

Opposite the words GOD REVEALED place, 1. In Nature. Gen. i. 1; Psa. xix. 1. 2. In Man Gen. i. 26. 3. In Christ. Col. ii. 9.....The Outline of the lesson may be written on the board

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 1872.

LESSON II.—*In Eden.* Gen. ii. 15-25.

I. GENERAL STATEMENT.

God gives man a home of beauty; teaches him the dignity of labor; defines his privileges; creates woman as the partner in his duties and his joys.

II. NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

Topic: Man's glory and honor in the earthly paradise.

1. THE WORK APPOINTED, verse 15. GARDEN. A park, a paradise. EDEN means pleasantness, delight. The garden was doubtless the loveliest spot in all Eden. The precise limits of Eden unknown, but probably a wide region of Mesopotamia. TO DRESS...AND... KEEP. Idleness has no place in Eden. Labor is noble.

O naught of earth can e'er avail
While Eden-mem'ries haunt us!
Our longings are on larger scale
Than lower worlds can grant us.

—*Punshon.*

He that labors is tempted by one devil; he that is idle, by a thousand.—*Italian Proverb.*
Toil is the earthly, prayer the heavenly gift, of Jehovah.—*Krummacher.*

An American President, when asked what was his coat of arms, replied, "A pair of shirt sleeves."

2. THE COMMANDMENT ANNOUNCED, vers. 16, 17. COMMANDED. Man not beyond law even in Eden. FREELY EAT. Of the vast variety of luscious fruits. God's beneficence is great indeed! TREE OF.....KNOWLEDGE. Both tree and fruit are entirely unknown. Might have been an ordinary fruit; the act of eating which brought the dread knowledge of evil. NOT EAT. A test of obedience. God's pre-eminence—the right to demand obedience. God's goodness: *Of all trees eat, but ONE*

DIE. Spiritually. How awful the crime of disobedience, if death the penalty! No SIN IS SMALL.

Without law there would be universal anarchy. The whole round earth is everywhere bound by gold chains about the throne of God.

A merchant wanted a boy in his shop. Many applied. The next day he advertised, "Wanted, to assist in a shop a boy who obeys his mother." Only two boys answered this advertisement.

Obedience would have saved Eden from the curse of sin forever. As long as Eve's heart was right, God's words, "Thou shalt not eat of it," were like a rampart of fire around the forbidden tree. Disobedience has cursed every spot in the whole earth, and peopled the regions of death. Universal obedience to God would turn every nation and every home into an Eden of bliss. See Christ's obedience, Phil. ii. 8; Matt. xxvi. 39.

3. A COMPANION PROVIDED, vers. 18, 20-24. ALONE. Man's nature *social*. HELPMATE. Suitable, like; as himself. GAVE NAMES. Endowed with intelligence and the gifts of speech, Adam is able to give suitable names. He was neither a child nor a savage, obliged first to learn the alphabet. NOT FOUND. The animals coming, doubtless in pairs, Adam perceived his own loneliness the more; and all creation does not furnish a companion. DEEP SLEEP. Adam was probably conscious of God's intent. THE RIB. Not an inferior part of the body; 'near his heart.' WOMAN. Hebrew *Isha*, a she-man: EQUAL to man. All pagan nations degrade, all Christian nations exalt her. OF MY BONES...AND FLESH. Perfect equality, perfect adaptation: *in et*. THEREFORE. The logic of Eden: because she is taken out of man, lovely, equal, meet, God-given, married by heaven's law of fitness, therefore THEY SHALL BE ONE FLESH. God would seem to exhaust language to show that separation, divorce, ought to be unknown to earth.

Christ emphasizes: "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Matt. xix. 5. "They are no more twain, but one flesh." Mark x. 8. Paul draws from the purity, love, unity, and blessing of the marriage relation a beautiful illustration of the Divine union between Christ and his Church. Ephes. v. 22-33.

The Cherokee marriage-ceremony is very expressive. The man and woman join hands over