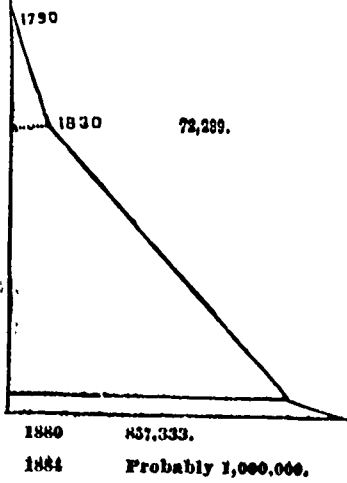


were organized; 1800:1830, sixteen more; from 1830-1850, thirty-three more; and now there are seventy-five foreign missionary boards, besides numerous subsidiary organizations. In 1890 the converts enrolled as communicants in the various foreign missionary stations of Protestantism, in the whole world, were 70,289. Probably in 1884 they do not fall short of one million.

DIAGRAM VI.

FOREIGN MISSION COMMUNICANTS.



Such are some of the remarkable advances of Christianity during the century which comprises the entire history of the American Methodist Church. It has been the greatest revival century, the greatest century of moral achievements, of Bible study, of pecuniary benevolence, of religious literature, of heroic self-sacrifice, of lay activity, of Christian missions, of all the Christian centuries. It is a grand advancing age in which to live, and labor for God and humanity. How great the privilege to live in such an age! How great the duties devolving upon us!

**If I Could Only Take It Back!**

If I could only take it back!  
The trifling jest that once I spoke,  
And left a bitter sting that tears  
Could not restore the love it broke.  
And one I loved—how long since then!  
With wounded spirit felt the wrong;  
I wish that I could once again  
Win back the heart—the hand—the song!

If I could only take it back!  
The angry word so rashly said.  
And I was wrong; but then, he too—  
Well let it pass—long years have fled,  
And though our friendship is the same,  
Undimmed by years of toil and care,  
My memory makes me blush with shame  
To know my words are written there.

I wish that I could take it back!  
The blow I struck in deedless wrath;  
The day—the hour—his ruddy face  
Come often in my changing path.  
He felt the blow—the sudden smart  
Soon passed from off his boyish cheek,  
But left upon my own sad heart  
A wound whose cure I vainly seek.

If I could only take it back!  
One hasty word I did not mean;  
It came upon my lips, and went  
To his dear spirit cold and keen.  
But the sweet love that healed the pain  
Was bathed in heaven's seraphic light,  
And we shall meet at home again,  
In cloudless glory, pure and bright.

If I could only take them back,  
And blot them from the years that were,  
And weave a vow of peace and love  
Within the Gospel of my prayer,  
How sweet the holy immortelles  
My heart would round their hearts en-  
twine,  
And I would never take them back—  
Those gentle words and deeds of mine!

**Earth's Lone Children.**

**"WE WANT A GRAVE-BOARD FOR MA."**

A BOY, not over eleven years old, whose pinched face betrayed hunger, and whose clothing could scarcely be called by the name, dropped into a Carpenter's shop on Grand River avenue the other day, and after much hesitation, explained to the foreman:

"We want to get a grave-board for ma. She died last winter, and the graves are so thick that we can't hardly find hers no more. We went up last Sunday, and we come awful near not finding it. We thought we'd git a grave-board, so we wouldn't lose the grave. When we thought we'd lost it, Jack he cried, and Bud she cried, and my chin trembled so I could hardly talk!"

"Where is your father?" asked the carpenter.

"Oh, he's home, but he never goes up there with us, and we shan't tell him about the board. I guess he hated ma, for he wasn't home when she died, and he wouldn't buy no coffin nor nothing. Sometimes, when we are sittin' on the door-step, talking about her, and Jack and Bud are cryin', and I'm rememberin' how she kissed us all afore she died, he says we'd better quit that, or we'll get what's bad for us. But we sleep up-stairs, and we talk and cry in the dark all we want to. How much will the board be?"

