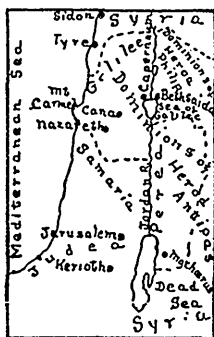head. **In a charger ;** a flat, wooden dish, such as was used for serving meat. **Sorry ;** for fear of the people (v. 5) and his own conscience, Mark 6 : 20. Sorrow is not repentance ; that means change of mind and the forsaking of sin (see S. Catechism, Ques. 87). **For the oath's sake ;** consenting to murder to keep a promise, as if that could make such a black wrong right. **Them .. with him ;** fearing the ridicule of companions more than God and conscience. **Commanded it ;** but never was he less a king than when he thus yielded to a wicked woman.

III. JOHN MURDERED.—**10-12. Beheaded John.** The king could silence the preacher's voice, but conscience kept that crime of murder and all his other wicked acts always before him. **Head .. to the damsel .. brought it to .. mother.** No more would that tongue rebuke her sin, but the cry against her from the blood of the murdered victim was louder than his words had been. **Disciples .. took .. the body .. buried it ;** according to tradition, near Ænon, where John had baptized (John 3 : 23), beside the tombs of the prophets Elijah and Obadiah. **Went and told Jesus ;** sure of His sympathy.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

 THE DOMINIONS OF HEROD THE TETRARCH, or Herod Antipas, the murderer of John the Baptist, included Galilee and Perea. These two districts were separated by the confederation of ten Greek cities called Decapolis (meaning "ten cities"). The name Perea is never used in the New Testament, the region being described as "the land beyond Jordan". Lying to the east of that river, its northern boundary is just south of the Sea of Galilee, while it extends southward half way down the east side of the Dead Sea. Herod made of Tiberias, his capital, a splendid city. The streets were attractive with gates, colonnades and marble statues. Its synagogue was the finest in Galilee. The royal palace was famed for its elegance and costly furnishings, and in it was a large amount of treasure.

LESSON QUESTIONS

1, 2 What does "At that time" mean ? Tell what you can of Herod Antipas. Of whom did he hear ? Who did he think Jesus was ? Why should John now do mighty works ? How do we know that Herod was not a Sadducee ? What king of Israel did Elijah rebuke ? (1 Kgs. 18 : 17, 18.) What queen sought to kill the prophet ? (1 Kgs. 19 : 2.)

3-5 Where was John imprisoned ? Give the situation of Machærus. Whom had Herod taken as his wife ? What had John said to Herod regarding Herodias ? What did she wish Herod to do to John ? Why did Herod, for a time, refuse ? How does Jesus teach us to meet temptation ? (Ch. 16 : 23.)

6-9 For whom did Herod make a feast ? Who danced at it ? What did Herod promise her ? What did she ask ? What kept Herod from refusing ?

10-12 Who buried John's body ? Whom did they tell about his death ?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Herod an example of sin's growing power.
2. Should wrong promises be kept ?

A LESSON FOR LIFE

The Romans had a god they called Janus, with two faces looking in opposite directions. Repentance is like that deity ; it looks backward and forward. *It faces the sins and failures of the past with* heartfelt sorrow ; it looks toward the future with steadfast resolve to forsake sin and seek righteousness. The sorrow without the resolve is worthless ; the sorrow with the resolve has in it the promise of a new and nobler life.

Prove from Scripture—*That sin makes cowards*

Shorter Catechism—*Ques.* 58. *What is required in the fourth commandment ?* A. The fourth commandment requireth the keeping holy to God such set time as he hath appointed in his word ; expressly one whole day in seven, for a holy sabbath to himself.

The Question on Missions—8. What kind of schools has China ? Until a few years ago, education consisted in the ability to recite the Chinese classics and write essays based on them. Now modern schools have been established throughout the empire. In these, English and military drill are generally taught, as well as modern science.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. For what had John rebuked Herod ?...

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2. Why did Herod for a time refuse to put John to death ?.................................

....

3. How was he at last induced to have him beheaded ? ....

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