

the Euphrates. The Persian Empire extended to the Mediterranean; CONVEY ME OVER, or "Let me pass." It would be a journey of 1,100 miles from Shushan to Jerusalem. (8) KING'S FOREST, or "park," the Greek "paradise," probably near Jerusalem; PALACE, or "fortress," some suppose the Baris, afterwards Antonia, the citadel north of the temple; others say Solomon's palace, south of the temple, 2 Chron. 23: 5, 15; THE HOUSE, the temple.

III. QUESTIONS.—What letters did he ask? How far did the Persian Empire extend towards the West? The length of Nehemiah's journey? For what purposes did he wish timber? How get permission to obtain it? Whom did he acknowledge as the source of his success? What do you learn from this lesson as to—

1. The possibility of piety in high positions, and under ungodly masters?
2. The seconding of prayer by effort and of effort by prayer?
3. A true patriot's feelings for a suffering country?
4. A true Christian's feelings for a suffering church?
5. The duty of giving God the praise for all success?

LESSON IV.

THE BUILDERS INTERRUPTED. [About 444 B.C.]

READ Neh. 4: 7-18. COMMIT TO MEMORY v 15, 16.

7. But it came to pass, that when San-bal-lai, and To-bi-ah, and the A-ra'-bi-ans, and the Am'-mon-ites, and the Ash'-dod-ites, heard that the walls of Je-ru'-sa-lem were made up, and that the breaches began to be stopped, then they were very wroth.

8. And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Je-ru'-sa-lem, and to hinder it.

9. Nevertheless, we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night, because of them.

10. And Ju'-dah said, The strength of the bearers of burdens is decayed, and there is much rubbish; so that we are not able to build the wall.

11. And our adversaries said, They shall not know, neither see, till we come in the midst among them, and slay them, and cause the work to cease.

12. And it came to pass, that when the Jews which dwelt by them came, they said unto us ten times, From all places whence ye shall return unto us they will be upon you.

13. Therefore set I in the lower places behind the wall, and on the higher places, I even set the people after their families with their swords, their spears, and their bows.

14. And I looked, and rose up, and said unto the nobles, and to the rulers, and to the rest of the people, Be not ye afraid of them: remember the Lord, which is great and terrible, and fight for your brethren, your sons and your daughters, your wives, and your houses.

15. And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work.

16. And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Ju'-dah.

17. They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.

18. For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Nevertheless, we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch against them day and night because of them—Nehemiah 4: 9.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The world opposes the work of the Lord.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—Nehemiah, having the king's commission, returned to Jerusalem guarded by a troop of horsemen. Avaro of the opposition of Sanballat and others (see Notes), he determined to hasten his work. He made a survey of the walls by night, and then openly proclaimed his mission and authority, and summoned the rulers and people to help him in the work. Sanballat and his associates became seriously alarmed. The lesson gives an account of their attempts to hinder the work, and of the measures Nehemiah took for defence.

NOTES ON PERSONS, etc.—San-bal-lai, called the Horonite, probably as a native of one of the Beth-horons, Josh. 16: 3, 5; 2 Chron. 8: 5, within the limits of the old kingdom of Samaria; others say from Horonaim in Moab. Samaria was the chief city, and he was jealous of Jerusalem; hence, as the leader of the Samaritans, he opposed Nehemiah's work. He gained great influence in Jerusalem after Nehemiah's departure; his daughter married the son of the high priest Eliashib, and he erected a rival temple on Mt. Gerizim and made his son-law high priest. To-bi-ah, a servant, or slave, and an Ammonite, Neh. 2: 10; probably the secretary and chief adviser of Sanballat, Neh. 6: 17-19. Afterwards he had such influence as to occupy a room in the temple from which Nehemiah expelled him, Neh. 13: 4-9. A-ra'-bi-ans, in general the inhabitants of Arabia, but here probably a band especially attached to Sanballat and "the army of Samaria," Neh. 4: 2. Am'-mon-ites, descendants of Ben-Ammi, the younger son of Lot, Gen. 19: 38. They inhabited the region east of the Dead Sea. Ash'-dod-ites, inhabitants of Ashdod, one of the five principal cities of the Philistines, 33 miles west of Jerusalem, and 2 miles from the Mediterranean. Ha-ber'-ge-ons, old English for "coats of mail." From *hals* (neck) and *bergen* (to protect). They were made of thin scales of bronze or iron, sewed upon leather, or linen, and overlapping each other.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I) CONSPIRACY. (II) DISCOURAGEMENT. (III) ENCOURAGEMENT. (IV) WATCHING AND WORKING.

