

the way of work, which above all others should not be undertaken, is the pursuit of any new study of a sedentary nature and requiring close application for its mastery.

The social-professional side of one's nature may be developed by attending teachers' associations and institutes, and summer schools of pedagogy, and by fraternal intercourse

with other members of the profession.

A vacation spent in this way brings not only recreation but *growth*. It makes the teacher stronger, enables him to begin the work of another year with more zeal, carry it on with greater ease, and achieve in it a higher degree of success than ever before.—*Journal of Education*.

SCRIPTURE LESSONS FOR SCHOOL AND HOME.

NO. 15. MIRACLES OF HEALING.

To read—*St. Matthew viii. 1-17.*

I. THE LEPER. (1-4.) Scrimpon over, multitudes followed Christ. Why?

1. To hear His gracious words.
2. To see His looks of love.
3. To bring their sick for healing.

Leper did not wait to be brought, but came of himself.

His sickness was *great* (St. Luke v. 12), *infectious* (lepers had to live alone, and cry "Unclean!" as they walked), *incurable* by human means. He worshipped Christ as God, showed faith in Him, prayed for help—thus showing *reverence, faith, earnestness*. Christ showed *pity* by touching him, *willingness* in His words, and *power* in His action. Leper healed, must give usual thank-offering. (See Lev. xiv. 4, 10.)

Testimony of Christ's power and of His observing the law.

Leprosy, type of sin. 1. Sin is foul—corrupts whole man. (Isa. i. 5.) 2. Sin is infectious—spreads wide. (Gen. vi. 5.) 3. Sin is incurable by man. (Hos. xiii. 9.) But Christ is *willing* to forgive (Isa. lv. 1), *able* to forgive (1 John i. 9). Must come to Him with same faith, earnestness, reverence.

II. THE CENTURION'S SERVANT. (5-13.) Another instance of faith.

Centurion—Roman officer, captain over a hundred soldiers.

Showed great *humility*—not worthy Christ to come to house, and *faith* in believing word at distance sufficient. His orders over soldiers obeyed; so would Christ's be over disease.

1. Christ *marvelled* at greatness of his faith—also at Gentile having faith at all. Other instances of centurions showing faith.

2. Christ *prophesied* of time when all the world should worship Him. (Rev. v. 9.)

3. Christ *accepted* centurion's prayer for servant. Thus approving intercessory prayer.

III. ST. PETER'S MOTHER-IN-LAW. (14-17.) Christ's spending a few days at Capernaum—doing good to all. Peter and Andrew belonged to Bethsaida (St. John i. 44)—now, apparently, had moved to Capernaum. Christ often stayed at their house—doubtless ministered to by Peter's wife and her mother. Now the latter seized with great fever. Sad ending to Sabbath (St. Mark i. 29), but sorrow soon turned to joy—one touch of Christ can heal worst disease. Her cure at once complete—no weakness left. She ministered immediately once more to Christ. Story spread—multitudes came—all sorts of diseases healed—bodily, mental—all cured. None sent empty away. How they would love this gracious Saviour!