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By order,
A. GOBEIL, Secretary.
Department of Public Works, Ottawa, 23rd Nov., 1885. 1 25

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Sabbath School.

BIBLE LESSON.

FROM PELOUBET'S SELECT NOTES

Fourth Quarter.

Lesson XIII. Dec. 27.

REVIEW

The review plan is closely adapted from the one used by Rev. A. F. Schauffler in the Olivet Sunday school, New York City, and gives in the *Sunday School Times* for Sept. 13, 1884. "Quarterly review may be conducted either in the classes singly, or by the superintendent from the platform. In most cases the latter is the better way. To be successful, the leader must have a very clear idea of what he wants to do, and must do it rapidly, and with as much enthusiasm as possible. It must be interspersed with lively singing of well-known hymns, and must absolutely proceed on the basis of question and answer. The following hints are given to assist superintendents in this work:—

"Have on the board, at the opening of school, the Titles and Golden Texts as follows. (If you have no board in your school, repeat at once of your negligence, and 'bring forth fruits meet for repentance' by buying a board at once. Get a good board, five feet by three, and you will never regret it.)"

	TITLES.	GOLDEN TEXT.
I.	E. AT D.	Fear not
II.	F. IN S.	The things
III.	J'S F. Z.	Blessed
IV.	T. R.	I was glad
V.	D. OF E.	He, being
VI.	S. OF J.	Arise, go
VII.	E. OF J. P.	The men
VIII.	H. G. R.	He did
IX.	H. P. A.	The Lord
X.	THE S. N.	Cease
XI.	THE S. S.	The Lord
XII.	THE G. I.	Ho, every

Call for titles as you indicate the lessons with the pointer. In this, as in all questioning, do not be satisfied with partial answers, but work good-naturedly until the whole school answers well. Then give the title yourself, and ask the school to give the corresponding text. Do this in regular order, and then skip from place to place. Now wipe out the golden-text words, and, giving the title, or pointing to it, call for the text. Now go still farther, and wipe out title letters, leaving only the left-hand numerals on the board. Then, in calling your numbers, ask for title or text as you please. In schools accustomed to answer questions from the platform, this should occupy not more than ten to fifteen minutes. In schools unaccustomed to this method it will take longer. Now have the school rise and sing some wide-awake hymn in a spirited way, wasting no time in playing the tune over, but giving simply the chord on the piano or organ, and starting right in.

On the other side of the board have prepared the following:—

NAMES.—E. J., J. J., H., J., I.
PLACES.—D., S., J., J., N.
NATIONS.—E. of I., K. of J., S., A.
EVENTS.—A. C., F. S., I and F. P. D., T. S., D. of E., J. R. G., J. P. N., G. R., H. R. S.

THE NAMES are Elisha, Jeroboam, John, Joash, Hezekiah, Jonah, Isaiah.

THE PLACES are Dothan, Samaria, Jerusalem, Joppa, Nineveh.

THE NATIONS are Kingdom of Judah, Kingdom of Israel, Syria, Assyria.

THE EVENTS.—Army captured; Famine in Samaria; Idols and False Prophets Destroyed; Temple Repaired; Death of Elisha; Joash Running away from God; Jonah Preaching at Nineveh; Great Revival; Hezekiah's Recovery from Sickness.

Call these names, places, and events out by varied questions. Avoid monotony in the form of questions. For example: "Give the name of the two most prominent men in these lessons." (Elisha and Isaiah.) "Repeat the name of a world-renowned city." (Jerusalem.) Give the name of a man who showed false zeal. (Jehu.) Give the names of two men who are examples of true zeal. (Joash, Hezekiah.) "I see two men lying on beds of sickness,—one died, and the other recovered; who are they? (Elisha, Hezekiah.) What man tried to run away from God? (Jonah.)

Under places and events proceed in the same general way, only by what may be the pictorial method, as follows: I see an army groping in blindness, and led by a single man into the very capital of the nation they were fighting. Who was the man, and of what nation was the army? (The Syrians and Elisha.) There is a terrible famine in a city surrounded by an immense army. Suddenly the army flee away in the greatest haste, and there is plenty in the city. (Samaria and the Assyrians.) A beautiful building. In front of it a great contribution box. People flocking from all parts to put in money. Many workmen busy repairing the building. What and where was it? (Joash repairing the temple.) I see a ship at sea in a great storm. The waves wash over it. Some of the sailors are throwing the cargo over, others are waking up a man asleep in the stores. At length they throw the man himself overboard. (Jonah.) A whole nation is aroused. A great meeting is held for two weeks. I see the men starting out in little parties all over the country, destroying every idol and every place of idol worship. Where and when was the great revival? (The great revival under Hezekiah.) I see another city besieged by a great army. The city is destroyed, the people are being carried away captive. They never return. The kingdom is no more. (The captivity of Israel and end of the kingdom, B. C. 721.)

These word-pictures can be elaborated and others drawn. "Let no leader be disappointed if this method does not work perfectly at first. Only practice makes perfect. But when the leader attains facility and picturesqueness in questioning, the school is always hearty and interested in its response. Now sing again as before, this time not standing. (For the next exercise, preparation must be made beforehand, and those who are called out must be ready to give in a clear, audible tone their answers. These should be brief, and should be as practical as possible, adapting themselves to the peculiar needs of the school.) Ask teacher, 1, What evidence does Lesson II. afford that God fulfils his promises? Teacher, 2, What additional evidence do you find in Lesson XII.? Teacher, 3, Name the practical lessons for us in the two great religious revivals described in Lessons IV. and VIII. Teacher, 4, What important warnings to us in Lessons III., VI., and VII.? Teacher, 5, What is the greatest event foretold in these lessons? Teacher, 6, What is the dearest thought to you in Lesson XII.? Then taking one verse, such as "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that has no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without price," ask two or three persons what they consider the most emphatic words, and why. The answers (prepared beforehand by each person without consultation with the other) will always differ, and bring out many sweet lessons. In the ways above alluded to, spend as much time as appropriate, closing with one grand lesson to be drawn from all twelve lessons, and given by your best man. Then close with singing and prayer."

