WHERE ARE THE NINE?

An exchange says: "It is surprising how few members are active in maintaining the services of the ordinary church. In a church of one hundred members, seventy-five could be picked out whose death would not put a check to any one department of the work. On the other hand, the death of a selected ten would break up the prayer-meeting, the Sunday-school and the finances. How the idlers can be content with themselves we do not understand."

"Strange as this may seem," remarks the *Sabbath Recorder*, "it is nothing new. We remember that of the ten lepers whom Jesus cleansed only one turned back to thank him for it and he was a Samaritan; Jesus expressed his sorrow at their ingratitude in words which ought to pierce every indifferent soul: 'Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.' Is this a true picture of the church? Let every one of us resolve that, if we have hitherto been one of the nine we will no longer train in that company, but we will be one of the ten who were not only cleansed but who returned to give God the glory. Any man bearing the name of a Christian ought to be cast down to the depths of humiliation in his own soul, if it can be truthfully said of him that the largest place he fills in the church is on its list of members. In the public worship of God on the Sabbath, in the prayer-meeting, in the Bible school, in the general religious atmosphere of his own home and the community, in works of mercy and deeds of love, in the councils of those who plan and pray for the spread of the Gospel in all the world, in every movement in the social, moral and religious reforms, in the contribution box representing the backbone of all progressive work, in some or all of these places and ways there is certainly room for every consecrated, earnest Christian worker to make himself felt; and every Christian should aim to be such a Christian."—*Selected.*

THE GIFT BIBLE.

A devout and godly woman, who from her childhood had been a constant and systematic reader of the Bible, who had actually worn out several Bibles in the process, and who for several years has been dead and singing in Heaven, some forty years ago presented to her son, on the occasion of his tenth birthday, a copy of a reference Bible, writing on its first page these words:

"*May you love its pages, and take it as the rule of your life.*"

She added thereto the following impressive quotation:

"Within this sacred volume lies
The mystery of mysteries;
And better had he ne'er been born,
Who reads to doubt, or reads to scorn."

That mother taught the child of her affections to love the Saviour. That child, after reaching the years of manhood, preceded her in death. She thought of him as in Heaven, while she for more than twenty years afterward remained on earth, expecting to meet him in the spirit-realm. Among the things which she does not there regret is this gift of the Scriptures, as a token of the mother's love alike for her child and her Saviour. Christian mother and Christian father, is there anything better that you can do on earth than to lead your children to Christ? If your example here is wrong and if its effect is bad on them—yea, if your piety, as it appears in the daily scenes of your home-life, is mainly a mere nominal profession, then alas for your influence, and alas for that piety. If where you are best known you seem to be least the Christian, then be sure you are not the mother or the father that you ought to be. If your influence in your family is practically anti-Christian, then may God open your eyes to see things as they are.

Question Corner.—No. 25.

PRIZE BIBLE QUESTIONS.

64. What woman was punished by being smitten with a loathsome disease, but was afterwards healed?

65. How many times was the Jordan divided so that men passed over on dry ground?

Messenger Premiums.

OUR NEW OFFER FOR 1888.

We have pleasure in placing before our readers our large list of new premiums promised in addition to those in the last number of the *Northern Messenger*, and expect, with the greater inducements offered, to have our ONE THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED PRIZE WINNERS of last year more than doubled. Read the whole list carefully and work for the article you want most.

In competing for premiums subscriptions must be sent at THIRTY CENTS EACH.

1. CHRIST BEFORE PILATE. A copy of Michael Munkacsy's celebrated painting now on exhibition in Philadelphia and which cost its owner, John Wanamaker, $120,000. The photogravure reproduction which we have had made especially for our readers is a marvel of beauty and we offer it to all for one new subscription to the *Northern Messenger*, and 25 cents additional, or 55 cents altogether. An old subscriber who obtains only one new subscription may send $1.00 for the two copies of the *Messenger*, and two copies of the great picture, "Christ before Pilate." The new subscriber will have his paper free until the end of 1888, so the sooner his subscription comes in the more he will receive for his money. The picture measures 19 by 24 inches and is printed on heavy etching paper.

2. MANUAL OF BIBLICAL GEOGRAPHY.—This will be found an invaluable help to ministers, Sunday-school teachers and all Bible students. It is prepared by the Rev. J. S. Hurlbut, D.D., associate editor of the "International Sunday-School Lesson Commentary" and Superintendent of the Normal department of the Chautauqua Assembly, with an introduction by the Rev. J. H. Vincent, D.D., of Chautauqua fame. This atlas contains over fifty maps, twenty-five of which are full page size, 12 in. by 10, and one, of the Old Testament world, covers two pages. Besides these the Manual contains a large number of special maps of important localities, mountains, cities, &c., and also a large number of colored diagrams showing heights of mountains, areas of Tabernacle and temples, and Bible weights and measures. A unique feature is a series of outline lessons in map drawing and blackboard lessons in the geography of Palestine. The regular selling price of this "Manual" is $2.75, but by special arrangement with the publishers we are able to offer it to our subscribers with ONE YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION to the *Northern Messenger* for the small sum of $2.00. For $2.75 we will send the "Manual" and FOUR copies of the *Messenger* for one year. For $3.00 we will send the "Manual" and FIVE copies of the *Messenger* for one year. The regular subscription to the *Northern Messenger* is 30 cents, so that by forwarding us FIVE NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS and $1.50 more you will secure for your own use one of the best Bible atlases ever offered and at $1.25 less than the regular selling price of the work.

3. THE KING STAMPING OUTFIT, something that every lady needs. Many are prevented from undertaking a piece of embroidery or painting simply because there is no place near by where they can get their material stamped. Then why not possess a stamping outfit of your own. In view of our present offer there is nothing to hinder. This stamping outfit is more than the name indicates. Besides 100 ARTISTIC PATTERNS with two boxes of stamping powder, one black and one white, with the necessary pads and full directions for use on any kind of material, the box contains a book of instructions in Kensington, and Lustra painting, a book of crazy patchwork, a new book of Patterns of knitting and crocheting, and a felt tidy, already stamped, with silk to work it. No lady need be without these useful articles any longer. Send us NINE NEW SUBSCRIBERS to the *Northern Messenger*, or FIVE NEW SUBSCRIBERS and 25 cents, and we will send you one post free.

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CANADA:
PROVINCE OF QUEBEC,
District of Montreal.

SUPERIOR COURT.

Dame FRANCES EAGLESON, wife *commune en biens* of John Frederick Wolff, of the City and District of Montreal, Merchant, Plaintiff,

vs

The said JOHN FREDERICK WOLFF, Defendant.

An action *en separation de biens* was instituted in this matter on the 8th inst.

Montreal, 20th November, 1888.

BUTLER & BIGHTHALL,
Attorneys for Plaintiff.

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