

breathlessly. "The money was an investment. I don't propose to cut it up into little bits."

"It's a deed of charity, Mrs. Dean," said the good old man, "to help lame Dick Bodley."

"I dare say," said Mrs. Dean, a little irritably. "But I never pretended to be a charitable character."

The old doctor went away, and the next visitor was Helen Hurst, a rosy girl of eighteen.

"Excuse me for interrupting you, Mrs. Dean," said she, "but Larry Johnson was at the bank, yesterday, and he tells me that you drew out your money!"

"Was all creation there?" thought Mrs. Dean.

But she said nothing, only knit away until her needles seemed to glance and glitter like points of fire.

"I am trying to get a boarding place at Mrs. Swipes'," added Helen, coloring, "so as to be near the district school, where I am to teach this spring. But Mrs. Swipes requires payment in advance by the month, and unfortunately we have used up all our slender means in providing my outfit, a teacher, you know, must be dressed decently to command the respect of her pupils. But if you would kindly lend me ten dollars—"

"I never lend," said Mrs. Dean, curtly.

"I will be sure to pay it when I receive my first quarter's salary," pleaded Helen. And I don't know of any one else to go to."

"It's altogether against my principles," said Mrs. Dean, with her face as hard as if it had been carved out of hickory.

Helen Hurst crept out, feeling humiliated and disappointed beyond all expression.

Mrs. Dean chuckled at her own shrewdness; but she hardly had time to stir up the apples in the saucepan, before Mrs. Graham entered with a little leather-covered memorandum book and pencil.

"I am looking for charitable people, Mrs. Dean," said the squire's wife with a laugh.

"Then you've come to the wrong place," said Mrs. Dean frigidly.

"Poor Patrick O'Hara was killed yesterday in the machinery of the rolling mill," said Mrs. Graham, ignoring her neighbor's response. "He has left a wife and eight children, totally destitute."

"And whose fault is that?" said Mrs. Dean.

"Will you not contribute something toward relieving their destitute condition?" urged Mrs. Graham, opening the book and holding the pencil ready for use.

"Certainly not," said Mrs. Dean. "I've no money to spare."

"But I was told—"

"O, yes—about the money that was drawn out of the savings bank!" said Mrs. Dean. "But I intend to keep that money for myself, Mrs. Graham."

"He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord," softly spoke Mrs. Graham.

"Yes, yes—I know!" said Mrs. Dean. "But nobody interprets the Bible literally nowadays."

Mrs. Graham took her departure, acknowledging within herself that her errand was a failure, and Mrs. Dean, left to herself, at last indulged in a nap, with the knitting work in her lap—a nap, wherein she dreamed that the fifty-dollar bill had taken to itself legs, and was running away from a crowd of pursuers, herself among the number.

When she waked up, roused by the noise of coal being poured upon the stove, a candle was burning and Mr. Dean was laughing at her.

"Why, Betsy," said he, "I thought you never were going to wake again. Here you sat with the fire dead out, and I've had to kindle it up again."

"Bless me!" said Mrs. Dean. "I must have been asleep quite a while. "But—" as she started up and saw that the old wall pocket opposite was empty—"where is that old number of the Clinkerville Clarion?"

"It was last week's paper," said Mr. Dean calmly. "We had both of us read it, so I just took it to kindle the fire."

"You burned it up?"

"Yes," said Mr. Dean. "I burned it up. Why shouldn't I?"

For half an hour Mrs. Dean sat silent and never spoke a word. Her first utterance was:

"It's the Lord's judgment upon me!"

Mrs. Dean was a resolute woman, full of character. She went to her table drawer, took out a sheet of paper and wrote to Dr. Bridgman, inclosing a dollar toward lame Dick Bodley's cart and horse. She sent another dollar to Mrs. Graham for the poor little O'Haras, and promised to donate a barrel of russets, a bushel of potatoes and some of her husband's cast-off clothes to cut over for the children. And she sent for Helen Hurst to come and see her.

"I can't lend you ten dollars, my dear," said she, "because I haven't got it. But I'll tell you what I will do. I'll let you make your home here as long as you please. There is a nice spare room, and it's an eighth of a mile nearer than Mrs. Swipes' to the district school."

"Oh, how very, very good you are!" said Helen, her eyes swimming with grateful tears.

"Good!" cried Mrs. Dean. "I'm just beginning to see what a selfish, greedy creature I've been all my life. But you're welcome, my dear, and your board shall not cost you a cent."

She opened her parlor, shook out the curtains and built a fire in the air-tight wood stove.

