

## OUR SCRIPTURAL ENIGMA.

For Bible Students.

No Money Required. Try Your Skill.  
No. VIII.

We occasionally got a threatening letter and we are not a bit put out by its receipt. Here is for one instance. The letter is anonymous—is signed "A Constant Reader," and altogether leaves the impression that the writer is concerned for the credit of TRUTH, and anxious to guide us in the way we should go. We are not sure whether our friend is a lady or a gentleman, though from the style of writing we conclude the former. It seems that she had tried and had failed to get a prize, though some as far off as Owon Sound or Chatsworth had succeeded. The reason is plain enough. It would not do to give the people about Toronto all the advantage, so advertisements go out to a distance a little while before, so that all may start fair and in the same way. TRUTH is mailed before the city ones are circulated, so that all may have about the same chance in that also. Now good lady isn't all this fair? Then comes in the awful threat in this wise: "I am a school teacher with a wide circle of acquaintance and considerable influence which I mean to use against this swindle." Come now, you would not be so cruel. Though you, dear lady, have not got a prize, you would not squelch TRUTH altogether. Would you? No, you say you are ours "very sincerely" and we believe you in spite of all your threatening. This lady has also great fault to find with Mr. Wilson for not getting "better theological help" in framing questions. The fact is we suppose, Mr. W. does what he can. He has doctors of divinity and what not. To err however, is human. To forgive, divine. In spite of all her indignation the dear lady will continue to be a "Constant Reader," we are quite sure, and will, we doubt not, secure a gold watch or a piano if she perseveres. Let her try some enigma in our columns, and if she deserves it she will get the prize without fail.

Another says "I have found great pleasure in the research. If I have not met all the conditions it is because I have only received one number of TRUTH having recently become a subscriber."

Another writing from Whitby says: "If your Bible problems are received with as much interest wherever they go as in our little household, it is not much wonder you are flooded with correspondence. We look quite eagerly for them each week." He adds: "We like TRUTH very much indeed. It is a good family paper and we wish it all prosperity. We were specially pleased with the beautiful poetic solution of No. II. in last week's number, and hope we shall hear from that lady again." That is just what we hope also and from many others as well. We wish above all things to make TRUTH a good family paper not distinctively what is called a "religious one" but one that has something for different tastes though all in the way of purity and good morals. What is needed at the present day is not so much papers and magazines on religious subjects, but papers on ordinary secular subjects written in a religious spirit. We wish and so does every one connected with the production of TRUTH to make it such a paper as will be welcome in all honest honorable christian homes; such as can be read aloud in the family circle from beginning to end without the slightest impropriety and without causing the faintest blush on the cheek of the most sensitive maiden. There may possibly have been a sentence or a clipping incompatible with this spirit in unawares. We

are not aware that there has, but if so, we regret it and shall only be too much obliged in any case when it is pointed out. We want TRUTH to be a clean paper from beginning to end, and we think our oldest and most constant readers will be the readiest to testify that it has been this since ever it commenced. We have no controversy with stories if they be good ones and of a healthy moral character. We don't think it a sin to laugh or to put in a funny anecdote if it is compatible with propriety. It takes a great many different persons to make up a world and so does it take a great many different things to make up a popular magazine. And so we don't think therefore that there is anything wrong in having Scriptural Enigmas and fashion plates very near each other, or Jacob Faithful here, or short editorials and temperance lore, so long as it can be said, as has been said of TRUTH, that the magazine which contains them is one of the cleanest published.

Well now, who succeeded in Contest No. V?

Jennie Turnbull, 10 Wilson street Hamilton.

Josephine Graham, Brampton, Box 317.

J. J. Allan, Windsor Mills, P. Q.

We give the poetical solution of the last as the best we have received this week, though not we think equal to the solution formerly printed. We do not know whether the writer is a lady or gentleman, but in any case we shall be happy in addition to the prize to put the name on our list of subscribers for the *Ladies' Journal* for a year. As the answers are given in this reply nothing more is needed to guide all to the correctness or mistakes of their own.

## "Our God is Merciful."

We read in the Holy Scriptures,  
Of the mercy of God to man,  
And His wonderful plan of redemption.  
Formed ere the world began.

And in Moses, and the Prophets  
We are shown his chosen race;  
Growing stiff-necked and rebellious  
And casting away His grace.

1. By the king of Israel, Omri, (1 Kings 16:31.)  
Samaritan's hill was bought,  
2. And to Judah's king, Uzziah, (2 Chron. 26:9.)  
Were gifts from Ammon brought.

