BIBLE LESSONS.

Adapted from Peloubet's Select Notes.

SECOND QUARTER.

Lesson XI June 10. Exodus 14: 19-20

PASSAGE OF THE RED SEA.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"By faith they passed through the Red Sea."—Heb. 11: 29.

"SECTION OF HISTORY.—12: 29-42; 13: 17-22; and chaps. 14, 15 and 23: 20-22; Num. 33: 1-9"

"PSALMS 106: 7-12; 78: 13-14"

"NEW TESTAMENT LIGHT.—The crossing by faith, Heb. 11: 29. Baptized in the cloud and sea, 1 Cor. 10: 1, 2. The difference, Rom. 2: 6-10. Protection in trouble Rom. 8: 28. New life, 2 Cor. 5: 17; Eph. 4: 22, 23. Song of Moses and the Lamb, Rev. 15: 3; 5: 12-14; 7: 12."

"THE PHARAOH OF THE EXODUS.—According to the majority of Egyptologists, Menephtah, the son of Rameses II. Menephtah lived years after this; but "it was the *army* of Pharaoh which was overwhelmed; and neither he, nor in the song of Moses is any mention made of the king's death, an event of sufficient consequence to have been noticed. The death of Pharaoh cannot be even argued from the expression in Ps 136: 15, 'He overthrew Pharaoh and his host in the Red Sea,' since the death of a monarch is not the necessary consequence of his defeat and overturow.

EXPLANATORY.

In our last lesson the Israelites were busily preparing for their departure. The time had been set. The hour had come. While they were still engaged in celebrating their first Passover feast, at midnight the Lord smote all the first-born of Egypt, from the firstborn of Pharaoh, that sat upon the throne to the firstborn of the captive that was in the dungeon (Ex. 12: 29). The last and greatest stroke had fallen. The whole land of Egypt was now in intense excitement. There was a great cry, for there was not a house where there was not one dead. There was no longer a refusal of Moses' request. On the contrary, Pharaoh could not wait till morning before he sent to Moses, and bade him be gone with all the people.

THEIR NUMBERS.—There were 600,000 men, besides children, and a mixed multitude (12: 37). This would naturally imply about 2,000,000 in all. But Prof. Willis J. Beecher, of Auburn Theological Seminary, in a lecture not long ago suggested that the enumeration may have been technical just as we count an army. A regiment consists of 1,000 men, while often in various ways not more than 400 or 500 are present, and yet we call it a regiment. 600,000 may be equivalent to 600 rigiments, "the thousands" containing but a few hundreds, so, that there may not have been more than 300,000 men or a million in all. The same reckoning is used in numbering the houses of Philadelphia and other cities.

THE PILLAR OF CLOUD AND OF FIRE.—Vs. 19, 20. 19. *The Angel of God* "the Angel of the Lord." "That is the manifestation of God in the pillar of cloud and fire (See Ex. 3: 2, 6)." *Removed and went behind.* "Jehovah placed himself between Israel and the enemy." The result was wonderful: it was light to Israel, and darkness to their enemies. Before Pharaoh could touch Israel, he must make his way through the Almighty himself. *The pillar of the cloud.* "A visible pillar of cloud or vapor, a conspicuous object that could be seen not only by the marshalled host, but by the scattered companies of women and children, as they fed their flocks, and followed afar off the marvellous signal of the divine presence. A great host, marching through a country without roads or other marks of civilization, must be provided with some conspicuous object to serve as a signal to the main body, and to all straggling parties connected with it. Hence the round grate, full of kindled fuel, elevated on a pole, which was carried before caravans and armies in the East." "The vast pilgrim caravans to Mecca guide themselves in a similar way."

20. *And it was a cloud and darkness to them* (to the Egyptians), *but it gave light . . . to these* (the Israelites). It was now near night, and the cloud surrounded the Egyptians like a dense fog, which made it too dark for them to know what was going on among the Israelites; but they doubtless felt sure of capturing them whenever the morning sun should drive away the cloud. The Israelites on the other hand were in the light that was necessary to enable them to escape.

