

[For the 'Northern Messenger.'

The Victoria India Orphan Society.

The regular work carried on by this Society among the famine orphans at Dhar, Central India, is progressing most satisfactorily, but for the time being our attention is centred on the grievous condition of millions of our fellow beings in Northern India. For many months famine has desolated large areas, and as time goes on the distress is becoming wider spread. The cost of food has risen enormously, and it is now fully three times its usual price, though the rains which fell in some districts afforded some alleviation, and the last reports received show a slightly decreased number on relief, the general condition remains much the same. Where rain fell it caused a slight drop in the price of foodstuffs, but in other parts the prices are still rising, and are distinctly higher than they were in the terrible famines of 1897 and 1900; this is the case in Central India, in which division the city of Dhar, where our Orphanage work is carried on, is situated. We are made to forcibly realize the very grave state of affairs and the difficulties which face the missionaries, by learning from our latest reports from Dhar that the money provided by the Society for the maintenance of the Orphanage is not sufficient to obtain necessary food for the children, now that the prices are so high. These circumstances being made known to our subscribers and friends, we feel sure they will all, as promptly as possible, send an extra contribution to help to tide over the next few months, as it will be September or October before the benefit of the next harvest can be felt. It is our first duty to provide for those whom we have been privileged to gather into the Orphanage, and then what more is given will be thankfully distributed by the missionaries amongst the many, many sad cases that come under their own observation, extending the relief as far as the funds will allow. The Secretary of State for India recently cabled that aid sent to India now should be distributed through the missionaries. The Government has made tremendous efforts to relieve the suffering people, but it is heart-sickening to those who labor amongst them to see how utterly inadequate these measures are to meet all the distress. Nothing less than starvation will persuade the poor creatures to go into the relief camps, where the men only get three cents a day, women two, and children one. Going into these camps also means the absolute breaking up of home, and yet there were over a million and a half wretched sufferers taking shelter in them in March, proving how acute the distress was. Surely all hearts must be touched by the grievous calamity which has befallen such immense numbers of our fellow creatures, and we shall gladly do what little we can to relieve some of the suffering, our sympathy being quickened in the light of our Saviour's words, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto Me.'

The following contributions, specially for Famine Relief, have been received: Miss Nettie Graham, collected, \$4.09; Lady Schultz, \$25.00; Mrs. Buchanan, \$5.00; Mrs. A. M. Fraser, \$25.00; Mrs. Russell, \$5.00; Mrs. O'Leary, \$2.00; Mrs. A. S. Crichton, \$25.00; Mrs. Boyd, \$5.00; Mrs. F. P. Long, \$10.00. The Society will thankfully receive contributions for Famine Relief, which should be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. A. S. Crichton, 74 Furby St., Winnipeg.

What He Saw.

A Chinaman came to a missionary to ask baptism. When asked where he had heard the Gospel, he answered that he had never heard the Gospel, but had seen it. He then told of a poor man at Ningpo, who had once been a confirmed opium smoker and a man of violent temper. This man had learned about the Christian religion, and his whole life was altered—he gave up the opium and became loving and amiable. 'Oh,' said the candidate for baptism, 'I have not heard the Gospel, but I have seen it.'—Selected.



LESSON.—SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 1908.

Review.

Read I. Corinthians xv., 1-20.

Golden Text.

But these things are written that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. John xx., 31.

Home Readings.

Monday, June 15.—John x., 1-18.
 Tuesday, June 16.—John xiv., 1-8.
 Wednesday, June 17.—John x., 1-27.
 Thursday, June 18.—John xix., 17-42.
 Friday, June 19.—I. Cor. xv., 1-20.
 Saturday, June 20.—John xx., 1-18.
 Sunday, June 21.—John xxi., 1-25.

FOR THE JUNIOR CLASSES.

