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# Weekly Messenger

AND TEMPERANCE WORKER.

Vol. IV.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, FOR THE WEEK ENDING, JANUARY 3, 1885.

No. 1.

## The Weekly Messenger

### THE ICE CONDORA.

To-day we give a picture of the ice condora or cairn, about to be erected at Montreal, under the auspices of the East-End Carnival Committee. It will form one of the principal features of the Winter Carnival. The place for its erection—a large square called the Champ-de-Mars—has been already selected, and work will be commenced at once. The design is by Mr. Theo. Daoust, of Montreal. The structure is round, its base diameter being 75 feet, and its height, without the colossal statue is also 75 feet, built in a series of seven storeys. It is intended to represent an ancient Egyptian Castle. On the topmost block, a colossal figure will be placed, dressed in the picturesque costume of one of the snow-shoe clubs in this city. This figure will hold in its hand a torch, lighted by electricity at night. In the construction of the cairn and its eight flanking towers no less than 12,000 blocks of ice will be used. At night, it will be lit by the electric light from the inside and firework displays will take place outside.

**A VERY SEVERE EARTHQUAKE** occurred in Spain on Christmas Eve. One shock lasted fifty seconds, and was felt throughout the entire country. At Grenada the houses rocked violently, and the earth trembled greatly beneath the feet of the terror-stricken inhabitants. At Malaga the shock was more disastrously felt, many houses being wrecked, and a large number of the inmates being killed, while many were severely wounded. The government has sent provisions, clothing, &c., to the sufferers, and a subscription list has been opened for their relief. In Madrid the damage was slight, but the shock was sufficiently felt to frighten the inhabitants.

### THE OUTLOOK IN RUSSIA.

Very gloomy views concerning the present outlook in the Czar's dominions are indulged in by the Paris correspondent of the London, (Eng.) *Times*. He says that Count Tolstoi, the Russian Minister of the Interior, is chiefly engaged in the discovery and persecution of the Nihilists. No sooner is one society suppressed than another springs up. Count Tolstoi is continually threatened with death and whenever he stirs abroad it costs some five hundred roubles for his extra protection. While

Nihilism is more dangerous than ever, the prosecution of the Jews is as fierce as it was a few years ago, when the European pressed shame at the outrages disgracing Russia. The great bankers are said to be subsidizing the press for the purpose of preserving silence in order to prevent Russian finances being impaired in the sight of Europe. For all their efforts however, the condition of Russian finance is declared bad, it is not only suffering from the difficulty of collecting revenue, but from persistent American competition in the grain

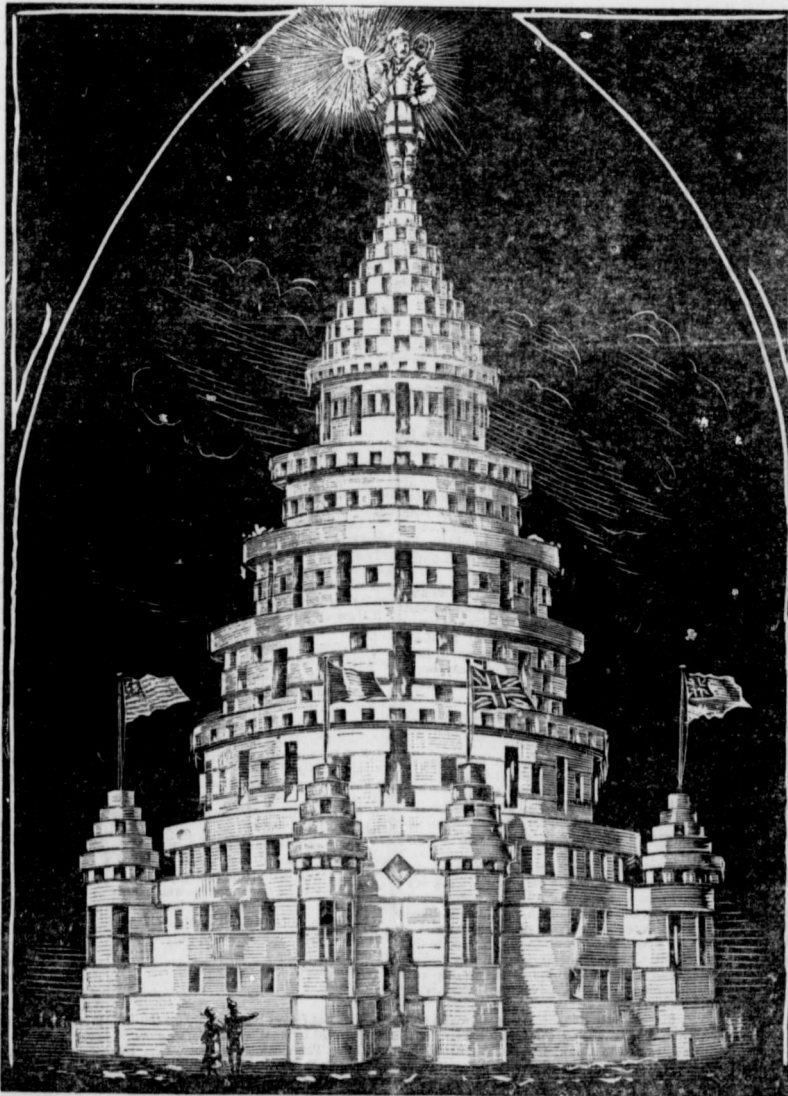
trade, as well as from the ruinous expense of the Russian advance on Merv. Despotism is increasing and the press is coerced into silence. Russia is more and more ignoring liberal ideas and paving the way for a tremendous explosion at some future date.

### THE CONGO.

A Brussels newspaper, the *Independence Belge*, reports a serious quarrel between the African Association and French agents in the Congo territory. An armed force of the International Association, commanded by M. Hodister, ascended the river Mpila to fight the natives, who had gathered to attack the Dutch and German factories at Loango. The commander of the French flotilla stopped the expedition, and arrested the Dutch agent for a violation of French territorial rights, demanding also the surrender of Hodister. Captain Elliot, chief of the International Association region of Mpila, refused to surrender Hodister, and a conflict was the result.

### THE FRANCO-CHINESE WAR.

The Marquis Tseng has warned Lord Granville that the sale to France of seven vessels to be used for the purpose of transporting French troops to China is a breach of the neutrality laws. The English Government has advised the owners of vessels that no evasion of the foreign enlistment act will be permitted. The semi-official denial of the purchase made by the French Government is not believed, because the brother-in-law of the Minister of Commerce had charge of the negotiations for their purchase. The French Consul at Tientsin is to be removed to Shanghai. This will sever the French official relations with China. A startling report has reached Paris that the French transports with troops from Toulon have been sunk by a Chinese cruiser between Singapore and Saigon.



