

John's presence, and his words were inspiring, but the weak, self-indulgent king had not courage to do what he knew to be right. 21. **A convenient day**—one suited to the purpose of Herodias. The whole affair was a deep-laid plot of hers. **Chief estates**—principal personages. 22. **The daughter of Herodias herself** (R. V.)—She was not Herod's daughter. Her name was Salome (see Bible Dictionary). **Danced**—It was considered immodest for a female to appear before men unveiled. But in Herod's court offences against propriety were applauded. 23. **The half of my kingdom**—(Compare Esth. 5: 3, 6; 7: 2.) An idle promise. He ruled only by permission of Cæsar, who, when he asked for the title of king, banished him for his presumption. 25. **Bye-and-bye**—R. V. "forthwith." She was eager to have

it at once. **A charger**—a large platter from which other dishes are "charged" or loaded. III. **THE MARTYRED PROPHET.** 26. **Exceeding sorry**—but not penitent. He should not have kept his oath (Lev. 5: 4-6). He was vexed at being outwitted; dreaded misfortune from God; and feared an uprising of the people. A false sense of honor prevailed over conscience and cowardice. 27. **Executioner**—a soldier of his body guard. Herod was at this time at war with Aretas, king of Arabia, the father of the wife whom he had sent away in order to take Herodias. The feast was probably held in Machaerus, or some place near by. 28.—(Compare Acts 8: 2.) Matthew tells us that when they had sorrowfully laid away their dead master, they came and told Jesus, and that Jesus when he heard of it, sought the solitude of the desert.

LESSONS.

1. We should not be afraid to reprove sin. 2. When reproved we should thank, not hate, the person who tells us our faults. 3. We should be modest and temperate in our recreations and festivities. 4. We should beware of rash and foolish promises. 5. We should fear God rather than man. 6. Let us go and tell Jesus everything.

LESSON II.—January 13th.

Feeding the Five Thousand. MARK 6: 30-44.

(Commit to memory verses 41-42.)

GOLDEN TEXT.

"He hath filled the hungry with good things." Luke 1: 53.

PROVE THAT

God helps us in extremity. 1 Kings 17: 1-4.

LESSON HYMNS.

CHILDREN'S HYMNAL, NOS. 15, 33, 233, 132.

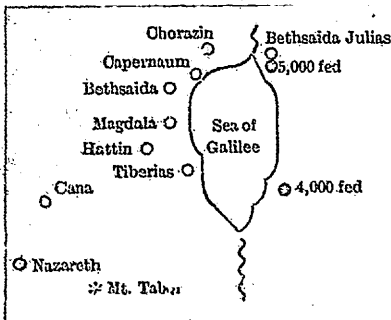
SHORTER CATECHISM.

Quest 2. *What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?* A. The word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him. Quest 3. *What do the Scriptures principally teach?* The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

DAILY PORTIONS. *Monday.* Feeding the Five Thousand; Mark 6: 30-44. *Tuesday.* Four Thousand Fed; Mark 8: 1-9. *Wednesday.* A Lad's Store Consecrated; John 6: 5-14. *Thursday.* The Widow's Morsel; 1 Kings 17: 8-16. *Friday.* Enough and to Spare; 2 Kings 4: 38-44. *Saturday.* God's Usual Providings; Psalm 104: 14-28. *Sabbath.* Satisfied; Psalm 107: 1-9. (*The J. B. R. A. Readings.*)

HELPS IN STUDYING.

INTRODUCTORY. Along with the arrival of John's disciples bearing the sorrowful tidings



of their master's death, the disciples of Jesus returned from their mission and reported what they had said and done. For the sake of retirement and rest our Lord and his disciples crossed the lake. By doing so they also made a prudent move, for now that Herod had tasted blood they were safer in the dominions of his brother. (See map in Bible Dictionary.) The Herodians, too, would use their influence with Herod to put him to death. But the multitude, noting the direction in which he had sailed, walked around the head of the lake,