X. THE ISRAELITES CROSS THE RED SEA.—Vs. 21-25. When the Israelites saw the Egyptians, they were greatly terrified, and cried to God for help, and wished they were safely back in bondage again. But the Lord had prepared a way of deliverance.

21. *And Moses stretched out his hand.* With the rod in it (v. 16), to show that the miracle was from the God of Israel, and that Moses was the leader appointed by Him. *And the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind.* Any easterly wind, from northeast to southeast, would be called an east wind in Hebrew. This was probably a northeast wind. It is thus distinctly stated that the agency by which the object was effected was natural. A northeast wind would tend to drive the water out of the narrow bay. It will be noticed that this was soon after the full moon of the vernal equinox, when there would be a very low ebb and a very high flood, and that the tide rises from five to seven feet opposite Suez and from eight to nine feet when aided by strong winds, returning with unusual suddenness and power after the ebb. M. de Lesseps mentioned to me the extraordinary effects of this kind which he had witnessed in such storms as occur only at intervals of fifteen or twenty years. He had seen the northern end of the sea in places blown almost dry, and again had seen the waters driven far over the land toward the Bitter Lakes. "The terrific accompaniment of darkness, wind, and rain is almost paralleled, according to the reports of the Ordnance Survey, by the wild northeasterly storms that sometimes at the present day rage at the head of the Gulf of Suez."

22. *And the waters were a wall.* It is not meant that the waters rose in a perpendicular wall "but that the waters served the purpose of a fortification in preventing the Egyptians from attacking the people on one flank or the other." The "wall" would not by any Oriental be supposed to be an actual wall, rising up beside them, any more than the "wooden walls" of Britain are board fences about the island, or the "hedge about the law," which the rabbins built by their precepts, was a growth of vegetation.

23. *And the Egyptians pursued, and went in after them.* Without doubt they were unaware that they were in the midst of the sea, for it was night, and they were surrounded by a fog. *All Pharaoh's horses, his chariots, and his horsemen.* The word translated "horsemen" probably means the men who rode in the chariots. Observe that the Pharaoh himself is not said to have gone in.

24. *In the morning watch.* The "morning watch" of the Hebrews, at this period of their history, lasted from 2 a. m. to sunrise. Sunrise in Egypt, early in April, would take place about a quarter to six. *Troubled the host.* "We suppose that side of the pillar-cloud toward the Egyptians was suddenly, and for a few moments, illuminated with a blaze of light." The sudden flash out of the dark cloud dazzled and frightened them. Ps. 77: 15-20 gives a vivid description of this violent storm. Josephus says, "Showers of rain also came down from the sky, and dreadful thunder and lightning, with flashes of fire. Thunder-bolts also were darted upon them; nor was there anything which God sends upon men as indications of his wrath, which did not happen at this time.

25. *Took off their chariot wheels.* The Septuagint renders the word "bound," or "clogged." Whatever it was that was done, it was probably the deep sand of the treacherous lake or gulf that did it, swallowing up the wheels, or clogging them, or even wrenching them off entirely. *The Lord fighteth for them.* Compare the promise of Moses (v. 14). If this were so, it was of no use to persevere, and accordingly they began their retreat.

VI. PHARAOH'S HOST OVERTHROWN.—Vs. 26-29. 26. *Stretch out thy hand.* Showing that the power was from God. But as the pathway was made by the wind, so doubtless now there were employed a wind changed to west and the returning tide.

27. *Overthrew the Egyptians.* It is nowhere said that Pharaoh himself was drowned in the sea. He was overthrown in his army. According to the monuments Menephtah was not much of a warrior, but preferred to send his generals to war rather than go himself.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. In the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, and their journey to the promised land, we have a *Parable of our Redemption.* The bondage in Egypt is the bondage of sin. Then comes the call of God, a revelation of God; the bitterness of sin and a desire to escape. The crossing of the Red Sea is conversion; then follow many trials, a long discipline, bread from heaven, water of life, the giving of the law, the guidance of the Spirit, the crossing of the Jordan into the land of Promise and Hope.

