

Johnny up to high standards had had anything to do with it. And so, as he sat in the semi-darkness of the car, watching it fill up with his companions for the day, tired in body, mind, and spirit, his life seemed to have left a bitter flavor in his mouth, and he never in that life had felt so little like thanking God for his mercies as he did now, with rest, and love, and recreation before him.

Just in front of him, an old German woman had been placed by her own son. He caught the relationship as the man gave her ticket to the conductor, telling him, in broken English, that his mother had never been on the cars before, to look out for her and see that she got off at Deerfield. That was the station just before his own, so the clerk looked at her, with the mild curiosity which people always feel upon hearing familiar names when away from home. She was a clean, decent-looking old body, dressed in a short woollen skirt, a shawl crossed over her breast; her wrinkled face, and brown, knotted hands, telling of a life of hard physical labor. She sat stolidly, holding fast the blue handkerchief in which was tied all the "baggage" she carried, until the train had moved out of the depot and the city, but at one of the last of the suburban towns she took her bundle and was about to leave the train, not having been told, or not being able to understand, that she must ride all day before reaching her destination. The brakeman sent her back, and she now began to look about with glances of uneasy suspicion. At the next station she again tried to go, and was brought back with some difficulty; at the next it took the united efforts of the conductor and brakeman to bring her back, she catching at the arm of each seat they passed, and beginning to cry, as well as to shrilly protest in a language which no one understood. By this time, the interest and curiosity of all those in the car having been aroused, the conductor explained the circumstance to them, and a gentleman, a German evidently, who had been reading his newspaper opposite, went over to her and tried to make her understand, but finding that she spoke a *patois* that made it as impossible for her to understand his German as his English, he sat down in the end of her seat and calmly took possession of her, placidly resuming the reading of his paper, while she cried and wrung her hands, and at last went out into the aisle, going up and down and entreating every one, with look, and voice, and gesture, to rescue her from what she considered an incomprehensible imprisonment. The conductor had the doors locked, so that she could not get out upon the platform, and then she was allowed to go about while the train was in motion; while at every station the gentleman who had constituted himself her protector would bring her back to her seat, obliging her to stay there until, having started again, the doors could again be locked.

As the forenoon wore on, this became a harder and harder task, her fear, agitation, and suspicion, increasing to a frenzy, while she used her utmost strength, beating him upon the head and breast, struggling, and fairly screaming, in her efforts to escape. Being a large, powerful man, he might easily, by a little roughness, or by confining her arms, have rendered her helpless, but he simply let her beat upon him, and stood immovable, using just the force necessary to prevent her from injuring herself, and seeming not to take himself into the account at all; good-naturedly told over and over again, to the constantly changing passengers, the necessities of the case, and when the doors were locked would allow her to pass him, and then, entirely unmoved, go on with his reading. It was ignorant suspicion, beating against wise force.

As the long, hot day wore towards its close, she had exhausted her strength and sat still, with only occasional pitiful tears, like a child's, rolling down her cheeks. The man who had watched over her left the train, nodding cheerfully as he went, and saying heartily, "Good-bye, mother, you're all right, you'll soon be home now." But she was past minding, fate had overcome her, and when the brakeman had called "Deerfield," passively allowed him to take up her bundle and lead her off the train. So much interest had been felt in her that every one went to either door or window to see if she were met by friends. It was a little depot, no other houses in sight, wheat fields all about with level sunset rays upon them, a big farm wagon driven by a white-haired Dutch boy was just scraping its wheels against the platform, and before it fairly stopped, out over its sides trooped what seemed a countless number of picturesquely dressed Dutch children, led by a ruddy, joyous-faced young matron, who hastened across to where the old woman had been left standing, her bundle beside her, and looking dazed and stupid. When she saw the young woman, she gave one joyful cry, and springing forward fell upon her knees, clasping her arms about her, and as the train moved off those who were looking saw them still standing so, with the children pressing about, the younger woman softly patting the upturned face of the elder, and comforting her in her own tongue.