"Dean likes the parlor," said she, "because it has such nice south windows, and I don't see why we shouldn't enjoy it."

She baked a fresh batch of gingerbread, and sent a loaf to old Mrs. Mudge; she took out a basket of hickory nuts for poor little Harry Jones, who was trying to crack dried pig nuts on the stone by the roadside; she renewed her subscription to the church charities.

"I can't be very liberal," she said; "but I am determined to do what I can."

"That's right, my dear—that's right!" said her husband. "We shall be prosperous, never fear. I'm awfully sorry about burning up your fifty-dollar bill; but, if it's going to open your heart like this, it's the best thing that could have happened to us."

Mrs. Dean was sweeping out the kitchen. She looked around with a smile as she moved the wide-leaved table which always stood under the wall-pocket, and took down the pocket itself, a rude structure of splints, lined with red cambric and tied with cord and tassels of red worsted, to dust it out.

"Yes," she said. "I am afraid I was getting to be a little miserly, and—why, what's this?"

Mr. Dean stooped and picked up a slip of crumpled, dark green paper, which had fallen out from the wall-pocket as his wife turned it upside down and tapped her finger against it to remove all possible dust.

"It's the fifty dollar bill!" said he, with mouth and eyes opening in unison. "It must have slipped down from the folds of the newspaper and lodged here."

"The Lord has sent it back to us," said Mrs. Dean reverently; "and he has sent a lesson, wise and merciful, with it."

"Well," said Mr. Dean, after a moment or two of silence, "there's a lesson in almost everything He does, if we did but know it."

—Selected.

HINTS TO TEACHERS ON THE CURRENT LESSONS.

(From Peloubet's Select Notes.)

July 22.—Joshua 7: 10-26.

ILLUSTRATIVE.

I. "One sins, all suffer." So it is with the body. An aching tooth, an inflamed organ, a diseased limb, makes the whole body sick. As Paul says, "If one member suffer, all the members suffer with it." The same holds true of any organized body of men, a family, a school, a church, a town, a nation. The sins and disgrace of one member injure and disgrace all.—P.

II. "Bound to the obelisk." Pliny relates a story of the setting up of an obelisk like that lately set up in the Central Park, New York. The stone was to stand 90 feet in height; 20,000 workmen were to pull at the ropes and to work the hoisting apparatus. There was great responsibility and risk in the operation. The king resorted to a singular expedient to ensure the best attainment and skill from the engineer. He ordered the engineer's own son to be bound to the apex, so that his heart as well as his head should be under the sternest tension. The kingdom of Christ in our homes, and in

our churches is the great spiritual erection of our times. It is a monument founded on the rock of divine power and purpose, rising through generations and ages to bear its topstone in the highest heavens. Enormous toil, risk, and responsibility are held in this enterprise. Our own sons are bound to the obelisk; our children will share the fate controlled by our fidelity. We cannot escape this fearful issue. In our own home in the homes of our neighbors, are growing up those who will bring delight or will bring sorrow to our later years. None of us liveth to himself. Could we but see our sons bound to the obelisk, what zeal, what alertness, what fidelity would we display. But the invisible things are there. If the world-power, if infidelity and materialism triumph, and the obelisk of our faith falls, our own children will perish in the ruin.—Rev. F. G. Clark, D. D., in the Advance.

PRACTICAL.

1. Vers. 10-13 God sometimes delays to answer prayer, but never fails to answer it.

2. There is a time to pray, and there is a time to act.

3. The sin of one man is a trouble to the whole community in which he lives; to his family, to his friends, and to all about him (vers. 6-15).—Johnson.

4. The whole community is in some sense responsible for the offences of every criminal which it produces or harbors.—J.

5. Wealth held in trust for God, kept as a devoted thing, is not only a blessing, but a very necessity. But gold apart from God is still the accursed thing.—Smiley.

6. Nothing but the right can ever be the expedient, since that can never be true expediency which would sacrifice a greater good to a less.—Whately.

7. Vers. 14, 15. Be sure your sin will find you out.

8. Ver. 20. There is a time when confession of sin, and sorrow for it, come too late for escape from its penalty. The irreversibility of the past is a terrible thing.

9. Sin is always folly.

10. Ver. 21. The only way to avoid sin in action is to quench its impotent workings in the heart, to modify sinful desires.—Bush.

11. Ver. 24. Those who partake of the sin partake also of its punishment.

12. The country, the Church, and the heart, are safe only when the accursed things are purified out of them.

SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS.

