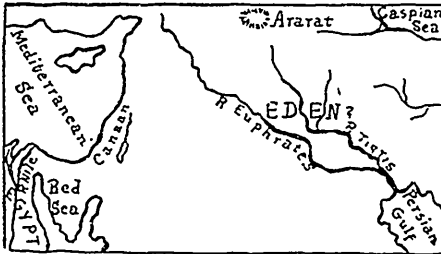


borhood of the home of Adam and his family. In this remote place the cold-blooded murder was done.

III. PUNISHMENT.—9-15. The Lord said ; seeking, as in ch. 3 : 9, to bring Cain to penitence and confession (compare Prov. 28 : 13). I know not ; a straight out lie, without any excuses, such as those offered by Adam and Eve. So greatly had sin grown in power. Cursed . . . from the ground (Rev. Ver.); driven away from the cultivated soil, to wander in strange and wild regions. The curse has three parts : (1) The ground will no longer reward his toil ; (2) He will therefore have constantly to seek a new dwelling-place ; (3) A guilty conscience will torment him. Vengeance . . . sevenfold ; "because it would be against more clearly defined law" (compare v. 24). The Lord set a mark ; some mark on Cain's body, since, in order to be a protection, the mark must always accompany him.

THE GEOGRAPHY LESSON

The home of Cain and Abel was probably not far from Eden, on the banks of the Euphrates or Tigris (see these rivers marked on the map), where



Adam and Eve had most likely settled when they were driven out of the Garden. After the murder of Abel, Cain took up his abode in "the land of Nod", eastward from Eden, Gen. 4 : 16. Here he built a fortified village. Among his descendants were, Jabal, who was the first to dwell in tents, Jubal, the earliest maker of, and player on, musical instruments, and Tubal-cain, who led the way in the working of metals, Gen. 4 : 20-22.

AN ORIENTAL SIDELIGHT

"Two angels," says the Koran, "guard every man upon the earth, one watching on either side of him ; and when at night he sleeps, they fly up to heaven with a written report of all his words and actions during the day. Every good thing he has

done is recorded at once, and repeated ten times, lest any item be lost or omitted from the account. But when they come to a sinful thing, the angel on the right hand says to the other, 'Forbear to record that for seven hours ; peradventure, as he wakes and thinks in the quiet hours, he may be sorry for it, and repent and pray and obtain forgiveness.'"

LESSON QUESTIONS

What was the curse pronounced on the serpent ? What promise was given ? Give the sentence passed on the woman. On the man. What was sin's chief penalty ? Whence were the transgressors sent ? How was the way back to Eden guarded ?

3-7 What age had Cain and Abel now reached ? What occupation did each follow ? To what does difference of occupation often lead ? What reasons have been given for God's different treatment of the two offerings ? To whom does "his" (v. 7) refer ? Explain the meaning. What change does the Margin of the Rev. Ver. make ? What is the meaning of the passage when read thus ?

8 Where did the murder of Abel take place ?

9-15 In what did the curse upon Cain consist ? What New Testament murderer was troubled by his conscience ? (Matt. 14 : 2.) What plea did Cain make ? What protection was given him ?

FOR DISCUSSION

1. The best ways of conquering sin.
2. Is capital punishment in harmony with Bible teaching ?

A LESSON FOR LIFE

"If 'twere done, when 'tis done, then 'twere well it were done quickly." Thus Macbeth, in Shakespeare's great play, spoke of the murder of his king and guest, Duncan. But no evil deed is ever done when 'tis done. Its consequences abide, and must be faced. Since this is so, a thousandfold better, that it were not done at all.

Prove from Scripture—That hatred is sinful.

Shorter Catechism—Review Questions 39-43.

The Question on Missions—4. Why do we send missionaries to Korea ? God forced our church, as it were against its will, to take up the work. He called William J. McKenzie to go, but the church would not send him. McKenzie went without salary. God gave him all he needed. He made many converts. He died. Our church awoke, and sent missionaries.

FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

1. Why was Abel's offering accepted and Cain's rejected ?

2. How did Cain's answer to God differ from those of Adam and Eve ?

3. What proofs does the Lesson give of God's mercy ?