

set of the pillar. Then in the afternoon it would descend the steps on the eastern side. The dial shown in the Illustration is of the sort used by the Greeks, and quite different from the one described here. So the sun returned ten steps (Rev. Ver.). There are well proven conditions of the atmosphere which would bring this about. The miracle therefore, possibly lay in God's suiting this change to the time of the king's need and the prophet's prediction.

DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association.

M.—Hezekiah's prayer, Isa. 38 : 1-8. T.—Thanksgiving, Isa. 38 : 9-20. W.—Another record, 2 Kgs. 20 : 1-11. Th.—Encouragement to pray, Matt. 7 : 7-12. F.—The Lord heareth, Psalm 34 : 11-22. S.—Prayer of the afflicted, Psalm 102. S.—A present help, Psalm 46.

Prove from Scripture—That God answers prayer.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 85. *What doth God require of us, that we may escape his wrath and curse due to us for sin?* A. To escape the wrath and curse of God due to us for sin, God requireth of us faith in Jesus Christ, repentance unto life, with the diligent use of all the outward means whereby Christ communicateth to us the benefits of redemption.

The Question on Missions—26. What was our first foreign mission field? Our first foreign mission field was Aneiteum, the most southerly of the New Hebrides, a group of about 30 inhabited islands in the Southern Pacific, some 1,400 miles from Australia.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, Ps. Sel. 97 (Supplemental Lesson); 297; 278; 29 (Ps. Sel.); 513 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY); 320.

FOR FURTHER STUDY

Juniors—What prophet tells of Hezekiah's sickness and recovery? Where else do we find the story?

1 How sick was Hezekiah? What message was brought to him? Who brought it? Who sent it?
2, 3 How did the king receive the message? To whom did he pray? What does God promise to the righteous? (Ps. 91 : 16.) How old was Hezekiah? What kind of man had he been? Had he a right to ask for a longer life? How did he show his grief?

4-6 How soon was Hezekiah's prayer answered? How many years added to his life? From whom was he promised deliverance? What was the king

of Assyria's name? In what Lesson did we read of him? What happened to his army? To himself?

7, 8 What two signs offered to Hezekiah? Which did he choose? Did the shadow turn back?

Seniors and the Home Department—Give the date and place of the Lesson. In the reigns of what four kings did Isaiah prophesy?

1-3 How did Isaiah say the king's sickness would end? How do you explain this? Why was Hezekiah so sorely grieved? What was Paul's wish in regard to death? (Phil. 1 : 23.) How does John describe the blessedness of the redeemed in heaven? (Rev. 7 : 13-17.)

4-6 Quote from Isaiah an assurance of immediate answer to prayer. (Isa. 65 : 24.) How does Christ teach us to spend our life? (John 9 : 4.)

7, 8 Describe the dial here spoken of. In what did the miracle consist? What sign was given to Gideon that God had called him? (Judg. 6 : 36-40.)

THE LESSON IN LIFE

1. Says a quaint old writer : "Our being ready for death will make it come never the sooner, but much the easier; and those that are fit to die are most fit to live."

2. The best plea to God for a longer life, is that we have made good use of the time already given us.

3. Suppose a sailor should put off learning to manage a ship until the storm came, or a soldier to shoot until the hour of battle. That would be as reasonable as for us to put off learning to pray, until we become sick and weak.

4. "Remember"! Yes, that is just what we can always count upon God doing. How badly off we should be if, for a moment, He should forget us. It would be like the blotting of the sun out of the heavens. All our joys, our very life, would come to an end.

5. The puzzle of the "how" of this miracle, is the puzzle of all God's wonderful ways. It helps us to remember that "He that set that clock (the sun) agoing can set it back when He pleases; for the Father of all lights is also the Director of them."

6. The clouds are constantly pouring their moisture down into the stream, and the stream as constantly gives it back to the clouds. So the blessings God is every moment showering upon us, should call forth as unceasingly our gratitude and praise.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why was death so terrible to Hezekiah?.....

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2. To whom did he turn in his distress? What did he plead?.....

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3. Explain Hezekiah's choice of a sign.....

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