

**The Old Flag.**

BY A. H. ROSS.

From where the Atlantic billows roar,  
On Nova Scotia's rock bound shore,  
To where Pacific's peaceful wave  
The coasts of bright Vancouver lave.

My Canada, young, strong and free,  
Thou stretchest here from sea to sea,  
The brightest gem in England's crown,  
Of constant valour and renown.

Proud are Canadians of their land,  
Its vast resource on every hand;  
Proud of that Island o'er the foam—  
Their motherland, the empire's home.

A noble heritage is ours,  
Nature on us rich blessing pours;  
Columbia's wealth of towering pine;  
Superior's treasures of the mine.

The prairie's store of golden grain,  
The sunny harvest of the main—  
All, all are ours, a priceless dower;  
We'll guard it well in danger's hour.

Our fathers nobly fought and died,  
To give to us this land we pride;  
We'll guard it well for which they bled,  
And cherish, too, our honoured dead.

Stand by the flag, Great Britain's might  
Shall nerve our arm strong in the right!  
Beneath its crimson folds unfurled,  
We proudly may defy the world.

**GOLD AND ITS USES.**

If the average reader or thinker will devote a few minutes to the subject of gold and its uses, and how much of it annually disappears by wear, leaving no possible trace, he will find himself involved in some extremely interesting calculations. If some genius would only invent a power strong enough to attract to it the millions of invisible particles that have and are constantly being worn off the various articles composed of that metal, what an immense amount would be recovered!

Where do these particles go? Here, there, everywhere; in your house, on the streets, in the banks, business houses, stores, and wherever man goes. As an instance of this, the following is cited. There is at present a veritable gold mine being worked in an old watch-case factory in Brooklyn. It occurred to the new purchasers of this property that, during the long years of manufacturing of gold watch-cases that took place there, a large quantity of gold particles must have been absorbed by the flooring, walls, furnace, chimney, etc. So they went carefully to work and tore the old building down, bit by bit, and burnt and crushed the material, afterwards assaying the ashes. So far, something like \$50,000 has been recovered.

Say an ounce of this lost gold were recovered. If we melted it down and gilded a fine silver wire, it would extend more than thirteen hundred miles; or if nineteen ounces were recovered (which, in the form of a cube, would be about one inch and a quarter square), it would gild a wire long enough to compass the whole earth like a hoop.

If you pick up a gold leaf, such as is used for gilding purposes, it becomes a curiosity in your eyes when you realize that seventy-five square inches of it weigh only one grain. Now, the thousandth part of a line, or inch, is easily visible through a common pocket-class. Hence it follows that when gold is reduced to the thinness of gold-leaf, 1-50,700,000 of a grain of gold may be distinguished by the eye. But it is claimed that 1-140,000,000 of a grain of gold may be rendered visible.

Large quantities of gold are used in gilding portions of exteriors of public and private buildings. For instance, if we take the Church of St. Isaac, at St. Petersburg, we find that it required the use of two hundred and forty-seven pounds of gold to gild its five crosses. They can be seen glittering at a distance of twenty-seven miles.—Harper's Round Table.

A retired fireman calls himself an expert.

**VACATION DAYS.**

With a great many young people these are vacation days. This need not mean, however, that they are empty days. School-rooms are closed for a time. The routine of hours and bells and tasks is dropped for a season. But it is not to be supposed that these mid-summer weeks are to be mere blanks in the year. They simply furnish a different phase of life for a while. They give opportunity for resting tired brains and tired bodies by more physical exercise out of doors. But idleness is never the best kind of rest. Some occupation different from that of ordinary days is much better.

The young people who are wise should therefore spend their vacation with a purpose. This purpose should include good physical culture. We must take care of our bodies. The summer season for those who are at play affords many opportunities for laying in stores of health.

But the vacation days furnish opportunity also for reading a book which is not printed in ordinary type—the book the nature. God wrote it himself. Every leaf is a little chapter, every flower teaches its sweet lesson, every blade of grass has its touch of inspiration, every waving tree is a whole volume in itself. Then mountains and rivers and valleys and seas are written all over with the great thoughts of God. Blessed is he who learns to read what God has written in these natural things.

Summer is a good time to study botany, or geology, or entomology, or almost any natural science. The books one should read in vacation time need not be the ordinary text-books of the school, but would better be books that

ing the summer days for doing good as well as receiving good.

While these happy days last, let every one make the most of them, leaving behind memories of helpfulness and kindness, and gathering impulses for whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely. We should all work better for a whole year because of our few weeks of vacation in the mid-summer days. If we do not we have not spent the time in the very best way.—Forward.

**LESSON NOTES.**

**THIRD QUARTER.**

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

**LESSON III.—JULY 18.**

**PAUL AT THESSALONICA AND BEREIA.**

Acts 17. 1-12. Memory verses, 10-12. GOLDEN TEXT.

