

## The Lilies.

BY C. J. MONROE.

THE beautiful, beautiful lilies,  
So lovely, so fragile and fair,  
Are breathing their pure, rich fragrance  
Out on the summer air.

I stand by my window at morning,  
And watch their petals unfold,  
Sparkling in pearly dewdrops,  
Like vases of crystal and gold;

And I fancy they whisper a message  
Which I ponder the long day thro';  
It is this: "If God so clothe the lilies,  
Shall He not much more clothe you?"

With the thought that he loveth and careth  
Like the touch of a cooling balm  
There falls on my fevered spirit  
The hush of an infinite calm;

And I pray that my life, like the lilies  
May exhale rich perfume abroad,  
Unfolding in snow-white petals,  
In the light of a loving God.

Breathe down Thy fragrance, O Spirit of God,  
Into these hearts of ours;  
Fill the frail chalice: we only look up,  
Like the tender summer flowers.

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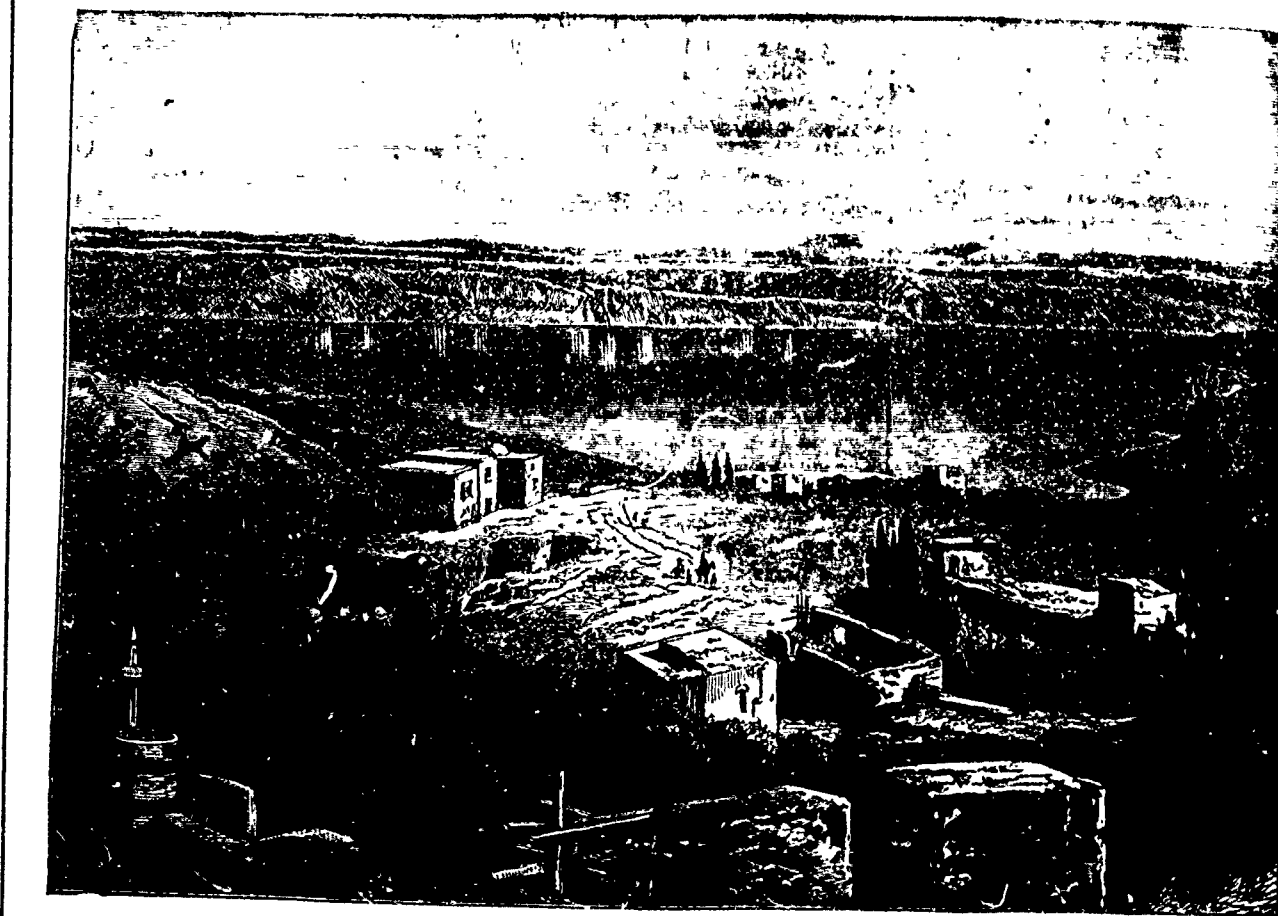
## Six Reasons for Going to a Sabbath School.