The Sabbath Dinner-Table.

"Didn't we have a good sermon?" inquired the eldest son, with all the zest of satisfaction in his tone.

"Good!" echoed the father, scornfully, bristling up as usual when the word "sermon" was uttered. "He took ten minutes to prove something that we know as well as he does; ten more—"

A shade of distress flitted across Sophy's eyes; the minister had made her feel that she was a sinner. Was that not worth ten minutes?

"And as for prayer," continued the head of the family, with a gesture of impatience, "it was the dryest prayer I ever listened to."

"Perhaps he was not praying to you," suggested the privileged member of the family.

"I think it was the loveliest prayer I ever heard," exclaimed the visitor with rising color.

"Prayer is not a thing to be criticised," suggested the oldest son, gently. I never felt so clearly as I did this morning, how Christ is our only hope. Our minister made it so strong and clear."

"After rambling on ten minutes about nature!" commented the argumentive voice of the father. By this time conscientious Sophy has a finger-tip pressed into each ear; that sermon was one of the marked periods in her spiritual growth. "And then the idea of saying—"

The sensitive boy of fourteen, whose mercury rises and falls with every change in the home atmosphere, dropped his eyes and looked much troubled. All his delight, in the plain, strong sermon had been marred, even while listening to it, by the dread that somebo y at home would pick flaws in it at the dinner-table. If he might have listened with an untroubled heart, into what ready soil the seed would have been dropped that day! Sometimes I think that Satan takes more delight in the Sabbath dinner-table than in any home-gathering through the week. He knows what little winds carry the good seed away.

Somebody, anxious to interrupt the flow of unkindly criticism, now made a hurried remark:

"Did you see that lady in front of us? Wasn't her bonnet grotesque? Just the shape and colors to make her hideous."

A relieved laugh went around the table. Surely this was better than finding fault with the minister.

The boy of fourteen looked up brightly. "We have such a good lesson for Sabbath-school to-day."

"I'm glad there's one good one," grumbled his next oldest brother. "I had come to the conclusion that they had picked out the hardest and dryest parts of the Bible for the lessons. Your teacher is such a poke, with his melancholy voice and solemn face, I don't see how you ever like the lessons."

Public opinion again quenched the boy of fourteen. Coming home from church he had resolved to hurry through dinner that he might give the extra minutes to the lesson; but as it was the dryest part of the Bible, and his teacher a "poke," why should he care for the Sabbath-school? Perhaps he ought to be ashamed for staying after Sabbath-School last Sabbath to talk to the "poke" about something in the lesson. Of course the big boys knew!

"He has no more sense about asking questions," continued the big boy.

"Your superintendent is a superior man," observed the head of the family. "I noticed in prayer-time this morning how uneasy he was underthat long prayer. He couldn't keep his head down through three sentences."

The visitor flushed again. By this time she had almost resolved to be busy elsewhere when time for family worship should come to night. The listener, who was not a Christian, and who had spent her Sabbath morning in reading George Eliot, pushed her napkin into her ring with considerable energy.

"I didn't go to church this morning, and I don't intend to go to Sabbath-school! A sermon that does no good, a prayer that irritates, dry parts of the Bible to study, and a poke to teach it, have no attractions for me."

The others, who were Christians, looked blank.

A blessing had been asked upon the dinner. What about a blessing upon the dinner-table talk?—*Westminster Teacher.*

Mail-Clad Warriors of Nature.

The armadillos are the mail-clad warriors of nature, and the most completely armoured of the whole odd family of armadillos is a beautifully ornamented little fellow called by the naturalists Tolypentes, and by the Brazilians "bolita." "Bolita" means "little ball," and the armadillo was so name d because it has the power of rolling itself up into the shape of a ball. Its various shields are so arranged that when the bolita rolls itself up it makes a perfect ball or hard shell.

A traveller in Brazil tells of watching some little children at play tossing a large ball, about the size of a football. When they were tired of the game they threw the ball on the ground, and to his surprise it turned into an animal and ran hastily away. It was one of these little armadillos.

The same traveller says that he has seen these animated balls used by a little child in playing with a kitten. The game may have annoyed the bolita, but it could not have caused it any injury, because of the perfect protection afforded by its armor.—*St. Nicholas.*

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British Mails.

THE first packet of the Weekly Liverpool Mail Line is intended to be despatched from Halifax on Saturday, the 26th inst., under the usual winter arrangements.

The outgoing steamer sailing from Quebec on the 21st instant will be the last mail steamer from the St. Lawrence River this season.

The mails for the United Kingdom for despatch by steamer leaving Halifax for Liverpool on the 26th instant will be the first outgoing steamer under the winter arrangement, and by each succeeding steamer during the present winter shall leave the St. John Post Office in time to go forward by the train leaving St. John on Friday evening, and due at Halifax on Saturday morning.

Postmasters and railway mail clerks in the New Brunswick division will please be governed by this notice in the despatch of mails for Europe, via steamers from Halifax.

J. McMILLAN,
Post Office Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,
St. John, Nov. 14, 1885. 46-48

1885. 1886.

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