The carpenter selected something fit for the purpose, and asked:

"Who will put it up at the grave?"

"We'll take it up on our cart," replied the boy, "and I guess the grave-yard man will help us put it up."

"You want the name painted on, don't you?"

"Yes, sir, we want the board white, and then we want you to paint on it that she was our ma, and that she was forty-one years old, and that she died the 2nd of November, and that she's gone to heaven, and that she was one of the best mothers ever was, and that we are going to be good all our lives and go up where she is when we die. How much will it cost, sir?"

"How much have you got?"

"Well," said the boy, as he brought out a little calico bag and emptied its contents on the bench, "Bud drew the baby for a woman next door and earned twenty cents; Jack he weeded in the garden and earned forty cents, and he found five more in the road; I run of errands and make kites and fixed a boy's cart and helped carry some apples into a store, and I earned sixty-five cents. All that makes a hundred and thirty cents, sir, and pa don't know we've got it, cause we kept it hid in the ground under a stone."

The carpenter meant to be liberal, but he said:

"A grave-board will cost at least three dollars."

The lad looked from his little store of metals to the carpenter and back, realized how many weary weeks had passed since the first penny was earned and saved, and suddenly wailed out:

"Then we can't never, never buy one, and ma's grave will get lost."

But he left the shop with tears of gladness in his eyes, and when he returned yesterday, little Bud and Jack were with him, and they had a cart. There was not only a head-board, but one for the foot of the grave as well, and painter and carpenter had done their work with full hearts, and done it well.

"Ain't it nice—awful nicer than rich folks have!" whispered the children, as the boards were being placed on the cart; "won't the grave look nice, though, and won't ma be awful glad!"

Ere this, the mother's grave has been marked, and when night comes the three motherless ones will cuddle close together and whisper their gratitude that it cannot be lost to them, even in the storms and drifts of winter.—*Detroit Free Press.*

**Puzzledom.**

Answers to Puzzles in Last Number.

- 103.—1. Pastoral. 2. Pompous.
- 104.—Steep; steel; steed; steer.
- 105.—A. Lincoln Gillespie.

- 106.— K E E L  
E Y R Y  
E R I N  
L Y N X

- 107.—1. Maine. 2. Utah. 3. Iowa. 4. Illinois.

**NEW PUZZLES.**

**108.—HOOR-GLASS.**

Marginal notes; a gaseous substance; to stupefy; a letter; a village in Massachusetts; a fault; reciprocating motions.

Diagonals: Left to right, down—Couriers; right to left, down—Establighes.

Centrals: Those who play on pipes.

**109.—DIAMOND.**

A letter; an ore; a native of a certain country; burnt sugar; mumps; narrow; a kind of pepper; a cover; a letter.

**110.—CURTAILMENTS.**

A bird; a brave man; a pronoun; a letter.

**111.—CHANGED HEADINGS.**

To shine; to strike; tardy; to issue; tillage.

**112.—WORD SQUARES.**

- 1. Healthy; to assert; a magnifying glass; formerly.
- 2. A great preacher; a prophetess; the least whole number; tardy.

**Varieties.**

"I FORGET a great many things which have happened in the year," said a little girl, the tears running down her cheeks; "but I can't forget the angry words I spoke to my dead mother."

ALL through Norway and Sweden women's names are often on the business signs. They are most efficient in some of the Stockholm banks. Over 15,000 women are employed in agriculture, over 10,000 in mines and manufacture, over 15,000 in medicine, and two or three score in law. Over 20,000 women are engaged in the watch-making trade in Switzerland, doing much of the finest work.

The temperature of the human body is about 100 degrees Fahrenheit, and remains about the same winter and summer, in the tropics as well as in the frozen regions of the north. It may change temporarily within the range of 12 degrees, but any considerable or long-continued elevation or diminution of the bodily heat is certain to result disastrously.