3. But unfortunate Zedekiah, (2 King 25:5, 7, Jer. 39:1-10.)  
Hea. broken by grief and rage,  
Saw his sons all taken in Riblah,  
By Babylon's king and slain.

But again when the tribe of Judah,  
To the Lord, did cry with might,  
Then the Ethiopian army,  
4. To Gerar took its flight, (2 Chronicles 14:13.)

The prudent man foreseeth  
The evil, and layeth him low,  
And vigilant Nehemiah  
5. To Ono refused to go, (Nehemiah 6:2.)

6. The imprudent warrior, Samson,  
By Delilah's wiles was betrayed (Judges 16:4, 18.)  
7. And Gedaliah by Ishmael, (Jeremiah 41:2.)  
Laid in the dust was laid.

8. From the powerful hand of Edom,  
Was the city of Sela rent,  
When the man of war Amaziah  
O'er their land in triumph went. (2 Kings 14:6.)

9. By Malchiah, thoson of the goldsmith,  
Was the gate of Miphkad built, (Nehemiah 3:31.)  
10. And Eliam's daughter Bathsheba, (2 Samuel 11:3.)  
Shared in David's greatest guilt.

11. When Ahaz reigned over Judah,  
Came Rezin, with malice and wrath, (2 Kings 16:6.)  
Laid waste the plains of Judah,  
And took by storm Elath.

12. But worse evils than these were to follow,  
As king Zedekiah knew,  
Whom the army of the Chaldeans (2 Kings 25:5; Jer. 39:5; 52:8.)  
O'ertook and overthrew.

And now the troubles came trooping,  
O'er unhappy Judah's land,  
13. Which Zachary, the grandson of Iddo,  
(Zechariah 1:1.)  
Had foretold at God's command.

14. And soon the sceptre of David,  
Passed away from Judah's land,  
And the Roman governor, Felix (Acts 21, 25 and 26.)  
Sold justice on every hand.

15. When king Ahaz went to Damascus,  
He admired an altar there,  
And sent to the Levite, Uriah (2 Kings 16, 10 and 11.)  
The pattern prepared with care.

16. But his great forefather, Jacob,  
A simpler altar raised,  
At Luz, when he rose from his slumbers,  
And the God of Abraham praised. (Genesis 28:19.)

Among many others who might be favorably mentioned are J. A. Johnston, Whitby; Mr. T. J. Caldwell, New Carlisle, P. Q.

For No. VIII. we give two enigmas. The former of these can scarcely be called Scriptural, though the thing referred to is always most earnestly commended in the Scriptures. It is contributed by a correspondent who does not favor us with his or her name. We hope that it is original, though we don't profess to know so thoroughly the whole range of Enigmas as to say either that it is or is not. All we can say is that we have never seen it before; and, consequently, till we know the contrary, we give M. A. M. credit for its authorship:—

My first is all to this frigid clime,  
But even here it may be found in time;  
In water still my second lingers ever,  
Glides in the stream but rushes in the river;  
My cruel third can run my middle through,  
And yet I am quite as innocent as you;  
Did sailors put my fourth into the sea,  
The ocean wild a resting place would be;  
Without my fifth no horse would be complete,  
We might have fire, but never could have heat.  
My whole is a jewel of infinite worth,  
The purest, the rarest, that sparkles on earth:  
In vain it is sought for where diamonds abound,  
And yet in the lowliest cot has been found.

Perhaps some may be of opinion that this is sufficiently difficult to stand alone to be puzzled over for a week. We do not think so, however, and consequently we add the following Scriptural enigma, and for the first three correct answers to the two, we offer a copy of Pope's Poems, or any other volume of poems on our list which may be mentioned by the winners when they send to Mr. Wilson their 12 cents for postage:—

1. A man who listened to St. Paul, and trembled at his stern command.
  2. A place once mentioned by St. Luke,—a village in the Holy Land.
  3. One by a miracle destroyed,—usurping an unlawful claim.
  4. A houseless, wandering sorcerer, who kept their founder's law and name.
  5. A prophet's servant false and base, was smitten for his greed of gain.
  6. Name too, a well-known mountain where a prince of Midian was slain.
  7. He who was raised to highest power, once kept his father's flocks and herds.
- The initials of those names will show a maximum in St. Peter's words.