THE ICE CONDORA.

RESTING.

"This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing.—Isa. xxxviii. 12.

Resting on the faithfulness of Christ our Lord; Resting on the fulness of His own sure word; Resting on His power, on His love untold; Resting on His covenant secured of old.

Resting 'neath His guiding hand for untracked days; Resting 'neath His shadow from the noon-tide rays; Resting at the eventide beneath His wing, In the fair pavilion of our Saviour King.

Resting in the fortress while the foe is nigh; Resting in the life-boat while the waves roll high; Resting in His chariot for the swift glad race. Resting, always resting in His boundless grace.

Resting in the pastures, and beneath the rock; Resting by the waters where He leads His flock; Resting, while we listen, at His glorious feet; Resting in His very arms!—O rest complete!

Resting and believing, let us onward press, Resting in Himself the Lord our righteous-ness; Resting and rejoicing, let his saved ones sing; Glory, glory, glory be to Christ our King;—Frances Ridley Havergal.

NELL'S OPPORTUNITIES.

[Kate S. Gates in Zion's Herald.]

CHAPTER I.—BEGINNING.

"A commonplace life we say and we sigh; But why should we sigh as we say? The commonplace sun in the commonplace sky Makes up the commonplace day. The moon and the stars are commonplace things, And the flower that blooms and the bird that sings; But dark were the world and sad our lot If the flowers faded and the sun shone not; And God who studies each separate soul, Out of commonplace lives makes his beautiful whole."—Susan Coolidge.

"I wish that we could all do great things; it is so tiresome, I think, just being commonplace, don't you, mamma?" said Nell Weston, laying her book aside with a discontented sigh.

"What do you call 'commonplace,' and what 'great things' would you like to do?" "Why, I call my life commonplace, it is nothing but doing housework, going to school, and amusing the children. I suppose that is about all it ever will be, only by and by I shall stop going to school. But oh, mamma, I wish I could be something great and good! If I could write a book and have lots of people writing to me telling me how much it had helped them, or if I could be a great nurse like 'Sister Dora,' just giving my whole life up to doing good! But what is the use of thinking about it? There will never be any such chances for me."

"Nell, will you give me a five-dollar gold piece?"

Nell had been lounging on the sofa, but she suddenly sat upright, and looked at her mother in blank astonishment.

"What did you say, mamma?" she asked, wondering if it could be possible that her mother was losing her mind.

"I asked you, please, to give me a five-dollar gold piece," replied Mrs. Weston with a queer little twinkle in her eyes.

"But I cannot. You know as well as I do that I haven't more than ten cents to my name, and am not likely to have until I am old enough to earn it myself."

"My daughter," said Mrs. Weston earnestly, all traces of merriment gone now; "Neither can you give to the world what you have not in your possession. You must acquire it first. Before you could write your book that should enable others, you must have noble helpful thoughts in your heart; you must be noble and true yourself. You cannot lead others beyond yourself. And if you would do some great work of self-sacrifice, you must strive to become self-denying and Christlike habitually, else when the opportunity comes, it will find you as the bride-

groom did the foolish virgins, not ready."

"But what if it never come?" "You would be noble, true and Christlike all the same. I think, however, that you will find the trouble is, not that the opportunity fails to come, but that either we are not prepared, or else we fail to discover it."

"Do I have any? No, of course, I have not had, but will I ever, do you suppose?" "I think that you do have opportunities every day of your life, little daughter."

"Mamma Weston, what can you mean?" asked Nell with an exclamation point after every word.

"Just what I say dear. Now there was yesterday's. You had promised to go and sit with Maggie Deane, but when Cora Clarke came for you to go to ride with her, you gave Maggie up and went. Poor Maggie had a long, lonely afternoon, all the harder to bear because she had been anticipating your coming all the week. You had the opportunity, and you did not use it."

"It was too bad, I know," said Nell, regretfully, "but then, after all, it was only a little thing."

"But it was too much for you, you see."

Nell was silent for some time. By and by she turned to her mother with a question—

"Are such little things the same as great things?"

"Certainly, exactly the same in principle. You will find that these lines of self-sacrifice which look so tempting as you read of them are hard to live. Hannah More says that when we read, we think we could be martyrs, but when we come to act, we cannot bear a provoking word. But every victory gained over self makes us stronger, and as fast as we deserve promotion He grants it. If you really desire a post of honor, you must see that you are fitted for it, and be willing to endure the hardships if you would win the glory. And remember, that for all we give up for Christ, we receive an hundred-fold back. There is no happiness like that found in giving our whole selves up to Christ. Carlyle speaks truly when he says that with self-renunciation begins life."

Again Nell relapsed into silence. Sometimes she wished that she was a Christian, and then again it looked so hard to be always struggling to be good, so easy and comfortable just to please oneself, that she could not make up her mind. She was halting betwixt two opinions.

"Mamma," she said presently, "I wish people turned good all at once. I am like the old chief who came to Dr. Livingstone and wanted some medicine to take for his wicked angry heart. I would not mind one real hard fight, it is the keeping at it all your life that discourages me."

"But it is only to those who endure to the end, who are faithful unto death, that the crown is promised. Isn't that reward worth struggling for, even all the days of your life? Oh, my precious daughter, you are willing to work day after day and year after year for the education you covet so much, why will you not strive to obtain the prize without which all else profiteth nothing?"

Nell nestled back among the pillows and gave herself up to her own meditations and dreams. She liked to read of lives of heroism and noble self-sacrifice. She liked almost, if not quite, as well to dream of herself as such a character, but—oh dear, could she deny herself in a thousand little ways every day of her life?

Just then her thoughts and the Sabbath afternoon stillness were broken into by an impetuous childish voice.

"I say, mamma, won't you come downstairs now? We are tired of musing ourselves, and want you to read to us."

It was Teddy's voice, and Margie, of course, was with him, for the two were inseparable. "Cause we're twines," Margie said.

Mamma laid down her book. Nell, watching her through her half-closed eyes, saw her give just a wee bit of a sigh. Mamma's chances for quiet thought and her beloved "Imitation" were few and far between.

"Why don't you go down and read to the children, and let your mother rest? She has to work hard all the week," whispered something or somebody very distinctly in Nell's ear.

But she only nestled closer down in the pillows. It was so comfortable here, and she wanted to think, besides she hated to read to the children—Teddy was sure to ask such awful questions. She had to study

hard herself all the week, and she did not want to go.

