

Sabbath School Teacher.

SABBATH SCHOOL LESSONS.

MAY 19TH.

The Scribes and Pharisees.—Matt. xxiii. 1-12. Prove that men have a Saviour. Repeat Psalm 107, 29-30. Romans 11, 88. Shorter Catechism, 76.

NOTES FOR THE USE OF TEACHERS.

To whom does Jesus speak? He wishes every one to hear his condemnation of the Pharisees. How far were they to be listened to? v. 2-3. They are said to sit in the seat of Moses; this means they, as Scribes, teach the law of Moses. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew; but from the time of the captivity the Jews were unable to speak the ancient Hebrew, and required it to be interpreted. See Neh. viii. 8. "They read in the book, in the law of God, distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading;" this was to sit in the seat of Moses; and whilst the Scribes taught what Moses wrote, they were to be followed. That the whole of their teaching was not to be obeyed is plain from v. 16, and also from Matt. v. 21-48. What are they blamed for?

Lessons. 1. Only those who teach the truth as it is contained in Scripture are to be followed. You guide yourself by your watch so long as it keeps time with the sun; but if it goes too fast or too slow, you cease to make it your rule. The word of God is the only infallible guide. Deut. xii. 82; Prov. xxx. 6; Gal. i. 8. 2. They who say one thing and do another are hypocrites, and are to be shunned; they have their faces to heaven, but walk backwards to destruction.

What sort of burdens were these? They insisted on keeping the Sabbath, for example, so strictly that when Jesus cured the sick on that day, they said he broke the Sabbath. They were also rigid censors of morals, yet very immoral. See Rom. ii. 17-24.

Lesson.—Our profession and life should agree, as the face in the glass agrees with our own face. Always say in your life what you say by your lips.

What was the chief delight of these Scribes? To be gazed at and talked of. What pious men! What holy men! What are phylacteries? Strips of parchment with the following passages of Scripture:—Ex. xiii. 1-10; Ex. xiii. 11-16; Deut. xi. 18-21. These they put up in a little box, and bound around the forehead and arm. The Pharisees made theirs broader than others. How came they to enlarge the borders of their garments? A fringe with a ribband of blue was a part of Hebrew dress, to distinguish Israelites from the heathen. Num. xv. 38-40. The Scribes were ostentatious in broadening this fringe.

Lesson.—We may deceive men, but not God. He sees the heart; the most serious words or looks are nothing without sincerity.

What places did the Scribes covet? Why did they frequent the markets? The greetings were respectful salutations. What title did they desire? Rabbi was a name only then coming into use; it signifies, My Master. What titles are forbidden? Rabbi, Father, Master. It is to be observed that it is not the mere use of the word Rabbi or Father that is condemned, but the slavish spirit which gives to men undue honors. The Pope signifies Father; he is also called Holy Father, and yet calls himself "Servant of Servants!" Why are such titles not to be used?

How will a really great man show his greatness? By becoming a servant. It is he who works most that is the true ruler. How great are the apostles, because they forgot themselves and lived for Christ! How were the Pharisees, who exalted themselves, abased? In a few years they were utterly ruined. Compare Ezek. xxi. 25-27.

Lessons. 1. It is an honor to be a servant, that is, to work for Christ. He himself became a servant for us. Nothing should be scorned that he commands, and that is done for him. 2. Beware of pride. It goeth before destruction. Jas. iv. 6; Rev. iii. 17. 3. Humility is the first step in the ladder that reaches to heaven. Aim high, but begin low. Matt. xv. 27; Tim. i. 16.

MEMORIZE.

One thing that is common to question books and scholars' lesson papers is the text of the Bible lesson, and that, after all is the most important thing in either of them. To urge scholars to memorize that text is within the capacity of every teacher, and to do this is a work as good as it is simple. Memorizing Scripture is not the end of Sunday school teaching, but it is the beginning. In adding thoughts about the lesson to the earlier lessons of merely reciting its text, it should be a plea to love all there was of the Bible in the old-time habit of storing the mind with passages of Holy Writ. Let the scholar commit to memory some

Our Young Folks.