This lesson teaches us that sin is the cause of failure and trouble. (1) The defeat, as described in the previous verses, unexpected and disastrous. (2) The cause of defeat (vers. 10-13). The breaking of the covenant of obedience. All were involved in the sin of the few. No true prosperity with sin cherished in the heart, the Church, or the nation. (3) The removal of the cause, by the detection and destruction of the guilty (vers. 14-26). Describe the scene, the gathering, the lot, the forced confession. Note the progress to crime in verse 21. Show the necessity for this severity, and the real love to all involved in it. (4) The result, a victory.

DRINK AND EMIGRATION.—The Sunday at Home for January contains "Notes of a Journey to the North-West Land," by a lady who went to Canada by the Allan steamer *Sardinian*. Respecting her fellow-passengers she says—"There are people of all sorts going out. It is sad to find how many are young men sent off from their homes on account of drink. There surely ought to be some control of 'sh,' as companies as to the quantity of stimulants they sell. On both sides of the ship there is far too much drinking. I have succeeded in obtaining some pledges, but wish I could get many more. I think that it would not be too much to say that in the steerage and intermediate, among the English-speaking passengers, nine-tenths are leaving home, directly or indirectly, on account of drink, and if they do not land with temperance principles, they will only go into greater temptation, unless indeed they go straight through to the North-Western territory, which is happy enough to have a prohibitory law."—Christian.

Whatever wakes the mind without corrupting it has at least this use, that it rescues the day from idleness; and he that is never idle will not often be vicious—indeed, if wisely busy, he cannot be so.

HOW I WAS DELIVERED FROM TOBACCO.

A writer in one of our exchanges says: "For some time I had been addicted to its use, and often felt a desire to be delivered therefrom and occasionally left off its use for a time, but as often would fall back into the habit again. The cause of my failure however was that I tried in my own strength. But not long since while listening to a sermon in which this evil habit was spoken of, the thought was very forcibly impressed upon my mind, that it was wrong in the sight of God for me to indulge in so needless and filthy a habit. The day following it became yet clearer that it was wrong for me to indulge in its use, and there and then I went to God, and promised that by his grace I would abandon the evil habit, and, thank God, from that day to this, I have had no desire for it.

Now perhaps there may be those who like myself would desire to be delivered, but think they cannot. To such I would say, do not undertake it in your own strength, but go at once to God who will, if you believe and trust him, give you complete victory."—Temperance News.

A GRAND OPPORTUNITY.

Sabbath-school teachers have a grand opportunity. Those restless boys are just ready to go to Christ; and if you do not lead them to him, they will of themselves go to Satan. Very likely they have no one at home to guide them aright. All the week long they hear worldly conversation and are subject to unallowed influences. But on the Sabbath, in the Sabbath-school, with the Bible open before you and the Divine Spirit ready to confirm your teaching, you have these immortal beings committed to your care. You have but half an hour, you say. Then use it—use every moment of it. Prepare for that half-hour work. Pray with reverence to it. And be sure your words are plain, practical, and pointed. Why not once in a while say a word to John on the street about his soul, or, better yet, go and see him at his home or write him a letter.—Kind Words.

Question Corner.—No. 13.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

1. How many brothers had David, and who were the three eldest?
2. To whom and on what occasion did God say "For man looketh on the outward appearance but the Lord looketh on the heart?"
3. Who mourned at seeing his daughter?
4. The birthdays of what two men are mentioned in the Bible?
4. Who commanded the sun to stand still, and how long did it so remain?
6. Who was Solomon's mother?

SCRIPTURE ACROSTIC.

1. An Old Testament prophet who said, "The just shall live by his faith."
2. An Old Testament prophet who says "Can two walk together except they be agreed?"
3. An Old Testament prophet who reproved David.
4. An Old Testament prophet (not Isaiah) who says, "Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace."
5. A man who was put to death for lying.
6. An Old Testament prophet who said, "Consider your ways."

The first letters form the name of a good woman spoken of in the Old Testament.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN NO. 12.

1. Deut. xxxiii. 25.
2. Because of the sin of Achan, Josh. vii. 11, 21.
4. Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh; because it was a good land for their cattle. Num. xxxii. 33.
3. At the revolt of the ten tribes during the reign of Rehoboam 1 Kings xii. 16.
6. Stephen. Acts. vii. 60.

BIBLE ACROSTIC.—Jesus, Emmanuel, Heaven Omega, Vine, Alpha, Holiness—John.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

Correct answers have been received from Bessie Bastedo, Lizzie Little, Hannah Little, Minnie Riddle, Emma L. Hamilton and Alma Pearce.