"Very hard you have to work for a strong healthy girl!" whispered back the little voice, just as distinctly as though Nell's head was not buried in the pillows. "I thought you hated shams, and were always saying that you would be a thing, and not pretend to be. Seems to me you are wanting to seem to be what you are not."

Nell's face clouded. Mamma had reached the door by this time. Oh dear, should she let her go? The door was open now, she must decide one way or the other.

"I'll go down, if you would like to read. I can make out to 'muse them, I guess."

"Thank you ever so much, dear, I would like to rest a little longer."

"What you a-comin' for?" asked Teddy in surprise, as Nell walked into the room.

"We want mamma, not you."

"But mamma is tired, and wants to rest a little. Won't I do just as well?"

"Nobody can't do as well as mamma," replied Teddy decidedly, for he was not particularly troubled with bashfulness or delicacy of feeling.

Nell felt strongly tempted for a minute to give it up, but, resisting the temptation, she answered pleasantly—

"Suppose, now that I am here, you try me, and see if I don't do pretty well."

"I s'pose we'll have to; here's the book." Nell sat down in the big chair by the window, Margie brought her little rocker over beside Nell, while Teddy established himself in front of them. The book which was one that Teddy had drawn from the Sabbath school library, was the story of a little boy, Robby by name, whose way as a transgressor was very hard, but who at last, profiting by his sad experience, found that the paths of virtue were indeed paths of peace. The children listened almost breathlessly. Nell became quite interested herself.

"Had a pretty hard time of it, didn't he?" commented Teddy, as she finished. "Seems to me I'd been good before, if I'd been in his place. 'Twould saved him lots of trouble."

"Maybe he didn't know that, suggested Margie.

"Oh you ain't through yet," interrupted Teddy, as Nell made a motion to rise. "You've got to make the application now. Mamma says it don't do any good to read good books unless you 'ply 'em to your own life, and try to profit by them. She 'plys them pretty hard sometimes, so you needn't be afraid of hurting us. Go ahead now, fast as you've a mind to."

Two thoughts went flashing through Nell's mind as she settled back in her chair. Had she missed the good of her reading by failing to apply its principles and teachings to her own life? And also, how could she give a helpful application of even this simple story to these children?

Mamma was right; one must have before they can give. Still there they were waiting; she would do the best that she could.

"I think," she said slowly and hesitatingly, "that you ought to learn from this story how very sure we are to get into trouble when we do wrong, and that even if it is hard, you will be a great deal happier when you are trying to do right."

"How do you know? Do you try yourself?"

Nell's face crimsoned. Teddy did ask such saucy questions! But something kept the saucy words unspoken. "After all was it any wonder that he asked the question?" whispered a little voice. Had she ever given him cause to think she knew the truth of what she was saying?

"Not as much as I ought, little brother," she said gently. "But suppose that we all try harder than ever, and see if it isn't so! Will we?"

"I will," whispered Margie, laying her hand lovingly in Nell's.

"Guess you've been trying this afternoon, haven't you?" asked the incorrigible Ted.

"Some," replied Nell laughingly.

"Well, you've done pretty well; hope you'll keep on. I think you're lots nicer."

"I believe—that I will keep on," was Nell's last thought before dropping to sleep night.

(To be Continued.)

Let us not forget that leaning on the lessons prepared by another, will cramp us in teaching. There cannot be that warm, living interest in the lesson that is needed to impress it on the heart of the pupil.

THE PRAYER OF FAITH.

The Rev. Richard Rock was a devoted evangelical clergyman of the church of England, who lived and labored with exemplary zeal and diligence in a lonely part of the island of Trinidad, in the West Indies. In the year 1838, he was seized with a violent attack of the fever incident to that unhealthy climate, and having no friend or minister of his own Church to console him in his illness, he sent for the Rev. George Ranyell, a Wesleyan missionary, living at a distance of about a mile, to pay him a visit. The call was promptly obeyed, and on reaching the chamber of his revered friend, the missionary saw at once that he was dangerously ill. After a few expressions of friendly condolence and Christian encouragement Mr. Ranyell read the 103rd Psalm, and then bowed his knees in fervent prayer to God for His blessing upon the lonely sufferer, to which he responded very earnestly. During the exercise, a gracious influence was experienced, and the missionary was led to pray, not only for those spiritual blessings which the patient required in the time of his affliction, but especially that he might be restored to his wonted health and strength, and permitted again to minister to his people. On taking his leave, the missionary observed with pleasure that his friend appeared to be cheerful and benefited by his visit. On calling again shortly afterwards, Mr. Ranyell was delighted to find the clergyman convalescent, and he was soon able to perform his ministerial duties as before. Many years afterwards Mr. Rock was heard to say that he regarded his rapid recovery from this severe attack of fever as a blessing from God in answer to the fervent prayer of his friend the Wesleyan missionary, and that he was forcibly reminded of the Apostle's declaration—"The prayer of faith shall save the sick."—Sabbath Reading.

"IN MY TROUBLE."

Two girl friends, near neighbors in a country village, sat together on Saturday afternoon, busy over the "week's mending." After a somewhat long silence, the younger of the two opened conversation by saying: "Do you know, Marian, that I think I begin to see one of the reasons for my long sickness last winter? At least, I see one of the good things growing out of it. It dawned upon me the other day, as I was thinking over my morning chapter. I had been reading in 1 Chronicles, where David is telling of his great desire to build a house for God's honor. He says, 'Now, behold, in my trouble I prepared for the house of the Lord.' Those three simple words, 'In my trouble, with the fact that he had, during his trouble, prepared for the building of God's house, shone with a new light for me. I thought 'Then David's trouble was not lost to him, or to the temple that was to be. Though debared, as it proved, from undertaking the building himself, he was all the time, while in his trouble, doing something towards preparing the materials, laying by for his son Solomon, of gold, silver, brass, iron, timber and stone.' So I saw that trouble is meant to be a time of preparation for what is coming after. And then I rejoiced to know that my own recent trouble, from my being laid aside so many months was in some sense a period of preparation for active work, and I began to look about me to see what sort of material I had been preparing for future labor and appropriation."

"I am sure this single verse from your Bible reading was, we may say, a part of your material, provided by God's hand, for your building. And David, it seems, had many different kinds laid by in store. So you may find, here a beam of goodly timber, there a bar of iron or brass, here a rough-hewn foundation stone, and there a choice piece of gold and silver, all ready for use in the building of God's house."