CHILDREN PRAISING GOD.

Heavenly Father! we adore Thee As the God of love and truth; See us children now before Thee, Smile upon us in our youth.

Thou art holy and all-seeing, All our ways are known to Thee; Thou hast brought us into being, Made us for eternity.

Turn our hearts from sin and folly, Wash them in the Saviour's blood; Make us truthful, make us holy, As thou art Almighty God.

Oft bestow on us thy blessing; To our souls salvation send; So eternal life possessing, We shall have Thee as our Friend.

Make our hearts thy habitation, Temples of the Holy Ghost; That we all may shout salvation, And go forth unto the lost.—

Telling of the gospel story, Of the greatness of thy love; Pointing sinners to the glory— Waiting saved ones above.

GOOD COUNSEL TO YOUNG MEN.

Dr. Noah Porter, the eminent scholar, now president of Yale College, gives excellent advice to the pupils of that institution for their future course of life. He tells them to read the newspapers and advertise, and to do other things not less essential to their temporal and eternal welfare. Dr. Porter says: "Rise above the envious and jealous. Fire above the mark you intend to hit. Energy, invincible determination, with a right motive, are the lovers that move the world. Don't drink. Don't chew. Don't smoke. Don't swear. Don't deceive. Don't read novels. Don't marry until you can support a wife. Be in earnest. Be self-reliant. Be generous. Be civil. Read the papers. Advertise your business. Make money and do good with it. Love your God and fellow-men. Love truth and virtue. Love your country and obey its laws."

THE POLAR BEAR.

If God has not given to the lower animals reason, he has supplied them with a remarkable sagacity that answers its purpose very well.

The great white Polar bear, though she must be quite unused to hunters' wiles in these far-off lands she inhabits, yet shows a wonderful caution when a snare is laid for her.

A ship captain once desired to secure the skin of one, without being injured by shots—so he laid a coil of rope, skillfully arranged, and placed in the centre a piece of burning meat, which a great bear, prowling along, would scent afar off. The bear, sure enough, espied the tempting morsel, and drew near to examine it. She saw the rope, and the moment the men on shipboard tightened the noose around her leg she forthwith unloosed it with her other paw as handily as if it had been a set of fingers. Again the trick was tried; and this time she coolly brushed the rope aside, and took the meat and walked away defiantly. Seeing that she was too shrewd for them, they laid another trap, burying it in the snow. The hungry animal came for the meat, but she scented mischief as well. Perhaps the snow looked as if it had been disturbed. However that may be, she pawed it aside, and at once pushed away the rope, and helped herself to the meat that had been left for her. They were compelled to own that she had outgeneralled them completely.

This old bear, though so fierce and wild, is yet the most devoted of mothers. Nothing but death itself can separate her from her little ones; and even when a cub is killed it is harrowing to see how she will cling to it, and try and persuade it to follow her, or take the food she brings it.

THE NEW COMMANDMENT.

A boy was hissed at in school, because he said he could not give a dollar to the subscription that his class had made to present their teacher with a silver pitcher on Christmas. The boys called him mean, they said he was a miser, they tormented him dreadfully about it. The truth was, that he was a brave boy. He knew how hard his parents worked, that he might be respectably educated; he knew that if he gave that dollar, his mother would save it out of something she needed for herself, for they were really poor. He preferred hearing the ridicule of his class to seeing his mother deny herself; but oh! how it hurt this generous child to be called a miser, to be so misjudged by those he had thought were his friends. The trouble was that they had thought evil of him. If we could only see into each other's hearts, how much happier we should all be! It is so much better to think well of our friends. Did you ever put on a pair of green spectacles? How green everything looks through them! If you get in the habit of thinking evil, everything looks hateful and unlovely. Don't wear dark spectacles when you look at your friends. Use the kind, clear eyes that come from the Lord, and all the world will be bright to you. To think no evil is the very greatest kindness.

