

Verses 5. Mars and Venus are bright in the evening sky, because they revolve very near the sun. Stupendous Saturn and Neptune make no show in the heavens on account of their remoteness from the light-giver. A very humble Christian may be a burning and a shining light in the community if his heart-orbit lies close to Jesus. Do you wonder why it is that sometimes you are powerless to win souls to the Saviour? It may be because you are living so far away from God that you are spiritually unmagnetized, and have lost all connection with the almighty source of strength.—*Dr. T. L. Cuyler.*

"So have I loved you....keep my commandments." Going into a large manufacturing establishment, you will see a large shaft running the whole length of the building. To this are attached wheels and bands, knives, saws, and chisels, and by these an immense amount of mechanical work is done. Where is the secret power which makes this machinery do the work of five hundred men? The answer is easily given. It is steam. Let the steam go down and all becomes as silent as the grave. So is the love of Christ the motive power which puts all the machinery of Christianity in operation.—*C. M. Temple.*

"I have chosen you." God draws his people, not with force as mere machines, but by gracious invitations. How was Jacob drawn into Egypt? He was made to feel the pressure of a grievous famine; he was informed that there was plenty of corn in Egypt, and that his dearly beloved Joseph was lord of that land, had provided for his conveyance, and at the end of the journey all the good of Egypt's land should be his. Did he need after this to have a chain fastened round him to be dragged into Egypt? No; all that he needed was faith to believe the tidings. Thus God draws sinners.

The Teachers' Meeting.

Call attention to the *time*—near midnight, just before the agony....The *place*—perhaps passing down the vine-clad slopes of Mount Zion, under the light of the moon....The *persons*—Christ and his disciples; how many were there with him? Where was the twelfth?...What this lesson reveals concerning Christ....What this lesson shows as our duty....What it shows as the privileges of disciples: 1. Union with Christ. 2. Training. 3. Fruitfulness. 4. Power in prayer. 5. The love of Christ. 6. Christian joy. 7. Christian fellowship....Or, as suggested by *Illustrative Notes*, draw out teachings concerning the vine and the branches. I. Christ, the Vine, is: 1. The Giver of life (verses 1-7). 2. The beloved Son (verses 8-10). 3. The loving Friend (verses 11-15). 4. The divine Teacher (verse 16). 5. The Master of disciples. II. Christians are: 1. Living branches.

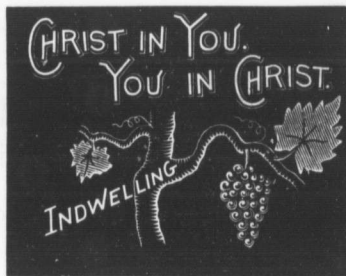
2. Fruitful branches. 3. Loving branches. 4. Joyous branches. 5. Obedient branches.

References.

FREEMAN'S HAND-BOOK. Ver. 2: Excommunication from the synagogue, 802....**FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA.** Ver. 1: Poetical, 1920; Prose, 1549, 2042, 5448, 8147. Ver. 2: Prose, 6395, 5758. Ver. 4: Poetical, 380; Prose, 288, 5863, 5864, 7110, 998-1005, 8472. Ver. 5: Prose, 7124, 9826, 5930, 656, 2417-2420, 8897, 8899, 8306, 9108, 9213; Poetical, 786. Ver. 6: Prose, 6669, 7168. Ver. 7: Prose, 7210, 11062, 4592; Poetical, 2547. Ver. 8: Prose, 4022, 10636. Ver. 9: Prose, 10329, 10330, 10342, 10348. Ver. 16: Prose, 8565.

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



The illustration of the vine, the branch, and the fruit is shown on the blackboard. Review the points of the lesson, using the illustration to make plain the teaching of the close union between the branch and the main stem. From the vine the branch receives its life, strength, and fruit-bearing power. Call attention to the word "indwelling." Abiding in Christ, being in close communion with him, receiving from him spiritual strength and life. Erase the part of the branch near to the vine. Explain how the separated vine would die, for without the vine the branch could do nothing. Join them together again. Read verse 7. Speak of the blessed result of union with Christ.

COLORS.—Vine, brown, tinted with red; grapes, purple, with white lights; leaves, green.

Primary and Intermediate.

BY MARTHA VAN MANTER.

LESSON THOUGHT. Fruit for Christ.

Objects. A fine bunch of grapes; a living branch; a withered branch.

Time and Place. The last night of our Lord's life, in the upper room at Jerusalem. Picture the