

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

JANUARY 1.

THE BEGINNING OF THE GOSPEL. —Mark 1: 1-18.

"The beginning of the gospel."—This is equivalent to the liturgical phrase, "Here begins the Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to the tradition which has been handed down to us in the Gospels." The words "beginning" and "gospel" are both of Greek origin, and mean "good news, glad tidings."

"Written in the prophets"—The citation here is from the Prophets, Isaiah and Malachi. "Behold, I send."—The original passage predicts the advent of two messengers or angels; the Angel of the covenant, who is also represented as the Lord of the temple, and another, who was to prepare his way before him. These two are here identified, the one expressly, and the other by necessary implication, with our Lord and his forerunner.

"The voice of one crying" might be more exactly rendered "a voice crying." [The oldest English versions have a *crier*.] When Ibrahim Pasha proposed to visit certain places on Lebanon, the emirs and sheikhs sent forth a general proclamation, somewhat in the style of Isaiah's exhortation, to all the inhabitants, to assemble along the proposed route and prepare the way before him.

"John" was the son of Elizabeth, a cousin of Mary, and therefore a second cousin of Jesus. The circumstances of his birth are recorded in Luke 1. "In the wilderness"—The idea is simply that he was ministering, not in the city and under the influence of the hierarchy, but in the country, and had rural habits and a rural education.

"Baptism of repentance"—His baptism probably resembled that of proselytes—was an outward mark of profession, a symbol of repentance and forgiveness, though the latter belonged more especially to Christ's baptism. Yet John's baptism was of a deeper meaning than any thing previously in use, and formed an important part of his divinely appointed office.

"For the remission of sins"—This phrase depends on repentance. It is not baptism for the remission of sins, but repentance for such remission. It is the business of some men simply to initiate. They blow a trumpet-blast, and having aroused attention, they retire before the teacher sent from God. Let ministers be judged by this rule; there is a ministry of initiation, and there is a ministry of education. Some men combine these ministries.

"Went out into him"—The expression, "all Judea and they of Jerusalem," must, of course, be taken as a popular description of the impression made by his preaching. There were whole classes who held aloof from his baptism altogether. Matt. 21: 25; Mark 11: 31. "In the river of Jordan"—The teacher will note that baptism in the brink of the river, for convenience sake, does not by any means imply immersion. It was the most convenient position possible for baptizing such multitudes by pouring.

"Confessing their sins"—By a natural hyperbole this vast concourse is described as submitting to the rite which John administered, not as an empty and unmeaning form, but at the same time confessing their sins, the Greek verb being an intensive compound, which denotes the act of free and full confession or acknowledgment.

"John was clothed"—These worthies who wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins were like the ark, goat's hair without, but pure gold within. "Camel's hair"—Not the camel's skin with the hair on, but a garment made of the shaggy camel's hair, worn into a coarse fabric like our druggot. It was recognized as a garb of the prophets [Zech. 13: 4], and is still worn in the East by the poor, or those who affect austerity. "Girdle of a skin"—The "leathern girdle" may be seen around the body of the common laborer, when fully dressed, almost anywhere; whereas men of wealth take special pride in displaying a rich sash of silk or some other costly fabric. "Did eat locusts"—I have seen at Medina and Tayf locust shops, where these animals were sold by measure. In Egypt and Nubia they are only eaten by the poorest beggars.

The Arabs, in preparing locusts as an article of food, throw them alive into boiling water with which a good deal of salt has been mixed. They are sometimes eaten boiled in butter, and often contribute materials for breakfast when spread over unleavened bread, mixed with butter. "Wild honey" existed in such abundance in the trunks of trees and the crevices of rocks that to the ancient Israelites the land was described as "flowing with milk and honey." Exod. 3: 8.

"One mightier"—John assures them that the difference is not merely that of first and second, but of master and servant; nay, still more distinct and distant. For the meaneast slave might lose the strap which bound his master's sandals to the soles of his feet; but to stoop for such a purpose in the presence of John's Master, was too great an honor even for the man whom all Judea and Jerusalem had crowed forth to be instructed and baptized by.

"Water..... Holy Ghost"—The point of difference, according to the strict sense of the words, is the baptismal element or fluid; in the one case water; in the other holy spirit, or [the] Holy Spirit. The antithesis is then not only between water and spirit, but between dead matter and a divine person, a disparity beyond all computation or expression.

