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PLEASANT HOURS

PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK.

Vol. XIV.]

TORONTO, JUNE 16, 1894.

[No. 24.

MOUNT SINAI.

We here present a picture of Mount Sinai, of which we read in the Bible. It is a bare, rugged mountain or chain of mountains in Arabia, of gray and red granite, rising abruptly in a wild, desolate region. This is the most memorable pile of rocks in the world, for it is the spot from which God gave his holy law, the Ten Commandments, to his people Israel. What a solemn day that was! How grand and awful must the scene have been! The people of Israel, many thousands, men, women and children, were assembled on the plain at the foot of this great mountain, where, looking up, they could see only a thick, black cloud out of which the lightning flashed, and heard amid the thunder the sound of a trumpet and the voice proclaiming to Moses the solemn words. No wonder the people were terrified when the Lord "talked with them from heaven;" yet they soon forgot, and disobeyed the holy law which was then given to them.

Would you not like to visit that spot, to see for yourself those grand mountains, to tread the sands of the very desert through which Moses led the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan? Perhaps you will go some time.

Our other picture shows us Moses breaking the tables of the law when he came down from the Mount and beheld the people worshipping the golden calf. What made this crime worse was the fact that the ox or calf was one of the deities of the Egyptians. They were honoured in life, embalmed in death and entombed in costly stone coffins. The Editor of this paper has visited near Cairo a grotto, eight hundred feet long, hewn in the solid rock, in which were the huge stone coffins of twenty-four sacred bulls, each coffin weighing about sixty-five tons of single stone, and brought six hundred miles from the quarries of Assouan. Yet the rebellious Israelites, forsaking the worship of the true God, brought their treasures of gold to be made into an image of a calf to which they bowed down in worship. Was it not a fit type of the brutishness of their conduct?

THE CURE FOR GOSSIP.

WHAT is the cure for gossip? Simply culture. There is a great deal of gossip that has no malignity in it. Good people talk about their neighbours because they have nothing else to talk about. There comes to us the pic-



THE BREAKING OF THE TABLES OF THE LAW.

ture of a family of young ladies. We have seen them at home, we have met them at the galleries of art, we have caught glimpses of them going from a book-store or library with a fresh volume in their hands. When we meet them they are full of what they have seen and read. They are brimming with questions. One topic of conversation is dropped only to give place to another in which they are interested. We have left them after a delightful hour, stimulated and refreshed; and during the whole hour not a neighbour's garment was spoiled by so much as a

touch. They had something to talk about. They knew something and wanted to know more. They could listen as well as they could talk. To speak freely of a neighbour's doings and belongings would have seemed an impertinence to them, and, of course, an impropriety. They had no temptation to gossip, because the doings of their neighbours formed a subject less interesting than those which grow out of their knowledge and their culture.

And this tells the whole story. The confirmed gossip is either malicious or ignorant. The one variety needs a change of

heart and the other a change of pasture. Gossip is always a personal profession either of malice or imbecility, and the young should not only shun it, but by the most thorough culture relieve themselves from all temptation to indulge in it. It is a low, frivolous, and too often a dirty pastime. There are country neighbourhoods where it rages like a pest. Churches are split in pieces by it. By its neighbours are made enemies for life. In many persons it degenerates into a chronic disease which is practically incurable. Let the young cure it while they may.

Let them take up a good and judicious course of reading, just such a course as is laid down in the C. L. S. C., or the "Spare Minute Course." These courses are tested, and have in hundreds of cases proved an effectual cure of the thoughtless and vicious habit of gossip. Try it!

PRESIDENT GARFIELD'S MAXIMS.

POVERTY is uncomfortable, as I can testify; but nine times out of ten the best thing that can happen to a young man is to be tossed overboard and compelled to sink or swim for himself. In all my acquaintance I never knew a man to be drowned who was worth the saving.

If the power to do hard work is not talent, it is the best possible substitute for it.

It is one of the precious mysteries of sorrow that it finds solace in unselfish thought.

After all, territory is but the body of a nation. The people who inhabit its hills and valleys are its soul, its spirit, its life. In them dwells its hope of immortality.

Among them, if anywhere, are to be found its chief elements of destruction.

It matters little what may be the forms of national institution if the life, freedom, and growth of society are secured.

Finally, our great hope for the future—our great safeguard against danger—is to be found in the general and thorough education of our people, and in the virtue which accompanies such education.

Be fit for more than the thing you are now doing.

If you are not too large for the place you are too small for it.

If the devil gets a man's ear, he is pretty sure to get both his hands before he leaves him.



