

these were not missionaries! She scanned them closely; nothing in dress or manner accorded with her somewhat curious ideas of missionaries. Nay, a glance on the platform revealed the presence of some ladies known to her by sight as belonging to the elite of her own city. Presently she was called from her reverie by the sound of a strong penetrative voice, belonging to a white-haired majestic looking woman. A little wave of feeling went about the congregation, such as in an indescribable, but perfectly understood, manner reveals the fact that one whom the people love, and have waited for, is before them. Despite the ignorance of the object of all this gathering and the position of the leaders, Mrs. Harper found herself strangely held by the power of the address that followed. Unquestionably the subject was missions. And in regard to that entire subject, viewed from whatever standpoint Mrs. Harry Harper was utterly ignorant. She listened to those words throbbing with eloquence, coming to her from a woman's lips; she listens in fascination. The statistics appalled her! could it be possible that there lived such an army of human beings who had no idea of God! Then certain sentences stood out in startling boldness. "In all these lands," said the speaker, "woman is reduced to the level of the brute." Childhood, wifehood, motherhood, womanhood, home, have no existence there. How could the happy young wife's heart help throbbing a response to this desolation? How could the lonely child, who so missed her old home and her mother, feel other than dismayed over the thought that so many knew not the meaning of the word? Coming back from the reverie into which these words plunged her, she listened again. "Fifty thousand ordained ministers in the United States; to furnish China half as well would empty the Protestant pulpits, and then leave a deficit." Mrs. Harper turned her head instinctively and looked at the word China, done in evergreen. How immense it was! Why should the people be left in such spiritual blackness? Presently the little lady beside her turned a beaming face her way, nodding assent to a sentence.

(To be Continued.)

A CHILDREN'S PASTIME CLUB.

Dropping in one after another, the mothers and aunts who composed the Neighbors' Club found themselves assembled around a friendly lamp. Mrs. Miniver opened the discussion. The subject was children's parties.

"You cannot expect girls to succeed in school," said Mrs. Jameson; "if they are all the time having their attention diverted. I do not believe in late hours or late suppers for school girls."

"The trouble is," said Mrs. McKenzie, "that girls between fifteen and eighteen feel as if there were no standing ground for them. They are not little children, and they resent being treated as though they were still in the nursery. They are not grown up, and they cannot go into society as their elder sisters do. We have a bevy of very young people—girls and boys both—in our little community, and my sympathies go very warmly to them when they are at the awkward age, as some term it."

"What would you propose?" said Miss Du Pressense. "Are you in favor of these dreadful children's parties, which ruin children's health, and rob them of their beautiful simplicity before they have had time to learn anything of life?"

"Rachel, Rachel," said Aunt Betsey, "let Mrs. McKenzie speak. She has something on her mind—that is plain."

"Yes," said that lady, "I have. The social element would not be so strongly implanted in our natures, if it were to be repressed. We have no right to restrain our growing girls and boys from all companionship with each other. If we do, we incur the danger of making them deceitful. Of course, study is their chief business in their later years of going to school; but recreation they ought to have, as well. Now, why could not we neighbors arrange a children's pastime club, to hold meetings at our houses, under our encouragement, during the winter? It might include our own children and a few of their young friends; and my plan to conduct it, if you will pardon me for putting myself in the foreground, would be something like this—shall I tell you?" Every lady said yes, or bowed acquiescence. Aunt Betsey knitted serenely on; and Mrs.

Miniver, who sat near the lamp, took a few stitches in her embroidery. But all listened.

"I would let it be considered an honor to belong to this little club, and the members originally composing it should not have authority to add new members, without the express consent of their parents. A simple afternoon dress, the ordinary home toilet, ought to be all that the girls should wear; and the boys should come in their usual everyday clothing. The only thing to be insisted upon for the boy-members should be perfect nicety as to hair and finger-nails, shining shoes, and clean cuffs and collars. As the mother of boys, I know how apt the best of them are to forget these little external matters, in their earlier years."