The teacher's problem of retaining the attention of young children, especially in a review where so much ground is to be covered, is always rendered easier by having something visible to attract attention. Of course, in the infant class where the picture roll is in use the brightly colored pictures serve, but in the immediately higher classes the blackboard or its substitute must supply the need. Another important point to remember is always to start from the ground of a child's present knowledge. In this review a query as to who we have been studying about lately will surely bring the ready response 'Jesus.' This then is the starting point, and the teacher may draw a large circle on the blackboard, placing the name of Jesus in the centre in a small circle. Tell the scholars that just as all the spokes of a wheel meet in the centre all the lessons we are to review centre about Christ. Divide the circle into twelve parts by drawing lines from the centre small circle to the circumference and assign one space for each lesson. It does not matter if you draw rather roughly; to draw so in the class so that the children can watch the progress is far better than to bring neat work all complete to talk on. Start at the top of the circle with the first compartment and speak of Christ the good shepherd. Draw above this compartment a shepherd's crook to keep this lesson in the children's mind as you proceed. A rough representation of an Eastern tomb open will serve to symbolize the raising of Lazarus; a sketch of a common long table for the supper at Bethany when Mary anointed Christ's feet; a jug and basin, for Christ's washing the disciples' feet; a city gate with rays of light above, to suggest the Heavenly Home; a hand pointing, to represent the guidance of God's Holy Spirit; two trees, for the garden of Gethsamane; a cross, for the crucifixion; the rising sun, to typify the resurrection; a closed door, to stand for the closed room in which Christ met his disciples; the outline of a shore with two boats on the water, a boat, a fish or any such thing to recall the meeting in Galilee, and over the last section, standing for the review lesson, the word 'Come.' Talk briefly of the lesson while drawing these simple objects and the children watching will readily connect the incident with the symbol. When all are finished return over your way, asking what each lesson teaches about Jesus as:—1. Jesus helps and cares for us as a shepherd does for his sheep. 2. Jesus is able to raise our dead bodies to life. 3. Jesus accepts any service we do for love of him. 4. Jesus expects us to be willing to help each other. 5. Jesus is preparing a home for us in heaven. 6. Jesus has given us a guide who will always

help us here on earth. 7. Jesus suffered all alone for us, for all his disciples left him in the garden of Gethsamane. 8. Jesus died for us. 9. Jesus rose again. 10. Jesus will always drive away our doubts and fears if we are in earnest. 11. Jesus will pardon our sins as he did Peter's. 12. Jesus will accept us, so let us come to him. As much as possible while going over like this to draw out the lesson truths, let the children themselves recall the lessons for which the symbols stand.

FOR THE SENIORS.

What these eleven lessons teach about Christ should form as much the subject of review for the older as for the younger scholars. The last twelve chapters of John are included, and the time in our Lord's life is the last six months of his earthly life and the forty days after resurrection. As the golden text for the quarter suggests, it may be well to see in what way John's use of these lessons serves to prove the divinity of Christ, and in what way they can be so applied to ourselves that we, personally, may 'have life through his name.' If the class is large enough one chapter may be assigned to each scholar to summarize, and these summaries be read in class. A question as to what truth with which these lessons deal is least understood by Christians, or least acted upon to-day, is likely to bring up a helpful discussion as to the practical application of the Christianity we profess. The chapters are full and wonderfully beautiful, and the main point is to get the scholars to look them up in private study.

(SELECTIONS FROM TARBELL'S 'GUIDE.')

Our Responsibility. 'An eminent Scotch divine imagined this conversation to have taken place between Jesus and Gabriel after the ascension of our Lord from Mount Olivet:

"You must have suffered greatly for those people down there," he supposes the angel to have said to the Master:

"Yes, Gabriel, a great deal more than any of my creatures can understand."

"Do they all know about the great sacrifice you have made for them?"

"No, only a very few of them know about it—a few only in Judea and Galilee."

"What provision have you made for telling others the glad tidings?"

"I have asked those who do know about it to tell others whom they may meet, and these again to pass the news on to others, and those to still another circle of hearers, and so on until the end of time."

"But what if they should forget?" was the supposed solemn inquiry of the angelic questioner.

"I have no other plan."—R. F. Miller, D.D.

Junior C. E. Topic.

Sunday, June 21.—Topic—How to get and keep a situation. Gen. xxxix., 1-6; xli., 38-44.

C. E. Topic.

Monday, June 15.—Christ teaching the people. Mark vi., 30-34.

Tuesday, June 16.—Christ healing the people. Luke ix., 10, 11.

Wednesday, June 17.—Christ's words to the people. John vi., 25-27.

Thursday, June 18.—The bread from heaven. John vi., 30-34.

Friday, June 19.—The bread of life. John vi., 35.

Saturday, June 20.—Feeding the four thousand. Mark viii., 1-9.

Sunday, June 21.—Topic—How Jesus fed five thousand people. Mark vi., 35-44.

Sunday School Offer.

Any school in Canada that does not take 'The Messenger' may have it supplied free on trial for three weeks on request of Superintendent, Secretary or Pastor, stating the number of copies required.

N.B.—Ask For Our Special Year End Offer.