"Those hours are," quietly responded Grace. "Yes, I believe that though I may have seemed quite useless or worse than useless, 'while in my trouble' I was really getting ready to tell out to others some of the mercies of the Lord to me, and to magnify his grace. I feel for one thing, that it is well worth a good long illness to be able now to enjoy afresh the mere sense of life and health which comes over me with such a gush of reality. Yet of course, that is only a lesser part of my material."

"Still Grace, if you do but turn it into

LAYER OF FAITH.

chard Rock was a devoted... of the church of... and labored with ex... diligence in a lonely part... Trinidad, in the West Indies... 38, he was seized with a... fever incident to that... and, having no friend or... own Church to console him... sent for the Rev. George... eyan missionary, living at a... it a mile, to pay him a visit... mply obeyed, and on reach... of his reverend friend, the... at once that he was danger... a few expressions of friend... and Christian encouragement... the 103rd Psalm, and then... in the fervent prayer to God... upon the lonely sufferer, to... ded very earnestly. During... racious influence was experi... ionary was led to pray, ex... spirital blessings which... fered in the time of his afflic... that he might be restored... ealth and strength, and per... minister to his people. On... the missionary observed... at his friend appeared to be... fited by his visit. On... rly afterwards, Mr. Ran... d to find the clergyman con... was soon able to perform... uties as before. Many years... Rock was heard to say that... rapid recovery from this... fever as a blessing from God... fervent prayer of his friend... ionary, and that he was... of the Apostle's declar... of faith shall save the... Reading.

MY TROUBLE.

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if you do but turn it into

rise and thanks to the Giver, and into re-vealed consecration to His service, you will find it to be one of the precious bits of silver and of gold for the adorning of His sanctuary."

"Thank you, dear Marian. I will try to make it truly so, and if ever I have a lull by time again, I will think of it as a special means of new preparation for 'the building.'"

"You remind me of what St. Paul says in writing to the Church at Corinth. 'For we are laborers together with God, ye are God's own husbandry, ye are God's building. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation, gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble, every man's work shall be manifest, for the day shall declare it.' If we bring only wood, hay, stubble, to the building, instead of gold, silver, and precious stones, the fire of God will prove and try it of what sort it is, and thus 'declare' it." And oh! this just reminds me of those sweet lines of Mrs. Herrick Johnson's on these very verses. Let me get them for you."

And Marian Kellogg took a tiny leaflet from her table-drawer, and read from it as follows:

I was sitting alone toward the twilight, With spirit troubled and vexed; With thoughts that were morbid and gloomy, And faith that was sadly perplexed. Some homely work I was doing For the child of my love and care, Some stitches half wearily setting, In the endless mesh of repair. But my thoughts were about the "building," The work some day to be tried, And that only the gold and the silver And the precious stones should abide.

Just then, as I turned the garments, That no rent should be left behind, My eye caught an odd little bundle Of mending and patchwork combined. My heart grew suddenly tender, And something blinded my eyes, With one of those sweet intuitions That sometimes make us so wise.

For I thought, when the Master Builder Comes down, His temple to view, To see what rents must be mended, And what must be builded anew.

He will feel as I felt for my darling, And will say, as I said for her, 'Dear child, she wanted to help me, And love for me was the spur.'

"And for the true love that is in it, The work shall seem perfect as mine; And became it was with plaudits divine."

—Ez.

TACT IN TEACHING.

Tact is important in securing and holding the attention of the scholars. I have thought that, with some scholars, the teacher was justifiable in using stratagem in getting and holding the attention of "the restless boy or girl" who are similar to the "perpetual motion." That tact, great tact, is necessary to successful work is apparent to all. Sometimes an object lesson, a story, an anecdote, or something else, will secure the attention. Great tact must be exercised, however, that the lesson-hour be not squandered in simply trying to hold the attention of the children, but to impress truths and useful lessons upon their minds. The teacher should not only study the lessons to be taught, but, in addition to that, each child's temperament, disposition and mode of thought should be carefully studied, and then throw all his energy and tact into the work of impressing the lesson-truths upon the mind and heart.

Tact is important in teaching so as to be able to develop latent talent in the scholar and properly use it. It is true, as a recent writer puts it, "It is quite important, in teaching, to realize a scholar's limitations as to recognize his highest possibilities, and the brighter the scholar, the greater danger there is of overlooking his limitations." While this should not be overlooked, there are many talents lying dormant in children, and perhaps are never roused and developed, simply because, in some instances, parents and teachers fail to draw out the slumbering talent. It is sometimes the case that teachers do not look upon their scholars in their individual capacity, but rather upon their general average ability as a class. There are diamonds in the rough hidden in the bosom of some scholars, if the teacher is skillful enough to unearth them, to clear away the debris of indifference, the cross of

superficiality and indolence, and fill such pupils with a feeling of self-dependence, good will result therefrom. I recall a so-called model teacher of a model class in a model Sunday-school, who had an exceedingly dull scholar, as she called her. Now, I was convinced that in that pupil there was latent talent, that, if stirred up, would compare favorably with the other scholars in the class. The trouble with the teacher was, she lacked tact to reach the child through its undeveloped method of thought. She looked upon that child and judged it by the standard with which she looked upon the others and judged them by. That was simply unfair, and an unfortunate thing for the child and teacher. The child was put into another class, whose teacher had more tact, and the child developed rapidly and prospered.

I know of but one element of success in Sunday-school work which I regard above tact, and that is spirituality. Tact and spirituality should be beautifully blended. "He that winneth souls is wise," and it requires much wisdom and diversified means and methods to do it.—Living Epistle.

TO SUPERINTENDENTS.

In the first place you have now the highest motive for living near to Christ. Your success depends chiefly on this: Go into your school next Sunday and look around. Your spirit will be the spirit of this school. If you are indifferent in your treatment of sacred things, so will these teachers be. If your heart is not near to Christ, this school will be cold and dull, and barren. Look at the upturned faces. Look down even into the upturned hearts that are watching you. If you were nearer Christ what might you not do. By these souls committed to your care, by these teachers who will not be more in earnest than you are, by the judgment seat of Christ, by eternity itself, I beseech you to be a better Christian man than you are.

Do not affect piety. If there is any abomination in the world it is the superintendent who "puts on" pious ways. It is hypocrisy. Even if you do it from a mere desire to be impressive it is cant. Children see through it. It repels them. A way with your pious tone and precisely solemn face, and prayer meeting phrases. These children are not to be impressed with sounding brass. They penetrate the sham. And if they do not God does. But the children do, and all unnatural mouthing makes them hate the religion that you burlesque.

