## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

### DECEMBER 24.

GLAD TIDINGS.—Isaiah. xxxv.

EXPOSITION.

This chapter contains one of those glowing prophecies of Isaiah, in which he describes the future blessedness and prosperity of Israel—of the literal Israel to some extent, but of spiritual Israel mainly. Looking forward to the times of the Messiah, the vision rises before him of a wilderness transformed and covered with beauty and fruitfulness—the moral wilderness become the garden of the Lord; of the parched and arid desert overflowing with springs and streams until its driest spots are transformed into a lake—a beautiful picture of the transformation to be wrought in our desert world when the Holy Spirit should be poured out in showers of Divine influence and blessing; and stretching across this transformed desert country he saw a highway over which the Lord's redeemed people were marching to Zion, giving expression to their happiness in songs of joy and gladness. Who can wonder that with such glorious visions the burden of so many of his messages was "Comfort ye, comfort ye, My people, saith your God."

*Ver.* 1—The wilderness and the desert are mentioned in such a way as to show that the terms are not synonymous. We use them as if they were. A desert is a vast tract of sand almost entirely destitute of vegetation; but a wilderness is a wild, uncultivated, uninhabited region, possibly defective in trees and water, but not altogether barren, and sometimes affording valuable pasturage. One idea common to both is that of solitude, and consequently in regard to everything human, of dreariness, and desolateness. No imagery can more strikingly describe the transformation from desolation and adversity to happiness and prosperity, than the wilderness being made glad, and the desert rejoicing.

*Ver.* 2—Here we have the same idea amplified and illustrations used which would be very familiar to the Jews. The verse concludes by a declaration that "the glory of the Lord" and His "excellency" should be displayed in like manner; that is, so that they could not fail to be seen. Thoroughly this declaration was fulfilled in the coming of Christ, and the great successes of Christianity.

*Vee.* 3.4—The prophet breaks off, as he often does, to give a word of exhortation of a comforting, encouraging, and stimulating character. "Weak hands" and "feeble knees" are striking expressions of a reduced, enfeebled condition; and such was the state of the Jews at the time that he wrote. The prophet bids them brace up themselves and put a cheerful courage on in view of the glorious prospects he has to unfold to them, for God—"*your God*"—was about to interpose with vengeance on their enemies, and salvation for both.

*Ver.* 5 6—What a literal fulfilment of these predictions there was in the miracles of Jesus Christ. But the spiritual fulfilment is equally note-worthy. The terms indicate in a spiritual sense every form of human infirmity and disability; the whole of which are met by the effectual power of Jesus Christ.

*Ver* 6 7.—The expression "parched ground" is not a true translation of the original Hebrew. The reference is to the mirage. "The Arab name is *Serab*, and it is, doubtless, to this deceitful phenomenon that Isaiah refers, where the promise is that this *serab* shall become a real lake. Our translators have missed the exact meaning of this most emphatic figure. *Serab* is not parched ground, but a simmering, tantalizing phantom of a lake." This explanation makes the figure still more expressive—water instead of parched ground is certainly a comforting thought, but *reality*, instead of a disappointing optical delusion, even more fully expresses what the gospel salvation is to the deluded sons of men.

*Ver.* 8 10.—The chapter concludes with the glorious picture of the King's highway, on which "the ransomed of the Lord" walk to Zion. Note the name of it, *The way of holiness.* With such a name it follows that "the unclean shall not pass over it." And yet "it shall be for those." What does this mean? Evidently that it is a way for those who were unclean, but there is a provision at the commencement of it for cleansing them. This provision is the fountain of which another prophet tells us (Zech. xiii. 1). The way is so plain that even wayfaring men, though fools, cannot mistake it; the ravenous beasts, *i. e.*, our spiritual enemies are not permitted to assault us there, but we shall do well to remember that they prowl about on either hand, and the moment we leave the road we are exposed to peril. On this road we come to the spiritual Zion (Heb. xii. 22-24) and along it we travel to the heavenly Zion, where we "shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

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An occasional currying (daily if possible) will add materially to the appearance of the cows, and is very beneficial in a sanitary point of view. It is not the rule to do so, we all know, judging from the appearance of nine-tenths of the herds we see, yet those who do make a proper application of curry-comb and brush in this direction find it pays to do so.

