

Sabbath School.

BIBLE LESSONS.

SECOND QUARTER.

(Condensed from *Voluntary School Notes*.)

Lesson I. April 2. Matt. 28: 1-10

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept."—1 Cor. 15: 20.

EXPLANATORY.

THE REALITY OF JESUS' DEATH. It was of the utmost importance, though they knew it not at the time, that the fact of Christ's death should be proved beyond the possibility of cavil or doubt, for otherwise doubt would be thrown upon the fact of His resurrection. Every precaution was taken, not by His disciples, but by the enemies of Jesus. (1) The Roman centurion secured Pilate of the death of Jesus (Mark 15: 44, 45). (2) The soldiers pierced His body with a spear, and when blood and water—proof of death. (3) At the request of the chief priests, the stone against the door of the sepulchre was sealed, and a Roman guard placed around the tomb, so that no one could take away the body, and then pretend that He had risen. (4) His friends had no expectation of His rising in the way He did. They expected not His coming back to them in the body, but if He came, His second coming in glory into His kingdom. (5) The tomb was a new one, in which no one had ever been buried, and so there could be no doubt as to the identity of the body of Christ.

THE STORY OF EASTER MORNING. Jesus rose from the dead early in the morning, the exact time unknown. No description of the great event is given. At dawn there is an earthquake, and an angel rolls the stone from the door of the sepulchre.

2. Behold, there was a great earthquake. Before the arrival of the women; perhaps they felt it on their way thither. For the angel (an angel) . . . descended from heaven. A divine messenger, to overcome the guards, and show that Jesus rose, and was not taken from the tomb by human power. Rolled back the stone from the door. The tomb was out in the side of a rock, like a cave, large enough for several persons to enter. The entrance was protected by a large stone, sometimes round, like a large millstone, rolled in front of the opening. And sat upon it. As a guard waiting to give the needed information to the disciples.

3. His countenance (His appearance) was like lightning. In vivid and intense brightness. And His raiment white as snow. This was heavenly apparel. Christ at His transfiguration had His face shining as the sun, and His raiment white and glistening. This dazzling whiteness was the symbol of joy and purity and glory.

4. And for fear of him the keepers. That is, the Roman guard. And became as dead. Apparently swooned away with the terror. As soon as they recovered they hastened away.

1. In the end of the Sabbath. Our Saturday. As it began to dawn . . . came Mary Magdalene, and the other Marys. Mary Magdalene, on the Sea of Galilee, whom Jesus had redeemed from the terrible affliction allied to insanity,—the being possessed by seven demons (Luke 8: 2). She is not the same with "the woman who was a sinner." So far as we know, she was always a pure woman. There is in Dredon a painting, "of the school of Titian," which represents her as a woman of middle age, once very beautiful, with deep lines of suffering in her face, but over it all a look of gentleness, peace and unutterable gratitude. And the other Marys. The mother of James the less and James (27: 56), together with Salome the mother of John, Joanna the wife of Chana, and other women. As they went, they were concerned about the question, "Who shall roll away the stone from the door of the tomb?" for they knew, from observation of the tomb, that it was exceeding great (Mark 16: 3, 4). But we have seen how it was removed before they reached the place. Thus the difficulties in the way of duty are removed for those who go forward to do it. They probably had agreed upon the time, but leaving their various homes, were to meet at the sepulchre.

Mary Magdalene reaches the tomb first, and hastens away to tell Peter that Jesus is not there (John 20: 1, 2). The other women kept on, and enter the sepulchre, and see two angels and learn from them that Jesus has risen as He had foretold them, and would meet them in Galilee. They then go back to the city to report to the apostles (vers. 5-8; Luke 24: 2-10).

6. He is risen, as He said (Matt. 16: 21; 17: 23). Come, see the place, to convince yourselves of the fact of His resurrection.

7. Go quickly and tell His disciples. To relieve their anxieties, to lead them to the great truth which was to enable them to proclaim the gospel to the world. He sends you into Galilee. Where the chief meeting of Jesus with His disciples took place (26: 32; 28: 16-20; John 21: 1-24).

Peter and John hasten to the tomb (still early in the morning) to see if they hear the message of Mary Magdalene (John 20: 3-10). They are going, while the women are on the way to inform the disciples of what they have heard from the angels. Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene (John 20: 11-17). Early morning, near the sepulchre, Mary Magdalene, after reporting to Peter and John, returned more slowly to the sepulchre, and reached it after the two apostles had gone. Standing near by, Jesus Himself appeared to her.

