

so strange! Why did they not let him rest in peace after his terrible death? Ah, Mary has come again. She is crying bitterly at that open door. She is trying to look into the sepulcher through the veil of her tears. But why does she start back? She sees what—two angels? Yes, and O how bright and shining are the forms of these two holy sentinels guarding the resting-place of the great dead Captain of our salvation. They tenderly ask her, "Woman, why weepest thou?" While she is answering, does she hear a foot-step behind her? She turns. Some one in the garden speaks to her. Through the dimming mist of her tears she is answering—the gardener, is it not? Suddenly he speaks her name, "Mary!" O how the tones thrill her! Can—it be—Jesus? She turns. She sees—her Saviour! There is no doubt about it. And look! In his hands, in his feet, are the marks of those driven nails of the cross! She reaches out her arms to him. She would fall at his feet. She would bathe them with her tears of joy. Jesus living again! Can it be? "Touch me not!" he is saying. He would have her tell his brethren, and soon she is hurrying away. She runs. O that she had wings and could fly! Jesus has risen from the dead! Halleluia!

#### LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER, 1886.

- Nov. 7. Thomas Convinced. John 20. 19-29.  
 Nov. 14. Peter Restored. John 21. 4-19.  
 Nov. 21. Walking in the Light. 1 John 1. 5-10, and 2. 1-6.  
 Nov. 28. John's Vision of Christ. Rev. 1. 4-18.

#### A Puzzle Picture.

BY GEO. MAY POWELL.

IN the early days of stereoscopic pictures, an ingenious artist showed the writer a very puzzling picture. Instead of mounting two pictures of himself together or two of his wife, on one side he put a photograph of himself, on the other side one of her.

When this odd combination was looked at through a stereoscopic glass, it was a puzzle picture indeed. At one instant it seemed like a man wearing a figured silk coat. At the same instant it was a woman in a broad-cloth dress. The two pictures combined in one, as this glass must combine them, made the faces and figures an indescribable mixture of man and woman. Back hair and beard, and masculine and feminine features were perpetually and painfully blending under the eye. Nothing could be more essentially neither one thing nor the other than this.

It has occurred to me that it was a type of any one of us who may be trying to do what Jesus has emphatically said cannot be done—"serve God and mammon."

A young person in the Sabbath-school is led to seek the Saviour. Soon after joining the Church a temptation to attend a theatre is yielded to; though the plainest teaching of experience is that white ravens are plentier than theater-going Church members who are a comfort to their pastors or themselves. Does a young Christian prefer even a

concert or a popular lecture to prayer-meeting; or to hard work on a Church or Sabbath-school Committee, where "the King's business" needs him? Is secular reading or conversation on Sunday preferred to that which will cultivate and enrich the heart garden? Is daily secret prayer and Bible reading forsaken or a burden? If these things are so, they are danger signals. If they are characteristics of a professed follower of Christ, he may be sure he is a puzzle picture to keen-eyed worldings. To the latter he is a false light on the shore. Some of them who may be dear to him he is probably thus leading to eternal misery instead of happiness.

He may be sure, however, that One who sees the heart is not deceived. Also, that unless he comes closer to Jesus, and stays closer to him, he will himself pass from the ranks of Church members in this world to "outer darkness" in the next. The Master says that "many" in that day, who thought they were his, will be found with no wedding garment.

Therefore, pray and labor that the Sabbath-school may be the birthplace of souls into a life of self-denying service of One who has done unspeakably more for us than we can do for him. Don't live after joining the Church as if a certain old song of Zion read, "I must be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease." If you do, your life will be a self-deceiving puzzle picture. You are on the air-line road to eternal ruin.

"If any man will be my disciple, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

#### Good Tidings Day for 1886.

THE Boards of Managers of the Sunday-School Union and of the Tract Society again unite in recommending to the pastors and churches the observance of the third Sunday in October as Good Tidings Day. Last year was the first in which the day was observed, and the result of the experiment was so satisfactory that it is thought desirable to continue it.

The most of the pastors who observed the day last year unite in speaking of the increased interest aroused among the people in the work of the two societies. The beautiful service prepared for the occasion was a great help to the success of the day. The succinct statement of facts connected with the work gave to many people a new idea of what has been accomplished, and thus prepared them to give for these societies in an intelligent manner.

There is special propriety in the day selected, because it is the day which for a number of years has been observed as a day of prayer for Sunday-schools throughout the world. On this day when prayer is offered for the success of Sunday-schools, quaintance fit admirably into the world's panorama; and distant prospects that have no alluring phase reveal most charming surprises on a near approach.