The clerk had learned his lesson, how had

he beaten the wings of his life against the wise strong hand that had held him firmly in unpleasant paths; not through ignorance either, for had he not been told explicitly that "all things shall work together for good to those who love God?" and he did love Him in the uttermost depths of his heart, he was sure of that. They were skirting his own lake now, off which blew a cool fresh breeze; the air was suffused, as we have all seen it after rare sunsets, with golden light, like the smile of God around the curve the houses of the town were coming into sight; and his thought shaped itself into words like these,

Great heart of patience!
Close against thee let me lie,
Until the beating of thy strength
Teach me to live aright.

—Standard.

PROFIT BY KEEPING THE SABBATH.

Sabbath-keeping benefits both the body and mind, and thus must also tend to increase the worldly estate; for who does not know that a sound mind in a sound body is all-important to the success of his business? For what say facts here? They say that those who work six days in a week will do more work, and do it in a better manner, than those who labor seven. Cases in proof of this, to almost any extent, might be mentioned, if space were allowed; two or three must suffice. At a Sabbath convention in Baltimore, which was attended by one thousand seven hundred delegates from all parts of the United States, a great drover from Ohio stated that he had made more money by resting on the Sabbath with his droves than he would if he had kept on seven days. His cattle and sheep always brought him a better price than others which were constantly kept travelling. In one case, where the neighbors could not find a market, in consequence of the cattle having been overdriven, he cleared five hundred dollars, and this he attributed to resting on the Lord's day. A salt boiler tried the experiment of resting on the Sabbath, which it was thought that business would not admit of; but he found, at the end of the season, that he had made more salt than any of his neighbors, with the same dimension of kettles, while his whole expense for breakage and repairs was only six cents. Some years ago, after a long wet spell in harvest, came a clear Sabbath, when many farmers hurried in their grain, which, from being housed before it was full dry, was greatly damaged; while others, who feared God and kept his commandments, were enabled to gather in theirs in good condition. No doubt money is sometimes made for a time by Sabbath labor, as in the case of those who, in violation of the laws, both of God and man, sell liquor on that day, and find, perhaps, more customers than on any other day; but the sad history of such men, and their families, too, shows often that they only "earn wages to put it in a bag with holes," and that the curse of God is upon their ill-gotten wealth. A friend in an adjoining county once remarked that he had, for a long time, made careful observations on this subject, and he had never known any permanent advantages to arise from projects planned or carried out on this day, but often serious losses to have followed them.—British Workman.

PULLING THROUGH.

BY MARGARET E. SANGSTER.

There are hundreds of families among the better classes of society, who, in these times, are simply pulling through a great mass of difficulties. They are rowing up stream. Before them, for all that they can see, lie night and darkness. Still, pride forbids them to make any public complaint, and they veil their anxieties, and meet the world with a show of courage. It is not always easy to do this. To take a leaf from the wisdom of the oracular Mr. Micawber "Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure nineteen, nineteen, six, result happiness. Annual income twenty pounds, annual expenditure twenty pounds, ought and six, result misery." "The blossom is blighted, the bud is withered." When in any one's experience, Mr. Micawber's conditions have been tested, his decision has been justified. The out-go more, necessarily perhaps, than the income, and honest people must suffer.

There are two or three suggestions which are not impertinent, and may be helpful to those in such a strait. First, have nothing to do with false pride. Do not be disturbed because others have what you cannot obtain. Be contented to appear poor. Do not be ashamed to wear old clothes. Do not shrink from letting friends know that you are pressed for money. If you cannot continue to live in the desirable neighborhood where your present home is situated, move to an obscurer one; where rents are lower. If you cannot send the children to a private school, place them for a while at one of the excellent public institutions. Just here, however, remember that you can least afford to let the children suffer, so far as their education is concerned. It is better,

always, to make great sacrifices in other directions than to sacrifice in that which affects the intellectual and moral development of a child. There is dignity in accepting the situation in which you find yourself, and greatness of soul in being equal to it. So, the wise heads of households will not sit down with folded hands, when the emergency is alarming; they will look about them, take account of their environments, and adjust their actions accordingly.