I. CONSPIRACY. (7.) ARABIANS, AMMONITES, ASH-DODITES. Most of these people were subjects of Persia.

II. QUESTIONS.—State how Nehemiah obtained permission to come to Jerusalem. How he surveyed the city by night. What hostility was excited against the work of rebuilding? Why did Sanballat and others

oppose the work? In what words did they deride it? State what you know of each of those opposing parties. Give some examples of conspiracy and of divine help?

II. DISCOURAGEMENT. (10.) STRENGTH \* \* \* IS DECAYED, etc., by reason of the hard work already done in rebuilding. (12.) WHICH DWELT BY THEM, on the borders of Samaria; TEN TIMES, or "reported unto us ten times from all quarters that which they devised against us;" YE SHALL RETURN, etc., come back to your own homes, for fear of an attack. There were thus three sources of discouragement: (1) Judah, v. 10; (2) the adversaries, v. 11; (3) the helpers from the provinces, v. 12.

III. QUESTIONS.—Describe the feeling of Judah. The threat of the adversaries? The attempts to call the workers home. Give an example of discouraging words.

III. ENCOURAGEMENT. (13.) LOWER PLACES, which needed special defence, as most exposed to attack. (14.) GREAT AND TERRIBLE, comp. Neh. 1: 5; 9: 32; Dent. 7: 21; Dan. 9: 4. (15.) WE RETURNED, the work had stopped while these preparations for defence were being made.

III. QUESTIONS.—How did Nehemiah arrange the people for defence? Describe the weapons. In whom was their help? For whom were they to fight? The effect upon the enemy? The renewal of the work? Examples of preparation and encouragement?

IV. WATCHING AND WORKING. (16.) MY SERVANTS, either "my subjects" (*Speaker's*) or a special band attached to Nehemiah (*Louise*).

IV. QUESTIONS.—State the two divisions of Nehemiah's servants. Describe the weapons. The arms of those who builded. The armor for the Christian warrior.

What facts in this lesson teach us that—

1. Opposition is to be expected in Christian work?
2. Faint-heartedness is to be expected?
3. Opposition and faint-heartedness should only make workers more resolute?
4. Preparation is the best security against attack?

THE DIFFICULTIES OF SELECTING ADVERTISEMENTS.

No more difficult problem vexes the journalist than that which is raised in a letter published to-day. If his object is simply to make money he adopts the easy theory that he is not responsible for what appears in his advertising columns, and, except with regard to very disgraceful things, adheres to it, filling his space indifferently with what is good and what is bad, by far the greater part of it being devoted to medical nostrums, theatrical shows, liquors and the like, no objection being made to medicines whose evident use is immoral, to shows which are direct appeals to the passions, to humbugs which carry falsehood on the face of them, or to lotteries which are against the law. When one begins, however, with more or less conscientiousness to draw the line, it becomes a very fine question where it should be drawn. When the WITNESS and MESSENGER came into existence, it is safe to say that three-fourths and probably much more of the advertising space of neighboring journals was occupied with matter that the publishers of these papers could not insert. To develop a business out of that class of advertisements that was represented by the other fourth was the task to which they set themselves, and in which they have succeeded beyond expectation. It must be remembered, however, that there must always be some ground on which to refuse an advertisement before, in justice to the advertiser and to one's own business, it can be refused. One may be perfectly convinced that the great majority of patent medicines are mischievous, at least in their common use, and yet not believe that all such medicines are bad. In vain do we decline to give discounts to that class of advertisers, and distinctly declare on the cards on which our advertising terms are announced that they are not wanted. Unless we are going to reject all indiscriminately we must still have reasons for refusing any that are rejected. After many years of careful and very practical consideration of this question, we declare ourselves unable to formulate any rule which will relieve us from a careful weighing of every individual case, and a decision of it on grounds rather of feeling than of reason, making it a rule to give the decision in the negative if there is any available ground at all for doing so. As an example of this we declined the other day an advertisement worth between two thousand and three thousand dollars, on the ground that it contained the words, "it cures cancer." We were not prepared to say that the medicine in question never cured cancer. The particular case cited was to all appearance as well attested as a case could be, but it seemed meant to convey the impression that cancers generally might be cured by it. Some advertisers, will in such a case, alter the advertisement so as to remove objections and