**LESSON' NOTES.**

**SECOND QUARTER.**

A.D. 58.] LESSON XI. [June 15.

**THE BLESSEDNESS OF BELIEVERS.**

Rom. 8: 28-30. Commit to mem. vs. 37-39.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**

We know that all things work together for good, to them that love God.—Rom. 8: 28.

**CENTRAL TRUTH.**

The Christian life is full of blessedness.

**DAILY READINGS.**

- M. Rom. 5. 1-21. Th. Rom. 8. 1-27.
- T. Rom. 6. 1-23. F. Rom. 8. 28-39.
- W. Rom. 7. 1-25. Sa. Psa. 46. 1-11.
- Su. Eph. 2. 1-22.

TIME.—In the early spring of A.D. 58.

PLACE.—Written at Corinth in Greece, to the Church at Rome.

PLACE IN BIBLE HISTORY.—Acts 20. 1-3.

CIRCUMSTANCES.—"We must remember that this chapter was written in the midst of persecution, and in the expectation of bonds and imprisonment." In the former chapter, Paul had shown how the law could not give peace or holiness. In this chapter, he shows how Jesus Christ gives us (1) peace in pardon (1-13), (2) adoption into God's family (14-17), (3) a hope of entire deliverance from sin (18-25), and (4) consolation in all troubles (26-39).

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—28. *All things*—All the powers of the universe. Even the things that seem to harm. *Work*—Which requires time. *For good to them that love God*—For those who are on God's side are in harmony with His laws and plans. Those who do not love God are opposed by all God's laws. 29. *Predestinate*—Determine, or appoint beforehand. *Foreknow*—All God's plans are founded in knowledge. 30. *Justified*—Forgave, treated as just, received back into his family as if they had never wandered from God. *Glorified*—Made glorious by innumerable gifts, graces, a glorious character, and a glorious destiny in heaven. They are justified by *faith* (see last lesson), and hence there is implied here man's free will, as well as God's sovereign work. 31. *Who can be against us*—i.e., Who can be against us so as to succeed in doing injury, or successfully oppose? 33. *Elect*—Chosen from the world, all God's people. *It is God that justifieth*—Who can charge anything against God's elect, seeing that God forgives all the sins charged against them? 34. Who can condemn, seeing Christ has died that they might not be condemned? 35. *The love of Christ*—Christ's love to us. 36. *As it is written*—Psa. 44. 22. 37. *More than conquerors*—They not only overcome the enemies, but make them to be friends and helpers.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—All things working together for good.—The divine element in our lives.—The image of Christ.—The "glorification" of saints.—The argument in v. 32.—That in v. 34.—Paul's persuasion.—The love of Christ.

**QUESTIONS.**

INTRODUCTORY.—What was the subject of the last lesson? How does this lesson naturally follow after that? What sources of blessedness to the believer are spoken of in the earlier portion of this chapter?

**SUBJECT: THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE CHRISTIAN.**

I. FIRST BLESSEDNESS.—ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR HIS GOOD (v. 28).—What is the promise in this verse? To whom is it promised? Why only to those who love God? What is included in "all things?" Can we always see how they work together for good?

II. SECOND BLESSEDNESS.—HIS WHOLE LIFE PLANNED BY GOD (vs. 29, 30).—Do we know enough to plan our own lives? Who only is wise and good enough to plan our lives for us? Will his plan be the best plan for us? What is it to predestinate? Why is foreknow placed first? Does this exclude or include our free choice? (Josh. 24. 15; Phil. 2. 12, 13.) What is God's plan for us? What are steps in this salvation? How are we called? How are we justified? What is the final result?

III. THIRD BLESSEDNESS.—THE ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE (vs. 31, 32).—What is Paul's answer to the first question in v. 31? How may we have God for us? Why can nothing harm us then? How does Paul prove this by the gift of Jesus Christ? Can we be sure of God's love except in Him?