Stop all little leaks. The most provident of us, in this land of plentiful harvests, have still to learn frugality from the people of older countries. A great deal can be saved by care for small things, by refraining from wastefulness and by judicious contrivance.

Do not go in debt; if you cannot afford to buy bread and meat, and pay for both, buy only bread. Determine that you will not pile up rocks in front of you. It is quite enough to surmount the obstacles of every day, without the added burden of ever-accumulating obligation.

Take the children into the family confidence. I know that many loving parents dislike to overshadow with the least anxiety the sunny sky of their children's lives. But it really protects boys and girls from some sharp stings of annoyance, and uplifts them to a level with the dear father and mother who are fighting life's battle so bravely, to know all about the state of affairs. The most open candor will but knit the young hearts closer to each other, and to you.

Finally, do not neglect any of the usual means of grace. Go to church and to prayer-meeting. You will often find comfort awaiting you there. Read the Bible and appropriate the promises. Every one of them was meant for you. Meant too, for you and for me, and for all God's children in their times of trial, was that precious assurance of Jesus, "Your Father knoweth ye have need of all these things." Trust Him, and by His grace you will be able to overcome.—Christian Intelligencer.

RAVENS AND MAGPIES.

In the Lech valley there is a belief that the ravens never drink during June, because in that month they fed the prophet Elijah. In North Germany, Swabia, and Tyrol, a superstition prevails, that if the eggs are taken from a raven's nest, boiled, and replaced, the old raven will bring a root or stone to the nest, which he fetches from the sea. This "raven stone" is very valuable, for it confers great good fortune on its owner, and has likewise the power of rendering him invisible when worn on the arm. The stone is found in the nests of magpies as well as ravens, and as it makes the nest itself invisible, it must be sought with the aid of a mirror. In Pomerania and Rugen the method is somewhat different. The parent birds must have attained the age of 100 years, and the would-be possessor of the precious "stone" must climb up and kill one of the young ravens, who must be a cock bird, and not over six weeks old. Then the aggressor descends, taking careful note of the tree. The old raven immediately returns with the stone, which he puts in his son's beak, and, thereupon, both tree and nest become invisible. The man, however, feels for the tree, and on reaching the nest he carries off the stone in triumph. Rugen folks declare that this feat can only be accomplished by the help of the devil, and that the man's soul is the price paid for such assistance. The Swabian peasantry maintain that the young ravens are nourished solely by the dew from heaven during the first nine days of their existence. As they are naked, and of a light color, the old birds do not believe they are their progeny, and consequently neglect to feed them, but they occasionally cast a glance at the nest, and when the young ones begin to show a little black down on their breast by the tenth day, the parents bring them the first carrion.—All the Year Round.

"Among the wealthier classes the floating information of the family circle often, though by no means always, both excites and gratifies a curiosity about natural phenomena; but among the poor this stimulus to mental growth is almost, if not entirely, wanting. An explanation of the physical causes of common events, such, for instance, as the raising of water in a pump, would usually be a revelation to the pupils of a Board School, and would start them upon a track which could hardly fail to render them more skilful workers in any department of industry, and which might even lead some of them to fortune. A wise and benevolent squire set on foot many years ago a school for the children of his laborers, in which drawing and the elements of natural science were carefully taught; and the result was that the children educated there, instead of remaining at the plough's tail, passed in an astonishingly large number of cases, into positions of responsibility and profit."—London Times