submit it again; but this one as an assertion of his own integrity, withdrew in disdain. Many thousands of dollars are deliberately put aside in this way, not in connection with medicines only. The same difficulty of choice exists in other lines. There has arisen of late a very prolific class of advertisements, of which that referred to in the letter in question is a sample—offering a number of trifles for trifling sums of money. In some cases statements are made in the advertisement more or less calculated to deceive. If the statement is a direct falsehood there is no question as to how to act, but this is not the usual way. The word gold may be so mixed up in the description of a casket of jewellery offered for a dollar that a careless reader might be led to suppose that the jewellery in question purported to be made of gold. As, however, no sane person could possibly expect to get a large box of gold jewellery for a dollar, there is no reasonable fear of deception. In this case, however, another question of morality crops up, namely, as to whether imitation jewellery is not in itself immoral; but it would be hard to make a rule about this that could be generally applied. Wax flowers and bonnet flowers are imitations, and so are most works of art. A great many things are urged on the public on what appear to be false pretences, every reason being asserted for disposing of the article at the price named except what is usually the real one, namely, the hope of profit out of its sale. The appeal is to a class of purchasers who wish to get things for less than their market value. But how are we to know that the pretence is a false one? The one mentioned in the letter, that of obtaining names, is, we happen to know, a real object, much valued by many advertisers, some of whom use the names so obtained in a harmless way, and some of them in very vile ways indeed. The probability is that the person who sets this forward as his object is not one of the latter class. We have had the greatest misgivings about advertisements of nick-nacks, cards, &c., lest they should be covers to obtain names for vile uses, but have not yet obtained any information to cause us to refuse them all on this score. We have always listened eagerly for any complaint with regard to the misuse of our advertising columns. When any reasonable complaint has come it has been thankfully acknowledged, the advertisement suppressed, and the advertiser thereafter excluded. But this has been exceedingly rare. It is reasonable to suppose that among fifty thousand to a hundred thousand readers of our advertisements, most of whom are able to connect cause and effect and to inform us when anything is wrong, any nefarious business would pretty speedily come to light, and we may say that nothing of the kind has been made known to us. Finally, we wish to repeat that we can take no responsibility with regard to the character of our advertisers, nor of the exactitude of their representations. It is simply impossible for us to enter further into the matter than to see that the advertisement bears no evil on the face of it. With regard to the trifles offered in such an advertisement as that here under discussion, the reader has simply, before he sends his money, to ask himself whether he is willing to pay the sum of twenty-five cents and a postage stamp for the articles described, including carriage, advertising (in this case worth a dollar a line) and profit. We do not presume him to take the statement as literal that he will obtain for it an entire brass band in a nutshell, but an instrument that would amuse a child for a month and "drive the old folks frantic" for the same time, may easily prove as useful as it is cracked up to be. The article in question is certainly a very funny thing indeed when one discovers how to use it. If the advertisement is not strictly ingenious, there is certainly nothing on the face of it to make one suppose that the purchaser would not get fair value for his money. Further than this we cannot discriminate.

PRIZE PACKAGE ADVERTISEMENTS.

(To the Editor of the Messenger.)

SIR,—There appeared in the MESSENGER of November 15th a flaming advertisement, under the heading of "Holiday Cabinet," emanating from the "Eureka Trick and Novelty Company," purporting to send to any address, "post-paid," on the receipt of 25c., "six new and useful articles," viz: "Pocket Memorandum Book," "Youth's Box of Paints," "Mystic Oracle," "Eureka Pocket Book," "Jet Sleeve Buttons," and "French Merleton," assigning

as a reason for making such an extraordinary offer the desire to procure names for their "Holiday Catalogue," &c. I long since learned to pass such baits by, without so much as a passing notice; but the above advertisement came under the observation of my son (a lad of thirteen years), who was so impressed with the flattering inducements to invest in the "Cabinet" that I finally consented to his wish, and the money was immediately forwarded. A few days of anxious waiting, and the box came all right, excepting the "useful" was entirely minus, and as regards value (if the term is applicable at all), we should think the whole "business" would be dear at five cents, which was represented as being wonderfully under value at 25c.

