

3RD, NOTHING WILL HIDE US FROM HIS SIGHT

V. 11. "Surely," says the wicked man "the darkness will—it will cover me all up—God cannot see in the dark." No, it will not; for God created the dark (Is. xiv. 7); and it's just all the same to Him as the light.

V. 12. The darkness cannot hide you. Read Job xxxiv: 22. The night, dark as it may seem to you, to God shineth as the day, it could not hide you if it wanted to. The wicked may cry to it ever so much, but it will all be in vain. And so, dear children, the wicked have no hiding place from God. How dreadful! But cannot they have any? No, not while they remain God's enemies. But if they will turn from their wicked ways, and flee to the Lord Jesus Christ to be saved, *He will hide them.* He will come right between them and the wrath. He will take all the wrath upon Himself, and they shall be a thousand times safer in Him than the little baby in its mother's arm. Read for yourself, and see how tenderly God hides those that love Him; and then ask yourselves if you would not rather run to God and be hidden by Him, than to run from God and try to hide yourselves. Ps. xxvii: 5; xxxi: 20; xxxiii: 7; cxix: 114.

March 30.—Quarterly Review.

OUTLINE.

Jan. 5.—Ezra 3: 1-13.—Jerusalem in ruins, temple destroyed; Jews through favor of Cyrus, king of Persia, just returned from the 70 years' captivity in Babylon; number returned, see Ezra 2: 64, 65; leaders, Jeshua and Zerubbabel. Special work to be done—the re-building of the temple; preliminary step—the partial settlement of the returned Jews, the erection of an altar, revival of the Feast of Tabernacles, securing of workmen, artificers, etc.; foundation of the temple laid amidst extraordinary rejoicing.

Jan. 12.—Ezra 6: 14-22.—Work of re-building the temple, for several years interrupted, through the efforts of Hamest and Zechariah, resumed, (Haggai 1: 2-12) and after some five or six years brought to a completion; temple dedicated to God, priests set again in their divisions, and Levites in their courses, ceremonies of purification re-established, Passover solemnized.

Jan. 19.—Nehemiah 2: 1-8.—Time—some 70 years subsequent to that of the last lesson; Jerusalem in ruins, its walls burned, Jews in affliction and reproach; Nehemiah, a rich and pious Jew, cup-bearer to the king of Persia, hears thereof, and humbles himself before God with weeping, fasting, and prayer; God hears, gives him favor with the king, who empowers him to go to Jerusalem, re-build the walls, and set up the gates; giving him both letters of authority under his own hand, and adequate military protection for his journey.

Jan. 26.—Nehemiah 4: 7-18.—Opposition on the part of enemies, watchfulness and prayer on the part of Nehemiah; Jews disheartened and murmuring from without, threatened destruction. Nehemiah arms his followers and the Jews, distributes them judiciously, assigns each his post, inspires to resistance by appeals to piety, family ties, and private interests; enemies overawed and the work carried forward.

Ezra 2.—Nehemiah 8: 1-8.—The temple re-built, the gates set up, and the people met to hear the Law read and explained. Ezra, the scribe, aided by thirteen of his teachers the Levites, reads and makes it plain to the understanding of the common people who listen reverently and penitentially, consenting to the Law that it is good, and virtually promising before God to observe its requirements.

Ezra 9.—Nehemiah 13: 15-22.—Nehemiah, after a lapse of time, returning to Jerusalem finds the people again fallen into gross sin, particularly that of Sabbath desecration; he adopts prompt

and vigorous measures for checking the evil; remonstrates with the people, sharply rebukes the nobles; sets a watch at the gates; breaks up the traffic with the Syrians, and thus re-establishes Sabbath observance in Jerusalem.

Ezra 10: 1-6. Probable author—David—character—a moral contrast—its design—to show the blessedness of the righteous in contrast to the opposite condition of the wicked. The blessed man, negatively—(verse 1), or positively, by considering opposites—his delight, &c., (2)—comparisons—the righteous, (3)—the ungodly (4)—their destiny—(5-6).

Feb. 23. Psalm 2: 1-12. Probable author—David—character—prophetic; design—instruction in regard to God and His purposes. It teaches—1st, Of opposers—what they do and say, (1, 2, 3)—2nd, of God—how He regards such as oppose His purposes, and how He will treat them, (4-5)—3rd, what God says of His King, (6)—4th, the King's declaration concerning THE DECREE and its provisions, (7, 8, 9)—5th, kings, judges, and all men counselled in reference to their treatment of this KING, (10, 11, 12).

March 2. Psalm 51: 1-13. Author—David; character—penitential; design—to be a memorial of David's anguish for sin and God's forgiving mercy. In it the Psalmist confesses—1st transgression, (3)—2nd too against God, (4)—3rd sinfulness both by nature and conduct, (5, 6)—2nd he asks FOR—mercy, (1),—full and free pardon, (1, 9, 11),—effects of pardon, (2, 7), restoration of what he had lost, (10, 12),—removal of the effects of his sin, (8)—3rd he PROMISES to teach transgressors, (13).