"Jesus came"—The Lord Jesus came neither with the crowds from Judea, nor yet with the other Galileans, but straight from his own home and by himself. "Was baptized by John"—The transition from John's ministry to that of Christ is furnished by the baptism of our Lord himself, as the most important public act of the former, and an immediate preparation for the latter. Though without sins of his own to be confessed, repented of, or pardoned, he identified himself by this act with his people whom he came to save from sin [Matt. 1: 21], and gave them an assurance of that great deliverance; avowed his own subjection to the law, as the expression of his Father's will [Matt. 3: 15], and put honor upon John as a divinely inspired prophet and his own forerunner.

"Straightway"—The baptism itself was followed by an audible and visible divine recognition of our Lord as the Messiah. "As a dove"—The choice of a dove as a visible emblem of the Spirit has been variously explained as referring to its gentleness, and the corresponding quality of Christ's own ministry [compare Matt. 12: 96]; to the brooding of the Spirit on the waters at the time of the creation [Gen. 1: 2]; to the dove which Noah sent from the ark [Gen. 8: 12]; to the use of the same bird in sacrifice. Lev. 1: 1. In the descent of the Spirit in the form of a dove, we have a further indication of the form of baptism.

"Thou art my beloved Son"—The very words addressed to the Messiah in Psalm 2, 7, and from which the Son of God became one of his standing appellations. Thus the baptism of Christ, besides the other purposes already mentioned, was the occasion of his public recognition and authoritative attestation as the Son of God and as the true Messiah before he entered on the actual discharge of his official duties.

"The Spirit driveth him"—We think of the state so described as one more or less of the nature of ecstasy, in which the ordinary phenomena of consciousness and animal life were in great measure suspended. The gift of the Spirit had on the human nature of the Son of Man something of the same overpowering mastery that it has had over others of the sons of men. A power mightier than his own human will was urging him on, it might almost be said he knew not whither, bringing him into conflict "not with flesh and blood, but with principalities and powers in heavenly places. Christ is no sooner out of the water of baptism but he is in the fire of temptation, such as are baptized with Christ and entered into the profession of Christianity must look to be assailed with Satan's temptations.

"Forty days tempted"—This by no means affirms that the temptation lasted during the whole forty days, any more than the ministry of angels mentioned in the last clause. Perhaps the being with the boats may point to one form of temptation, namely, that of terror, which was practiced on him—but of the inward trials, who may speak? "The angels ministered"—(great joy was that to the angels! and it must have been as great to him! In such a state of long, long conflict and trial, how blessed were these visitors from the great world of peace above; their communications how sweet, how rich in assurance!

USEFUL HINTS.

Use wire rope for clothes line. It saves annoyance, is cheaper in the long run, and much more convenient.

Spirits of ammonia diluted with water, if applied with sponge or flannel to discolored spots on the carpet or garments will often restore the color.

There is a great difference in the amount of water required to mix the different kinds of flour. The better the flour the more water is required.

Soot falling on the carpet from open chimneys or carelessly handled stove-pipes, if covered thickly with salt, can be brushed up without injury to the carpet.

Moist mortar destroys lead pipe. Underground telegraph wires have been cased in lead pipe, laid in mortar, and the pipes soon become useless. Moist mortar will eat through an ordinary sheet of lead in a single year.

Sometimes the heat in the oven is much greater on the top than on the bottom, and cooks are puzzled how to remedy it. A very simple way is to put some sea sand in the oven, which will invariably regulate the heat. The sand must be thoroughly dry before anything is put in the oven to be cooked.

INFORMATION.

Valuable information—Johnson's Anodyne Liniment will positively prevent diphtheria that most to be dreaded of all dreadful diseases. Don't delay a moment, prevention is better than cure. No family should be without the Anodyne in the house.

To partially atone for our many sins during the year now closing we wish to expose a fraud. We refer to the large packs of horse and cattle powders now sold. Sheridan's are absolutely pure and immensely valuable. This statement is true.

A FAMILY FRIEND.—No family should be without Perry Davis' Vegetable Pain-Killer. It can be given to the infant for the Colic, and to the adult for Rheumatism. There is scarcely a disease to which it may not be beneficially applied. It contains no deleterious drug, but may be used for the various ailments of mankind.

