

**Easter Day.**

Now the Lenten fast is ended, Holy Week has passed away,  
And we throng the holy temple, welcoming glad Easter Day;  
On the tomb and on the altar Easter lilies are entwined,  
And the organ's solemn music quieteth each troubled mind.

Soon we hear God's chosen servant telling us this Easter morn  
How the Lord of life and glory, who in Bethlehem was born—  
He who knew our human weakness, and who died for our souls to save—  
Now hath won His glorious triumph—Christ is risen from the grave!

Christ the Passover is offered, therefore let the feast be kept;  
From the grave our Lord hath risen, great first fruits of them that slept.  
Christ is risen, and forever from death's sting has set us free;  
Once to sin He died, hereafter He shall live eternally.

Oh, that, like these Easter lilies, pure and white our souls might be,  
And our hearts become henceforward one eternal melody!  
That the teachings of this season in our hearts and lives might stay,  
And the world might be the better for the church's Easter Day.

By Thy special grace preventing make us long to do Thy will,  
Thy continual help still aid us all our duties to fulfill,  
Till our work is calmly ended, and life's Lenten fast is o'er,  
And we keep the Heavenly Easter with Thee, Lord, forevermore.

**A Touching Offering.**

A WESTERN pastor sends the following to *The Congregationalist*:—Last fall the spirit of God was poured out in mighty power upon our congregation. Night after night the people thronged the house of God, and numbers turned to the Saviour. Our hearts were so amazed and gladdened, and humbled, at the manifestations of God's great goodness, that we could hardly believe the testimony of our senses.

The first one that became a Christian was a middle-aged man in whom we had felt a deep interest. Possessed naturally of a noble nature, by evil associations in the mines of California, he had become rough, profane, passionate and thoroughly sceptical. His wife, a godly woman, for five long years had been praying and hoping, for her husband's conversion. Never can we forget the thrill that passed through the audience that evening, when, rising to his feet, with great deliberation and firmness, he said, "Come weal or woe, come life or death, it is my determination to serve the Lord."

A few days afterwards, when coming out of church, his wife put into our hands a little package, quietly saying it was a thank-offering to God for the conversion of her husband, the avails to be applied to the cause of missions. It was hard to keep back the tears as we examined the contents of that package. There was a heavy gold bracelet, a wedding gift from her uncle, bearing the date of her marriage. There was a delicately wrought gold chain, a bridal gift from her father; a heavy belt-buckle of pure gold, the material of which had been dug by her husband. There, too, was a pair of clasps from the eldest daughter, the gold of which had been dug by her father, and which often had looped up her sleeves when a babe. There were two rings, one each from her two younger daughters, who

were delighted to testify their gratitude that their dear father had become a Christian; and more precious than all was the lady's *wedding-ring*, bearing her initials, and the date of her marriage.

The articles seemed so sacred to us that we protested against her parting with them, and urged her taking them back. But she said no; she wished Jesus to have her best. Almost against her will the wedding-ring was redeemed, and returned to her, but the rest was sent to the United States Mint, and the avails consecrated to the "Home" in Japan.

But this is not all. Her husband, out of gratitude for his own conversion, has set apart nearly a thousand dollars to send an evangelist to labour a year among the miners of California; and now, every week, the hearts of this husband and wife are cheered by tidings of his labours there. Such devotion God will bless. Conversions are constantly occurring among those brought under their influence; and both California and Japan will be blessed by their prayers. Are there not others who wish "*Jesus to have their best?*"

**How Can Children in the Sabbath School be Best Taught the Missionary Spirit?**

BY REV. P. F. LEAVENS.

WHY try at all to cultivate the missionary spirit in children? One will say, because their accumulated mites make an appreciable addition to the resources of the mission board. Another will say, because some one of them may have a vocation to be a missionary, and we must stimulate all in order to bring out the individual. We prefer to say, Because the cause of missions will want in the next generation a body of intelligent supporters, embracing every church-member in Christendom. Workmen and money will follow when the mass of the church is intelligently consecrated.

This being our view, the study of the world becomes the broad groundwork of our methods. We have pondered the significance of the fact that Carey's interest was excited by reading "Cook's Voyages." When he saw the world as it was, the desire to give it the gospel sprang up spontaneously.

We are willing to advance, then, with the children from the geography lesson of the day-school. We sit down with them, and say that we want to know all about the lands of the globe: China, Japan, India, Turkey, Africa, and the islands; how to get to them; their climate, scenery, natural features, productions, and animals; the peoples, their languages, usages, industries, civilizations, religious practices, and what not.

We take one country at a time, say Japan, and study it for a year. Of course we consult maps, encyclopedias, and books of travel. One day a gentleman in the silk business, brings into our meeting cocoons and a hank of raw silk to illustrate a talk upon an important industry of the Japanese. Another may hold up a bit of lacquer-ware, and tell of Japanese skill in its production. The story of Commodore Perry's expedition will of course be related. Whatever will engage an active mind in the land or the people is legitimate.