Have you ever heard of the Eleventh Commandment? I dare say you know it. It was given us by our dear Lord Jesus, just before he died. He said, "A new Commandment I give unto you, love one another." If you read your Bibles carefully, you will see that Jesus said this very often just before he died. I think he knew what it was to live without love in this world. I think he knew how happy the world would be, if we all loved each other; how dreary a place it was without love. He felt sorry for us. He was going back to heaven, and we could never see him on earth, nor hear his loving words, and know that Love itself was with us. So he gave this commandment, "That ye love one another," and then he added, "By this shall men know that ye are my disciples, if ye love one another."

Oh, what an easy thing it ought to be to love one another. Think what a glorious thing it is to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus! And to live with him hereafter in heaven! If we are his disciples, we shall do this.

What an easy thing it is, we are told to do, to prove ourselves his disciples—only to love one another.

It should be easy surely. If it is not, it is because we are not yet like our loving Lord. And the nearer we draw to him, the easier it will be for us to obey his commandment, and we shall become kind and tender-hearted, and we shall find what comfort and peace there is in loving one another.—N.Y. Observer.

A BEAUTIFUL INCIDENT.

Rev. Dr. Adams, in his book of "Thanksgiving Memories," gives us the following incident: "In the Cathedral of Limerick there hangs a chime of bells which were cast in Italy by an enthusiast in his trade, who fixed his home near the monastery where they were first hung, that he might daily enjoy their sweet and solemn music. In some political revolution the bells were taken away to some distant land, and their maker himself became a refugee and exile. His wanderings brought him, after many years, to Ireland. On a calm and beautiful evening, as the vessel which bore him floated on the placid bosom of the Shannon, suddenly the evening chimes pealed forth from the cathedral towers. His experienced ear caught the sweet sounds, and he knew that his lost treasures were found. His early home, his old friends, his beloved and native land, all the best associations of his life were in those sounds. He laid himself back in the boat, crossed his arms upon his breast and listened to the music. The boat reached the wharf, but still he lay there silent and motionless. They spoke to him, but he did not answer. They went to him, but his spirit had fled. The tide of memories that came vibrating through his heart at the well-known chime had snapped its life strings."

It was this incident that suggested to Moore the song of "The Evening Bells." As Moore is not so much read as he used to be a quarter of a century ago, we reprint the lines, as they may not be familiar to some of our young readers:

"Those evening bells! Those evening bells! How many a tale their music tells Of youth and love, and that sweet time When last I heard their soothing chime. Those joyous hours have passed away, And met a heart that throbs no more; Within the tomb now darkly dwells, And hears no more the evening bells. And thus 't shall be when I am gone, That tuneful peal shall still ring on, And other birds shall walk those dells, And sing your praise, sweet evening bells!"

SYSTEMATIC GIVING.

The Central Presbyterian sum-up the benefits derived from the systematic contributions which have been secured in the Second Presbyterian church, Richmond, by the agency of the "envelope system." It says:

For three years it has been in operation, and at a recent congregational meeting, the trustees reported the church as free from debt, every obligation had been met, and a contribution made to each of the schemes of benevolence. The entire amount contributed was nearly nine thousand dollars. During the last two years a spacious lecture room had been built, which, with other improvements, had cost the church \$5,400. This financial success was attributed by the trustees in great part to the envelope system of collections, which insured regularity and faithfulness. While this last year has been so full of temporal blessings other and richer have been received from the Lord, for the Holy Spirit has been present in his power and grace) and over eighty persons have been added to the membership, a very large proportion of whom have been gentlemen and heads of families, in the prime of life, bringing with them strength and activity for church work.

CARPETED FLOORS.

When a carpet is taken up to be cleaned, the floor beneath is generally covered with dust. This dust is very fine and dry, and poisonous to the lungs. Before removing it, sprinkle the floor with very dilute carbolic acid, to kill any poisonous germs that may be present and to thoroughly disinfect the floor and render it sweet.

