species of insects be an exception.

By far the greater number of our birds are but summer visitors to our wintry homes. They come during the season when food is plenty, build their nests and rear their young, and in the fall go off again to their haunts in far-away southern or tropical regions. Many of them, indeed, go beyond the United States in their summer visits, penetrating far into the northern regions of British America, as in the case of the Canada warbler, which again they seek retreats far beyond the southern borders of our country. But many other birds remain with us during all the winter, no matter how severe the cold may be. Among these are the quail, the pheasant—the latter now rare in the more populated countries—the blue jay, few species of woodpeckers, and numerous others; among the last, the now universal English sparrow. The last named of secure food wherever larger animals, horses, are found; but the others must obtain their sustenance from the bark of trees or shrub, from seeds upon the dried stalks of weeds, or from the surface of the frozen earth. Occasionally birds frozen to death are found; but it is a cause for surprise that they are so few. The freezing doubtless often occurs as a result of hunger, the vitality goes so low to resist the piercing power of cold.

The fact that the birds are fed and maintained during the winter is one of the marvels of nature. To our human eyes there are but slight supplies in sight; but in the great storehouse of God, whose sources are often invisible to our eyes, there are supplies provided for them. Jesus in his beautiful sermon on the mount, told us how it is. "Behold the fowls of the air," he said, "for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet yet your heavenly Father feedeth them." And so, also, but by other means, he provides for us.

A THING is never too often repeated which is never sufficiently learned.



LOOK HERE! LOOK HERE!

THERE is a book we want every boy and girl in Canada to read. It is Panay's new Temperance story, *John Remington, Martyr*, and a grand and interesting story it is.

Boys and girls! if you read this notice ask your parents to buy the book for you, and read it aloud while you gather round. Ask your teacher to have it placed in the school library. The book sells at 70 cents, postpaid. It is a beautiful book, in large, clear type and handsome binding.



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