I. BECAUSE I wish to read the Holy Scriptures, and to know more of their meaning, and to search out what they say of Jesus Christ, and of eternal life through Him.

II. Because God's sacred day should be kept holy, and be spent in attending His house of prayer, worshipping Him, and learning His will.

III. Because youth is the best time to gain knowledge and to seek the mercy of Christ, who says, "I love them that love Me, and they that seek Me early shall find Me."

IV. Because the teachers wish to do good to the souls of their scholars, and to lead them to Jesus Christ the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world.



TIBERIAS AND THE SEA OF GALILEE.

V. Because, though young, I have lived too long in folly and sin, and "now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation."

VI. Because I have a soul that will be happy for ever in heaven, or miserable for ever in hell; and I wish to hear of Jesus Christ, who alone can save me from the wrath to come, and bestow upon me everlasting life. He has said, "Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." Luke 18:16.

## Tiberias and the Sea of Galilee.

THIS sea, on whose shores took place the events of next Sunday's lesson, was called also the Sea of Chinnereth, Chinneroth, or Cinneroth, probably from a town of that name on the shore; the Lake of Gennesareth, from the plain on its north-western side and the Sea of Tiberias, from the celebrated city of that name. Its present name is *Bahr Tabariyeh*. According to Wilson, its length is 12½ miles, and its breadth from 4 to 7½ miles. It is from 600 to 700 feet below the Mediterranean, and its depth is put at 160 feet. Fish abound in the lake. Tristram says: "The shoals were marvelous black masses of many hundred yards long, with the black fins projecting out of the water as thickly as they could pack. No wonder that any net should break which enclosed such a shoal." The lake lies embosomed among the hills, and, on account of its great depression, is liable to sudden and violent storms.

Jesus and the disciples were probably somewhere near the city of Tiberias, on the west shore of the Sea of Galilee. A large share of our Lord's public life was spent about this sea which was also called the Lake, or Sea, of Gennesareth. Mark, in relating the history of this miracle, tells us that Jesus was weary, and He and the disciples took a boat, hoping to steal away

from the multitude to some place "apart," where they could find quiet and rest, but the people saw them and followed along the shore, and finally found where they landed. Then when Jesus came down from the mountain and saw them, He had no heart to send them away, and so "began to teach them many things," and when He knew they were tired and hungry He asked the disciples about food for them. He wanted to prove Philip and the others and see whether they would think He could work a miracle to help them, but they seemed not to have thought of such a thing. Though they had been so long with Jesus they knew Him only partially. But Jesus "knew what He would do," and in His infinite love and power He fed the whole multitude—"five thousand men." Matthew adds: "Besides women and children."

It was hardly strange that they wanted to make Him "king" after this; but He who was King of kings wished for no such earthly honours. He only wanted to win the world back to God.

## His Spot of Sunshine.

THEY tell in Europe the story of a poor man who was confined for many years in a cold, dark dungeon. There was but one aperture in the wall, and through that the sunbeams came for but a few minutes daily, making a bright spot on the opposite side of the cell. Often and often the lonely man looked upon that little patch of sunshine, and at length a purpose to improve it grew within his soul. Groping on the floor of his cell, he found a nail and a stone, and with these rude implements he set to work on the white portion of the wall for a few minutes of every day during which it was illuminated, until at length he succeeded in bringing out upon it a rude sculpture of Christ upon the cross. Let me imitate that prisoner. Circumscribed may be our lot, yet if we love

the Lord and pray to Him, and look for His direction, we shall soon discover some tiny chink through which the sunshine of His guiding providence shall come. On the spot where its directing light shall fall, let us, with such means as we can command, hew out, not in cold stone, but in living love, the sacrifice of Christ. So shall we find our special sphere, and fill it to the commendation of the Master. —*Christian Standard*.

DURING a revival season, says Mr. Schauffler, a young man came to me in the inquiry room, and showed me a card like the following:

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD,  
THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BE-  
GOTTEN SON, THAT

BELIEVING ON HIM SHOULD NOT  
PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLAST-  
ING LIFE.

In the blank space, the young man had written his own name in full. Said he: "My superintendent gave me this card on condition that I would write my name in the blank space. If I had known what it was, I never would have promised; for I have had no peace since that day." That night, on his knees, he found peace. Let the teacher prepare such cards, and try the plan. I have tried it with powerful effect. It makes this seem personal, and puts "me" in the place of "whoever."

It was said by the late excellent Earl of Shaftesbury that, if London did not have its four hundred missionaries it would require forty thousand more police. If it were not for our hundreds of thousands of Sunday-school teachers, how many policemen would be required for our great cities, and how many jails for those whom they arrested?