Do not say that the responsibility is too great, and that you will resign. No shallow deceit does Satan palm off upon you. You can not shirk responsibility. Go bury your talent in a napkin, and then tell the Judge all that hypocritical stuff about your being afraid of responsibility. How terrible will your cowardice look to you in the day of judgment.

But feel your accountability none the less. Cry out with Paul, "Who is sufficient for these things?" Let the burden of souls rest upon you. Carry it in your devotions. Let it lie down with you upon your bed. Let the picture of these upturned eyes and hearts never leave you. But do not let them drive you from your work. Let them drive you to Christ. The same Paul who said, "Who is sufficient for these things?" said also "Our sufficiency is of God."

I plead for a more profound and tender piety in superintendents. You may have a large school without it. You may have a good picnic without it. You may have order without it. You may even have well learned lessons without it. But the truest, highest, most Christian-like success you can not have unless you have more of Christ in your heart.

I can go into your school when you are away, and know just what sort of a man you are. There's an aroma of a good superintendent in some schools. But in others there is life, and order, and outward prosperity, but there is no feeling of Christ's presence in his word. The observer feels that there is a superintendent who either does not live near to Christ, or who fails to make his Christian spirit felt in the school.

As the superintendent is so are the teachers. If Christ is vividly present in his prayers and other exercises, if he feels the presence of God in his Word, then will the teacher teach thus, and the scholar study in the same spirit. The atmosphere through which a scholar will regard the Scriptures for all the rest of his life is often fixed by

his teacher's way of teaching, and that is very generally the reflection of the superintendent's spirit.

Very earnestly have I spoken, but I have spoken also very humbly. For I also am a superintendent, and I would not press these things upon your conscience any more closely than upon my own.—Sunday School Teacher.

HINTS TO TEACHERS ON THE CURRENT LESSONS.

(From Peloubet's Select Notes.)

January 11.—Acts 20: 17-27.

SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS. Have the scholars trace out this part of Paul's journey on the map, noting especially Miletus and Ephesus.

Review briefly Paul's stay at Ephesus, how long, what doing. Note the circumstances of Paul's being at Miletus, and why he sent for the elders of Ephesus instead of going himself.

Call attention to the subject of the lesson, —A faithful teacher among his beloved pupils, which will be practical to all, and an example in which we are to find what is worthy of imitation.

I. His life (vers. 18-20.) Open before all; nothing to be concealed; its purpose, its humility, its tenderness and love for others; its bold faithfulness; its trials.

Illustration of the power of humility. Paul set Christ forward and kept himself in the background. Steam when visible as a cloud has little power. The steam that drives the engine and does the work is invisible. Watch the hot steam from the tea-kettle invisible when it first pours out.

Illustrations of boldness in the truth. John Knox before Queen Mary. Luther at the Diet of Worms. The Madagascar Christian martyrs described by Mr. Ellis in his book on Madagascar.

Illustrate his tenderness and tears from Christ weeping over Jerusalem, not for the awful death he was to die. And his tears of sympathy over the tomb of Lazarus.

II. His work (vers. 20, 21.) Serving the Lord by teaching the Gospel publicly and from house to house. Personal work. His faithfulness in teaching the whole truth. Teachers must warn, and show God's wrath, and point out the evil of sin plainly but gently, and not pure from the blood of men. Explain this, and show how even children must be pure in this.

ILLUSTRATION. The sea-level sight that eye can know, Than proud bark lost or seaman's woe, Than iron-bird's shriek or tempest cloud, Or battle fire or ocean shroud — The shipwreck of the soul."

But there is one thing sadder than this,—to be the means of the shipwreck of a soul; to tempt others to their loss; not to save when we can.

III. His teachings (vers. 21, 27.) The whole counsel of God, dwelling chiefly on the great practical truths of Christianity. Enforce repentance, and press the duty of believing, on the conscience.

Illustration. These great truths are like the keel of a ship, into which are fastened all the other parts of it. Without this keel no ship, no freight, no passengers, no commerce.

IV. His outlook (vers. 22-25.) He saw trials and sorrows in the way, but he pressed on in the path of duty. Explain vers. 22, 23. But he saw beyond those a completed work and a crown of righteousness and joy, such as angels feel over souls that repent.

Illustration. Compare Paul's experience when about to finish his course (2 Tim. 4: 6-8) with Dr. Payson's last hours. "To adopt the figurative language of Bunyan, I might date this letter from the end of Beulah, of which I have been for some weeks a happy inhabitant. The celestial city is full in my view. Its glories beam upon me, its breezes fan me, its odors are wafted to me, its sounds strike upon my ears, and its spirit is breathed into my heart. The Sun of righteousness has been gradually drawing nearer and nearer, appearing larger and brighter as he approached, and now he fills the whole hemisphere, pouring forth a flood of glory, in which I seem to float like an insect in the beams of the sun; exulting yet almost trembling while I gaze on this excessive brightness, and wondering with unutterable wonder, why God should deign thus to shine upon a sinful worm. A single heart and a single tongue seem altogether inadequate to my wants. I want a whole heart for every separate emotion, and a whole tongue to express that emotion."

PUZZLES.

TRANSPOSITIONS.

- 1. Four comrades we united stand, And name a set much in demand To go to all lands 'neath the skies And bring back goodly merchandise
- 2. Transpose us and we'll give you light,— Our lamp will last through longest night; And oft we've led the refugee Who sought a land of liberty.
- 3. Change us again and you will find We charm the eye and lead the mind In forms of beauty and of skill, That make the heart with rapture thrill.
- 4. Transpose again and then 't is found We've changed a useless piece of ground Into a blooming, fruitful field That fills the barn with copious yield.
- 5. Another change and lo, we're not Made welcome in the barn or cot! 'T is pity that our end should be Less worthy than our first entre.

SUGGESTIONS TO TEACHERS.

Have the scholars trace out this part of Paul's journey on the map, noting especially Miletus and Ephesus. Review briefly Paul's stay at Ephesus, how long, what doing. Note the circumstances of Paul's being at Miletus, and why he sent for the elders of Ephesus instead of going himself. Call attention to the subject of the lesson, —A faithful teacher among his beloved pupils, which will be practical to all, and an example in which we are to find what is worthy of imitation.

A MEDLEY.

In the following sentence of twenty-eight letters, you are required to form seven words of four letters each, and having the following definitions: 1, A masculine name. 2, To be driven wild with haste. 3, A foreign country. 4, To slay. 5, A great disturbance. 6, A river in Europe. 7, An ensign. The sentence is as follows,—AI, ASK FLORA TO SEARCH GILL DUSTIN. Place the words one under the other in regular order, and you will have some novel zigzags.

