

"My brother told me I had better remove it as we were coming up," said Ernest, "but I have as good a right to carry my colors in sight as, for instance, that fellow has to carry his," and the strong, intelligent-looking lad nodded towards a large, very obese, bull-necked, low-browed man, with a small red rose, and purple, blotched cheeks, standing in the door of a dingy, "restaurant" the two boys were just then passing.

"Ha! ha! Jack Wood does carry his colors pretty conspicuously, that's a fact—Hurrah there! now for some fun. See that little man trying to stand there just inside the door? His money is all gone, and 'Big Jack' is going to clear him out."

"That is rather rough treatment, however," said Ernest, as the burly saloon-keeper hurled a slight, very intoxicated Irishman down the steep, wooden steps. The latter stumbled, fell, then gathered himself up and tried to walk along, but his motions were so unsteady that the people passing up the sidewalk were continually running against him. Presently, a porter who was very carefully carrying a large basket of china-ware came along. The intoxicated man was just in the act of pitching down in front of him, when he was quickly and deftly seized by Ernest and set upon his feet again. The lad then gave the porter's heavy burden a steady hand, at the same time with flashing eyes and resolute mien bidding the rabble, which had now gathered about the Irishman, begone and let the poor, intoxicated fellow alone.

Ernest was not a very large boy for his age, but his bold, determined manner and the decided way with which he doubled up his fists and struck an attitude of defiance, caused the sidewalk to be instantly cleared.

Just at this moment, a fine-looking, elderly gentleman came down the steps of the large store on the corner opposite.

"Well done, my lad; well done," said he. "You not only saved that poor drunken fellow's head, but you rescued that package of china of mine from a general smash. I have a passion for china, and these beautiful and delicate wares that pass through my hands are just like flesh and blood to me. I must acknowledge I was in a fever of excitement when I looked up yonder and thought that lot, which was on the way to my best local customer, Esquire Russell, must surely have a tumble upon the stone pavement."

"And what is this blue temperance badge, and the motto 'Dare to do Right,' worn by a boy in the streets of Handsborough for?" asked the old gentleman, who had now approached the lad and was examining the ribbon and pin. "I advertised for a boy that I want in our store this very morning. I have had a stream of applications already, but I have found as yet no boy that exactly suits me. Some were too weak and dainty, some were too ignorant and some knew too much, and so on, and so on. I—"

"This boy is my cousin, Ernest Sawyer, from Hudsonville, Major Lowell," spoke up Tom, who had remained in the background somewhat during the fracas and when the Major first addressed Ernest, but who now came forward boldly enough. "He came up on the cars this noon to answer your advertisement, and we were on the way to your store, sir."

Ernest was duly hired by Major Lowell, has since been promoted, and is now in a fair way to become a member of the prosperous and well-known firm of Lowell, Clark & Company. Through his influence there are many young men in Handsborough to-day who are not ashamed to let their Christian as well as temperance principles be known by their walk and talk—in other words—are not ashamed to wear their colors. —*Christian Intelligencer.*

THE AQUARIUM.

My second aquarium consisted of a plain glass jar, containing about a gallon. Jars of the same kind are very commonly used in constructing galvanic batteries. In this I carefully built up some rock-work, with fragments of stone from the sea-shore, leaving two or three arches for the accommodation and entertainment of the future inhabitants of their little ocean. Having filled the jar with clear salt-water, and put into it some tufts of green sea-weed, I placed in it two little minnows, about an inch and a half in length, and three or four "shore-snails," for scavengers. I then placed the jar on the shelf among the window-plants, where it

freely received the sun-light, and left it to take care of itself.

Everything went on finely. The little minnows (Mr. Hibbard says, "No aquarium is perfect without minnows") became entirely tame, and were so playful as to attract the attention of visitors more than the entire collection of plants among which they were placed. One old gentleman, with hair as white as snow, who spent some time with us, would watch their gambols for half-an-hour at a time. A pair of gold-fish, which I kept, excited far less interest than the lively little minnows.

The snails, also, won no inconsiderable attention. It was quite interesting to see them make their way along the smooth glass without any perceptible organs of locomotion, and devour the delicate sea-weed which had commenced growing there, leaving a clean, narrow path behind them.

During the autumn and the entire winter the aquarium was presenting something new to interest and please. Several different kinds of sea-weeds, some very delicate and beautiful, grew from germs contained in the water, and a great variety of animalculæ made their appearance. During that winter I spent hours of absorbing interest in examining, with the microscope, different objects of animal and vegetable growth which came into existence there; and I found no more successful means of entertaining a friend on a winter's evening, than that of exhibiting the novel and beautiful forms and movements of things taken from my aquarium.