"I would have a regular evening, once a week for the children's meeting. The hour of assembling should not be later than seven; and the closing hour always half-past nine, at the very latest. The children might meet at each other's houses in turn; and the lady at whose house the Pastime met, should stay in the parlor and oversee the entertainment. My notion would be to have a little programme for each evening. The children who were learning music, and the boys who study elocution, between them, might make a pleasant and brief order of exercises. For one evening, we will say, there might be a duet by Sophie T. and Ada K., a recitation by Louis B., and a violin solo by Walter R. This over, I would let the children spend the rest of the evening in play, and occasionally in a frolicsome romp, only not suffering it to grow rude or hoydenish. Sometimes, instead of a programme which the children should carry out, I would have some older person read or tell them a story, and then let them talk it over before their play began. A microscopic or a magic lantern exhibition might be given sometimes."

"Or a candy-pull," said kind Aunt Betsey. "That would please them."

"A candy-pull, certainly, once in a while, provided a lady could be found to surrender her kitchen to a band of giddy young people for the purpose."

"As we are Christian mothers," said Mrs. McKenzie, "I do not see why, once a month, we could not let this Pastime Club of ours be a missionary meeting. Just in what way to conduct it, on that evening, we would have to talk of hereafter; but if our homes are to be genuine training schools for Christian workers, we ought not to go to our own prayer-meetings and missionary-meetings and leave our children out. I think that our religion, the comfort and the true joy of it, should be woven in with everything in life; and so I always wish to see my children remembering that they are children of the covenant. I would never like one of these happy little meetings to dissolve, no matter how gay the hour may have been, without a song of praise. Children's voices are never so sweet, as when they are lifted in hymns."

"I have a pretty illustration, or confirmation; of that in my memory," said Mrs. Jameson. "One morning last week I had been to the city on business, and was returning to my house rather weary. As I took my seat in the open car a half dozen children under twelve, entered and were seated behind me. They had lunch-baskets and were going to the park for an afternoon's picnic. Presently they began to sing:

"God loves the world of sinners lost  
And ruined by the fall."

"You should have seen how everybody, after one breathless look at the youthful singers, just settled into their places and enjoyed the sweet hymn and others, warbled forth by the children who were singing for very gladness of heart."

"This little club of yours, Mrs. McKenzie," said Mrs. Miniver, "implies a good deal of trouble for somebody. The mothers would have the responsibility of it."

"Certainly, mothers, aunts and elder sisters would have to take their share of a little trouble. Still, it need not be so very much. The whole up-bringing and education of children implies trouble and responsibility; but, if faithfully undertaken, it is full of reward."—*Christian Intelligencer.*

TASTE AND SEE!

BY S. M. CAMPBELL, D.D.

"I greatly wish I had your faith. My belief is all unsettled, and, I assure you, the circumstance is no comfort to me. I sup-

pose you will hardly believe me, but if I could have what I most desire, I should be a Christian, as you are."

So said a somewhat sceptical gentleman of my congregation some years ago; and I answered, "I wish you would rise some evening in one of our prayer-meetings and say that." And though he made some objection, I was greatly delighted, on the next Wednesday evening, to see him present, and still more delighted when he rose and quietly said, "I am not a Christian believer, as you all know, but I am frank to say I wish I were."

Special prayer was offered for him; and as we passed out I suggested to him to begin praying for himself. He answered, "I do not know as there is any God to pray to;" and I said "call and see." He did not promise; but a week later he appeared again in prayer-meeting, and had good news to tell. He had called on God at a venture; and no sooner did he call than light began to dawn. As he found help for himself, moreover, he wanted his family to enjoy it with him; and so for several days he had been calling them together every morning for worship. And now, though some shadows lingered, he was hoping that he should soon come into clear light. This was twenty years ago; and from that day to this he has held on his way, a consistent, useful Christian. It was not argument that saved him; it was experience.—*American Messenger.*

MISSIONARY CATECHISM.

How many inhabitants are there on the earth? About 1,400,000,000.

How many of these are idolaters? About 850,000,000.

How many does this make who either know nothing of Jesus or are opposed to Him? About 1,020,000,000, being two-thirds of the population of the earth.

Of the remaining 385,000,000 how many belong to the Papal Church? About 195,000,000.

How many belong to the Greek Church? About 78,000,000.

How many belong to the Copt, Armenian and other oriental churches? About 7,000,000.

How many are nominally Protestants? About 100,000,000.

How many are members of the Protestant Churches? About 20,000,000.

How do the professed followers of Jesus compare in number with the others? They are about one in seventy-five.

How many Protestant missionary societies were there at the commencement of this century? Seven.

How many now? Over eighty.

How many Protestant missionaries were there in the year 1880? About seventy.

