

JACOB FAITHFUL.

The Old Man's Weekly Budget of Gossip About Things in General

Is it a fact that respectable householders gather their families together on Sunday afternoons and read aloud JACOB's weekly homily on men and things in general? If so, and I don't doubt your word, this is fame indeed, and satisfaction enough for any ordinary man. At this rate, I must, as Mrs. Chick would say, "make an effort" and see to it that I have always more than ever something worth saying and reading too. It is just in this direction that my ambition, if I have any, especially lies. I like to go into farm houses, to sit around the big blazing log fire in the backwoods, or at the comfortable and capacious store of more settled districts to hear the gossip and take my share in the crack, to help the boys with their sums, and the girls with TRUTH's Enigmas, not forgetting to hold the hank of worsted when the gudewife winds it off into a clew, or to do what I can in keeping up sides with the head of the house on farming affairs or local politics. JACOB has done a good spell at such work in days gone by, and he likes to do it still whenever he has an opportunity. Aye, and when he can't do any thing else it is a cordial to his old heart to think that thousands welcome his weekly visit in TRUTH, and give him a character to the effect that he isn't a bad fellow, isn't JACOB, by a long chalk. I wish all the fireplaces where TRUTH is found were as JACOB wishes them to be. There would then be a considerable overturning of many present arrangements and no mistake. Now look ye, JACOB would banish the whiskey bottle. Yes, indeed, he would

KICK IT TO THE BACK OF BEYOND, or over to the other side of the north wind. Don't tell me that whiskey is not ruining thousands both in town and country. I know better. Plant down a tavern in a neighborhood and as sure as fate that neighborhood begins to degenerate. The boys get to lounge about it, professing to hear the news, or to see a party. It becomes a rough and tumble club house with skittles, checkers, and cards—the loser to pay for the drinks! But whatever the pretence, the result is very much the same. The interest in the work of the farm is dulled, the brain is injured, self-respect is lost. A certain loud rude rough way is gradually contracted and there is a whole crop of both young and old who very speedily go to the bad.

Jacob would also like to see all the readers of TRUTH both in town and country dealing only for and with cash. I think I would rather go with the shabbiest coat that would at all hold together before I would have the finest "on tick." Some folks say that the country could not get on without credit. Perhaps such is the case, but thus I know at the same time, that it would have been the greatest mercy possible to hundreds and thousands if they could not have got credit, or not a twelfth part of what they got. It is an awful easy thing to say

PUT IT DOWN,

but it makes many a heart go pit-a-pat when the account is rendered. Folks are more cautious about buying what they don't absolutely need when they have to plank down the cash. Yes, and when one has money over hand he can make a long-sight better and more advantageous bargain. He can ask what he wants, and if he don't get it he can go elsewhere. Ready cash is a mighty convenient thing, when one goes on an errand or wants to buy new dresses for his girls and new jackets for his boys. JACOB repeats that

it has been credit that has diddled many a man out of his farm. He had by-and-by to give the store keeper a mortgage, and then in due time came foreclosure and all which that means.

Then JACOB would like to see a great many fathers and mothers trusting their boys and girls more than they do; not by letting them go alone to foolish merry-makings or by winking hard when they stay late and come home at the "ama' oors." There is plenty of that kind of trust and a great deal too much. But trust them by making them more acquainted with their affairs, by taking them more into their confidence, by letting them know what are their troubles, and what are their plans. Too many fathers forget that their sons are young men and their daughters young women, and that they are not to be treated any more like little children. You understand? Why, there are fathers who will not let their sons sell a bushel of wheat, and will not trust them at a fair to dispose of a bull calf for fear they allow themselves to be cheated. Did ever anybody hear such nonsense? Wouldn't it be far better for their boys to be cheated three or four times before their father dies than twenty times after? Wouldn't it be far better that the father should be there to advise them, to sympathize with them in their blunders and losses and to encourage them with the assurance that they will do better the next time? But no! The old cantankerous fools keep the noses of their young folks close to the grinds'one and do every bit of marketing and bargain-making themselves, as if the boys were babies, and the girls still not out of leading strings. It is a great shame and a great loss as well. And what a senseless fuss some old fools of fathers do make when their sons are rather taken in! They never let it down on the poor fellows. They chuckle over it; they grumble about it, they throw it in the young fellows' face in the nastiest fashion, they even tell the neighbors about it, and make the unfortunate youngster their butt. Was there ever such folly and wickedness? Why every one must learn. In nine cases out of ten the young fellow did his best. Aye, was most anxious to show that he deserved his father's confidence. A few kindly considerate words, an expressed confidence that he would do better next time, would have bound father and son in still closer fellowship and confidence, and would have put the son ten times more on the very "edge of his foot." Fathers don't make fun of the mistakes of your boys. It has

