

Jesus said to his disciples. Whom do you say that I am?

Simon Peter answered and said: Thou art Christ the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answering, said to him: Blessed art thou Simon Bar-Jona: because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, but my father who is in heaven. And I say to thee: that thou art Peter; and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

And I shall give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven. And whatsoever thou shalt bind upon earth, it shall be bound also in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed also in heaven. S. Matthew xvi. 15-19.



Was anything concealed from Peter, who was styled the Rock on which the Church was built, who received the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and the power of loosing and binding in Heaven and on earth?"—TERTULIAN PRÆSCRIP. xxii.

"There is one God, and one Church, and one Chair founded by the voice of the Lord upon Peter. That any other Altar be erected, or a new Priesthood established, besides that one Altar, and one Priesthood, is impossible. Whosoever gathers elsewhere, scatters. Whatever is devised by human frenzy, in violation of the Divine Ordinance, is adulterous, impious, sacrilegious."—St. Cyprian Ep. 43 ad Plohem.

"All of them remaining silent, for the doctrine was beyond the reach of man, Peter the Prince of the Apostles and the supreme herald of the Church, not following his own inventions, nor persuaded by human reasoning, but enlightened by the Father, says to him: Thou art Christ, and not this alone, but the Son of the living God.—St. Cyril of Jerusal. Cat. xi. 1.

Calendar.

- OCTOBER 15—Sunday—XVIII after Pent. III
Oct. Purty of B. V. M. G. Doub
- " 16—Monday—St. Basil the Great B.C. and Doct. Doub. from 14th June.
- " 17—Tuesday—St. Hedwigis Queen Widow Semid.
- " 18—Wednesday—St. Luke Evang. Doub. II c).
- " 19—Thursday—St. Peter of Alcantara C. Doub.
- " 20—Friday—St. John Cantius C. Dou.
- " 21—Saturday—St. John a St. Facundo C. Doub. from 15th June.

[From the Richmond Republican.]
THE DEAD SEA EXPEDITION.

The September number of the Southern Literary Messenger contains an article of profound interest on this subject from the pen of Lieut. M. F. Maury.

Lieut. Maury gives a history of this expedition, brief, lucid, and which increases the anxiety of the public mind to see the report of Lieut. Maury, who has made a successful survey, and who, we are glad to learn, is expected to return soon to this country.

We learn from Lieut. Murray's article that this expedition was planned by Lieut. Lynch, and authorized by Secretary Mason. In the spring of 1846, Lieut. Lynch first addressed the Secretary on the subject, recommending a circumnavigation and exploration of the Dead Sea and its entire coast; stating that the expense would be trifling, as our ships frequently touched at Acre, in Syria, forty miles from Lake Tiberius or Sea of Galilee, from which the river Jordan runs and debouches in the first named sea; that the frame of a boat, with crew and provisions, could be transported on camels from Acre to Tiberius, and there put together again. Only one traveller, Mr. Cortigan, had ever circumnavigated the Dead Sea, and he had died at the termination of his voyage, without leaving any journal or notes behind. It was contended also, that, independent of the eager curiosity of all Christendom in regard to this mysterious lake, this expedition is of value to the interests of navigation.

The Secretary of the Navy received favorably the proposition of Lieut. Lynch, and an opportunity soon occurred by which it could be conveniently carried into effect. It was necessary to send a store-ship to the Mediterranean squadron, and as, after her arrival, she would have no employment for months, the Secretary determined to send Lieut. Lynch and his party in her; so that after meeting the wants of the squadron, she could proceed up the Levant, and land Lieut. Lynch and his companions. This was done. The store-ship "Supply" was provided with two metallic boats, one of copper, the other of iron; the former named "Fanny Mason," and the latter "Fanny Skinner." On their arrival at their destination their troubles began, and in their march to Lake Tiberius their boats had to be transported over the most formidable mountain gorges and heights, and to be lowered down precipices with ropes. But these difficulties were surmounted with true sailor skill and perseverance, and on the 8th of April the two Fannies, each with the American ensign flying, were afloat upon the beautiful blue waters of the sea of Galilee. "Emblematic of its Master, it alone of all things around them remained the same. Just as the Apostles saw it when our Saviour said to it, 'Peace, be still,' this little band of rovers now beheld it."

