

books for children, I don't think you would like them." I replied with great embarrassment that I was fifteen; that I had read a good many books, but never any of these, and that if he would please lend me any of them, I would be very careful with them and promptly return them. After another short pause he said he never lent his books, but I might come there at any time when he was out, and read what I pleased; only I must be out of the way when he came in. This was indeed good, though not best, and I was not slow in availing myself of the great privilege. I watched his motions and took advantage of his every absence. He superintended his own farm, which was not a small one, and he was often most of the day in the fields. Besides, he frequently went from home on horseback and would be absent the whole day and sometimes a day or two. These were rare opportunities for me; but unfortunately, almost always when he had occasion to enter his office, he found me *in his way*. Absorbed with my book I would not be aware of his approach till he stood before me. Sometimes he frowned, sometimes he smiled, while I, in great confusion would hasten to replace my book, stammer out an apology, and flee.

One day he thus surprised me by entering unawares, accompanied by two or three others who had come on business, with him as a magistrate. As usual I was hastening to make my escape, when he stopped me and said:—"Now W. this won't do: I always find you in my way. (Speaking loud) Take the book home with you. When you have read it let me see it. If I find it all right you can take another: I can't have you here."

This was excellent. In the course of the summer and autumn I had waded—(rather glided, for it was a most pleasurable exercise) through the Squire's library, and it had yielded me a large accession—not perhaps of accurate knowledge—but of fresh ideas—subjects for further enquiry.

Correspondence.

"THOSE GRAPES."

To the Editor of the CHRISTIAN HELPER:

DEAR SIR.—How true the statements, that great minds often run in the same channel! I think your article on "Those Grapes"—which seemed to me a very excellent one—must have made a deep impression on the "scissors" editor of the *Globe*. Yesterday my eye fell on the following clipping which I suppose he made from one of his "exchanges":

"A bunch of grapes twenty-four feet long, weighing twenty-three pounds five ounces, has been grown in the hot-house of Lady Charville, Kings county, Ireland. This bunch must be larger than that grown in the Holy Land and pictured in Sunday School books, as the London *Gardener's Chronicle* says the Charville bunch is the heaviest ever grown."

It is true this bunch is not so big as the one you found, but you must remember that the number of the HELPER containing your reference to the Santo Jarbara bunch had

reached the *Globe* sanctum a few days before the discovery of the Irish bunch was made. This speaks well for the editor's diligence, and if you will give him a chance, I think he will do even better than he has done.

In the meantime you may carry the palm; but unless I find a bigger bunch than yours, I will look upon the Santo Jarbara cluster as SOUR GRAPES.

Dec. 26, 1877.

Poetry.

COUNT THE COST.

(Through the kindness of an esteemed friend we present the following lines by the well-known President of the Indiana University, which have not before been published—Ed. C. H.)

Many a tower will stand unfinished,
Planned, begun, abandoned, lost—
For the thoughtless, foolish builder,
Fails to count the cost.

Many an army, proudly marshalled
For the watcher, in the look-out,
For the boasting, reckless leader
Undertakes his foe.

Many a vessel, richly freighted,
Sinks beneath the whirling deep,
For the wretched, in the look-out,
Headless, falls asleep.

Many a life goes out in darkness,
That might shine through endless day;
For the soul bewitched by folly,
Barriers it away.

LEMUEL MOSS, D.D.

THE FIRST PSALM.

AN ANCIENT AMERICAN VERSION OF IT.

Great interest attaches to the book usually called "The Bay Psalm Book," from Massachusetts Bay. It is dated 1840. Here is a sample of the rhyme and rhetoric.

1. O blessed man, that in the advice
of wicked doth not walk:
nor stand in sinners' way, nor sit
in chaire of scornful folk.

2. But in the law of Jehovah,
is his longing delight;
and in his law doth meditate,
by day and eke by night.

3. And he shall be like a tree
planted by water-rivers,
that in his season yields his fruit,
and his leafe never withers.

4. And all he doth shall prosper well;
the wicked are not so,
but they are like unto the chaffe
which wind drives too and fro.

5. Therefore shall not vngodly men
rise to stand in the doome,
nor shall the sinners with the just
in their assembly come.

6. For of the righteous men, the Lord
acknowledgeth the way;
but the way of the vngodly men
shall utterly decay.

Sunday School Department

International Bible Lessons, 1878.

STUDIES ABOUT THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH.

FIRST QUARTER.

Jan. 6. Rehoboam, 1st King of Judah Chron. i: 1-12	"	xiv: 1-12
" 13. Aas Faithful to his God.....	"	xiv: 8-15
" 20. The Covenant Renewed.....	"	xvii: 1-10
" 27. Jehoshaphat's Prosperity.....	"	xix: 1-9
Feb. 3. Jehoshaphat Reproved.....	"	xx: 14-22
" 10. Jehoshaphat's Holiness of God.....	"	xxiv: 4-13
" 24. Uzziah's Praise Punished.....	"	xxv: 1-16
Mar. 3. Ahas' Persistent Idolatry.....	"	xxviii: 10-27
" 16. Hezekiah's Good Reign.....	"	xxix: 1-11
" 17. Hezekiah and the Assyrians.....	"	xxxi: 9-21
" 24. Manasse's Perverse Repentance.....	"	xxxiii: 9-16
" 31. REVIEW.....	"	

Prepared for the CHRISTIAN HELPER.

JAN. 23.—The Covenant Renewed.—
Chron. xv. 8-15.—B. C. 941.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Be ye strong, therefore, and let not your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded."—2 Chron. xv. 7.

INTRODUCTORY.

Our last lesson left Aas and all Judah in great trouble, but in that trouble calling upon Him who *as said*:—"Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee."—Ps. 1: 15.

We see in verses 12-15 of the 14th chapter, how abundantly Aas's prayer was answered. Finished with success their humbling, their equal conflict with Zera and his immense army, and elated with the spoils obtained, perhaps there may have sprung up in the minds of Aas and his people—as is too often the case—a feeling of pride and vainglory, a tendency to forget in their prosperity what had been so real in their adversity; that all their help must come from God. If there was such a disposition, God in His mercy, did not permit it to grow, and by His inspired prophet, sent this message, at once of warning and encouragement:—"Hear ye me, Aas, and all Judah and Benjamin: the Lord is with you, while ye be with Him; and if ye seek Him, He will be found of you, but if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you."—Chap. xv. 2. Then by recalling previous history, the prophet reminds them that forgetfulness of the Lord and adversity, or reliance upon Him and prosperity, are invariably connected as cause and effect.

These words of admonition and encouragement were as good seed sown in good soil, the growth and fruit of which appear in our lesson proper—which may be considered under three heads: (1) Preparation for the Covenant; (2) The Covenant; (3) The Happy Result.

I. THE PREPARATION.—V. 8-11.

V. 8. When Aas heard, &c. The events of the lesson occurred in the 15th year of his reign (see verse 2). Aas had the prophecy of Oded. Oded was the father of the prophet from whose lips the Divine message had come to Aas, (see verse 1). Several explanations are proposed, (1) Oded "who is by some identified with Iddo the prophet and historian of two preceding reigns," may have uttered some prophecy concerning this matter of which we know nothing further than is here recorded, or (2) the insertion of these words "Of Oded the prophet," may be regarded as a corruption of the text, probably the remains of a note which crept in from the margin (*Berthaus*); or (3) the words *Asariah the son of*