WHY FUSE TO MARY MAGDALENE. (1) To show the honor He put upon woman and her work in His church. (2) To give comfort and courage to one upon whom the burden of the past may have weighed heavily. (3) To show her God will bless and save and honor the humblest who have faith and love in their hearts.

Jesus appears to the other women, as

they are returning to the city, bearing the angel's message to the apostles. His second appearance (vers. 9, 10). 9. And as they went. By some other streets than those by which Mary Magdalene and Peter and John had gone. Behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. "Rejoice in the Lord, for He has redeemed you from all iniquities." The English "all hail" is shortened from "all health." Hold Him by the feet. Clasped His feet, in reverent affectionate joy, to make sure that it was indeed the Lord, and to express their gladness. And worshipped Him. Religious worship or adoration is here meant, not mere reverence.

10. Go tell My brethren that they go into Galilee. The same message which the angels had given them in the sepulchre (see on ver. 7).

How Not to Do It: Some Negative

Graces.

1. Don't do it.

2. If you are doing it, quit.

3. Don't do it at the wrong time.

Never ask a subscription of a hungry man, never try to interest a man who is chasing after a train, in foreign missions; and never make a morning call on a woman in the midst of house cleaning, whose husband is sick, whose girl has left her, and whose baby has just been born.

4. Don't do it in the wrong place.

Never try to entertain a bank teller at his window; never take advantage of a funeral to get the young people together to arrange for the sociable; never inject your views on second probation or on revival chapters of the Bible in the midst of business meeting; never take a bear out of your neighbor's eye when there's a crowd looking on. You might get a cinder in your own.

5. Don't try to please before you learn to walk.

Don't be in too great a hurry to show Methusalem how the thing should be done. The world was here ages before you came, and never knew you were coming. It will be here ages after you have gone away, and maybe it won't know you were here. Hold up your head and step high; that's right. But keep close enough to the earth—which is the humble planet, the rest of us inhabit it to have something to put your foot on when you set it down.

6. Don't sing long meter hymns to common meter tunes. Eh? "Who does?" Oh, lots of people; older and wiser and more experienced than you.

I have heard common meter sermons preached from long meter texts by short meter preachers to peculiar meter congregations, and the effect is a fog that makes the organ shudder. Keep your eyes open, and you'll catch your feet at one of these days, unless you should die a great deal younger than you are now.

7. Don't pump after your ruckers' dry.

If you have nothing to say, don't say it, and it will be much higher appreciated by the entire congregation. If you have something to say, say it and quit. Don't say it all over again another way; don't keep on making a talking sound with your mouth, under the impression that you are still saying something; don't keep on wandering to and fro in a wilderness of speech in the hope that you will come out into a clearing or strike a road that will lead you to town by and by. The Yarn, come out and make a hole you went in at every time, if you once lose your bearings.

8. In deference to hint number 7, the three remaining hints ordered by Superintendent Coon, are ordered. The conclusion should have begun at number one, but the other paragraphs got into the copy dummy as a stow-away.—Robert J. Burdette.

Literary Notes.

A bright story of Washington school life, entitled "A Diplomatic Checkmate," opens the March number of the *Cottage Hearth*, and is followed by "The Strike at Armstrong's," a tale of a California lumber camp. The unexpected turn events take in the story "A Belated Proposal" is both surprising and interesting. Sophie E. Eastman gives, in a travel sketch, an account of "Five Days on Kilauea, Hawaii." The present interest in these islands in the Pacific makes this account of one of the wonders of nature especially interesting. "A Dangerous Pilot" is the leading story in the Young People's Department. Fine illustrations abound, and the magazine certainly shops at \$1.50 a year. W. A. Wilde & Co., Boston.

The American Review of Reviews is to be commended for its enterprise in having secured from the pen of Archbishop Farrar a most brilliant tribute, as also a most frank and personal one, to the life and character of the late Bishop Phillips Brooks. Dr. Farrar was Phillips Brooks' most intimate and confidential friend, and this article must of necessity be read with the keenest interest by the American admirers of the great preacher. President Thwing, of Adelbert College, Cleveland, contributes also an eloquent and warm tribute to the great power of Phillips Brooks as a preacher. The illustrations are as timely as ever. Some one remarked several months ago on turning the leaves of his newest copy of the *Review of Reviews*. "It is all intensely interesting, particularly this marvellous collection of the portraits of the most conspicuous men and women of the day. But what in the world will the *Review of Reviews* do for portraits next month? They must have exhausted the category of distinguished people by this time." But the next month's portraiture was even more interesting than the last. The March number has its frontispiece a magnificent portrait of Mr. Lamar. Elsewhere it has on a full page the finest of all the portraits that ever appeared of Phillips Brooks. Three different portraits of Mr. Blaine, one of Hayes and his cabinet, and various ones of Butler, Lane, and Hayes, accompany Professor Johnson's article on recent American politics. Besides these there are many others which add much to the interest of this magazine, which, apart from its illustrations, never lacks interest for its many readers.