Scientific and Useful.

TURKISH BATHS

May be very good in some forms of disease, when they are judiciously administered; but they so frequently kill people that it would be better never to take one, unless by the special advice of your family physician, and even then it should be submitted to only when under the special personal superintendence of a respectable, educated, medical man. Miss Lillie Peckham, a young lady of great promise and of unusual talents and ability, took a Turkish bath at Milwaukee, and was so debilitated that she died in a few days. Dr. Trall, one of the most able hydropathists, says that more than twenty seriously injurious or fatal cases have come to his personal knowledge, not from the dangerous nature of the baths themselves, but from their injudicious administration by the hands of ignorant hirelings. Turkish baths are very good for dirty people, such as have not had a good cleaning off in a year; but we never could imagine the utility of putting a decent man into a steam boiler hot enough to skin a lobster, and then filing off his hide to the very quick, by kneadings and remorseless scrubbing.—Hall's Journal of Health.

WHAT FOWLS ARE MOST UNPROFITABLE.

We are inclined to think there is too little attention given by farmers' wives to the raising of poultry and eggs. The small, skinny things that are palmed off as dressed poultry in our markets are little better than crows to eat, and would be consigned to the manure heap by an English farmer. There is no reason why our common barnyard fowls should not be improved by crossing with better sorts, just as well as our native cattle are improved by crossing with other breeds. For large, plump fowls, fair layers, good setters and mothers, and easily fattened, we should cross with Dorking or Brahma. For good everlasting layers, give us the Polands and Hamburgs. For fine quality of flesh and eggs generally, combining the qualities of laying and setting with hardiness and ability to forage for themselves, we give the palm to the game fowl. But whatever breed is selected to cross with should be persevered in by the use of pure bred males of that breed; for it is useless to attempt improvement unless it is fully carried out. Promiscuous interbreeding of different varieties will only result in valueless mongrels.

VENTILATE YOUR CELLARS.

We all know how prevalent low fevers erysipelas, carbuncles, etc., are toward the end of winter and in the spring. The best medical authorities agree that these depend almost entirely upon hygienic errors, and chiefly in the water drunk and the air breathed. From the severity of our Canadian winters, necessity compels the hermetical closing of all external openings into cellars and basements. The result is that there is no ventilation, and noxious gases accumulate there, and are slowly and insidiously diffused through the whole house. The poison is not in quantity sufficient for the sudden prostration of the unfortunate residents, but is gradually absorbed into the system, and being cumulative, the process goes on, until on some luckless day, the body being well saturated with the septic poison, the flame is lit by some slight exposure or cold, and a formidable and often fatal malady is initiated. We would, therefore, most earnestly urge every household to at once remove all bunkings up of cellar windows, and open out and ventilate them. A death or a lingering illness and big doctor's bill, may be spared by an obedience to this simple hygienic law.

SHOEING HORSES.

If a person will study the anatomy of the foot of a young horse that has never been shod he will readily perceive that more skill is required to fit a shoe correctly than simply to nail a shoe to a block of wood. Every blacksmith should procure a foot of some horse that has not worn a shoe for a long period, so that he may the more readily perceive and understand how to fit the shoe to the insensible shell of the hoof. The wear and tear incident to travelling falls almost entirely on the sharp rim of the hard shell of the hoof, when the foot is not shod. When a horse is to be shod, the shoes should be fitted to the feet, rather than the feet to the shoes; the weight of the animal should rest on the hard shell of the hoof, and not on the soft sole on the inside of the shell. Besides this, the frog, which answers the same purpose beneath the foot as the large rolls of India rubber under railroad cars, should never be pared away. The frog will wear away as fast as any portion of it will need to be removed; hence every proprietor of a horse should charge the horse-shoer not to remove any part of the frog. A great many country smiths who do not understand what office the frog performs, will cut away a large proportion of it every time a shoe is fitted to the foot. Another thing should never be allowed, that is, applying a hot shoe to the hoof to burn it down level, rather than shave it. A hot shoe injures the elasticity and tenacity of the hoof; hence a blacksmith should never be allowed to fit the shoe by burning the hoof.