Then we have something on missions. A tried friend of the cause tells what is in the heart of a missionary,

why he goes to a far-off land, and illustrates, perhaps, by the story of some one whom he has known, or in whose biography he has been absorbed. Incidents in mission life, work, trial, and success are interspersed freely.

As to specific methods:

1. We had a "Children's Missionary Society," but we have improved by making it the "Sabbath School Missionary Society." Its articles of organization are few and simple. Its officers are distinct from those of the Sabbath school, and its machinery is "light-running."

2. We took a fancy to the German conceit of a "Mission-stunde," and so we called our monthly meeting "The Mission Hour." This service is prompt, informal, often conversational, full of variety and vivacity, and not wanting in the devotional element. Here too we present our offerings.

3. In the "Mission Hour," children and youth read brief articles and extracts previously furnished them. Adults make short talks on topics such as we have referred to. Formality is so completely abandoned that it is not "speaking in meeting" for a lady to sit before the children and talk about some thing that she has read, or seen, or heard, or thought; and it must be owned that some of these conversations by the mothers and sisters go closest to the hearts of the children.

4. The minister has a part. It is his function to keep a rich store of missionary literature, so that he can supply innumerable topics, reading, and lines of inquiry. It is not enough that he should take the missionary magazine of his denomination. The people read that periodical. He should read half a dozen or more, representing the work of other denominations, especially the organs of some of the English and Scotch societies. The minister should have some knowledge of the whole field of missions, and he should be so full of the subject that he can talk well at any time.

5. We think much of our anniversary on a Sabbath evening in June. We make sure of a representation from some foreign land. One year it was a young student from Mexico. Hardly more than a child himself, the sight of him was as a speech. Again we heard a missionary from Siam. After a year's study upon Japan we were able to introduce to the children the Rev. Kumaga Kimura, a well educated Japanese clergyman.

6. It is truthful to say that we encounter discouragements. Our practice is to toss them aside and push on. We accomplish less than we desire, and yet we gain year by year, and get blessing to our hearts in our efforts.—*Progress.*

THE man who adopts the modern nonsense that the Bible is inspired "in spots," feels like a boy skating on a pond with patches of thin ice here and there. He is afraid to move. The true believer feels that under his feet is the solid rock.

THE expression, "grieving the Holy Spirit," is one which, prayerfully pondered, will touch the inner deep of any soul in which there is the least spark of heavenly light. The heart of our Father in heaven throbs in the words.

"One soweth, and another reapeth," is a verity that applies to evil as well as good.—*George Eliot.*

**Puzzledom.**

Answers to Puzzles in last Number.

14.—Hu-po-mi.

15.—Choke-damp.

16.—

R I N G  
I D O L  
N O N E  
G L E N

17.—Madam, adam, dam, am, im.

18.—Daniel Webster.

**NEW PUZZLES.**

19.—CHARADE.

A musical note; the ocean. Authority.

20.—HIDDEN RIVERS.

Oh! I opened the wrong one.  
Miss, our indelible pencils are gone.  
This came from Ware, Dan.  
Andrew abashed Kate much.

21.—DIAMOND.

A letter; to catch; relating to ships;  
a division of the German Empire;  
naked; a cover; a letter.

22.—WORD SQUARE.

A male child; a number; a permission.

**Boys' and Girls' Temperance Lesson.****LESSON VI.****Alcohol and the Human Brain.**

QUESTION. What is the brain?

ANSWER. The brain is a soft, gray and white mass enclosed in the skull.

Q. Of what is this white mass made?

A. It is made of the same material as the nerves.

Q. What relation does the brain bear to the nerves which are found throughout the body?

A. The brain is the centre of the whole nervous system of organized life.

Q. Do these nerves of the body connect with the brain?

A. They do. They run from every part of the body to the brain.

Q. Is the brain supplied with blood like the other parts of the body?

A. It is; and some of the veins through which the blood passes are as fine as the threads of a spider's web.

Q. How is the brain easily reached?

A. The brain is easily reached through the nerves, and through the stomach by means of the blood.

Q. When alcohol is taken into the stomach what immediately follows?

A. The nerves which are in the lining of the stomach, telegraph instantly its presence to the brain.

Q. Is this all?

A. It is not. The stomach rids itself of it as soon as possible, by sending it out of itself and mainly into the blood.

Q. What then becomes of it?

A. The disturbed heart, sympathizing in the nervous agitation, with its rapid strokes, forces it all over the body.

Q. What effect has the alcohol as it passes through the body?

A. It irritates the inner surface of all the blood-vessels.

Q. What portion of the blood-vessels does it irritate most?

A. It irritates most those portions that are most tender and sensitive.

Q. What is the effect of this irritation?

A. Always unnatural action, and frequently disease, that embitter life and often destroy it.