

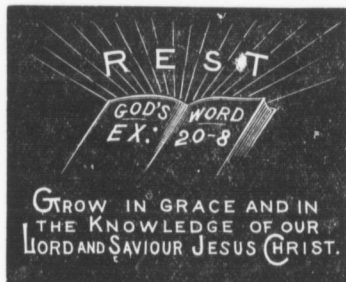
time...What we can do to maintain it...What we should do on the Sabbath....How it may be made happy as well as holy.

References.

FREEMAN'S HANDBOOK. Ver. 15: Wine presses, 690. Vets. 20, 21: The market at the gate, 339. ...FOSTER'S CYCLOPEDIA. Prose, 15, 16, 11542-11551, 5128-5145, 872, 873, 170, 3658, 5537, 7342-7346; Poetical, 2696-2701.

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



EXPLANATION, after a brief review of the lesson.—In the book of God's word is the command in regard to keeping the Sabbath day. Ask, Where is it found? School repeat it. This is not a harsh command, for the observance of it brings blessings both bodily and spiritual. What is the word over the book? Rest. What can be more comforting than the thought of rest from labor? It is associated with peace and contentment. On the Sabbath day we should lay aside work, study, play, and business. But we need not be gloomy or narrow-minded; on the contrary, with the day may come new joys and new peace. Every day we should remember the heavenly Father, but at least one day out of seven should be God's day, wherein we may study his word and—[point to the board and let the school read.]

FOR COLORS.—The book, white; rays, yellow; "Rest," blue; sentence, light red or pink.

Primary and Intermediate.

BY MARTHA VAN MARTER.

LESSON THOUGHT. "*Day of all the week the best.*" [Print the Lesson Thought with colored crayons, making it as bright and attractive as possible.]

Which is the best day of all the week? Why is it the best? Who has told us to keep it holy? Who can repeat the fourth commandment? Do

all people keep this commandment? Do all children keep it? Let us all say together:

"I am so glad that there's one day in seven
Made for the weary to think about heaven;
Made for the children to rest from their play,
So I must keep it—'tis God's holy day."

Review. Do you know where the great meeting was held? Who stood upon a wooden pulpit and read to the people? What did he read? Do you think he read the law about keeping the Sabbath?

Some of the people had broken the law. How did they feel when Ezra read it and told them it was God's law? How should we feel when we find we have broken God's law? What should we do?

[Make on the board a square for Jerusalem. Talk about the broken walls; ask who built them up; tell why he wanted the people to keep God's holy law.]

Nehemiah knew that this was the only safe way—to obey God. It was the safe way then, and it is just so now. We must obey God if we want to be safe and happy.

[Make another square.] Nehemiah went back to Persia. We do not know how long he stayed, but when he came back to Jerusalem [trace the way between the two squares] he found that many people had forgotten the Lord's law, and were not even keeping holy God's day! Do you think this troubled Nehemiah? Yes, it made him feel very sorry. He was afraid, too, that great trouble would come upon Jerusalem for the sin of the people.

People who love God now feel troubled when they see men or women or children breaking God's law, because they know that God will have to punish the sin, and to be punished always hurts!

[Show a piece of money.] What is this? Do people like to have money? Yes, some people like it so much that they will break God's law to get it! Nehemiah found men making wine, and bringing figs and grapes and other things into Jerusalem to sell on the Sabbath. Some of the heathen, too, who lived in Jerusalem brought loads of fish to sell on this day, as well as other wares. These men wanted money, and forgot what God had said, "He that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent."

But would the people of Jerusalem buy as well as sell? O, yes. There are children who have been taught to keep God's day holy, and who would never think of going out to buy candy on the Sabbath. But when they see a candy shop open, and other children going into it, they go too! Do you know any such children? It was so with the grown folks in Jerusalem. After they had sold or bought or