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SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

LESSON III.

Jan. 15, 1882. [Mark 1:29-45.] POWER TO HEAL.

COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 40-42.

- 29. And forthwith when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. 30. But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her. 31. And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them. 32. And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. 33. And all the city was gathered together at the door. 34. And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him. 35. And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. 36. And Simon and they that were with him followed after him. 37. And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee. 38. And he said unto them, Let us go into the next towns, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth. 39. And he preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils. 40. And there came a leper to him beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 41. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. 42. And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed. 43. And he straightly charged him, and forthwith sent him away; 44. And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, show thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them. 45. But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city; but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"I am the LORD that healeth thee."—Ex. 15:26.

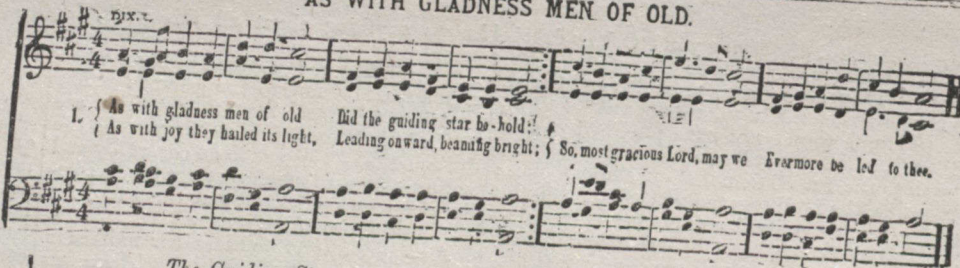
TOPIC.—Christ as a Healer.

LESSON PLAN.—1. AT SIMON'S HOUSE. 2. IN THE PLACE OF PRAYER. 3. THROUGHOUT GALILEE. Time.—May, A. D. 23. Place.—Capernaum and its neighborhood.—Galilee.

HELPS TO STUDY.

- I. AT SIMON'S HOUSE.—(29-34.) THE HOUSE OF SIMON AND ANDREW—we are told in John 1:41 that Bethsaida was the city of Andrew and Peter. They had before this moved to Capernaum. V. 30. LAY SICK OF A FEVER—from Luke we learn that her sickness was very severe. V. 31. HE CAME—observe how promptly he answered the prayer of those about her. So he is ever ready to hear our prayers. SHE MINISTERED UNTO THEM—so complete was the cure that she served them at the table. V. 31. ALL THE CITY HEALED MANY—both Matthew (8:16) and Luke (4:40) say that ALL were healed. SUFFERED NOT THE DEVILS TO SPEAK—Christ would not let devils testify for him. II. IN THE PLACE OF PRAYER.—(35-38.) V. 35. PRAYED—like our Lord, we should make prayer the first duty of the day, to fit us for every other duty. V. 36. THEY THAT WERE WITH HIM SEEK FOR HIM—Luke says (4:42), "The people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed to have Christ always with you." V. 38. THIS WAS HIS GREAT WORK, and his preaching was not to be confined to Capernaum. III. THROUGHOUT GALILEE.—(39-45.) V. 39. THROUGHOUT ALL GALILEE—How long this first circuit lasted, or what places he visited, we are not told. The rest of this lesson tells us of one of the many miracles he performed. V. 40. A LEPER—leprosy was a loathsome and obstinate disease which turned the skin to a ghastly color like a corpse, and covered it with blotches and scabs. IF THOU WILT—His prayer was earnest; his faith in the power of Jesus was strong; his humility was great; his only question was, Will the Lord use his power to heal? V. 41. TOUCHED HIM—to do this was to be made unclean; but no touch could defile the Saviour. HIS TOUCH CARRIED WITH IT CERTAIN CURE. AND SAITH—only two words were needed. I WILL, in the language used by Jesus, was one word, and BE THOU CLEAN was another. V. 42. IMMEDIATELY—he kneeled down a loathsome leper; he rose up a cleansed man. So one word from Jesus will cleanse us from sin. V. 44. SHOW THYSELF TO

AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD.



The Guiding Star.

As with joyful steps they sped, Saviour, to thy manger bed, There to bend the knee before Thee whom heaven and earth adore; So may we with willing feet Ever seek the mercy seat.

Pure and free from sin's alloy, All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee our heavenly King.

Holy Jesus, every day Keep us in the narrow way; And, when earthly things are past, Bring our ransomed souls at last Where they need no star to guide, Where no clouds thy glory hide.

—From Spiritual Songs.

As they offered gifts most rare At thy cradle rude and bare, So may we with holy joy,

THE PRIEST—the law required that one healed of leprosy should pass an examination before the priest and offer certain gifts. Lev. 14:2-32. A TESTIMONY UNTO THEM—that the cleansing has really taken place.

TEACHINGS:

- 1. Jesus tenderly sympathizes with the sick and sorrowing. 2. Disease and death are under his control. 3. Sin is to the soul what leprosy is to the body. 4. Jesus alone can heal it. 5. He is both able and willing to cleanse us. 6. He will hear every one that calls upon him. 7. There is love as well as power in his touch. 8. We should come to him promptly, penitently, believingly.

REMEMBER that Jesus is the great Physician of sin-sick souls. He has power to heal all our spiritual maladies. If we come to him as did the leper, with the same earnestness and faith, he will speak for us the same healing word: "I will; be thou clean."

LESSON IV.

Jan. 22, 1882. [Mark 2:1-17.] POWER TO FORGIVE.

COMMIT TO MEMORY vs. 8-12.