March 9. Psalm 32: 1-11. Probable author—David—character—instructive; design—to teach the blessedness of being forgiven. Topics: 1st—the blessed man, (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10)—2nd what the blessed man says to God, (7)—3rd—what God says to the blessed man, (8)—4th—what the blessed man is, and is not to do, (9, 11).

March 16. Psalm 84: 1-12. Author—unknown—1st character—prayerful; thanksgiving; design—to be an expression of the longing of the people for His house. Topics: 1st—the house of the Lord, (1, 2, 3)—2nd—the blessed people, (4, 5, 6, 7)—3rd—a prayer, (8, 9, 10, 12)—4th—a choice, and reasons for it, (10, 11).

March 23. Psalm 119: 1-12. Author—unknown—1st character—praise—design—to impress men with ideas of the greatness and majesty of God. It teaches—1st—God's Omnipotence, (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)—2nd—God's Omnipresence, (7, 8, 9, 10)—3rd—that nothing can hide us from God's sight, (11, 12).

Religious Intelligence.

DENOMINATIONAL.

ONTARIO AND ONTARIO.

Baptisms reported from January 15th to February 17th:—Brantford, 1st; 2nd; Colchester, 4; Collingwood, 7; East Flamboro, 2; Hamilton, 1; Huron, 6; Montreal, 1; Mount Forest, 12; Niagara Falls, 4; Orillia, 9; Toronto, 1; Collingwood, 4; Jarvisville, 4; Uxbridge, 9; Watertown, 2.

Pastoral Changes. Rev. GEO. EVERTON has resigned the pastorate of the Harrow church and gone to Victoria, B. C. Rev. R. LENNIE has resigned the pastorate of Zion church, St. Thomas. We commend this worthy minister to churches seeking a pastor.

Chapels Dedicated. The new white brick chapel in Port Elgin was opened for Divine service on the 26th January, with appropriate services conducted by Revs. James Couits, of Guelph and J. C. Macdonald, M. L., of Tiverton. The building cost \$2,500 and will seat comfortably 350 persons.

The new Baptist chapel in Sydney township was

dedicated with appropriate services on the 12th January, Rev. J. T. Dowling, of Stirling, preaching the opening sermon. The chapel is said to be a very neat one, and cost \$2,000.

Miscellaneous. *Oliver Baptist Church, Montreal,* held its 4th annual meeting recently. The statistics for the year were: Increase,—by baptism, 27; by letter, 2. Decrease,—by letter, 2; by death, 1. Present membership, 223. The average attendance of scholars at the Sabbath school was 280. The financial report and the report of the building fund were, on the whole, encouraging. The handsome new church edifice is very near completion, and is to be dedicated some time in March.

The College-st. Church, Toronto, held its 6th anniversary tea-meeting on the 19th January, Hon. Alex. Mackenzie, M.P., in the chair. The statistics of the year were as follows: Increase,—by baptism, 25; by letter, 37; by experience, 8. Decrease,—by letter, 6; by death, 1; by excommunication, 14. Present membership, 200. As usual, the annual tea meeting was a marked success, and reflected praise upon pastor and people alike.

The Lewis-st. Baptist Sunday School, Toronto, held its New Year's festival on Thursday, January 23rd. About 175 set out to tea and thoroughly enjoyed the provision made for them. After tea, a novelty in the way of entertainment was given by teachers and scholars, consisting of singing and scripture recitations illustrative of the way of the Christian from darkness to light and to heaven. Prizes were distributed to the scholars who had been most regular in attendance during the year. The chapel was filled with visitors and scholars; and all seemed pleased with the evening spent in social enjoyment.

The progress of the school during the year has been good. The building is already comfortably filled, and if the increase during the coming year is proportionately rapid, the Lewis-st. Sunday school will soon have to enlarge its borders. The teachers have adopted the CHRISTIAN HELPER as their lesson paper for this year.

For the Young

For the "CHRISTIAN HELPER."

FIREWORKS IN COCANADA.

DEAR MR. EDITOR:—As your paper is now devoted chiefly to Sunday school work, I suppose that anything from India likely to interest boys will not be thrown into the waste paper basket. Therefore I am encouraged to send you a few lines about fireworks in Cocanada.

In the first place I must tell you that weddings furnish occasion for wasting much powder. I think it matters very little whether a man is very poor or not, a wedding in the family must be celebrated with considerable show. I believe that wealthy men spend sometimes as much as 5000 Rupees, that is about \$2500, in jewelry for the bride and in entertaining the wedding-guests. A wedding in this country is not celebrated in a few hours as at home, but a week or more is devoted to the festivities. A large amount of the sum spent goes for fireworks. I remember a grand wedding some months ago when I was kept awake till after midnight by the bursting of rockets and the whirling of wheels, a spot not far from the mission-house being honoured that night as the site of the fireworks display. Marriages are celebrated more or less all the year through, though I believe that May and June are the favorite months, so that rockets are sent up on probably half the nights in the year.