The navigation of the Jordan was found to be most difficult and dangerous, from its fearful and frequent rapids. Lieut. Lynch solves the secret of the depression between Lake Tiberius and the Dead Sea by the tortuous course of the Jordan, which, in a distance of sixty miles winds through a course of two hundred miles. Within this distance Lieut. Lynch and his party plunged down no less than twenty-seven threatening rapids, besides many others of less descent. The difference of level between the two seas is over a thousand feet.

The water of the Jordan was sweet to within a few hundred yards of its mouth. The waters of the sea were devoid of smell, but bitter, salt, and nauseous. Upon entering it, the boats were encountered by a gale, and "it seemed as if the bows, so dense was the water, were encountering the sledge hammers of the Titans, instead of the opposing waves of an angry sea." The party proceeded daily with their exploration, making topographical sketches as they went, until they reached the southern extremity of the sea, where the most wonderful sight that they had yet seen awaited them.

"In passing the mountain of Uzdum (Sodom) we unexpectedly, and much to our astonishment," says Lieut. Lynch, "saw a large, rounded, turret-shaped column, facing toward southeast, which proved to be of solid rock salt, capped with carbonate of lime, one mass of crystallization. Mr. Dale took a sketch of it, and Dr. Anderson and I landed with much difficulty and procured specimens from it." The party circumnavigated the lake, returned to their place of departure, and brought back their boats in as complete order as they received them at New York. They were all in fine health. This is a specimen of the skill, system, and discipline of the American navy. No nation in the world has such a service. The time is coming when it will give proof of that fact palpable to the most dull understanding. Thanks to the good management of Lieut. Lynch, the whole cost of this scientific exploration of the Dead Sea, [except, of course, the cost of the equipage and maintenance of the crew of the ship,] was but seven hundred dollars.

From the letters of Lieut. Lynch, quoted by Lieut. Maury, we transcribe the following interesting fact elicited by the exploration.

"The bottom of the northern half of this sea is almost an entire plain. Its meridional lines at a short distance from the shore scarce vary in depth. The deepest soundings thus far 188 fathoms (1128 feet.) Near the shore the bottom is generally an incrustation of salt, but the intermediate one is soft mud with many rectangular crystals—mostly cubes—of pure salt. At one time Stellwager's lead brought up nothing but crystals. The southern half of the sea is as shallow as the northern one is deep, and for about one fourth of its entire length the depth does not exceed three fathoms, (18 feet.) Its southern bed has presented no crystals, but the shores are lined with incrustations of salt, and when we landed at Uzdum in the space of an hour, our foot prints were coated with crystallization. The opposite shores of the peninsula and the west coast present evident marks of disruption. There are unquestionably birds and insects upon the shores, and ducks are sometimes upon the sea, for we have seen them—but cannot detect any living thing within it; although the salt streams flowing into contain salt fish. I feel sure that the result of this survey will fully sustain the scriptural accounts of the cities of the plain."

He thus speaks of Jordan. "The Jordan, al-

though rapid and impetuous, is graceful in its windings and fringed with luxuriance, while its waters are sweet clear, cool and refreshing."

After the survey of the sea, the party proceeded to determine the height of mountains on its shores, and to run a level thence via Jerusalem to the Mediterranean. They found the summit of the west bank of the Dead Sea more than 1000 feet above its surface, and very nearly on a level with the Mediterranean.

"It is a curious fact," says Lieut. Maury, "that the distance from the top to the bottom of the Dead Sea should measure the height of its banks, the elevation of the Mediterranean, and the difference of level between the bottom of the two seas, and that the depth of the Dead Sea should be also an exact multiple of the height of Jerusalem above it."

"Another not less singular fact, in the opinion of Lieut. Lynch, is that the bottom of the Dead Sea forms two submerged plains, an elevated and a depressed one. The first, its southern part, of slimy mud covered by a shallow bay: the last, its northern and largest portion, of mud and incrustations and rectangular crystals of salt—at a great depth with a narrow ravine running through it, corresponding with the bed of the river Jordan at one extremity, and the Wady 'el Jeb,' or wady within a wady at the other."

"The slimy ooze," says Lieut. Maury, "upon that plain at the bottom of the Dead Sea will not fail to remind the sacred historian of the 'slime pits' in the vale, where were joined in battle the 'four kings with five.'"