They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily.—Acts 17. 11.

**OUTLINE.**

1. The Gospel Preached, v. 1-4.
2. The Gospel Opposed, v. 5-9.
3. The Gospel Believed, v. 10-12.

Time.—A.D. 52.

**HOME READINGS.**

- M. Paul at Thessalonica and Berea.—Acts 17. 1-9.
- Tu. Paul at Thessalonica and Berea.—Acts 17. 10-15.
- W. The Gospel with power.—1 Thess. 1.
- Th. The apostles' joy.—1 Thess. 3.
- F. Search the Scriptures.—John 5. 32-39.



ARCTIC MIRAGE.

are in sympathy with what one sees in fields and woods or by the sea or on the mountains or in travel.

Vacation days, especially to those who travel, bring many opportunities for usefulness. Nothing reveals one's true nature better than travel does. Selfish people are apt to show the worst side of their selfishness on railroad cars and steamers. Unselfishness always has its opportunities in the way of ministering kindness, of exercising patience, of showing thoughtfulness, of doing a thousand little things in the passing days which reveal the true Christian spirit.

These are mere suggestions for vacation times for our young people. They should bring back in the autumn browned faces, strengthened muscles, clear eyes, good digestion and physical preparation of every kind to fit them for the very best work in the busy days before them.

Those who spend their summer vacation well away from home, enjoy their home better when they come back to it. Family love is all the sweeter because of temporary separations. Then we appreciate our loved ones better when we have missed them for a while. Those who have been taking vacation from church work or Sunday-school or Christian Endeavour meetings, will come back with new and enriching experiences. If they have been living up to their privileges they have sought many opportunities dur-

S. Diligent study.—Deut. 6. 1-9. Su. Scripture opened.—Luke 24. 25-32.

**QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.**

1. The Gospel Preached, v. 1-4.  
What did Paul find at Thessalonica?  
How did he spend his Sabbaths?  
What great truth did he preach?  
What great fact did he proclaim?  
What class especially received the truth?
2. The Gospel Opposed, v. 5-9.  
Who made opposition? Why?  
Where did they seek for Paul?  
Whom did they take in his place?  
What charge did they bring against Paul and Silas? What against his friends?  
What was the effect of this tumult upon the rulers?
3. The Gospel Believed, v. 10-12.  
What night journey was made by Paul and Silas?  
At what place did they seek to labour?  
What was the character of the Jews at that place?  
How was the word received and tested? Golden Text.  
What command did our Lord give in regard to Bible study? John 5. 39.  
What was the result of this Bible study in Berea?  
In what should we imitate the Bereans?  
Who opposed Paul's preaching?  
What defeated their opposition?

**THE WAYS OF LIONS.**

The keepers of the lions in the English Zoo are probably as well acquainted with the idiosyncrasies of their gigantic pets as any men, for there are always large numbers of lions there, some of which live from ten to twenty years. A peculiarity noticed by the keepers at this Zoo is that bad weather affects lions just as it does human beings. A rainy day will make them limp and listless, and a glimpse of sunshine makes them happy as crickets. Bad weather, however, does not prevent them remembering when meal-time is at hand, and they are as restless as young kittens till their food is forthcoming.

The lions are fed once a day eight or ten pounds of meat, with plenty of bone attached to keep their teeth and stomachs in good condition. It does not take long for the lions to make their daily meal disappear, and they all have fine appetites.

When lions fall sick, their medicine is hidden in their food, and they are not aware that they are being doctored. Sometimes they suffer from toothache, but usually get better without any treatment, which would rather inconvenience the rash dentist who tried treating the aching tooth of a king of the desert. Occasionally the lion's claws have to be cut. In the corners of their cages are placed big trunks of trees, which are usually worn down to slivers. These are the lion's nail scissors, and if he is a well-conducted lion he whittles away his claws on them every morning. If he neglects this, his claws grow round till they again enter the flesh of his paw, and then the keeper has to cut them. This is managed by placing an inviting bit of meat near the bars of the cage, and when the lion approaches for it a lasso is slipped over his head, and he is dragged close to the bars, with his paws projecting. The paws are then tied together, and the keeper can work easily, with no fear of being chewed.

The chief tamer at the London Zoo, as he rubbed the noses of his pets who came to the bars, said he did not pin faith to the gratitude of lions, and no matter how gentle one became, it was every bit as tricky as its snarly brother. There is no security that the best-natured one of the lot will not turn on its trainer any moment. They grow up in captivity just as large and strong as in the wild state. One lion in the Zoo has an evil reputation. Last Christmas time it killed a man. When the lion was sent to the Zoo, it was skinny and bony and cross. Now it is fat, sleek and contented, and the keeper lays the credit for the change to the powers of a lioness that took the lion in hand on his arrival, and made of him the most obedient, henpecked husband to be found.—Chicago News.

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