## THE WOOD PILE.

Wood cut during the three months that precede the first of the year is much more valuable than if cut the three months that succeed that time. During the latter part of autumn and the first of winter there is little action in the sap of the tree, and therefore the wood is not filled with it. Those who neglect to cut their wood until February or March should never leave it in four-feet lengths where it is cut, but should at once haul it home and saw it into proper lengths for firewood, not neglecting to pile it up so it can be rapidly dried by the March and April winds.

If cut in autumn, there is not the necessity for being so particular, but it may be sawed and split any time during the spring, and housed at once, if the wood house is where the air can pass freely through it. White birch cut in the latter part of winter becomes almost worthless if left in the woods until August. Pine cut in the winter or early in the spring not only makes poor wood, but also poor lumber; being filled with sap, it invites a class of destructive worms or borers, which not only eat away all the inner bark, but eat large numbers of holes through the solid wood, thus destroying it for lumber, and greatly injuring it for firewood. Pine wood should never be left in the woods to dry, but should be piled on high, dry land, and split fine enough so it will dry through before the first of June. This will also prevent the wood from turning black.—*Massachusetts Ploughman.*

## A WORD TO WOMEN.

I know that if women wish to escape the stigma of husband-seeking they must act and look like marble or clay, cold and expressionless, bloodless; for every appearance of feeling, of joy, sorrow, friendliness, antipathy, admiration, disgust, are alike construed by the world into an attempt to hook a husband. Never mind! Well-meaning women have their own consciences to comfort them after all. Do not, therefore, be too much afraid to show yourself as you are, affectionate and good-hearted; do not too harshly repress sentiments and feelings excellent in themselves, because you fear that some puppy may fancy that you are letting them come out to fascinate him; do not condemn yourself to live only by halves, because if you showed too much animation some pragmatical thing in breeches might take it into his pate to imagine that you designed to devote your life to his inanity.

## HEAT-HOLDING SAND BAG.

One of the most convenient articles to be used in a sick room is a sand bag. Get some clean, fine sand, dry it thoroughly on the stove, make a bag eight inches square of flannel, fill it with dry sand, sew the opening carefully together, and cover the bag with cotton or linen cloth. This will prevent the sand from sifting out, and will also enable you to heat the bag quickly by placing it in the oven or even on the top of the stove. After once using this you will never again attempt to warm the feet or hands of a sick person with a bottle of hot water or a brick. The sand holds the heat a long time, and the bag can be tucked up to the back without hurting the invalid. It is a good plan to make two or three of the bags and keep them ready for use.

## USEFUL HINTS.

Make your leave-taking short, and do not dally, but depart gracefully and politely.

Coffee grounds, thoroughly dried, make an excellent filling for a pincushion. As they do not gather moisture they do not rust the needles.

"Try barley grains or peas roasted in place of coffee if you find the latter is causing headaches and nervousness," is the advice of Dr. Foote's *Health Monthly.*

Table mats are no longer used in stylish houses, either at luncheon or dinner. The waiter should have a coarse towel outside and wipe each dish before he puts it on the table.

To remove tar rub thoroughly with clean lard, and then wash with soap and warm water. This may be applied to either the hands or the clothing.

It is not now considered correct to introduce visitors who are calling at the same time, and considerate visitors will obviate any awkwardness by taking their departure immediately upon the arrival of a stranger.

The tender, luscious mutton of the English is not attributable to their cooler climate alone, but to the turnip; and we may add, other succulent roots on which the sheep are fed and fattened for the butcher.

Ashes should never be thrown upon manure heaps, nor mixed with any kind of manure, as the caustic potash liberates the ammonia, which is very difficult to save. Therefore, spread ashes immediately upon the land, whether grass or cultivated.

More business and less whiskey would be in order. There is too much whiskey drinking by public officers, and it is high time for those who are interested in good government to put a stop to it by voting against men who use liquor.

Cake or fruit sandwiches are made thus: Four eggs, their weight in flour, sugar, and butter; warm the butter and beat it to a cream, then stir the flour and sugar into it gradually; beat up the eggs and stir them in. Beat the cake well for half an hour and bake in a rather quick oven; if for sandwiches slice the cake in half and put the preserves between.

Paint is best applied to wood buildings in the winter, or from November to March. The reason is that in the warm weather the oil soaks into the wood leaving the body on the surface and it wears off rapidly. In cold weather the paint dies slowly and makes a hard surface which lasts.

It is poor economy to winter more stock than there is feed for. Estimate your resources now and make sure that in March you will not be obliged either to sacrifice your stock or buy feed, as feed will be higher and animals lower than now.