AS DISCOURAGING AN EFFECT as that chronic continual scold with which some heads of houses constantly regale their unfortunate dependents. If more farmers and others were making their homes more attractive, and were trying to make their grown up children more their confidants and friends, there would be less of that "going away" which so many speak of and deplore.

That is surely about enough for one day in the way of a friendly plain-spoken talk. While I think of it there is another thing I wish to say to fathers, and that is "Don't put off your shoes till you are going to bed." Never put yourselves at the mercy of even the best of children by surrendering Title deeds and trusting to the generosity of the young folks for consideration and bread. It is essentially a bad plan. Never do it. A good son would not ask it. A bad son would not act on the square if he got the chance.

There now, I have said my say for the week. Some may not mind what I have urged. The more fools they! Others will be wiser I have no doubt. There is no use, let me add, in mothers toiling and fighting while the daughters sit about in stupid idleness. This is not however so often done as is sometimes alleged. Let parents and children work together in one common effort to make their homes bright and comfortable and prosperous and they will succeed and be happy as sure as my name is

JACOB FAITHFUL.

OUR SCRIPTURAL ENIGMA.

For Bible Students.

No Money Required. Try Your Skill.

NO. XIII.

With this number we complete a quarter of a year of Scriptural Enigmas. The undertaking has involved a large amount of labour and expense, but it has at the same time afforded us a great deal of pleasure. It has made us acquainted with a great number of friends whom we have never seen, whom we shall never see. To them we are a shadow as far as personality is concerned, and as such we shall always remain. On the other side we have rather the advantage, though it is surprising what a large proportion of our correspondents are personally strangers, though as the weeks go on they become really well known and greatly esteemed.

The large bundles of letters which come in sometimes positively alarm us, but we tackle bravely to the work of opening and reading them and generally find our reward in doing so. When a letter such as the following comes in it is not surprising that we should be encouraged:—"Allow me to say that the reading of TRUTH and the solution of the Enigmas afford me a pleasure which I had heretofore ceased to feel. Though always from a child I was fond of reading the Bible, yet of late years I was somewhat indifferent in the matter." Another says: "I wish your paper the very best of success which it so well deserves." Still another says: "I hope you will not discontinue the Enigmas, for we find them a most pleasant and profitable amusement." And a fourth says: "The search for these answers is very interesting and I am glad to see so many competing." While a fifth assures us of his good will in the following terms. "We are very much pleased with the Scriptural Enigma in TRUTH. We have such a time searching for the answers. It alone is worth the price of the paper."

TRUTH is not in the conventional sense of the word a "religious" periodical, but we claim that in the true proper sense of that word it certainly is. We represent no particular church. We advocate no particular body. We lay claim to no pre-eminent philanthropy. But at the same time we wish to do our readers good and not evil all the days of their lives, and we have the satisfaction of knowing that in very many cases we are doing this very effectively. Of course we are not universally applauded. We should be sorry if we were, for such a thing would be a clear indication of something very wrong. But we get as much praise and approval as we can make any good use of. Indeed, perhaps a little more and for all this we are very thankful. We have received M. A. M.'s communication and enclosures; many thanks. Her argument is unanswerable, and, as might have been anticipated the "ambiguity" has had no effect in leading answerers astray. If M. A. M. would be kind enough to mention the names of a couple of volumes on our list we should be pleased to send them.