MOUNT SINAI



THE SALOON KEEPER'S SIGN.

THE SALOON KEEPER'S SIGN.

It is the fashion among dealers in all kinds of goods to exhibit the results of the use of their goods. The merchant places in his window finely decorated figures, showing the effects of his laces, silks and pretty ornaments. The grocer hangs up the happy pictures of "Mellin's Food Babies," tired housekeepers rejoicing in some labour-saving soap. The shoemaker has pictures showing the gloss given to old shoes by some excellent shoe polish, and so on. In all the different kinds of business, men proudly display samples of their goods or the results of their use. The saloon-keeper, however, has no desire to decorate his window in this way. He can have no pride in the work done inside. Yet, if you look near his door, very often a real live figure will plainly advertise his work for him. In the above picture we see before the door of a saloon, the poor, ragged, shivering little form of the daughter of one of the patrons of this shop. It is an example of the kind of child-life this dealer in wines and liquors will make for the little ones of his customers. These bare-footed, ragged figures standing near the bar-room doors are, alas, the life-pictures which advertise the grog-shop's work, the manufactures of a business made legal by so-called Christian governments!

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTERLY REVIEW.

JUNE 24.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord's portion is his people.—Deut 32. 9.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Joseph sold into Egypt.—Gen. 37. 23-36.
- Tu. Joseph ruler in Egypt.—Gen. 41. 38-43.
- W. Joseph forgiving his brethren.—Gen. 45. 1. 15.
- Th. Israel in Egypt.—Exod. 1. 1-14.
- F. The childhood of Moses.—Exod. 2. 1-10.
- S. The passover initiated.—Exod. 12. 1-14.
- Su. Passage of the Red Sea.—Exod. 14. 19-31.

I. TENTER HOOKS.

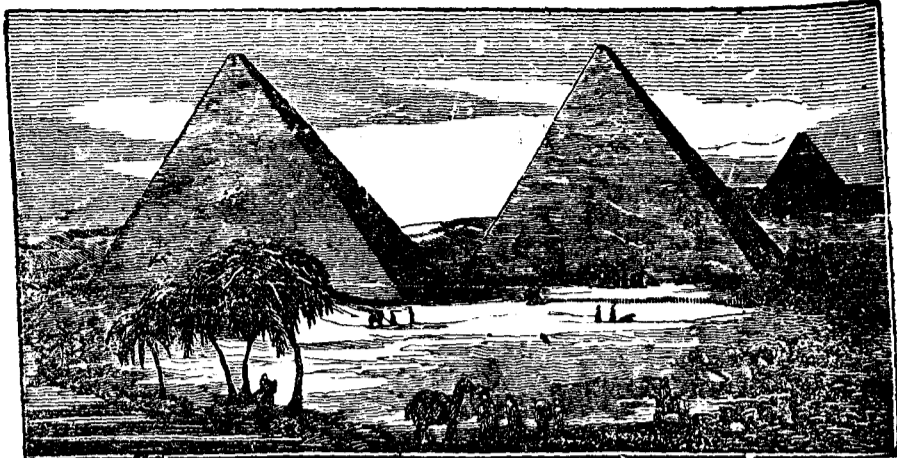
The pupil should commit to memory the Titles and Golden Texts. They are the "tenter-hooks" of the Quarter's lessons.

1. J. P. P. - - - I will not let thee go—
2. D. in J. F. - - - See that ye fall not—
3. J. S. into E. - - - Ye thought evil—
4. J. R. in E. - - - Them that honour—
5. J. F. his B. - - - If thy brother—
6. J. L. D. - - - The path of the just—
7. I. in E. - - - Our help is in the—
8. The C of M. - - - I will deliver—
9. M. S. as a D. - - - Fear thou not—
10. The P. I. - - - Christ our passover—
11. P. of the R. S. - - - By faith they passed—
12. The W. of the D. Look not thou upon—

II. WARP AND WOOF.

These questions are intended to cover the main facts of each lesson. Try to answer them from memory:

1. To whom did Jacob address his prayer? For what deliverance did he pray? With whom did he wrestle? How was he finally overcome? What change was made in his name? What did Jacob give to the place?
2. Who was Jacob's favourite son? How did his brothers regard Joseph? What dream did he have about sheaves?
3. Where did Joseph's brethren first place him? What did they at length do with him? What was done with Joseph's coat? What did Jacob say when he saw it? How long did he think his grief would last?
4. To what office was Joseph promoted? What symbols of authority did he receive? Whom did he marry? How old was he at this time? How did he show his wisdom during the seven years of plenty?
5. Who were present when Joseph made himself known to his brethren? What did he say about his being sent to Egypt? What did he promise to do for his father's house? How long would he care for them?
6. What fear had Joseph's brethren when their father died? What did they ask of Joseph? What promise did Joseph make in reply? What did he tell them that God would do? What pledge did he require of them?
7. How many sons had Jacob? What is said of the prosperity of his descendants? What did the King of Egypt fear? What plan did he devise to check their growth? How did the plan succeed?
8. Of whose marriage is there here a record? Where was their eldest son hidden? Who found him in the river? Who took



THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT.