How many now? About 2,500 ordained European and American missionaries, over 7,000 ordained native preachers, assisted by female missionaries, native assistants, &c., making a total of about 5,800 missionaries and nearly 14,000 native helpers.

How many native Protestant communicants in mission lands the first of this year? About 540,000.

How many of these were received during 1881? About 24,000.

How much was given last year by Protestants for mission work? About \$8,000,000.—*Christian Intelligencer.*

"NOBODY EVER TOLD ME!"

Passing near an encampment of gypsies, I went in amongst them. After buying some of the skewers they were making, I learned one of their number was ill, and begged to be allowed to see him.

In the tent I found a lad alone, and in bed, evidently at the far end of the last stage of consumption. His eyes were closed, and he looked as one already dead. Very slowly in his ear I repeated the Scripture, "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." I repeated it five times without any apparent response; he did not seem to hear even with the outward ear. On hearing it the sixth time, he opened his eyes and smiled. To my delight he whispered—"And I never thanked Him! but nobody ever told me! I turn Him many thanks—only a poor gypsy chap! I see! I see! I thank Him kindly!"

He closed his eyes with an expression of

intense satisfaction. As I knelt beside him I thanked God. The lips moved again. I caught "that's it." There were more words, but I could not hear them.

On going the next day, I found the dear lad had died (or, rather, had fallen asleep in Christ) eleven hours after I left. His father said he had been very "peaceable," and had a "tidy death." There was no Bible or Testament in the encampment. I left one of each. The poor man wished me "good luck," and gave me a little bundle of skewers the "boy Jemmy" had made.

It was apparently the first time this dear boy ever heard of God's salvation, and with unquestioning faith he took God at His word, and with his dying lips thanked Him that He so loved the world as to give His Son for him, a "poor gypsy chap." God is satisfied with the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. This poor lad was also satisfied, and this mutual satisfaction was instant and everlasting salvation. In eleven short hours he exchanged that forlorn, rickety tent, for the Paradise of God, where he is tasting that God is as good as His word.

If you have not with your heart said amen to God's way of saving lost sinners, you are on the extreme verge of that death which God calls "eternal," and He alone has the keys of hell and of death. But the "grace of God that bringeth salvation" is brought down to you—to your very level to-day. Oh! will you walk past it to the "great white throne" lying ahead of you, and thence to the fire that "never shall be quenched"? or will you pause and take it, and "return Him many thanks"?

My fellow-believer! may God forbid that any one within your reach or mine should ever have occasion to say, with regard to these everlasting realities, the awful words, "Nobody ever told me!"—*Band of Hope Review.*

Question Corner.—No. 8.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

1. When did some arrows save a friend's life?
2. What class of men wore linen bonnets?
3. When did a cake of barley bread give courage to a judge and his army?
4. What king's life was saved by some figs?
5. When was one bunch of grapes carried by two men?
6. When did a taste of honey almost cause the death of the king's son?
7. Who caused iron to swim?
8. When was a jaw-bone used as a weapon?
9. What loaves were freshly arranged every Sabbath?
10. Of what were mirrors made by the Jews?
11. Whose daughter was Noah? Give chapter and verse.

SCRIPTURE ACROSTIC.

- "The words of the wise and their dark sayings."
1. What will the Lord direct if we acknowledge Him in all our ways?
  2. Than what is wisdom more precious?
  3. What is it that maketh a wise man mad?
  4. What kind of woman is a crown to her husband?
  5. Whom does the Lord make to be at peace with the man whose ways please Him?
  6. What does Solomon recommend for the back of him that is void of understanding?
  7. What is it that maketh rich and has no sorrow added to it?
  8. Who is it that is advised to go to the ant and consider her ways?

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN NO. 6.

SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS.

Prov. 2: 6. Phil. 4: 6. Paul. Gal. 6: 2. James 5: 16.

EASTER ACROSTIC.

T-homas.  
H-ereb.  
E-lisha.  
  
L-ydin.  
O-badiah.  
R-hoda.  
D-oreas.  
  
I-saac.  
S-ardis.  
  
R-achel.  
I-shmael.  
S-amuel.  
E-lijah.  
N-ebo.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

Correct answers have been received from Annie Black, David McGee, M. Edith Waters, Frederick Holland, Annie E. Brown, Clara E. Pilsom, and J. P. Hunter.