We again request that no money, under whatever pretext, may be sent to us, and no message to the publisher about subscriptions and misdirections and mistakes. We can't take in hand to attend to or deliver such messages. They ought all to be sent to Mr. Wilson direct. We also really cannot engage to retain or return any MSS. Far better take a second copy. If the writing is not worth the copying it is not worth the sending, and we have too many things to attend to to even pretend to keep track of what we cannot use. Of course, do what we will, there will always be some ready to find fault. We try, however, to hold the balances equal, and if, in doing so, we are blamed, we must just endure with the greatest equanimity we can command. We are not surprised to have received complaints our surprise is that there has been so few, and gentle and so good-natured withal. Might we also hint that, while many of the answers are written out with exquisite neatness and care, others are given in a very slovenly style. We shall not give a prize to any one, even though his answers are correct, in this careless, hurried fashion. The writing may be poor and cramped, as of one not much accustomed to putting pen to paper. That is all very well. We welcome all such with special cordiality, and shall be only too happy to accord them the prize if they gain it. But dirty, slovenly indifference, as if the writer fancied it was a merit to show how badly, how rapidly and how illegibly he could write; No; that won't do. Better not write at all than do it after such a fashion.

Many sink into an early grave by not giving immediate attention to a slight cough which could be stopped in time by the use of a twenty five cent bottle of Dr. Wistar's Pulmonic Syrup.

## Exorcising the Devil.

Fears of the devil seem to be more the character of Chinese religion than love of God, and when these ignorant dwellers on the water experience some accident they promptly resort to means of driving his rather Satanic majesty back into the water whence he came. You can not take a walk along the Bund without encountering over and over again illustrations of this national tendency. Joss sticks will be burning aboard the sampans, or the snapping of fire crackers at your elbow in midwinter will nearly carry you off from your feet. Inquire what it means and you will be told that an effort is being made to "drive Joss away." One of the most curious notions popularly entertained (and one at which the Chinese are fond of pointing as evidence of their superior reverence for that which is literary) is a scrupulous preservation of any paper which may have writing upon it. If this paper must be destroyed, it is solemnly consigned to the flames: but the custom is to preserve all bits thus written upon. Letters are always kept in the household filed away for future reference; and as Chinese letters consist of long strips of paper, it is customary to paste all letters of a single correspondent together.

Laying hens thrive with much sunshine and plenty of food, both green and dry, with a full supply of pure water, and some form of lime.

D Sullivan, Malcolm, Ontario, writes: "I have been selling Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil for some years, and I have no hesitation in saying that it has given better satisfaction than any other medicine I have ever sold. I consider it the only patent medicine that cures more than it is recommended to cure." Unprincipled persons are selling imitations of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. Do not be deceived.

A good smile is the sunshine of wisdom.

The people of this country have spoken. They declare by their patronage of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil, that they believe it to be an article of genuine merit, adapted to the cure of rheumatism, as well as relieves the pains of fractures and dislocations, external injuries, corns, bunions, piles, and other maladies.

A quiet conscience makes one so serene.

## Farmers—Try It.

Wells, Richardson & Co's Improved Butter Color will be found to be the only oil color that will not become rancid. Treat it and you will prove it. It will not color the butter-milk; it gives the brightest color of any made, and is the strongest and the most reliable.

In every man there is a loneliness, an inner chamber of peculiar life, into which God only can enter.

A FAMILY MEDICINE. — Over ten thousand boxes of Briggs' Life Pills are sold yearly in the Dominion of Canada, which is the best guarantee of their quality and the estimation in which they are held as a family medicine.

Patience is bitter, but its fruit is sweet.

Mr. R. C. Winslow, Toronto, writes: "Northrop & Lyman's Vegetable Discovery is a valuable medicine to all who are troubled with indigestion. I tried a bottle of it after suffering for some ten years, and the results are certainly beyond my expectations. It assists digestion wonderfully. I digest my food with no apparent effort, and am now entirely free from that sensation, which every dyspeptic well knows, of unpleasant fullness after each meal."

## SPRING AND SUMMER UNDERWEAR.

Our assortment of Gentlemen's Underwear—Drawers and Hosiery in Cashmere, fine Lambs-wool, Merino and Egyptian, Brown Cotton, (Gauze and Rib) is very large and well assorted this season, and the value is particularly good.

Boys' Jersey Suits and Boys' Underwear in great variety.

Sporting Suits, Bathing Suits, Belts, Hosiery and Hosiery in endless variety.

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