COUGHS AND COLDS.—If taken in time are easily cured. If allowed to continue will result in inextinguishable consumption. Allen's Lung Balsam has the confidence and support of the medical faculty, and is recommended by all who are acquainted with its virtues.

KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, and when you perceive any fowls or animals in your barn yard, or in your stable suffering from disease or ill health, mix their feed with HARVELL'S CONDITION POWDERS, and the result will satisfy you. These great specifics are sold everywhere. Remember this!

From the steady, firm and regular beat of the Heart, replacing interrupted and feeble action of that organ, demonstrated in a variety of cases, Fellows' Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites is known to exert a powerful tonic effect on the muscles of the Heart.

GATHERED OR BROKEN BREASTS.—Mrs. M. J. Johnson, De Lisle Street, Montreal, who is one of the most successful sick nurses and mid-wives, says Graham's Pain Eradicator is the best remedy she has ever found for Gathered Breasts, and if used in time is a certain preventative, and advises all ladies under such circumstances to have a bottle on hand. One 25 cent bottle, in such cases, would prevent heavy doctor bills, as well as a tedious and very painful disease. Dec 23/81

RESTORED TO HIS USUAL HEALTH. From James Mitchell, a well known Manufacturer at Springfield, Vt.—"Several years ago I was attacked with a severe lung difficulty, which was quite alarming. I had severe night sweats, and all the preliminary symptoms of consumption. After having tried several remedies and the skill of physicians without benefit, I was induced to use WISTAR'S BALSAM OF WILD CHERRY, the first bottle of which afforded immediate relief; and a continuance of its use soon restored me to my usual health. For twenty-five years past it has never failed to afford entire satisfaction in all cases of colds, or any throat or lung difficulties. I know of no medicine its equal." 50 cents and \$1 a bottle. Sold by dealers generally.

THE INVIGORATING, FATTENING AND NUTRITIVE properties of Robinson's Phosphorized Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil with Lacto-Phosphate of Lime are such as would indicate its sufficiency to "sustain the body in the performance of its various functions," with the aid of but little solid food. Hence its superior remedial worth in the "Wasting Diseases of Childhood," the "Wasting Away," in those of Consumption itself, as well as in General Debility, and all cases of Prostration and Emaciation. Prepared solely by Hannington Bros., Pharmaceutical Chemists, St. John, N.B., and for sale by Druggists and General Dealers. Price 1m per bottle; six bottles for \$5. Dec 1m

CLOSE CONFINEMENT in poorly ventilated work rooms, and want of proper exercise, are often unavoidable, but tend to produce Dyspepsia, want of energy, and loss of appetite. In such cases Hannington's Quinine Wine and Iron is the best medicine to use.

FOR BILIOUSNESS, Costiveness, and all troubles arising from a disordered state of the Stomach or Liver, Use "Shanty" Bitters.

AFTER AN ATTACK OF FEVER, Measles, Diphtheria, or any wasting disease, HANNINGTON'S QUININE WINE and IRON is the best medicine to take. It gives lasting strength. Dec 1m

MOTHERS! MOTHERS! MOTHERS! Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with the excruciating pain of cutting teeth? If so, go at once and get a bottle of MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately—depend upon it; there is no mistake about it. There is not a mother on earth who has ever used it, who will not tell you at once that it will regulate the bowels, and give rest to the mother, and relief and health to the child, operating like magic. It is perfectly safe to use in all cases, and pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States. Sold everywhere at 25 cents a bottle. Jan 23-ly

BEST AND COMFORT FOR THE SUFFERING. "BROWN'S HOUSEHOLD PANACEA" has no equal for relieving pain, both internal and external. It cures Pain in the Side, Back or Bowels, Sore Throat, Rheumatism, Toothache, Lumbago and any kind of a Pain or Ache. "It will most surely quicken the Blood and Heal, as its acting power is wonderful." "Brown's Household Panacea," being acknowledged as the great Pain Reliever, and of double the strength of any other Elixir or Liniment in the world, should be in every family handy for use when wanted, "as it really is the best remedy in the world for Cramps in the Stomach, and Pains and Aches of all kinds," and is for sale by all Druggists at 25 cents a bottle. Jan 23-ly

