

subject, as there are many doubters among young people, but it should be presented carefully, and from the stand-point of an earnest believer.

References. FREEMAN'S HAND-BOOK. Ver. 19: Salutation, 823.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

57. What is the Providence of God?

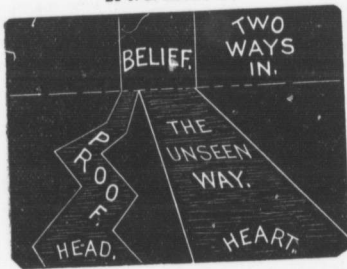
The Providence of God is his preservation of all his creatures, his care for all their wants, and his rule over all their actions.

And thou preservest them all.—Nehemiah ix. 6.

[Acts xvii. 28; Heb. i. 3; Psa. ciii. 19; cxlv. 15, 16.]

Blackboard.

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EXPLANATION. By this diagram it is expected to show that there are two ways common to man to reach belief in Christ. One way is the straight, though unseen, way of love that proceeds from the heart. [Write the word heart at the place designated in the diagram.] Look at the other way! It leads up to belief, but it is not a direct way, and is therefore more difficult. Its entrance into belief is narrow, and yet many minds like that of Thomas must enter in this way. It is the way of the head, and not the heart (write *Head*), and it requires experience and proof to satisfy the intellect. Jesus says, "Blessed are they which have not seen, and yet have believed." The enemy of truth will find his way into faith even though it may be a difficult path.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *My Hands for Jesus.*

Review last lesson by asking a few questions concerning the resurrection, who saw Jesus, how the disciples heard of it, etc.

Ask how many disciples there were. Some will say twelve. Some will remember that Judas was no longer living. Tell that the disciples held a meeting after they heard that Jesus had risen. Make ten marks on the board, letting children count. One was absent. Who? Print "Thomas." He did not believe the good news, so he did not make haste to come to the meeting when he heard about it. Teach that disciples should always be ready to go where Jesus is to be spoken about. Ask, What do we have Sunday-school for? Yes, to hear about Jesus. And does Jesus come to the Sunday school? Yes, and the little disciples who do not come because it is too cold or too hot, or they want to go somewhere else, or do something else, will be

very likely to miss seeing Jesus! Listen, and hear about Thomas.

Jesus with the disciples. While the ten disciples sat together in a room talking about Jesus, suddenly Jesus stood there! The door was shut and no one knew how he came in. Can Jesus come into this room without opening the door? Yes, for he is a Spirit. If he should open our eyes as he opened the eyes of the disciples that day, perhaps we should see him here now. What did Jesus say? "Peace." That means, "Do not be troubled." "Be kind to one another." "Be loving and gentle to each other." Would Jesus say that now, if we could see him and hear him speak? Yes, he says it to us to-day. Read from Bible, "Peace I leave with you," etc. Tell how he showed them his hands, and what for.

Jesus and Thomas. Tell vividly how Thomas came in after Jesus went away; how the disciples told him the wonderful news, and what he said. Teach that if any child says, "I won't believe Jesus is here unless I see him," that one is like Thomas. Teach how kind Jesus is even to those who do not believe him, and illustrate by Jesus coming another time and showing Thomas his wounded hands and side.

Jesus and us. How many hands are here? Who made your hands? What for? Make outline of a cross on the board. Tell how our Saviour's hands were nailed to the cross for us. He gave his hands to us. What shall we do with our hands? If we give them to him, how shall we use them? Strike, push, snatch, with them? Talk about helping hands, gentle hands, hands given to Jesus. Sing, "I've two little hands," etc.



Lesson Word-Pictures.

That first day of the week had been such an exciting occasion for the disciples! "Jesus risen!" How the announcement had thrilled them! And then that counter-statement of the soldiers, bribed by the Jews, that the disciples had stolen away the body of Jesus. Jerusalem might naturally have been agitated by these conflicting reports like a sea cut up by cross-currents of wind and water; and what wonder if any disciple's heart were a little bay where this agitation was reproduced! Was it strange if any disciple said of the resurrection, "It is too much to believe!" But the day goes by. The sun, like a conqueror, goes down the western sky, hung as with glorious triumphal banners. Evening brings the disciples together. Shut, though, the door; fasten it, bolt it, bar it. There are enemies without who may disturb this gathering within. The disciples talk over the day's wonder. I hear Peter giving his story, while John tells what he saw, and a third what Mary Magdalene said. How intently, with eyes fixed and staring, listen the others! Is—is Christ now? they may be wondering. Hark! Is—is some one coming into the room? No, the door has not opened, and yet there is a mysterious approach, and—look up! Out of the seemingly empty space about them emerges the form of the Master! There is a voice also, his voice, saying, "Peace be unto you!" The disciples, half-shrinking, half-approaching, look in wonder. But see! He is holding out his hands. He is pointing at his side. It is He! Nail-print and spear-print are all there! O, to what grateful hearts comes again the music of that salutation, "Peace be unto