14 \* \* 1 \* \* 13 \* \* 3 \* 12 \* 4 \* \* 11 \* \* 5 \* 10 \* 9 \* 6 \* 8 \* \* 7

Now read from 1 to 7 and 8 to 14, and you will obtain the name of some amusements peculiar to the country in October.

DECAPITATIONS.

- 1. Behead unclosed, and leave an inclosure.
- 2. Behead a part of a gentleman's apparel, and leave a grain.
- 3. Behead to comply with, and leave a Turkish Governor.
- 4. Behead extracted matter, and leave a tub.
- 5. Behead a hole in the ground, and leave to pain.
- 6. Behead a tree, and leave to exist.
- 7. Behead close, and leave a part of the head.
- 8. Behead to peep, and leave to increase.
- 9. Behead imaginary, and leave to trade with.
- 10. Behead an apparition, and leave a multitude.

CHARADE.

The father leaves his happy home, To first he has to go; And now he joins a gallant band, To face a mighty foe.

My second joiners used to part, However strange it seem; Though often by the hand 'tis worked, It also goes by steam.

Unhappy whole! What hast thou done That thus thy blood was shed? The tyrant's triumph'd over thee, While justice hung her head.

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES.

ENIGMA.—An ostrich feather.

CROSSWORD.—Longfellow.

NUMERICAL ENIGMA.—"He that runs against time has his antagonist not subject to casualties."

Key-Words.—Time, contingencies, translation (Pop's Head), begin, succumb, ill, treat, antagonist, use, although, Jew's, than, as, so.

ROMBUS.—1. REGAL E A G O G E 2. LAGER

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

Correct answers have been received from H. E. Greene, Lillian Greene, J. D. Mills, and H. Graham.

IT IS A CRIMSON SHAME—it will prove a withering curse—to a professed disciple, if he counsels his release from the tithes as a release from obligation.—Advance.

## The Temperance Worker

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3.

## THE SCOTT ACT CAMPAIGN.

ST. THOMAS.—The Hon. J. B. Finch has lectured in St. Thomas city to a large audience. Speaking of the saloon-keepers he referred to them as parasites, who toil not, neither do they spin. Mr. Finch also said that it is an insult to the business capacity of our citizens to say that the grog-shops must be maintained in order that we may have good hotel accommodation.

ELGIN.—The petitions for Elgin county have been deposited in the Sheriff's office and two members of the Women's Christian Temperance Union of St. Thomas have been detailed to guard the petitions, so that no theft of names can be perpetrated. The ladies will guard the petition for ten days.

LONDON.—A largely attended meeting of those favorable to the submission of the Scott Act in the city of London was held last week. A Scott Act Association was formed with the following officers:—President, Wm. Bowman; 1st. vice-president, Wm. Trebilcock; 2nd vice-president, Thos. Hobbs, sen.; secretary, John Tweed; treasurer, W. R. Hobbs. These officers, along with Messrs. D. T. Ware, Wm. Scarrow, and D. H. Williams form the central committee. Petitions will be circulated among the electors at once for signatures.

KINGSTON.—A large temperance meeting in Kingston was addressed by the Hon. J. B. Finch. In the course of a spirited speech Mr. Finch expressed his conviction that the day was coming when the Canadian people will cry "halt" to the traffic, and if the United States and Canada would stand shoulder to shoulder in this matter they would be the vanguard of the world to a grander civilization.

GUELPH.—The Rev. Mr. Brethour, of Halton, Mr. James Innes, M.P., and Mr. Charles Raymond spoke at a meeting in the City Hall at Guelph last week. Mr. Innes bore testimony to the value of the Scott Act in Halton by saying that in visiting the Nassagawaya show he had found the people very quiet and sober, whereas, before the adoption of the Act the show was the scene of drunkenness, riot and disorder. The Rev. Mr. Brethour quoted the opinions of English statesmen approving Sir Wilfrid Lawson's local option law, which is similar to the Scott Act, and remarked that he considered those opinions worth more than the cry of the liquor-sellers about the Act being an infringement of the rights and liberties of British subjects.

LENNOX.—The Hon. Mr. Finch and the Rev. Mr. Keefer are working for the Act in Lennox, and the campaign goes on steadily in this county. The polling day is fixed for January 15th, the same day as the political contest, but do not let that fact prevent any of the temperance people from casting their ballots for the Scott Act.

ST. JOHN.—The joint committee appointed to bring on a campaign for the adoption of the Scott Act in St. John city and county has elected the Rev. A. J. McFarland president, and Mr. H. A. McKeown secretary. As our readers may remember, a vote in 1882 on the adoption of the Act resulted in a tie, each side polling 1074 votes. With the advance in temperance sentiment and the removal of some difficulties since that time, the supporters of the Act should have gained enough votes to pass it by a large majority when the vote comes off.

TORONTO.—Petitions are being circulated by the Anti-Scotts requesting certain amendments to the Scott Act. The branch of the Dominion Alliance in Toronto has decided to issue counter-petitions.

HUNTINGDON.—A number of meetings in the interest of the Act have been held in Huntingdon County and the cause is receiving the support of many of the ablest farmers and business men. The Huntingdon Scott Act Association has for its motto, "Freedom for the right means suppression of the wrong."

BROME.—Appointments have been made for twenty-five public meetings in Brome County before the polling day, January 15th.

YORK, Ont.—In this County the work of securing signatures to the petitions is nearly completed, and a convention is to be held shortly for the purpose of making final arrangements for the campaign.

## ANSWER TO "PERPLEXITY."

I would say to "Perplexity," who has conscientious scruples about using fermented wine at communion, that I think it would be very wrong for her to do so. I abstained for four years, and went to other churches where unfermented wine was used. But not feeling at home I absented myself entirely. Now our church has abandoned its use. Don't give up the effort to have unfermented wine used. I believe that the inconsistency of the Church in using adulterated fermented wine is just what has clogged the wheels of the temperance movement. I cannot believe it right for the churches to use body and soul destroying alcohol in their holiest act of worship. The good Book says judgment must begin at the house of God. Go to your minister and also to the deacons. We found the most trouble with them. One even resigned his position. Dear sister, let us hear from you again. We want this subject agitated. I hope I may see the day when the pure unfermented "fruit of the vine" alone may be used by God's people. My age is seventy-two years. SUBSCRIBER.

