

SELECTED MISCELLANY.

THE NUMBER SEVEN.

SEVEN is composed of the two first perfect numbers, equal and unequal—3 and 4; for the number 2, consisting of repeated unity, which is no number, is not perfect.

SCRIPTURAL USES OF THE NUMBER SEVEN.

In 6 days creation was perfected, the 7th was consecrated to rest. On the 7th of the 7th month a holy observance was ordained to the Children of Israel, who fasted 7 days in tents. The 7th and at the end of 7 times 7 years commenced the grand Jubilee. Every 7th year the land lay fallow; every 7th year there was a general release from all debts, and all bondmen were set free. From this law may have originated the custom of binding men to 7 year's apprenticeship, and of punishing incorrigible offenders 7 years, twice 7 years, three times 7 years. Every 7th year the law was directed to be read to the people.—Jacob served 7 years for the possession of Rachel, and also another 7 years.—Noah had 7 days warning of the flood; and was commanded to take the fowls into the ark by sevens, and clean beasts by sevens. The ark touched the ground on the 7th month; and in 7 days a dove was sent, and again in 7 days after.—The 7 years of plenty, and the 7 years of famine, were foretold in Pharaoh's dream, by the 7 fat and 7 lean beasts, and the 7 ears of full and 7 ears of blasted corn.—The young animals were to remain with the dam 7 days, and at the close of the 7th to be taken away.—By the old law man was to forgive his offending brother 7 times, by the new 70 times 7.—“Cain shall be revenged 7 fold, truly Lamlech 7 times 7.”—In the destruction of Jerico, 7 priests bore 7 trumpets 7 days; on the 7th they surrounded the walls 7 times, and after the 7th time the walls fell.—Balaam prepared 7 bullocks and 7 rams for a sacrifice.—7 of Saul's sons were hanged to stay a famine.—Laban pursued Jacob 7 day's journey.—Job's friends sat with him 7 days and 7 nights, and offered 7 bullocks and 7 rams as an atonement for their wickedness. Job had 7 sons.—Solomon was 7 years in building the temple, at the dedication of which a

feast of 7 days was instituted; he made another feast which lasted “7 days and 7 days;” the people, separated on the 23rd day of the 7th month; and the day of atonement was the 10th day of the 7th month. In the tabernacle were 7 lamps; 7 days were appointed for an atonement upon the altar; and the priest's son was ordained to serve his father's government 7 years. The children of Israel ate unleavened bread 7 days.—Abraham gave 7 ewe lambs to Abimelech as a memorial for a well.—Joseph mourned 7 days for Jacob.—Hannah in her thanks says, “that the barren hath brought forth 7.”—In scripture there are enumerated 7 resurrections: the widow's son by Elias; the Shunamite's son by Elisha; the soldier who touched the bones of the prophet; the daughter of the ruler of the synagogue; the widow's son of Nain; Lazarus; and Jesus Christ.—The apostles chose 7 deacons.—Enoch, who was translated, was the 7th after Adam.—and Christ the 77th, in a direct line.—Our Saviour spoke 7 times from the cross, on which He remained about 7 hours; he appeared 7 times. In the Lord's Prayer there are 7 sections, contained 7 times 7 words, omitting those of mere grammatical construction. Within this number are connected all the mysteries of the Apocalypse, rendered to the 7 churches of Asia: 7 golden candlesticks, and 7 stars in the right hand of him that was in the midst; 7 lamps before the 7 spirits of God; book with 7 seals; lamb with 7 horns and 7 eyes; 7 angels with 7 seals; 7 kings, 7 thunders, 7 thousand men slain; dragon with 7 heads and 7 crowns; beast with 7 heads; 7 angels bearing 7 plagues and 7 vials of wrath.—The vision of Daniel was 70 weeks. The elders of Israel were 70. 7 heavens; 7 stars. Blood was to be sprinkled 7 times before the altar. Naaman was to be dipped 7 times in Jordan. Apulus speaks of dipping the head 7 times in the sea of purification. The house of wisdom in Proverbs had 7 pillars. 7 days in a week. David cried unto the Lord 7 times in a day. “If thy brother trespass against thee 7 times in a day, and 7 times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent, thou shalt forgive him.” Alexander the great subdued Tyre after 7 month's siege. Nebuchadnezzar, for