

Illustrations of Sabbath School Lessons for April.

FIRST SABBATH.

Golden Text:—That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Heb. 6:12.

The Rev. J. A. James, the well-known minister of Birmingham, says in one of his Lectures, "If the present lecturer has a right to consider himself a real Christian, if he has been of any service to his fellow creatures, and has attained to any usefulness in the Church of Christ, he owes it, in the way of means and instrumentality, to the sight of a companion, who slept in the same room with him, bending his knees in prayer, on retiring to rest. That scene, so unostentatious, and yet so unconcealed, roused my slumbering conscience, and sent an arrow to my heart; for, though I had been religiously educated, I had restrained prayer, and cast off the fear of God. My conversion to God followed, and soon afterwards my entrance upon college studies for the work of the ministry. Nearly half a century has rolled away since then, with all its multitudinous events; but that little chamber, that humble couch, that praying youth, are still present to my imagination, and will never be forgotten, even amidst the splendour of heaven, and through the ages of eternity."

SECOND SABBATH.

Golden Text:—In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness. Zechariah 13:1.

We are told that there is no power of chemistry, or art, or genius, or all combined, that can convert scarlet and crimson rags into white paper; hence these generally make the red blotting paper. Sin then defies all human power to change it or blot it away. But the Almighty says, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be as red as crimson, they shall be as wool." And how is this marvellous change effected,—a change of which there is no analogy in nature? Let us see: "The Blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin." The multitude which St. John saw before the Throne, washed their robes, crimson and scarlet with sins as they were, and defying all human means to change them, and made them white in the Blood of the Lamb.—*Bute*.

I dare assert, without fear of successful contradiction, that the inspired writers attribute all the blessings of Salvation to the precious blood of Jesus Christ. If we have redemption, it is through His blood; if we are justified, it is by His blood; if

washed from our mortal stains, it is by His blood, which cleanseth us from all sin; if we have victory over the last enemy, we obtain it not only by the word of the Divine testimony, but through the blood of the Lamb; and, if we gain admittance into heaven, it is because we "have washed our robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, and therefore are we before the throne of God." Everything depends on the blood of Christ; and "without shedding of blood there is no remission."—*Dr. R. Newton*.

THIRD SABBATH.

Golden Text:—But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Mark 10:14.

Here is a letter from a girl in Boston, 12 years of age. Her friends had thought her a sweet innocent girl, but she, you see, was taught by God to say:

"I was a great sinner," "I am a little girl twelve years old, I attended your meetings two weeks ago, and you spoke very kindly to me, and made me feel that I was a great sinner. And you prayed with me, and asked Jesus to forgive all my sins, and he did. And I went home feeling that Jesus had made my heart clean in his blood. I feel very happy and love to pray to him and read my Bible. I brought one of my playmates to your meetings, and she went home very happy, feeling that Jesus had forgiven all her sins. And I wish that all, who have not found Jesus, would seek him now before it is too late. I know they would be very happy to know that Jesus had forgiven all their sins."

This young disciple was among the number of those of whom the *Boston Traveller* thus speaks:—

"In the Sabbath School connected with the Salem Street Church, there was a scene, the like of which has seldom if ever been witnessed in this vicinity. It having appeared that there was some of the scholars interested in the subject of religion, it was thought best to turn the session into a prayer-meeting.

"Rev. Mr. Hammond was present, and, in the course of the meeting, invited the whole school to join with him in prayer. They did so, and the result was a general melting down of all hearts.

"At the close of the prayer, the classes remained together upon their knees, the teachers praying with their scholars, many of the children and young persons begging to be prayed for, that they might give their hearts to Christ.

"The scene will long be remembered by those present. It was found in the evening, that quite a number of the scholars had