## Michigan.

Another correspondent also gives her experience to "Perplexity" as follows:

Editor of Home Department: May I say a few words to "Perplexity" with regard to partaking of fermented wine at the communion table? Six years ago I pledged myself, with many others, at the N. W. C. T. U., that I would never again knowingly partake of alcoholic wine at the sacrament, and since that time, on two occasions, I have passed along the cup without partaking of it; the odor of the alcohol was so strong that I knew I should be breaking my pledge not to do so. I consider the question of vital importance to many, especially to the reformed, striving to lead a Christian life, and to those who have the habit of drinking upon them, but who are not too far gone to reform. Oh, when will church officers wake up to their responsibility in this matter? I know a lady who for one year declined to take the wine. One of the elders at last asked her reason for so doing. He was much impressed with her reply, and as a result unfermented wine has been used for three years past in the large church of which she is a member. The pastor of the church was opposed to the change, but the officers decided it must be done, and it was. Stand firm, my sister, for the right, and God will bless you, and through and by you many others. SOPHIA.

P.S.—Miss Julia Colman, 76 Bible House, New York city, will furnish valuable read-

ings on "Communion Wine" to those who apply for them.—N. Y. Witness.

## THE EGYPTIAN PROBLEM.

By a special cable from London on the twenty seventh of December, it is learned that General Gordon still holds Khartoum and recent news from him by messenger to Lord Wolsley states that he can hold possession of it for the next two, perhaps three months. General Gordon reports having destroyed the greater part of Khartoum, regarding it as indefensible, and has snugly entrenched himself within the fortress. The concentration of Lord Wolsley's troops is almost fully completed, and the advance will begin at once. He hopes, unless impeded by the enemy, to reach Shendy by the twentieth of January. The Nile at that point is reported to be fully navigable. Much amusement has been caused throughout England by the novel and audacious scheme of a pill maker, who has sent Lord Wolsley 10,000 copies of a patent medicine advertisement the bills to be distributed among the soldiers, and the manufacturer offers £150 to the first soldier who shall affix a copy to the door of General Gordon's quarters at Khartoum. Lord Wolsley himself is said to have decided to abandon the idea of marching to Shendy by the desert route from Korti, as the difficulties in the way seem to him too great to be surmounted with the forces at his command. He will go instead from Merawe to Berber—a shorter road—but Berber is not so near Khartoum as Shendy. This change will place the relief of Khartoum two months further into the future than was at first anticipated. Lord Wolsley is described as being far from satisfied with the arrangements of the expedition. He has sent furious complaints to the British War Office of the inefficiency and absolute breakdown of the transport and commissary services. The first portion of the expedition is, however, ready to start. It consists of 900 infantry, 1,500 cavalry, six screw guns, and 1,800 camels, with 198 hussars to act as scouts. The resident Arabs, on the approach of the British, are leaving the country and migrating northward. The delay in the concentration of troops cause the military authorities to fear that the relief of Khartoum cannot be accomplished before the middle of March. The Muir of Dongola has telegraphed to Cairo that a native who left Khartoum a fortnight ago has arrived at Dongola. This man spent four days spying the Mahdi's position, and reports the rebels suffering from famine. Many bodies lie strewn about the country unburied, and the rebels are said to be discouraged by General Gordon's repeated attacks, and several have dispersed upon hearing of the British advance. A large number of the Mahdi's regulars are said to have joined Gordon. One of the native tribes has offered to provide three hundred men to escort the English through the desert to a point halfway between Shendy and Khartoum, also to protect the English telegraph lines and to forward mails. Sixty-four whaleboats have arrived at Korti, and every available camel in that neighborhood has been purchased for the expedition. With regard to the programme of the powers on this problem, M. Waddington, the French Ambassador, has returned to London from France. He has been instructed to advise Lord Granville to accede to the demand of Germany and Russia for membership on the Egyptian debt commission. Failing an agreement between England and France all the powers except Italy, will reject the English proposals. The Duke of Genoa is in London, and it is said that negotiations are on foot to form an Anglo-

Italian Alliance. The British Government is said to have invited the military cooperation of Italy in the Sudan, offering as an inducement the cession of territory near the Italian colony of Asabnaki. A Berlin despatch declares that there is a secret convention between France and Germany, France to be allowed unlimited colonization in Morocco and Tonquin, and Germany to be at liberty to annex territory anywhere not affecting French interests. The rebels are reported active at Suakim. The Cassala garrison recently made a sortie and killed many rebels.

CARDINAL MANNING has denounced "society" journalism, as it is known in England, in a recent powerful sermon, preached at the pro-Cathedral, Kensington. The tendency to scandal-mongering he denounced as one of the most distressing signs of the times, only equalled by the spirit of Rationalism.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT will ask the Chambers for a credit of eight hundred million francs to meet the expenses of the first quarter of 1885.

THE YOUNG AMERICAN violinist, who is at present in England, had her beautiful hair cut off by some miscreant while walking in Westbourne grove, London, in broad daylight, and with such quietness that the outrage was not noticed till her return home.

THE SALVATION ARMY contingent in New Haven, Conn., have been arrested for processions on the street. When they reached the police head-quarters, one of the women, Captain Dixon, nick-named "Howling Mary," dropped on her knees and prayed long and loudly "for the drunken Mayor of this wicked city," referring to Mayor Lewis. This caused much excitement among the throng of observers. Shortly after they were arrested the two women were released on bonds, but the men remained in durance for the night.

THE ORANGE demonstration at St. Johns, Nfld., which, it was anticipated, would be the occasion of serious rioting, passed off very quietly on the 26th. There was a procession in which about 1,000 persons took part. The River Head men with a green flag held their own citadel. The Orangemen abstained from intrusion on the Catholic ground. The bloody memory of the last St. Stephen's day reinforced by the warship "Tenedos" and a formidable array of police effectually prevented any hostile demonstration.

THE DISTRESS in Glasgow, Liverpool and other ports has attracted the attention of the Queen, who desires to open subscriptions for the relief of the sufferers, and has asked the Government for information on the subject. It is reported that Mr. Gladstone is unwilling to admit the existence of distress, and opposes the Queen's proposition.

THE BIRMINGHAM MARKET INSPECTORS have seized a large quantity of diseased horse flesh consigned from Liverpool or Manchester to Birmingham. The horse flesh was in a horrible condition, and was, it is believed, intended for human food. The seizure was made upon the premises of one of the largest pork butchers in the town.

GEN. DE LISLE will recommence active operations in Tonquin by the middle of January when decisive results are expected.

THE IRISH executive has ordered the chief of police to inquire into the character of appointments to the detective force made by Mr. French, the disgraced inspector. Members found to be without a clear record will be dismissed.

## THE WEEK.

IT IS STATED that a complete organization of Russian Nihilists exists under the guise of an export firm within the precincts of the city of London, and that it exports to St. Petersburg criminal documents and explosives.