My next two aquariums were of my own construction. They were made with marble bottom and ends, with glass sides. A former pupil of mine had become engaged in work in stone and marble, in an establishment in the city of Providence. Through his assistance I obtained some pieces of marble, rough as they were left by the saw, from which, with a little instruction, I made the bottom and ends. He furnished me with two pieces of sand-stone, one of moderately coarse texture, and the other very fine, with which I succeeded in giving to the marble a finely-polished surface. He also furnished me with a chisel, with which to cut the grooves in the bottom to receive the end-pieces and the plate-glass sides, which I had a glazier cut for me of the proper size. I put the parts together, making the joints water-tight by using a cement made by melting together pitch and gutta-percha. White lead would answer the purpose instead of cement, if it would not poison the water. It may be used with more certainty of success than cement, provided it be covered with something that will prevent the water from coming in contact with it. I have since used lead, covered, after becoming thoroughly dry, with a coating of melted gutta-percha cement. At top the two end-pieces were held together by a large brass wire, with screws and nuts at the end.

The smaller and first-made of these aquariums contained about six gallons; the larger, nearly thirty. They both were handsome, and answered their purpose finely. Their construction consumed many leisure hours, both in the evening and on Saturdays; but the work was interesting to me, and furnished a most perfect relaxation from the duties and labors of the school-room. To such as may have the inclination, and the requisite mechanical skill, I can recommend a similar occupation of a portion of the teacher's leisure hours.—*I. F. Cady, in N. E. Journal of Education.*

A MANLY WORD TO BOYS.

BY C. H. SPURGEON.

When I was just fifteen, I believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. I have never been sorry for what I then did; no, not even once. I have had plenty of time to think it over, and many temptations to try some other course, and if I had found out that I had been deceived, or had made a gross blunder, I would have made a change before now, and would do my best to prevent others from falling into the same delusion.

I tell you, boys, the day I gave myself up to the Lord Jesus to be His servant was the best day of my life. Then I began to be safe and to be happy, then I found out the secret of living, and had a worthy object for my life's exertions, and an unfailing comfort for life's troubles. Because I would wish every boy who reads these lines to have a bright eye, a light tread, a joyful heart, and overflowing spirits, I therefore plead with him to consider whether he will not follow

my example, for I speak from experience and know what I say.

Once as I stood musing at a window, I saw a fly upon it, and made a brush with my hand to catch it. When I opened my hand, the fly was not inside, but still on the same place of the glass. Scarcely thinking what I did, I made another brush with my hand and thought I had captured the insect, but with the same result. There was the victim, quietly retaining his place in spite of me. It was on the other side of the glass. And when I saw that it was so I smiled at my own folly. Those who attempt to find pleasure out of Christ will experience a like failure, for they are seeking on the wrong side of the glass. When we are on the side of Jesus Christ, and having believed in Him are cleansed and forgiven, then our pursuit of joy will be successful; but till then we shall labor in vain, and spend our strength for naught. It is of no use digging for coal where the strata show that there cannot be any; and equally useless is it to try after happiness where God's word, and the experience of those who have gone before us, assure us that happiness cannot be found. But then it is all the more needful that we should seek it where it can be had, and give ourselves at once to the search. He who believes in the Lord Jesus is blessed in the deed.

What hinders you from believing? Boys, why should you not, while yet you are boys, believe in the Lord Jesus unto salvation? Do not imagine that you cannot now be Christians; the gifts of our heavenly Father's love are not reserved for a certain age; boys may be saved, boys may be workers for Jesus, boys may bring glory to God. Others may despise your conscientious choice, and make mirth of your holy carefulness, but what matters it? Some of us have been laughed at for these twenty years, and are none the worse for it; we have had all manner of evil spoken falsely against us for Christ's name's sake, but we are all the happier for it. Oh, boys, if you are renewed in heart, and become for life and death the Redeemer's, none can really harm you. All must be right with him who is right with God.—*Boys' Own Paper.*

THAT PROMISSORY NOTE.

BY THE REV. H. B. HOOKER, D. D.

As I fell in with it lately, it seemed so different from any I had ever seen, having certain striking peculiarities, that I could not but give them special attention.

The note was very old. There was no particular date upon the face of it; but everything about it showed it as having the savor of great antiquity. No business paper I had ever seen was like it in this respect, yet it seemed as new and fresh as if it had not been signed an hour.

Many people—it was soon seen—owned that same note, for it had the marvellous peculiarity that copies of it could be multiplied indefinitely, and each be equally valuable to the owner; and all as certain to be paid as if there had been but one note.