Random Readings.

"Who swoops a room as by God's laws, Makes that and the action fine."

"The baby wept— The mother took it from the nurse's arms, And soothed its grief and stilled its vain alarms, And baby slept. "Again it weeps— And God doth take it from its mother's arms, And present pain, and future unknown harms— And baby sleeps."

A little girl described a snake as a "thing that's a tail all up to the head." Getting into debt is like a mouse in a trap: very easy to get in, but very hard to get out.

At night thou must go in prayer as a beggar, if by day thou wilt carry thyself as a king.—Saadi.

Real happiness is cheap enough, yet how dearly are we in the habit of paying for its counterfeit.

An opponent, speaking of Mirabeau, said, "That man would do anything for money,—even a good action."

James Russell Lowell says, "Blessed are they who have nothing to say, and who cannot be persuaded to say it."

Humility is the lesson of science. It is by measuring ourselves against the unsolved mysteries of science that we learn our feebleness.

Dr. Franklin says that "every little fragment of the day should be saved." The moment the day breaks set yourself at once to save the pieces.

There are two reasons why some people don't mind their own business. One is that they haven't any business, and the other is that they have no mind.

The husks of emptiness rustle in every wind; the full corn in the ear holds up its golden fruit noiselessly to the Lord of the harvest.—Whittier.

Great and even fatal errors, so far as this life is concerned, could not destroy my friendship for one in whom I am sure of the kernel of nobleness.—Margaret Fuller.

A clergyman once said, "When I come to die I shall have my greatest grief and greatest joy. My greatest grief that I have done so little for my Lord Jesus, and my greatest joy that my Lord Jesus has done so much for me."

An English writer advises young ladies to look favorably upon those engaged in agricultural pursuits, giving as a reason that their mother Eve married a gardener. He forgot to add, however, that the gardener lost his situation in consequence of the match.

How fast time flies when you are working against it; how slowly when you are working to fill it up! What a difference between trying to get your work done before your dinner hour, and trying to fill up your hour before dinner with work!

Insincerity in a man's own heart must make all his enjoyments, all that concerns him, unreal; so that his whole life must seem like a merely dramatic representation. And this would be the case, even though he were surrounded by true-hearted relatives and friends.

If we think of religion only as a means of escaping what we call the wrath to come, we shall not escape it; we are already under it; we are under the burden of death, for we care only for ourselves.—James Anthony Froude.

Every minister should be a Bonapartes, "a son of thunder," as well as a Barnabas, "a son of consolation." There was an earthquake and a whirlwind before the still, small voice came to Elijah. We must show the people they are condemned, and then show them how they must be saved.

In speaking of the humour of the Scotch people, Sidney Smith said to Robert Chambers: "Oh, by all means, you are immensely funny people; but you need a little operating upon to let the fun out. I know no instrument so effectual for the purpose as the cork-screw."

All ceremonies are in themselves very silly things; but yet a man of the world should know them. They are the outworks of manners and decency, which would be too often broken in upon, if it were not for that defense, which keeps the enemy at a proper distance.—Chessterfield.

"Mother," said little Ned, one morning, after having fallen out of bed, "I think I know why I fell out of bed last night. It was because I slept too near where I got in." Musing a little while, as if in doubt whether he had given the right explanation, he added, "No, that wasn't the reason; it was because I slept too near where I fell out."

John B. Gough tells the following story, though the joke is at his own expense: Once, while on a lecturing tour through England, he was introduced to a large audience in these words, "Ladies and gentlemen, I've the honor to introduce the distinguished lecturer, John B. Gough, who will address us on the subject of temperance. You know that temperance is thought to be rather a dry subject; but to-night, as we listen to our friend, the orator from over the ocean, we may 'ope to 'ave the miracle of Sampson repeated, and be refreshed with water from the jaw-bone of a lion."