- charge of the child for wages? Who at length adopted him? Who was this boy?
- 9. What summons came to Moses? Who sent Moses on this errand? From what did the Lord promise deliverance? To what land did he promise to bring the people? Who would hinder their going? How would the hindrance be overcome?
- 10. On what day of the month were the people to select their sacrifice? When was it to be killed? How was it to be prepared for eating? What was to be done with the blood? Why was this sacrifice required?
- 11. What defence came between the Israelites and their foe? How did the Israelites escape? Who pursued them? Who overthrew the Egyptians? How many escaped?
- 12. What woes does wine drinking bring? What wise warning have we against wine? To what are the effects of wine compared? To whom is a drunken man likened? What does the drunkard resolve to do?

III. PLANS AND PURPOSES.

A plan is necessary to a review. The purpose will determine the plan. The plan will hold one true to the purpose. Have a plan. Work the plan. A poor plan well worked is worth more than a model plan poorly executed. Three essentials underlie a successful review: Be brief; be spirited; be spiritual!

old-clothes vendors down in Drury Lane. He was absolutely insensible to the restraints and embarrassments which are wont to oppress the hearts and control the manners of those ministers of the Gospel who never can forget themselves, whatever they are saying or doing; he was an ambassador of Christ, and cared only to please his Master by faithfully delivering his message.

—A social examiner lately put the question: "What is the highest form of animal life?" "The giraffe!" responded a little girl.

—"When I grow up, I am going to live on a farm and eat lots of apples," said a little miss to her younger sister the other day. "If you do," said the youngster, "you'll get the appleplexy."

—Teacher: "Have animals a capacity for affection?" Class: "Nearly all." Teacher: "Correct. Now, what animal possesses the greatest attachment for man?" Little girl: "Woman!"

The June Time.

BY MRS. S. B. TITTERINGTON.

WHAT is the watchword of bees and of clover? Bird songs and glad hearts the merry world over?

From prince and from peasant, from poet and lover?

June, the sweet June time is here.

Hark to the music the brooklet is singing, From the small bird-throats the same song is ringing.

Sunshine and flowers, the green grass upspringing,

June, the sweet June time is here.

List to the children, the glad chorus swelling; In world-weary hearts a new joy is welling; Heaven comes down to earth, man in Paradise dwelling,

When June, the sweet June time is here.

Oh, the sweet fragrance of lilies and roses, Every small nook a new treasure discloses, Strife is forgotten, and God's peace reposes In the heart of the beautiful June.

WESLEY AS A PREACHER.

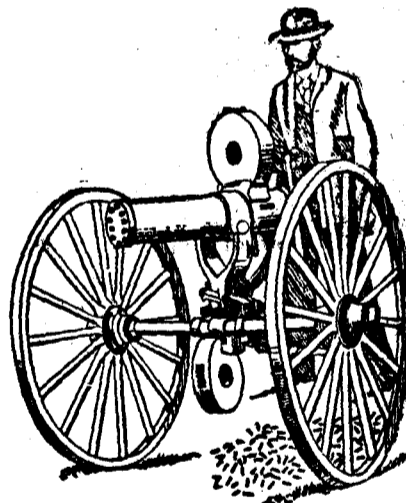
ON a certain occasion when Wesley was to preach to a wealthy and elegant congregation, he chose for his text, "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?"

After the sermon one of his hearers said to him: "Sir, such a sermon would have been suitable in Billingsgate, but it was highly improper here."

"If I had been in Billingsgate," said Wesley, "my text would have been, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.'"

Perhaps there is no single incident in the life of this preacher of righteousness which more fully opens up the secret of his wonderful power. His eye was keen enough to pierce through all the outward show of wealth, rank, and pride, and take a searching look into the souls of his congregation, who were none the less a company of miserable sinners than an equal number of ignorant, vicious fishwomen, coastermongers, and

JUST OUT.



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