- 1. And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house. 2. And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them. 3. And they came unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. 4. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. 5. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. 6. But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, 7. Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only? 8. And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? 9. Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise and take up thy bed, and walk? 10. But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins (he saith to the sick of the palsy), 11. I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. 12. And immediately he arose, took up his bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion. 13. And he went forth again by the seaside; and all the multitude resorted unto him, and he taught them. 14. And as he passed by, he saw Levi the son of Alphaeus sitting at the receipt of custom, and said unto him, Follow me. And he arose and followed him. 15. And it came to pass, that, as Jesus sat at meat in his house, many publicans and sinners sat also together with Jesus and his disciples: for there were many, and they followed him. 16. And when the scribes and Pharisees saw him eat with publicans and sinners, they said unto his disciples, How is it that he eateth and drinketh with publicans and sinners? 17. When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"I, even I, am he that blot out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."—Isa. 43:25.

TOPIC.—Christ Forgiving Sin.

LESSON PLAN.—1. THE SINNER BROUGHT. 2. THE SINNER FORGIVEN. 3. SINNERS CALLED.

Time.—Summer, A. D. 23, after his return from his first tour in Galilee. Levi's feast belongs to a later period. Place.—Capernaum.

HELPS TO STUDY.

- I. THE SINNER BROUGHT.—(1-4.) V. 1. IN THE HOUSE—probably the house of Simon. V. 2. MANY WERE GATHERED TOGETHER—Luke tells us (5:17), "There were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judea, and Jerusalem."

V. 3. PALSY—a disease that made him entirely helpless. V. 4. UNCOVERED THE ROOF—Eastern houses have outside stairs to the roof, which is low and flat. The tiles were easily removed. THE BED—probably not a heavy mattress, but a stuffed quilt.

II. THE SINNER FORGIVEN.—(5-12.) V. 5. THEIR FAITH—Faith always pleases Jesus. V. 7. SPEAK BLASPHEMIES—to claim to forgive sin is to claim to be equal with God, for he only can forgive. Such a claim, if unfounded, is blasphemy. V. 9. EASIER TO SAY—they might think it easier to say, "Thy sins be forgiven thee," for no one can see whether they are forgiven or not. But to say, "Arise up and walk," would prove the one who said it an impostor if the effect did not follow. V. 10. BUT THAT YE MAY KNOW—I will do the thing that you can see, that you may know that I have power to do the thing you cannot see—viz., to forgive sin.

III. SINNERS CALLED.—(13-17.) V. 13. SEASIDE—the Sea of Galilee. V. 14. LEVI—the same as Matthew. RECEIPT OF CUSTOM—he was an officer of the Roman government. It was his business to collect the taxes. HE AROSE—obeyed at once. We should do the same. V. 15. IN HIS HOUSE—so we should seek to have Jesus in our houses and at our feasts. V. 16. PHARISEES—A sect of the Jews very strict in keeping the law of Moses, and claiming to be very holy. V. 17. THEY THAT ARE WHOLE—sin is like sickness; Jesus is the Great Physician, and his place was among the sick. THE WHOLE WERE THESE PHARISEES, who did not feel nor own their sinfulness. THE SICK WERE THE PUBLICANS AND SINNERS, who sought for pardon.

TEACHINGS:

- 1. Sin is like the palsy: it makes men helpless, inactive, dead to spiritual things. 2. We can do our friends no greater kindness than to bring them to Jesus. 3. Christ's power to heal is a proof of his power to forgive. 4. He is both able and willing to save the greatest of sinners. 5. When we are ready to obey Christ, he gives us strength to do it.

REMEMBER that you need the forgiving power of Christ. He is ready to say to you, "Thy sins be forgiven thee," if you will only come to him and ask him.

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We hope that the readers of the MESSENGER will make a great effort to increase its prosperity this year and at once. Has it not been read with pleasure? Has it not done some good? Has not the cost been too small to notice in the year's expenses? Think of it; the MESSENGER that you have enjoyed for a whole year cost you but very little more than half a cent a week.

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A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all readers of the MESSENGER. We hope to meet you all again with your friends on New Year's, and during the whole of 1882, and request your aid to this end. When at the Christmas and New Year's gatherings you meet your friends, pray remember the MESSENGER that all the year long has

brought you information, instruction and healthy amusement, and endeavor to extend its influence. Once again, it may be for the last time, we wish you "a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

SHOVELLING SNOW.

What a glorious time our boys have sometimes shovelling snow and with what glee the fleecy shovelfuls are tossed and thrown around so as to leave a beautiful clear pathway. Now suppose any man were asked to shovel a pathway from Toronto to Montreal, or all the streets in either of those cities, hundreds of miles in length; it would be rather a difficult job to set him, would it not? We are afraid that the pathway would be melted before it was cleared by the shovel. But the morning after the snow falls, see what a host gather at the work. Gray-haired grandfathers, young men and children, all unite in clearing the streets, and what is the result? In about three hours the sidewalks are clear with the exception of the portables in front of the houses of lazy or incapable persons. Now, this is something the way with the MESSENGER. It would be a very difficult thing for any one person, however energetic, to bring this paper, although a favorite, to the notice of all the people in Canada and the United States who would be thankful for that service. But our nearly sixty thousand subscribers can do this without trouble. Think of it, if each subscriber to the MESSENGER spoke of it to ten persons, SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND would hear of it and most of them would spend thirty cents to get it for a year—thirty cents is but little more than half a cent a week. Where can so much instruction and amusement be obtained at so little cost. Then, once again we ask our readers to think of this and help us to send the MESSENGER to many more thousands of new subscribers this year.

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