2. The crossing of the Red Sea illustrates the great act of conversion. (1) We seek to escape from the bondage of sin. (2) We find at last that we are unable to save ourselves. (3) We pray to God, and he bids us trust him and go forward in the duties close at hand, believing that He will open a way. (4) God performs the divine act, the miracle of regeneration, entirely beyond our power, while (5) we do our part by obeying His word and yielding ourselves completely to His guidance. (6) This is a beginning, but *only* a beginning, of the Christian life. The long discipline and growth are before us.

3. God often leads his people in strange ways, but they are always the best ways.

4. "God's people find a path of safety cleft for them through the seas of trouble and danger.

Literary Note.

The Missionary Review of the World for June is an exceptionally attractive and valuable number, containing several maps and illustrations. Dr. Pierson, the Editor-in-Chief, opens with an article on "Susi and Chuma, Livingstone's Body-Guard," illustrated with a picture of the hut in which Livingstone died. Other articles on Africa in this issue are "Christendom's Rum-trade with Africa," by Frederic Perry Noble, Secretary of the Columbian Congress on Africa; "The Cape General Mission, South Africa," by W. Spencer Walton, Director; "Central Soudan Housaland Association" by Rev. James Johnson, M.A., and "Christian Missions in South Africa," by Rev. Josiah Tyler, author of "Forty Years Among the Zulus." There are also valuable Statistical Notes on Africa and large Missionary Maps of the whole continent and of South Africa with Missionary Stations indicated. Other articles of note in this issue are "Unoccupied Mission Fields of the World," by Rev. James Douglass, M. A.; "The Church at Home," by Rev. G. L. McKay, M.D., of Formosa, China; "The Missionary Educational Question," by Rev. J. N. Cushing, of Burma; "Some Features of Work Among the Freedmen," by Miss Beardsley, of Virginia; "A Glance at the Situation in Turkey," by Rev. C. C. Tracy; "Among the Hill Tribes of Central India," by Rev. A. Muller; "The Peasant Women of Bulgaria," and "The Bible of Persia." The various departments of the *Review* present their usual amount of interesting and helpful material in the form of news and comment. Published by Funk & Wagnalls Company, 30 Lafayette Place. Price $2 00 per year.

The following conversation is given as having occurred between a plain-spoken Scotch woman and her pastor. "Good morning, Janet. I am sorry to hear you didn't like my preaching on Sunday. What was the reason?" Janet—I had three guid reasons, sir. Firstly, ye read the sermon; secondly, ye didna' read it well; and thirdly, it wasna, worth readin' at a'!"

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B. Y. P. U.

OUR OBJECT.

The unification of Baptist young people; their increased spirituality; their stimulation in Christian service; their edification in scriptural knowledge; their instruction in Baptist history and doctrine; their enlistment in missionary activity, through existing denominational institutions.

OUR FELLOWSHIP.

All Young People's Societies of whatsoever name in Baptist churches, and Baptist churches having no organizations are entitled to representation. We depend for our unity not upon any young people's name or method. Our common bond is in the New Testament, in the full affirmation of whose teachings

WE ARE ONE PEOPLE WITH ONE MISSION.

Correspondents to this department should address their communications to REV. J. J. BAKER, St. John, N. B.

For the Week Beginning June 3rd.

MISERABLE COMFORTERS: Job. 16: 2. Ref. Ps. 69: 1-21; Eccl. 4: 1; Lam. 1: 1 2.

The topics now are closely connected with the daily Bible readings, which, of course, form the best side lights on the subject.

C. E. THEME.—"Our Deliverances; from what, and by whom?"—John 8: 31-36.

Dr. Hopper is giving the *Baptist Union* short sketches of the heroes of early Baptist maritime history. Our readers who take the *Union* cannot afford to overlook these articles. Wish all our young people could read them. One cannot know the present without knowing some things of the past.

We devote most of our space this week to a description of the convention city. Maybe some one's convention going appetite may be whetted by it. We may only add one testimony that Toronto is like Tarsus of old, 'no mean city."

Toronto the Beautiful.

