

since otherwise that which flows through the pipes must be tainted and corrupt."—*Spurgeon*.

Verses 28-35. Godliness is followed by material prosperity. History and current events are constantly illustrating this. Five Points in New York city, before the establishment of the Mission, was a plague-spot of wretchedness and disease. It was unsafe for a man to go there in daylight even, unattended by a policeman. A narrow lane leading to rickety tenement-houses was known by the suggestive name of "Murderer's Alley." Many a man went in and never came out alive. But the efforts of godly men and women cleansed this plague-spot, and changed the aspect of the neighborhood.

The answer which Jesus gave to the disciples of John the Baptist when they asked if he was the Messiah is the answer for us to give to inquirers concerning Christianity, "Tell what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached." Ask the South Sea Islanders what godliness has done for them, and they will point to their pretty villages, their school-houses, their farms, their commerce. Ask the Indians of that Alaskan village Metlakahla what Christianity has done for them, and they will show you a town with all modern improvements, large industries, a fish-canning establishment bringing in a handsome revenue, and all this in place of naked savagery and wigwams which constituted their village twenty-five years ago, before Christianity came to them. The Gospel has brought them material as well as spiritual prosperity.

The era of the Reformation in religion is the era of the discovery of America, and the period of the highest splendor of the fine arts in southern Europe.—*Tytler's History*.

Verses 37 and 38. These verses foretell the triumph of God's kingdom. The progress of truth has been ever onward. From every defeat it has arisen afresh, and, what has never been the case in any other system, religious, social, or intellectual, has revived anew from the ashes of its own inward corruptions. In this century the Christian population of the world is over three hundred millions. What imagination can forecast the conquests of the next fifty years! The heaven is working in every land. The old empires of idolatry and superstition are dying, while new Christian empires are born almost in a day. Every new discovery in nature, or invention in art, helps to spread the Gospel. Trade, commerce, exploration prepare the way and herald the approach of the missionary. The progress of Christ's kingdom is more rapid now than in any period since the apostolic age.—*E. O. Haven*.

The Teachers' Meeting.

Begin with a brief survey of Ezekiel's prophetic career.... This lesson teaches: 1. Purification from sin. 2. The creation of a new heart. 3. The fruits.... Or make a triple picture of: 1. The Lord's land lying desolate, Jerusalem in ruins, and wild beasts ranging among vineyards which once grew luxuriantly. 2. The Lord's people in remote captivity, utterly helpless and nearly hopeless. 3. The vision of the days to come with new conditions—a new nature; a new heart; a new spirit; a new relation; a new land.... Treat the lesson for a few minutes as typical of the history of the Church in all ages; then, with emphasis, as typical of God's dealing with the individual soul.

References.

FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA. Ver. 25: Prose, 2967-2985, 4822-4826, 432-440, 2377-2379, 5188, 5191, 9401, 9402. Ver. 26: Prose, 2846, 2850, 4130, 6326, 10728-10736. Ver. 37: Prose, 4563.

Blackboard.



Last Sunday at the top of the blackboard was the word "Lost." To-day we see a more comforting word in the same place. What is it? (All answer.) Found! Now let us go over the lesson together, and see what the prophet Ezekiel told to the captive Israelites. 1. A new heart (verse 26). 2. A new spirit (verse 26). These God says he will give and put into them. The old hard heart will be taken away, and the wrong spirit also, and then God promises that they shall dwell in the land that he gave to them (verse 28). The old Israel will have passed away, and the new Israel will be in the place, and though the kingdom will not be restored, yet neither will idolatry. Go through each verse of the lesson and point out, or have classes do it, the blessings promised.

CONCLUSION.—Was this prophecy verified? How? When? The wrath of God is turned away, and the love of God shines into the new heart which he will give to him who turns from evil ways and seeks God.