As to its value, you take in the value of most business notes at a glance, but this one did not specify any value, as if dollars and cents were the measure of it. Indeed, the amount pledged in the note was not, and could not be, stated in words or figures. No arithmetic could reach it. There was more promised in it than all the business notes ever written could pledge.

But the lack of special money specification did not lessen, in the least, its value to the owners. This was shown by the way they treated this note, for it was cherished as the most valuable of all treasures. In the deepest of sorrows they have found the richest comfort in looking on the face of it, and it seemed to increase in value everytime they looked on it. Every word was a ray of light to cheer them in their darkness.

The promisor, how about ability to pay? Those holding this note were conscious that so much had been paid upon it already that they wished no greater assurance than that, that the giver was good for the whole. Moreover, his name stood so high, and he had been and was being so highly honored where he was best known, that there could not but be boundless confidence in him. He had performed other promises, so many and great, that there could be no distrust.

When payable? No specific date for that. Just as fast as the holders come for the pay they get it, at least a portion of it. Payment of the whole at once was impos-

sible, being so great, and was never asked for.

There was no "For value received" in this note; for no value had been received by the giver of the note from the recipient. He comes in possession of it as the freest of gifts. He was welcome to all the good it promised.

Counterfeiting is impossible. The amount pledged in this note is so great as at once to expose forgery, if attempted; and it is of no use to forge a note, a copy of which is in the hands of nineteen-twentieths of all the people in the land.

The note cannot be destroyed or lost. No thief can steal it, no fire can burn it, no age make it illegible, no handling deface it.

But it is time to look upon the actual face of this most extraordinary note. We shall look on the face of an old friend; seen ten thousand times before. But we shall doubtless recognize the above-named features of this most remarkable promissory note.

"Come unto Me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."—*Congregationalist.*

Question Corner.—No. 7.

Answers to these questions should be sent in as soon as possible and addressed EDITOR NORTHERN MESSENGER. It is not necessary to write out the question, give merely the number of the question and the answer. In writing letters always give clearly the name of the place where you live and the initials of the province in which it is situated.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

73. How was Palestine divided during the time of our Saviour?
74. In which part was Nazareth situated?
75. On what occasion were Paul and Barnabas taken for gods?
76. How many instances have we of Christ raising the dead to life?
77. Who took Judas' place among the twelve apostles?
78. By whose order was James the brother of John martyred?
79. What three portions of the Holy Scriptures did the Saviour say contained predictions concerning himself?
80. Who said, "Be not weary in well-doing?"
81. Who was reigning in Judah when Joseph returned from Egypt with the infant Jesus?
82. What emperor banished all Jews from Rome?
83. To what city did Lot go when he fled from Sodom?
84. At what age were the Levites no longer allowed to serve in the temple?

SCRIPTURE ENIGMA.

The letters in the following words, when re-arranged, form the name of a false god, to whom human sacrifices were offered:—

1. A man noted for wisdom.
2. An unclean beast.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN NO. 5.

49. Abel, Gen. iv. 4.
50. Aaron, Ex. cxviii. 1.
51. Annas and Caiaphas, Luke iii. 2.
52. Stephen, Acts vii. 58.
53. The Eunuch of Ethiopia, Acts viii. 27, 38.
54. Barnabas, Acts xiii. 2, 4.
55. Silas, Acts xv. 40.
56. Because Barnabas wanted to take John Mark with them, but Paul was not willing that he should go, Acts xv. 37, 40.
57. Elisha and Elijah, 1 Kings xix. 19.
58. The cave of Makkedah, Josh. x. 17.
59. Zedekiah, 1 Chron. xxxvi. 11.
60. Nebuchadnezzar, 2 Kings xxv. 1, 2.

ANSWER TO SCRIPTURE ENIGMA.

ARIMATHEA.

1. Ahira—Num. 115.
2. Tema—Gen. xxv. 15.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

To No. 5.—Lizzie Mitchell, 11; W. E. Brooks, 9; William A. Gray, 8; Flora Jane Craig, 11; William Walsh, 12; Mary E. Coats, 12; Freddie W. Moulton, 12 en; Rebecca E. Munroe, 8; Edwin Brooks, 9.
To No. 4.—James Morton, 9 en; Nellie Bridge, 8; Maggie Sutherland, 12 en; Eva Holmes, 10 en; Martha Barnhill, 10; Maggie Calhoun, 10 en; Kate McPherson, 12 en; H. M. McClive, 9; Rebecca J. Moore, 9; Susie M. Eastment, 9 en; James Wainwright, 2; John E. R. Wainwright, 5; William C. Wickham, 12; Mary H. McLeod, 11 en; Ella Huff, 10; Robert M. Grindley, 11 en; Mary H. McLeod, 11 en.