

Her Majesty's service is better manned and commanded than the ship *Brisk*. Captain Hope is a gentleman of great literary ability, and often contributes to *Blackwood's Magazine*. No doubt his papers on Samoa will be most interesting. Captain Hope commanded the *Flying Fish* when the Prince of Wales visited Nova Scotia. The *Flying Fish* lay some days at Pictou Harbour.

From Tanna we went to Erromanga and brought Mr. Gordon along to Fil harbour, where we found the *Dayspring* awaiting Mr. Morrison to visit Havannah harbour with the new brethren. The *Dayspring* made the passage from Sydney to Aneiteum in ten days. The *John Williams* with Mr. Geddie and Mr. Neilson is daily expected. The weather has been very cold and stormy for the last week. The *Brisk* had a head wind from Sandwich Island to Aneiteum.

I am, sir, yours truly,  
W. McCULLAGH.

## The Sabbath School.

### Lessons for January.

#### FIRST SABBATH.

SUBJECT:—Psalm xxxiv.

The circumstances which gave rise to this Psalm are described in 1 Sam. xxi. 10-15. *Abimelech*, signifies my father the king, and is a title given to the Philistine kings. The name of this "Abi-Melech" was Achish and he reigned in Gath.

This is one of the Psalms from which we learn the number and order of the Hebrew alphabet. In the original the first verse begins with *Aleph*, (A); the second verse with *Beh*, (B); the third verse, *Gimel*, (G); and so on to the end of the alphabet.

V. 2.—When others in distress would hear David's account of God's gracious dealings with him they would "be glad." The *humble*—the poor; those who are liable to be trodden down by the foot of pride.

V. 5.—*Lightened*, compare Ps. xxxvi. 9. God is light and those who look up to Him will enjoy a share of His light, as the sun warms and lightens objects on which it shines.

V. 6.—*This poor man*, the Psalmist here describes himself. Poverty, and distress make us all the more welcome at a throne of grace.

V. 7.—See examples of the ministry of angels; 2 Kings vi. 17. Also, Lot saved from Sodom, and numerous other examples. See Heb. i. 14.

V. 10.—The lions are the most powerful beast of prey, yet they may suffer hunger; the people who trust in the Lord may be poor and humble, but they shall lack no good thing: "Lions" are used here to signify rapacious, tyrannical and cruel man.

Vv. 12-14.—Compare 1 Peter iii. 8-12.—Note the great evils arising from an evil, violent, unbridled tongue. It destroys peace, creates war, ensures temporal and eternal misery.

Vv. 16, 17.—Mention instances in the life of David and in the lives of other people to prove and illustrate the statements of these verses.

V. 19.—The deliverance may not come as we expect: "the death of martyrs is their deliverance; and the greatest of all deliverances." This is true of the death of every believer: to him it is the end of all trouble and sorrow.

V. 20.—See this promise literally fulfilled in the case of our blessed Lord: John xix. 31-37.

V. 21.—*Desolate*—utterly destroyed.—Christ is the righteous one, and those who hate Him are doomed to certain destruction.

#### LESSONS.

1. From v. 1, let us learn the duty of praising God when we are in danger and distress as well as in the time of deliverance: "at all times."

From v. 2, learn the value of declaring our religious experience, telling what the Lord has done for us.

From vv. 3-6, see the duty of social and united worship,—the duty of seeking the Lord and looking to Him as other "poor ones" have done.

4. Angels minister to the heirs of salvation, v. 7,

5. Religion should be a matter of experience, v. 8.

6. From v. 11 there is a lesson to be learned by *teachers*. David was a warrior and a great man, yet he taught children.—What did he teach them?

7. Beware of sins of the tongue! v. 13.

8. The concluding verses are full of encouragement to prayer, and to implicit trust in God, while the sad fate of the wicked is plainly stated.

#### DOCTRINE TO BE PROVED.

Safety of those who fear the Lord, Ps. xxxiv. 7, 15, 17. Ps. xxxi. 23. John xvii. 12.