Our esteemed correspondent from Westville, Nova Scotia, will please note that we had no doubt about Christ being spoken of frequently as a stone, but the question referred to required a word which itself meant a stone, which of course Christ does not. We are much obliged for his communication and hope to hear from him again and frequently.

D. B. Campbell, Cleveland, Ohio, says: "I have to thank you for the very handsome volume of Woodworth's Poems—my first prize in the Enigma column, and with which I am much pleased. Also I thank you for the courtesy extended me, in returning me some change in Canadian stamps which may be very useful at some future time."

We are afraid to even seem to contradict a lady, still we cannot agree with our correspondent in Galt who insists upon it that Isaac was a son, not a daughter, of Haran and that the meaning of the word is "He that anoints." Any Bible Dictionary or Hebrew Lexicon will inform her that the word means "She who looks abroad."

Now then for No. X.

The correct answers to these are—

1st. Messiah, Mess—si (gh)—ah.

2nd Olivet, Acts i, 12.

1st Onycha, Exod xxx, 34.

2nd Lapidoth, Judges iv, 4.

3rd Isaac, Gen. xi, 29.

4th Vine, John xv, 1 & 5.

5th Eglon, Judges iii, 14.

6th Tertullus, Acts xxiv, 1.

The successful competitors are—

M. J. Wilkins, City Road, St. John, N. B.

Alex. F. Chamberlain, 109 Dover Court Road, Toronto.

Wm. W. Shrapnell, Glen Walker P. O., Ont.

Till we see how the answers come in with explanatory notes we shall not shorten the time by now giving the answers to No. XI. We rather think, however, it will come to that, if there be not a change made by having the Enigmas once a month instead of once a week.

Now for No. XIII. We give two this week again. One by our ingenious and poetical correspondent M. A. M., and another of our usual kind.

I. Mr first is sought with eager hand,
By every toiler in the land;
And yet my first 'tis very plain,
Makes naught of joy, but much of pain.

My second may be small indeed,
Yet 'tis of mighty fruit the seed;
Let none, despairing of himself,
Ever seek to lay it on the shelf.

My third was formed so long ago,
No remnant now the earth can show;
And yet it was a type of One,
Whose work shall live beyond the sun.

My three in one—an ancient name,
That no mere son of man could claim;
Yet two Apostles called by it
The greatest men in "Holy Writ."
M. A. M.

- II. 1 What Judge of Israel in Shamir dwelt?
- 2 Who, building Jericho, God's curses felt?
- 3 What Judge for ten years ruled o'er Israel well?
- 4 In what famed town did Aristarchus dwell?
- 5 Whose book is lost though in the Bible named?
- 6 Who of her husband's worship was ashamed?
- 7 Who in the camp of Israel prophesied?
- 8 Who for God's service ministers supplied?
- 9 From whom by Oniri was Samaria bought?
- 10 Who against Syria and Israel fought?
- 11 The town where Jacob's young son died?
- 12 The town which by the priests was sanctified?
- 13 The place where Ezra did a fast ordain?
- 14 The town where all the priests of God were slain?
- 15 Whose son foretold the ships his King had built
Should be destroyed as punishment for guilt?

Time draws towards its close
Careless we stand;
Near and nearer judgment,
The time is at hand

Some who apparently are particular admirers of the gentle poet of Olney would like "Cowper's poems" to be again offered. In accordance with their wishes we again mention that volume as the prize for this week, but at the same time we shall be happy to send any others on our list which the prize winners may name. We hope we need scarcely repeat that twelve cents for postage must in each case be sent to Mr. Wilson. Too many will persist in putting Mr. Wilson's name upon their replies to the "Enigma Column." It would be far better not. And please don't mix up any business messages with what is sent to the "Editor of the Enigma Column." These are either thrown into the waste basket, or forgotten, or delayed in the forwarding. Don't send in answers to anything but the questions in our Column. About all else we know nothing, and do not therefore hold ourselves in any way responsible for what is not in our department. "Editor of Enigma Column," TRUTH Office, 120 Bay street, Toronto.