The query with me is, Why are such advertisements admitted in such papers as the WITNESS, and particularly the MESSENGER? appearing as the advertisement did in the MESSENGER side by side with the Sabbath-school lesson. The tendency is to inspire in the minds of the young confidence in such worthless, trashy humbugs as are advertised in nearly all the would-be respectable family newspapers. The time certainly has come when journalism should be conducted on some plan that would prove sufficiently remunerative to justify the journalist in rejecting every advertisement that is not strictly in accordance with truthfulness and honesty. And where the proof of the "bonafidness" of the advertisement is lacking it should invariably be refused a place in every respectable newspaper.

My conclusion in reference to the "Trick and Novelty Company" is that the "Trick" consists of duping the unwary out of their hard-earned cash, and the "Novelty" of the fact that there are always so many ready, and apparently willing, to be fleeced.

A. M. B.  
Moultrie, Ohio, Nov. 11, 1878.

PLEASANT INDICATIONS.

A very large proportion of the readers of the WITNESS are endeavoring to double the circulation of that paper by each one getting another. The MESSENGER's circulation can hardly be doubled in that manner, as it is so largely taken in clubs. But many of the children who get it may do something to obtain subscribers. Each one must have some friend who would like to read such an interesting little paper as the MESSENGER. We desire every one, whether taking the paper singly or in a club, to get one more subscriber for us. There is a great pleasure in the work. Just try it.

NOTICE.

Subscribers to this paper will find the date their subscription terminates printed after the name. Those expiring at the end of the present month will please have the remittances mailed in time.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

EPPS'S COCOA—GRATEFUL AND COMFORTING.—"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—Civil Service Gazette.—Sold only in Packets labelled—"JAMES EPPS & CO., Homeopathic Chemists, London, Eng."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

25 BEAUTIFUL ALL CHROMO CARDS, 10c; or 65 Snowflake, Rep, Damask, assorted, 10c (large size). Agents' Outfit 10c. Send Canada 1/2, 1 and 2c P.O. Stamps in payment. L. C. COE & CO., Bristol, Conn.

25 CHROMO CARDS & CO. CUPID'S MOTTOES, Flowers, no two alike, 10c; 25 Bird Cards, 10c; 25 new style New Year's Cards, 10c. Any of the above sent postpaid with name on receipt of price. Nassau Card Co., Nassau, New York, U.S.

50 PERFUMED BEST MIXED CARDS IN FANCY CASE, name in Gold, for 10 cents, or 50 Perfumed Chromo and Snowflake Cards in case, name in gold, for 10 cents. DAVIDS & CO., Northford, Conn.

25 CARDINAL, NAVY BLUE, SEAL BROWN AND Bottle Green Cards, with name in gold, 20c; 25 Fancy Cards, plain or gold, 10c; 150 styles. Agents' outfit, 10c. Good Cards, good work, fair dealing. Try us. Canada money and P. O. stamps taken. HULL & CO., Hudson, N. Y.

60 CHROMO AND PERFUMED CARDS (no three alike), name in Gold and Jet, 10c; one pack of Age Cards, 10c. CLINTS BROS., Chintoville, Ct.

THE CLUB RATES FOR THE "MESSENGER" ARE when sent to one address, as follows:—1 copy, 30c.; 10 copies, \$2.50; 25 copies, \$6; 50 copies, \$11.50; 100 copies, \$22; 1,000 copies, \$200. J. DOUGALL & SON Publishers, Montreal.

The NORTHERN MESSENGER is printed and published on the 1st and 15th of every month, at Nos. 35 and 37 Donaventure street, Montreal, by JOHN DOUGALL & SON, composed of John Dougall, of New York and John Redpath Dougall and J. D. Dougall, of Montreal.