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GOLDEN ELIXIR will cure Scrofula, Scrofulous Humors, Tumors, Cancers, Erysipelas, Salt Rheum, Consumption, Rheumatism, Syphilitic Diseases, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Spinal Complaints, Kidney Complaint, Liver Complaint, Ulcers, Old Sores, Pimples on the Face, Ringworms, Catarrh, Indigestion, Costiveness, Headache, Dropsy, Pains in the Side and Back, Faintness at the Stomach, General Debility. Golden Elixir produces appetite and a healthy digestion, renews the strength, reinvigorates the failing power, removes a sensation of fatigue, increases the capacity for mental and physical exertion, produces cheerfulness, gives a coolness and dexterity to the mind, confers freshness, originality and energy on the mental processes, produces sensations of muscular power, and stimulates the nervous power. PRICE ONE DOLLAR.

SPAVIN CURED. St. JOHN, N.B., January 6th, 1880 Dear Sirs: In regard to your favor of a few days ago, I would say: About one year ago a horse owned by me contracted a large Bone Spavin, for the cure of which I tried a number of the liniments and lotions advertised to cure the same, without any effect, and he became very lame. A friend of mine recommended me to try FELLOWS' LEMMING'S ESSENCE. I acted upon his advice, and now I am happy to say the lameness has ceased and the Spavin disappeared. I now consider him entirely cured, and would cheerfully recommend FELLOWS' LEMMING'S ESSENCE as the best remedy in the market for all the lameness that horses are subject to. Yours truly, THOMAS FRY.

RINGBONE CURED. AUGUSTA, ME., March 8th, 1880. Dear Sirs: I have had occasion to use FELLOWS' LEMMING'S ESSENCE on a horse so lame from a Ringbone that I could not use him. I have been using it about three weeks, and find it does all you claim for it, as the lameness is gone and the enlargement has almost disappeared. I firmly believe a few days more will make an entire cure. Respectfully yours, JAMES T. PARKER.

Englishman's Cough Mixture THE GREAT REMEDY FOR CURING Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Hoarseness, Spitting of Blood, Bronchitis, Loss of Voice, Whooping Cough, Influenza, Soreness of the Throat, Chest and Lungs, and all other Diseases leading to CONSUMPTION. It will not make new lungs, but will prevent the disease from spreading throughout the whole substance of the lungs, therefore facilitating recovery. DON'T FAIL TO TRY IT! We will give a large reward for a better remedy than Englishman's Cough Mixture. Coughs and Colds should always have rational treatment, and never be neglected. Such trifling ailments are too often solemn warnings of Consumption; which may be cured or prevented by timely using ENGLISHMAN'S COUGH MIXTURE. This popular remedy is infallible. It is highly praised by thousands of persons who have tried its wonderful efficacy, and strongly recommended by all as the best medicine ever known for speedily and permanently removing Coughs, Colds, and all pulmonary diseases. Englishman's Cough Mixture is a positive cure for Coughs, Colds, Sore Throat, Hoarseness, Difficult Breathing, Inflammation of the Lungs, Bronchitis, Asthma, Croup, and all Diseases of the Pulmonary organs. LAME HORSES. FELLOWS' LEMMING'S ESSENCE will cure Sprains, Ringbones, Carbs, Splints, Swellings, and Stiff Joints on Horses. CERTIFICATE. Spavins Cured RIVER HERBERT, N.S., June 19, 1880 Messrs. T. B. BARKER & SONS: Dear Sirs—I have used FELLOWS' LEMMING'S ESSENCE for Spavins and found it a perfect success. It is a sure remedy if used in time. Yours truly, T. W. FOREST. For sale by Druggists & General Dealers

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Specifications, conditions of contract and forms of tender may be obtained on application at the Canadian Pacific Railway Office, in New Westminster, and at the Chief Engineer's Office at Ottawa, after the 1st January next, at which time plans and profiles will be open for inspection at the latter office.

This timely notice is given with a view to giving Contractors an opportunity of visiting and examining the ground during the fine season and before the winter sets in. Mr. Marcus Smith, who is in charge at the office at New Westminster, is instructed to give Contractors all the information in his power. No tender will be entertained unless on one of the printed forms, addressed to F. Braun, Esq., Sec. Dept. of Railways and Canals, and marked "Tender for C. P. R."

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