THE DESTRUCTION OF POMPEII

It was the month of August, A. D. 79, the 23d day of the month, and the festival of Bacchus. The morning had already dawned, and never had nature witnessed a lovelier sunrise: tower and turret, mansion and cottage, mount and glen, were all steeped in a flood of living light. The city looked forth in her rich and mellow beauty, like the favorite of gods, the very offspring of deities, surrounded with her cloudless skies, her crystal air, her laughing sea, and her gorgeous fields. It was night, and heaven's gorgeous wanderer, after bathing the liquid clouds in a flood of molten gold, had sunk to his rest upon the lap of Thetis. The pale moon shone forth in mellow glory above the tall, white mountain tops, and the band of bright immortals were making their appearance one by one in the immutable and ever-youthful heavens. A wild, spiritual, but mournful radiance shined over the crowded homes, and the winding solitudes of that doomed city. There was a weird solemnity and witchery about the hour. Silence was sleeping upon the lap of Beauty, and Beauty was unconsciously reposing upon the heartless bosom of Death! The grim skeleton was toying with her lovely tresses, but she knew it not; he pressed his cold charnel lips to hers, but she felt it not—she still lay dreaming of sylphs, gnomes, and fairy spirits. Suddenly a dread peal of thunder rolled through the throbbing air, and one bright meteor flashed forth and streamed its radiance across the distant sky, and disappeared in the sleeping ocean. Another and another peal succeeded, as loud as the blast of an archangel's clarion; far and wide rolled the sound with an echo that might have aroused the dead sleepers of the marble sepulchre. Strange vibrations ran through the trembling earth! A pale and lurid light overspread the heavens; the moon and the stars grew pale, sickly and wan! Again the thunder pealed—and that peal it was as the roar of ten thousand pieces of artillery, or as if the imprisoned Titans had burst forth from

their granite dungeons to renew the combat with the gods! In a moment the moon and stars were hid, a stream of liquid fire shot upwards to the darkened heavens! Louder and louder pealed each succeeding crash of thunder, and down the sides of the groaning and reeling Vesuvius poured the burning lava, while floods of molten ore burst over crag and field. The surrounding groves and the spreading trees were soon one mass of flame! Onward and onward still rushed the devouring element, overturning and consuming everything that attempted to impede its fury. A tremendous shower of ashes obscured the firmament. Myriads of living beings were running to and fro in the streets, seeking in vain for safety, shelter or flight; still pealed the deep mouthed thunder, still rolled on the awful storms and deluge of fire! Arches, towers and temple, palace and cottage, were alike hidden beneath the overwhelming sea of flame and lava! one wild and universal shriek rose from the expiring multitudes—it was followed by the silence of the grave! Death and silence stood side by side, the sole monarchs of a peopleless domain, and beneath their feet lay the inmates skeletons of Life and Beauty, mouldering into dust! Four days of impenetrable darkness succeeded, and when the sun again looked forth from the heavens, Pompeii was no more! The glory had departed, and the golden glory of the summer sheen floated over a City of the Dead! an unwept sepulchre, and an unmarbled tomb!

SISTERS OF CHARITY—THE APPROACH OF CHOLERA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TABLET.

Sir—The great utility of our London hospitals is, to a considerable extent, counteracted by the woful inefficiency of the nurses attached to them. That their position is a difficult one, all must allow; to bear up with the caprices of the sick, to minister to their comfort, and to help in assuaging their sufferings, is not the least part of their duty; but how inadequately this duty is discharged, all who have been connected with hospitals can testify.

The poorer patient is neglected, while he who can afford to remunerate the nurse is well attended to. The authorities most certainly interfere where they can, and no doubt prevent a great deal of mischief that would happen without their attention; but that a species of petty tyranny exists is a fact, and the sooner a remedy is discovered the better, especially at a time when the most fatal of modern plagues is in all probability about to visit our shores. A panic is sure to accompany such a pestilence, and it is therefore of urgent necessity that extensive measures should be taken beforehand to remedy evils which under those circumstances would be appalling.

In considering the steps necessary to be taken, we must remember that the object which the nurses have in coming to such institutions is simply and solely to gain a living. They have not, or seldom have, "a vocation" for attending the poor and sick, and without a vocation they cannot fulfil their functions properly. Among the most important qualities required in the nurses are, implicit obedience to the authorities, and great self-denial. These qualities, however, are but seldom found amongst them. Many instances might be quoted where patients have lost their lives from the nurse's neglect of the surgeon's orders, and even from her substituting medicines for those prescribed by the medical attendants. So proverbial is the intemperance of the nurse, that should she be qualified in other respects, it is winked at. If the harm that resulted were felt solely by her, it might be passed