Toronto is the capital of the Province of Ontario, and the second largest city in the Dominion of Canada. It is situated on a large and finely sheltered bay on the north shore of Lake Ontario, the site on which it is built sloping gradually from the margin of the bay for a distance of three miles to a low range of hills immediately outside the north limits of the city. It is equidistant from the cities of New York, Chicago, Washington, Baltimore and Cincinnati (about 550 miles from each), and is only a few hours ride from some of the finest scenery and most attractive resorts on the northern part of the Continent. Niagara Falls is 40 miles to the south of Toronto, and may be reached by rail or by the magnificent steamers of the Niagara River Line, which, throughout the summer months, make six trips daily between the two places. A few hours ride to the East is the enchanting region of the Thousand Islands; and beyond this the world-famed rapids of the St. Lawrence River, and the wonderful Saguenay—the deepest river in the world—with its lofty peaks and precipitous banks on either side. To the north are the Muskoka Lakes and Georgian Bay, with their hundreds of villa-crowned islands, and with scenery of such strange beauty that visitors are attracted from all parts of the Continent.

No city in the Dominion of Canada, and few on this Continent, has grown with such rapidity as has Toronto. Less than a century ago its site was a forest. In 1834, it became a city, with with a population of 9254. To-day it has a population of about 200,000, and an area of 24 square miles. Within the city limits are over 300 miles of streets which cross each other at right angles. Yonge Street, the main thoroughfare, running north and south, was constructed as a great military road in the year 1776. It constitutes the dividing line of the city, the streets being numbered east and west.

The electric car system of Toronto is second to none on the Continent. The entire system is under the control of one company, which has laid, in conjunction with the city, in the last three years, over 70 miles of permanent roadway with the most improved type of steel rail. The cars are models of elegance and comfort. A person can for five cents make a continuous journey to any part of the city.

Toronto is unique among American cities in several particulars. In the number of its great Protestant congregations only the largest American cities rival it. It contains a large number of church edifices with a seating capacity of from 1,500 to 2,000, and overflowing congregations are no novelty. The quiet of a village reigns on the Lord's Day. There are no Sunday street cars, and no Sunday newspapers. All saloons and bars are closed on Saturday night at seven o'clock and do not re-open till six o'clock Monday morning. The law requiring this is strictly enforced.

Toronto has often been called "the City of Churches," and certainly deserves the name. On almost all the principal streets have been raised temples to the Living God. Nearly all denominations, even to the Irvingites, are represented, but the evangelical churches far outnumber all others. The Baptists, though not so numerous as some other denominations, of late years have made rapid and substantial progress. In the year 1870 there were only three Baptist churches in the city; now there are seventeen, with a membership of 4,500, and church edifices with a seating capacity of 11,000. Toronto is also the seat of McMaster University, the educational centre of the Baptists of Ontario and Quebec, with its four departments, its 30 professors and teachers, and an endowment of over $1 000,000. In good works also the Baptists of Toronto are in the very front, giving as they do to denominational objects more largely in proportion to their numbers, than any other body of Baptists in America.

As an educational centre Toronto is second to no city on the Continent. It is the home of Toronto University, with its 56 professors and instructors, and property exceeding $3,000,000 in value; Trinity University, belonging to the High Church (Episcopalian); Wycliffe College, belonging to the Low Church (Episcopalian); McMaster University, belonging to the Baptists; Knox College, belonging to the Presbyterians; Victoria University, belonging to the Methodists; St. Michael's College, belonging to the Roman Catholics; and Upper Canada College, the Rugby of Ontario. In addition to these there are the Provincial Normal Schools, Medical, Dental and Veterinary Colleges, and numerous Ladies Colleges. Altogether it is estimated that upwards of 4,000 students are in attendance annually at the various Universities and Colleges, hundreds of them being from the United States.

Toronto has an unusually large number of fine public buildings. The main building of Toronto University is the finest example of Normal architecture on the Continent. The new Parliament Buildings, which cover an area of over three acres, and cost about $2,000,000, are well worth seeing. In addition to these might be mentioned among others the new City Hall, in course of erection, to cost upwards of $2,000,000; Osgoode Hall, the seat of the Superior Law Courts, a fine example of Italian architecture; Victoria College, Knox College, McMaster Hall, St. James' and St. Michael's Cathedrals, Metropolitan and Trinity Methodist Churches, Jarvis Street and Walmer Road Baptist Churches, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Customs House, Post-Office, Confederation and Canada Life Assurance Buildings, and many others which adorn the streets in all parts of the city.