THE DISCOMFORTS OF ROYALTY.—The daughters of George III. were often weary of court etiquette, and used to get rid of it by spending their mornings at Frogmore, near Windsor, a small establishment, where they enjoyed rural pleasures, and were never intruded on by company. There they had their dumb pets, and fed their own chickens, ran out and in unattended, and were entirely free from the trammels of royalty. I have been there just after they had left the place, and found their work and their books lying about, and everything looking like the home of a private family. The wife of an officer in the army, who had apartments in Windsor Castle, said that the princesses would escape into her room sometimes, and beg for a glass of beer to quench their thirst, alleging as a reason for their doing so, that if they asked for it in their own home they must wait for a barrel to be tapped, and that would cause a new office to be created, for serving beer to them between meals, and that barrel would become the perquisite of some one of the household, and a fresh barrel would be tapped every time a glass of beer was called for. So great was the discomfort of a royal household in those days.—Mrs. Farrar's "Recollections" in Episcopal Recorder.

Question Corner.—No. 22.

Answers to these questions should be sent in as soon as possible and addressed Editor Northern Messenger. It is not necessary to write out the question, give merely the number of the question and the answer. In writing letters always give clearly the name of the place where you live and the initials of the province in which it is situated.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

- 181. Who was the first person that died a natural death?
182. What was the name and rank of the officer under Nebuchadnezzar that set fire to the temple at the first destruction of Jerusalem?
183. How many were the proverbs of Solomon?
184. What prophet wore a veil, and why?
185. What was the manner of Saul's death?
186. Who was the mighty man of valor afflicted with leprosy?
187. What aged prophet's hands were upheld by two persons and caused the armies of Israel to be victorious?
188. Who was Samson's father?
189. Who partook of a meal prepared by an angel?
190. The birth of how many distinguished Bible characters were announced by angels?
191. How many Canaanite kings did the children of Israel destroy on the taking of the promised land?
192. Who slew three hundred Philistines with a spear?

SCRIPTURAL ACROSTIC.

A Roman lady saluted by Paul. 2, The eldest son of Jacob and Leah. 3, A king of Judah. 4, A symbol of subjection and servitude. 5, A thin cake of fine flour, anointed with oil, used in various offerings. 6, The son of Abraham and Sarah. 7, A city of Judah. 8, A city of Syria, famous for its wines. 9, A bird pronounced by Moses to be unclean. 10, A river, near Shushan, in the Province of Elam, on the bank of which Daniel had a vision. 11, A disciple of Paul. 12, A measure. 13, The son and successor of Baasha, assassinated by Zimri, who succeeded him as king. 14, One of Zeruah's sons, noted for his swiftness of foot. 15, The first Christian martyr. 16, The son of Saul, and, also, his successor as king over the greater part of Israel. 17, A god of the Assyrians. 18, A city of the Philistines.

Initials give a verse of Holy Scripture; one that each and every Christian should keep ever in mind.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN No. 20.

- 157. Sidonians, 1 Kings v. 6.
158. Elijah's, 1 Kings xviii. 41.
159. Nehemiah, Neh. vi. 10, 13.
160. Nazarites, Num. vi. 1.
161. David, 1 Sam. xvi. 11.
162. Hoheba, 2 Kings, xv. 30.
163. Solomon, 1 Kings v. 5, 15.
164. Midianites, Judges viii. 26.
165. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, Num. xxvi. 10.
166. Children Rechab, Jer. xxxv. 1, 10.
167. Midianite army, Judges vii. 12.
168. Uzziah, 2 Chron. xxvi. 16.

ANSWER TO SCRIPTURE ENIGMA.

Fig-tree. CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED. To No. 20.—Susie E. Brown, 11; Margaret Patton, 12; Annie Patton, 12; Annie Donaldson, 12; Francis Hooker, 12; A. A. B., 12; J. W. H. Milne, 12. To No. 19.—Clarence N. Goodspeed, 8; William Fraser, 9; Hugh Miller, 7; Annie Donaldson, 10; Francis Hooker, 10; Margaret Patton, 10; Annie Patton, 10. Susie E. Brown, 10.