

THE SUNBEAM

ENLARGED SERIES.—VOL. VII.]

TORONTO DECEMBER 4, 1886.

[No. 25

ST. PAUL AND THE VIPER.

AFTER Paul's shipwreck at Melita, St. Luke writes: "And the barbarous people shewed us no little kindness: for they kindled a fire, and received us every one, because of the present rain, and because of the cold. And when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks, and laid them on the fire, there came a viper out of the heat, and fastened on his hand. And when the barbarians saw the venomous beast hang on his hand, they said among themselves, No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he hath escaped the sea, yet vengeance suffereth not to live. And he shook the beast into the fire, and felt no harm. Howbeit they looked when he should have swollen, or fallen down dead suddenly: but after they had looked a while, and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds, and said that he was a prophet."



ST. PAUL AND THE VIPER.

NOW.

If ever you find yourself where you have so many things pressing upon you that you hardly know how to begin, let me tell you a secret—take hold of the first one that comes to hand, and you will find that the rest all fall into line and follow after, like a company of well drilled soldiers. You have often heard the anecdote of the man who was asked how he had accomplished so much in his life. "My father taught me," was the reply, "when I had anything to do to go and do it. There is the secret—the word *now*."

—o—

SLATES MADE OF TREE BARK.

In Siam, Birmah, and other Asiatic countries the boys and girls do not use the same sort of slates that are to be found in the American school. The slates there, are strips of bark taken from certain hard wood trees. The writing on this bark is rubbed out by means of betel leaves, just as slate-writing is erased with the sponge in this country.

—o—
We are weighed when we are tested by temptation, by opportunities to do good by the Bible.