## INFORMATION.

THE SOURCE OF MUCH ILL-TEMPER.—When your husband comes home in bad humor, jerks off his boots and appears to be generally miserable, do not attribute it to business cares or hard times, but to its real cause — those terrible corns, which are constantly annoying him. A word to the wise will be sufficient—buy a bottle of PUTNAM'S PAINLESS CORN EXTRACTOR. His corns will be quickly and painlessly removed, and his gratitude will be unbounded. Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor sold everywhere. N. C. POLSON & Co., Kingston, Proprietors.

One of the most useful inventions of the age is James Pyle's Pearline Washing Compound, and judging from its extensive sale, it is safe to infer that housekeepers, generally, appreciate the fact. Dec. 1, 1m

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS.—The *original* and *genuine* "Quinine Wine and Iron" was originated and prepared selely by Hanington Brothers, Chemists, St. John, N.B., under the name of "Hanington's Quinine Wine and Iron," and can be purchased of all druggists and general dealers throughout the Dominion of Canada. To guard against imposition see that Hanington's name is on the outside wrapper, and that the "Hanington Brothers" is blown on each bottle, none other is genuine. For sale by all druggists and general dealers in Canada. Dec. 1 1m

☞ In this present age, when the life battle is so fiercely fought, and when upon even the strongest the tug and stress of it tell so heavily, how necessary it becomes for us to provide for the keeping up of our reserve stock of mental and physical stamina by the use of such a nervous tonic and vitalizing agent as "Robinson's Phosphorized Emulsion of Cod Liver Oil with Lacto-Phosphate of Lime."

Its gently stimulating and nutritive tonic properties supply the materials, and assist nature in her efforts to keep up with the exhaustive demands upon her reserves.

Prepared only by HANINGTON BROS., Chemists, St. John, N.B., and for sale by Druggists generally.

Price $1 per bottle, or six bottles for $5. Dec 1, 1m

PAIN IN THE SIDE.—Mr. W. A McMillan, Waterville, N.S., says:—"I had for ten years suffered with pain and soreness in my side, caused by a sprain or stress, and was so weak that any extra exertion would cause so much pain that I could hardly use my arm, until some sixteen years ago when suffering unusual pain from a recent stress, that I used Graham's Pain Eradicator and Pills and was completely cured by using them a few times."

MOTHERS! MOTHERS!! MOTHERS

Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with the excruciating pain of cutting teeth? If so, go at once and get a bottle of MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately—depend upon it; there is no mistake about it. There is not a mother on earth who has ever used it, who will not tell you at once that it will regulate the bowels, and give rest to the mother, and relief and health to the child, operating like magic. It is perfectly safe to use in all cases, and pleasant to the taste, and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States. Sold everywhere. 25 cents a bottle. febly

REST AND COMFORT TO THE SUFFERING.—*Brown's Household Panacea* has no equal for relieving pain, both internal and external. It cures Pain in the Side, Back or Bowels, Sore Throat, Rheumatism, Toothache, Lumbago and any kind of a Pain or Ache. "It will most surely quicken the Blood and Heal, as its acting power is wonderful." "Brown's Household Panacea," being acknowledged as the great Pain Reliever, and of double the strength of any other Elixir or Liniment in the world, should be in every family handy for use when wanted, "as it really is the best remedy in the world for Cramps in the Stomach, and Pains and Aches of all kinds," and is for sale by all Druggists at 25 cents abottle feb710.


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COUGH MIXTURE.

Is superior to any.

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It will ensure a good night's rest, free from Coughing, and easy, light expectoration in the morning.

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COUGH MIXTURE

Is the most certain and Speedy Remedy for all Disorders of the Chest and Lungs. In Asthma, and Consumption, Bronchitis, Coughs, Influenza, Difficulty of Breathing Spitting Blood, Hoarseness, Loss of Voice, etc., this mixture gives instantaneous relief and properly persevered with scarcely ever fails to effect a rapid cure. It has now been tried for many years, has an established reputation, and many thousands have been benefited by its use.

A BLESSING IN THE FAMILY!

A well-known cleryman writes us that

Englishmans Cough Mixture.

Has been a blessing to his family, having cured his wife of a very troublesome cough which had distressed her for over three years.

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Should always have rational treatment, and never be neglected. Such trifling ailments are too often solemn warnings of Consumption; which may be cured or prevented by timely using.

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This Popular Remedy is Infallible.

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