

SUNDAY SCHOOL BANNER

for
TEACHERS
AND
YOUNG PEOPLE.

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Depending Upon God.

I KNOW not what the day may bring
Of sorrow or of sweetness,
I only know that God must give
Its measure of completeness.
I reach for wisdom in the dark,
And God fills up the measure,
Sometimes with tears, sometimes with cares,
Sometimes with peace and pleasure.

From hours of grief and saddened face
True wealth of heart I borrow;
And heavenly wisdom oftenest comes
Clad in the guise of sorrow.
I know not which is best for me
Of all His mercy bringeth;
I know His praises every day
My willing spirit singeth.

I know not what my life may yield
Of fruit that will not perish;
I know God gives both seed and oil,
And all the growth may cherish.
How great His work! How small my part!
I wonder at my weakness;
And His great patience fills my heart
With gratitude and meekness.

I know not what even heaven can give
To blessed souls who gain it;
I know God's goodness it must show,
For earth cannot contain it.
And if eternity but rings
With love, the same sweet story,
That earth is telling every day,
Thine, Lord, shall be the glory.

—Selected.

The Jordan.

THE Jordan is one of the most remarkable of rivers. Its name means "The Descender," and it is well named, for in its course from its springs in Mount Lebanon to the Dead Sea in 200 miles—130 in a straight line—it descends over 3,000 feet—from 1,700 feet above the level of the Mediterranean to 1,317 feet below it. Even in the Dead Sea the river bed sinks to a further depth of 1,308. So that the bottom of this extraordinary "canyon" is more than 2,600 feet below the level of the ocean. The eastern banks of the Jordan have in many places, as shown in our engraving, a massive horizontal, wall-like appearance. Buried as it is between such lofty ranges the valley of the Jordan is very hot and enervating. It also winds very much in its course. It was the eastern boundary of Palestine, and its frequent mention in the Bible gives it an importance in religious literature and in sacred poetry to which it would not be entitled by its physical character.

WE beg to call attention to the announcement accompanying this number of the BANNER of the Chautauqua Course of Reading for 1886-7. To Canadians it is of special attractiveness on account of the prominence given to English History and English Literature. The Natural Science of the Course is also of much interest. We hope that hundreds of our young people will take up this course of reading. Now is the time of year to arrange for it. Write to Mr. L. C. Peake, Drawer 2559, P. O. Toronto, for full information.