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Race of the "Swamp Skeeter."

"What is that, boys; here, that craft making out from under the willows?" It was the captain of the Academy Canoe Club who spoke, pointing across the river with his paddle.

"That's Joe Lansing, in his dug-out. Wonder if he intends to enter for the race," laughed a tall boy in a natty boating suit.

"If he does, you and your Pickeral had better look out, Steve," said the owner of the Rivermaid, trying not to run down little Willie West, who was wriggling about in every direction, like an excited polychaete.

Steve Sinclair looked down at his trim little craft, with a superior smile. "I should like to see him beat the Pickeral," he said.

The boys watched the comical little dug-out as it approached. The owner was as comical to look at as his boat—red-haired and freckled—a typical Yankee boy, located as he was, in the heart of the northwestern Maine, where he lived, and the sons of Florida, where a part of his fifteen winters had been spent. He was a faithful, plodding scholar, and a sort of a favorite with the boys. If we enter Steve Sinclair, a fastidious Boston boy, who lost no opportunity of a polished but stinging sarcasm, at the expense of the little "backwoodsman."

"So long!" shouted Steve, as the dug-out came within hailing distance. "Going to enter for the race, skipper?" "I'm thinking of it," was the curt reply.

"She'll beat the Pickeral and the Rivermaid, by a long way," said Steve, eyeing the small craft, quizzically. "What do you call her?"

"I most generally call her a dug-out," said Joe, dryly; "but as things round here seem to consist chiefly of high-sounding names, I guess I'll name her the Swamp Skeeter."

A shout went up from the boys. The dug-out was christened.

The day of the race dawned calm, clear and cool. Not a breath of wind ruffled the burnished bark of Crystal River.

To the surprise of the boys, Joe had really entered his dug-out for the race. That settles the prize!" laughed Steve Sinclair.

There was the usual fuss and delay, in getting ready, but the signal was given at length.

A way they went—eight canoes—each handled by an expert.

Ahead of the rest was the slim, shining Pickeral, propelled by a pair of hands that were strong and skilful, if they were white. Next to the Pickeral glided the graceful Rivermaid.

But who was that? The ridiculous little dug-out that had created so much amusement, as it swung into line, was stealing alongside the Rivermaid—had passed it, and was pressing hard upon the Pickeral!

Steve did not see it. His head was half turned, watching for the one difficult place in the course, where a sunken rock made a powerful eddy, dangerous to the frail shell beneath him.

A sudden spark shot past the Pickeral, and raced away toward the goal. Steve saw it as it glided by, and bent to his work recklessly. He would win! The Pickeral, the best canoe in the club, headed by a Florida boy, was in a thought no more of the dangerous rock!

"Look out!" said a low, sharp voice. "Don't you see you're right on the rocks? This way, quick, or you'll go over!"

It was the owner of the Swamp Skeeter who spoke. The dug-out was alongside the eddy, and there was no room for the other to pass without striking the rock. But Joe, as he spoke, turned his craft aside, sufficient to allow Steve's slender shell to pass in safety. Quick as lightning, the Pickeral swerved aside, and shot past the dangerous place.

But alas for the Swamp Skeeter! Joe's act of benevolence had cost him the race, just as he had feared. The Pickeral swept up to the goal two lengths ahead, amid a storm of cheers.

"You wouldn't have lost the lead, Joe, if you hadn't been so scared of that rock," said the captain. "You could have got by all right without giving it such a wide berth as that, man!"

Joe went on with his absorbing task of chewing spruce gum, and deigned no reply. He scared of a rock, who had Pacific makes this account of one of the wonders of nature especially interesting. "A Dangerous Pilot" is the leading story in the Young People's Department. Fine illustrations abound, and the magazine certainly shops at \$1.50 a year. W. A. Wilde & Co., Boston.

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