In the matter of parks, Toronto is especially favored. They are seven in number, and are so located as to be easily accessible to the poorest of the people as well as the more prosperous. The most important are Howard Park, Reservoir Park, Queen's Park, Horticultural Gardens, and Island Park. Howard Park (High Park) is a fine natural park of about 400 acres, at the western limit of the city, and lying along the banks of the Humber River. It is reached by the cars running on King and Queen Streets. Queen's Park is in the centre of the city, at the junction of two broad avenues leading from Queen and Yonge Streets. It belongs to Toronto University, and is leased to the city for a long term. This park contains about 50 acres, and in it are situated the Parliament Buildings, Toronto University Building, McMaster Hall, Victoria and Wycliffe Colleges, and the Magnetical Observatory. The Horticultural Gardens cover about 10 acres of ground in the eastern part of the city, and face Sherbourne, Gerrard and Carlton Streets. They are beautifully laid out and are adorned with trees, shrubs, flowers and fountains. Island Park is situated on Hiawatha Island, which runs like a fender almost the entire length of the city, and forms the beautiful harbor of Toronto. This park, on account of its location, is a favorite resort of citizens of all classes. It is laid out tastefully in pleasure grounds, lagoons, and flower beds. Along the lake shore are numerous cottages and hotels; and ferry boats are constantly plying in all directions. Within a few miles of Toronto are a number of other parks, such as Victoria to the east, and Lorne Park to the west, which may be reached by steamer any hour in the day. At none of these parks is liquor allowed to be sold.

To many accustomed to the dirt and crowding of great cities, Toronto appears like an immense village, and in this fact lies one of its greatest attractions. The streets are broad and clean, and, in residence portion, beautifully shaded with trees. The houses, which as a rule, are built well back from the street, are various in their architecture and tasteful in appearance. The finest residence streets are Jarvis, Sherbourne, Bloor and St. George, and on these may be seen some of the finest homes in America.

AN EASTERN DIAMOND.—The traditional diamond of the East is the Great Mogul. The original weight was 787 carats, and it disappeared in the last Tartar invasion, when treasures to the amount of $350,000 000 were captured by Nadir Shah. The Shah of Persia has in his treasure room jewels valued at $40,000 000. His crown contains a mass of diamonds surmounted by a ruby as big as a hen's egg. His royal belt weighs 20 pounds, and is a solid mass of diamonds, rubies and emeralds. When the Shah was in Europe he wore a variety of diamonds and gems, the smallest of which would have been a fortune to the lucky possessor. The buttons of his coat were five in number, and each button was a diamond larger than the kohinoor.

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ABOUT THE PUMP.—The common water pump of to-day is but an improvement on a Grecian invention which first came into general use during the reign of the Ptolemies. Philadelphos, and Energetes, 283 to 221 B.C. The name which is very similar in all languages, is derived from the Greek word "Pempo," to send or throw. The most ancient description we have of the water pump is by Hero of Alexander. There is no authentic account of its general use outside of Egypt previous to its introduction into the German provinces at about the opening of the sixteenth Century. Pumps with plungers and pistons were invented by Moreland, an Englishman, in 1674; the double-acting pump by De la Hire, the French academician, some twenty years later.

Dandruff is an exudation from the pores of the scalp that spreads and dries, forming scurf and causing the hair to fall out. Hall's Hair Renewer cures it.

GLASS FOR AQUARIUM TANKS.—One of the remarkable features of the aquarium wall is the glass which forms the front of the tanks. On ordinary inspection, when the tanks are filled, it appears very thin indeed; but it is in reality an inch in thickness. To a person unacquainted with the reflective tendency of glass, this may not seem strange, but even the uninitiated will open their eyes when told that the test which proved this glass satisfactory was to place twenty slabs, each one inch thick, on top of each other and try to read ordinary newspaper print through them all. Certainly the fishes cannot escape the inspection of the multitude through such crystal as this.

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