

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

JULY 20, 1883.

READING OF THE LAW.

DEUT. XXVII. 1-8; JOSHUA VIII. 30-35.

1.—Ebal and Gerizim stand isolated reaching apparently from 800 to 10,000 feet above the town of Shechem (Nablous), which lies in the intermediate valley. They stand, Ebal on the north, Gerizim on the south of a fertile, verdant and well-watered valley, of a width of about 300 yards, though at the opening of the ravine, where the town of Shechem is situated, the plain is much narrower. The adjoining sides of the two mountains give to the valley an air of pleasant, and at the same time of complete, seclusion. The Israelites when they reached this interesting locality were:

(1) To set up great stones in Mt. Ebal and plaster them with plaster, and on these the words of the law were to be written very plainly. It could scarcely have been the whole ceremonial law, but was most probably the Ten Commandments, with such other precepts as were of most solemn obligation, and to which the blessings and cursing were attached. Moses did not order such a labor as to grave the whole law in marble, but simply to write it on or in properly prepared cement. In this hot climate where there is no frost to dissolve the cement, it will continue hard and unbroken for thousands of years. The cement on Solomon's pools remains in admirable preservation, though exposed to vicissitudes of the climate, and with no protection. What Joshua did therefore, when he erected these great stones at Mount Ebal was merely to write in the still soft cement, with a stilet, or more likely on the polished surface when dry, with red paint, as in ancient tombs.

(2) They were to build an altar of whole stones, and to offer on it burnt offerings and peace offerings. The stones were to be in their natural state, as if a chisel would communicate pollution to them. It is not certain whether the same stones formed the monument on the side of which the words of the law were inscribed, as well as the altar on which the victims were sacrificed that signified its renewed sanction. At all events the stony pile was so large as to contain all the conditions of the covenant, so elevated as to be visible to the whole congregation of Israel; and the religious ceremonial performed around it on the occasion, consisted first of the elementary worship needed for sinners, and secondly, of the peace offerings, or lively social feasts that were suited to the happy people whose God was the Lord.

(3) The Israelites were to be divided into two parties according to their tribes—the one-half standing on Mt. Gerizim, the other on Mount Ebal; and as the Levites read out the words of the law the people on Mount Gerizim were to answer "Amen" to the blessings, and those on Mount Ebal, "Amen" to the cursings."

2.—In the verses from Joshua we have the record of the fulfilment by Joshua of the instructions given by Moses. At the lowest estimate, two or three days must have intervened between the fall of Ai and the gathering at Ebal. Keil, who thinks that Aiasus, he sought as far north as where Terminus Aya now stands, makes the distance from Ai to Shechem only about thirteen miles; Havercorn states it at twenty miles; while others who conclude that Ai was further south reckon that the thirty thousand men employed to destroy this city must have marched more than thirty miles ere they came to the place where Moses had commanded them to celebrate this solemn religious service. At least two or three days must have passed, then, ere even this part of the host of Israel could have arrived at their destination; nearly a week might have elapsed ere the camp was removed from the plains of Jericho, and pitched in the Gilgal which was not far from Shechem. Of these intervening days the history gives no account.

If the record of this religious observance is not misplaced Joshua and his army must have paused for a juncture when it was very important to them to follow up their victories. But while military considerations suggested the latter course, they found afterwards that nothing had been lost by the time spent in religious observances in the midst of their warlike operations. So may we learn that, if we can only spare time for the worship of God, even in the busiest scenes and most pressing duties of this life, we shall not be losers, but gainers in the long run.

How awfully solemn must have been the assemblage of the dense multitude, and the sublime ceremony of the occasion! Amid the silent expectations of the solemn assembly, the priests standing around the Ark in the valley below, said aloud, looking to Gerizim, "Blessed is the man that maketh not any graven image," when the people ranged on the hill responded in full simultaneity, "Amen," expressing their assent; then, turning round to Ebal they cried, "Cursed be,"—as there was no imprecation, but a denunciation of the Divine displeasure against those who had been so guilty of the following enumerated sins—but "Cursed the man that maketh any graven image," to which those that covered the ridge answer-

ed "Amen." The same course at every pause was followed with the blessings and cursing.—Abridged from the W.M.S.S. Mag.

ECONOMY IN A FAMILY.

There is nothing which goes so far toward placing young people beyond the reach of poverty as economy in the management of household affairs. It matters not whether a man furnishes little or much for his family; if there is continual leakage in his kitchen or parlour, it runs away he knows not how, and that demon Waste, cries "more!" like the horse leech's daughter, until he that provides has no more to give. It is the husband's duty to bring into the house, and it is the duty of the wife to see that nothing goes wrongfully out of it. The husband's interest should be the wife's care, and her greatest ambition to further his welfare and happiness, together with that of her children! This should be her chief aim and the theatre of her exploits; the bosom of her family, where she may do as much towards making a fortune as he can in the counting room or workshop. It is not the money earned that makes a man wealthy—it is what he saves from his earnings. Self gratification in dress, or indulgence in appetite or more company than his purse can well entertain, are equally pernicious. The first adds vanity to extravagance, the second fastens a doctor's bill to a long butcher's account, and the latter brings intemperance—the worst of all evils, in its train.

HOME FOR THE SICK.

The following closing sentence from an article in the London Christian World is an expression of the sentiment of many on this side of the sea: "Physicians should think, not twice alone, before sending their suffering patients to the other end of the world to die in solitude, instead of having their weakness aided, and their comforts studied by the tenderest offices of human sympathy and love." It is one of the boasts of our great country that it furnishes varieties of climate each especially adapted to counteract some form of disease, and promote the highest healthfulness of persons having certain constitutional tendencies; the healing breezes of Colorado and Florida are greater blessings than their gold mines and orange groves. But to the suffering invalid, weary with pain, dependent with weakness, full of the unutterable clinging that comes when we feel that we may part forever with those we love best, the cost of leaving home is so great that great care should be taken by friends and physicians in urging or prescribing "a change of climate" as a remedy for deeply seated disease.—Ex.

USEFUL HINTS.

For heartburn, drink half a glass of cold milk in which a tablespoonful of linewater has been put.

Lima beans, like onions, will produce bountifully on the same ground for a succession of years.

Fifteen cases of typhoid fever on Washington Heights, New York, reported recently, are attributed to milk.

Poles cut in the summer will not last as long as those cut in winter by five years. Soil and climate, of course, make a difference in the life of the poles.

The Scientific American says that the judicious use of a little cheap benzine will usually destroy and exterminate ants without materially injuring vegetation or endangering the lives of animals.

Congestive and nervous headache is often greatly relieved by bathing the head with water as hot as can be borne, and the application will seldom have to be repeated more than once before the patient will fall into a refreshing sleep.

A small dish of charcoal placed in your meat larder will keep the article sweet and wholesome almost as well as ice. Charcoal is a great disinfectant. Occasionally used for cleaning the teeth, it will sweeten the breath when nothing else will do so.

Iron rust may be removed from delicate garments, upon which you dare not try oxalic acid, by mixing the juice of a lemon with some salt; put this over the rusted spots, and then hold over the spout of a steaming tea-kettle. This is almost always effectual.

Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the most effective blood-purifier ever devised. It is recommended by the best physicians.

IT STANDS THE TEST OF TIME.—Time tries all things, and few are the customs, habits, or adjuncts of life that are not swept away before the march of time. Remedy in the valley below, said aloud, looking to Gerizim, "Blessed is the man that maketh not any graven image," when the people ranged on the hill responded in full simultaneity, "Amen," expressing their assent; then, turning round to Ebal they cried, "Cursed be,"—as there was no imprecation, but a denunciation of the Divine displeasure against those who had been so guilty of the following enumerated sins—but "Cursed the man that maketh any graven image," to which those that covered the ridge answer-

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Did She Die?

"No! 'Side liggered and suffered along, pining away all the time for years, 'The doctors doing her no good, 'And at last was cured by this Hop Bitters the papers say so much about.' 'How thankful we should be for that medicine.'"

A Daughter's Misery.

"Eleven years our daughter has suffered on a bed of misery, 'From a complication of kidney, liver, rheumatic trouble and a nervous debility, 'Under the care of the best physicians, 'Who gave her disease various names, 'But no relief, 'And now she is restored to us in good health by a simple remedy as Hop Bitters, which we had ordered for years before using it.'—THE PARENTS.

Father is Getting Well.

"My daughters say: 'How much better father is since he used Hop Bitters. 'He is getting well after his long suffering from a disease declared incurable.' 'And we are so glad that he used our Bitters.'—A LADY OF UTAH, N. Y. je 1m

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TO CONSUMPTIVES.—The production of a remedy that "may truly be said to so alter the prospects of the Consumptive as to give hope of cure in not a few cases, and of much prolonging of life in by far the greater number," is the only remedy worthy of the name, which, if carefully and faithfully used may arrest and cure the disease, and it is pretty sure to retard it and prolong life more than any other known remedy. "A great desideratum. Yet this desideratum is fully met in Ebbins's Phosphoric Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil with Lacto-Phosphate of Lime, which is universally acknowledged wherever introduced, to be the best preparation of Cod Liver Oil extant, and which, if carefully, faithfully, and persistently used, will rarely fail to produce marked beneficial results." Prepared solely by Hannington Bros., Pharmaceutical Chemists, St. John, N. B., and for sale by Druggists and General Dealers. Price \$1.00 per bottle; six bottles for \$5.00. June 22—1m

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REV. G. FRED. DAY, Musquodoboit Harbor, Nova Scotia. May 4 1y

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JAS. LAPOILLE, Springfield, Annapolis Co., 1883. mar 2 1m

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