THE CROFTER TENANTS of the Duke of Argyll on the Island of Tiree refuse to pay rent. The Duke has asked for and obtained a company of marines to repress the rebellious tenants. At a recent meeting of the Highland reformers held in London landlordism was vigorously denounced, and it was declared that the Irish land agitation had been adopted in Scotland.

IT IS STATED on good authority that General Butler has signed a contract with a New York publishing firm to write his political reminiscences, for which he is to receive \$50,000 and a small royalty.

A FRENCHMAN named Paquet, an infidel, while denying the doctrine of eternal punishment in a discussion with some fellow boarders, in Fury's, Adelaide Street, Toronto, was stricken with paralysis, the whole of one side from head to foot, including the tongue, losing vitality.

IT IS REPORTED that the French Government have searched the barracks in Paris and found evidence that anarchism was spreading among the soldiers.

OVER SIXTY FAMILIES who left Belmullet, on the emigration free ticket, have again returned to Ireland in great poverty and wretchedness.

THE GUARDIANS of the Ennisceorthy Union Wexford, are expending £3,100 in carrying out the scheme for the erection of laborers' cottages.

THE LIMERICK HOUNDS have been stopped hunting by the farmers, the latter having served a notice on the master forbidding hunting while evictions, rack-renting, jury-packing, and coercion continue.

IT IS SAID that the landed gentry of England owe £250,000,000, mainly in mortgages, and that many of the mortgages are seconds or thirds, which could not be realized by the sale of the land. This has been so ruinous a year for farm produce in England that there are many failures among the financial backers of the landed gentry.

A CYCLOPE ON MONDAY demolished five houses near Macon, Ga. It is reported that several persons have been killed.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF PARIS has issued a pastoral to the clergy against Freemasonry with the Vatican's strictures thereon.

A BE BUZZARD, the notorious horse thief, has written a letter from Bowmanville, Pa., to the clergyman who visited the haunts of the Buzzard gang, in which he says: "I promised the Lord many days if I could be once more a free man I would by His help lead a new life and show to the world something they now think impossible." The clergyman says Buzzard is willing to return to gaol for two years. He thinks the outlaw desires to lead a better life.

A POOR MAN, named Herbert Allen, who has been living in lodgings at Guildford, England, for over twelve months, has just established his claim to a property worth £15,000.

THERE ARE 40 gentlemen serving as troopers in the 4th. Hussars; while the Buffs have got a large number of gentlemen privates. This throws a new light upon the question of what is to be done with our sons.

THE EXTREMELY LOW PRICES OF WHEAT have caused a falling off in receipts in the North West of fully 80 percent, compared with 15 days ago. It is rumored that big millers have got hold of nearly all the good hard wheat in.

AN OLD MAN named Elijah Marling, of Wheeling, Va., has been the victim of a terrible outrage. On the 22nd inst., four ruffians broke into his house; and, finding only \$182 on his person they horribly mutilated him in order to make him reveal the hiding place of his gold.

IRELAND has a coast line of between 2,000 and 3,000 miles, and her seas teem with all kinds of fish in common use, such as herring, cod, ling, haddock, mackerel, whiting, turbot, soles, plaice, and salmon. Yet this harvest of an ocean abounding in life is not half reaped; and year by year the Irish boats are decreasing in number, and those from England and Scotland increasing.

AN ANTI-RENT strike prevails at Limerick. Tenants demand a reduction of 20 percent, but the agents of the landlords object.

THOMAS VALIN, of Syracuse, N.Y., aged 104 years, 11 months and 11 days, died Christmas Day. He was a pensioner of the war of 1812, and had lived in Syracuse 52 years.

IN SEPTEMBER LAST a party gathering rubber on the banks of the Cutamayay, were attacked by savages, who captured the camp. Three gatherers jumped into the river and were drowned. Their companions were devoured by the savages.

THE *St. James's Gazette* (London, England) prints an interview had at Paris with a dynamiter, who said the head-quarters of the conspirators was at Paris, but that the funds came from America. The explosion at London Bridge was arranged at Paris three months ago by a man now in America.

A DESPATCH from Lahore says:—"The *Lahore Gazette* express the belief that Russian officers are residing at Cabul, and that the Ameer is treating them with unusual regard, giving them access to his confidential correspondence with the Indian Government."

A SEVERE EARTHQUAKE occurred on the 6th November at Panama doing great damage. All the churches and public edifices and many private houses fell, whilst those remaining standing are damaged. The loss is estimated at \$250,000 to \$400,000. Every house, save four, in Soledad, a town of 6,000 inhabitants was brought to the ground.

THE POPE, replying to the Christmas congratulations of the Cardinals on Christmas Day, deplored the present condition of the papal see, and the immunity allowed by present state laws. Among other things His Holiness denounced the divorce law submitted to the Chamber of Deputies.

A CONTRACT has been signed for the construction of a port at Buenos Ayres at a cost of \$20,000,000. A second canal will be made in the roadstead.

AN AERONAUT named McNeal, from Mobile, attempted a balloon ascension into West Point to-day. The balloon fell into the river, and he was drowned.

A DARING HIGHWAY ROBBERY occurred in the vicinity of Port Arthur about four o'clock on Christmas Eve. A pedlar named Simosky was attacked by three men, gagged and bound to a tree, and about \$300 in cash taken from his pockets. The robbers then made off with his horse and wagon, containing about \$2,000 worth of jewellery, watches, &c.

THE HON. H. E. VIVIAN, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Denmark, has been appointed to the same post at Brussels, to fill the vacancy caused by the transfer of Sir E. B. Malet to Berlin.

FORTY odd mills are running, and affording employment at Fall river, Mass., to all operatives at wages paid since last strike a year ago; but the manufacturers are losing money.

A LADY IN BOSTON has offered to contribute \$50,000 towards the creation of a fund which shall be used for the care of the teeth of children in the primary schools, whose parents are unable to pay dentists' bills.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT has sent an urgent order to Portsmouth to hold all available men in the southern division Royal Artillery in readiness to go to Gibraltar. This is supposed to indicate that the Government intends to hold large reserves on the Mediterranean stations during the troubles in Egypt and elsewhere.

THE PARIS *National* says France has rejected England's proposals with reference to the financial difficulties of Egypt.

THE JEWS in the province of Volhynia, western Russia, are refusing to undergo military service, and are offering resistance to the Russian police.

THE ODESSA criminal court has sentenced a member of a Bible-reading sect to three years' imprisonment for preaching against image worship in the Russian Church.

A NUMBER of bandits entered the Catholic church and the house of the priest at Cortelosa, Spanish Galicia, for the purpose of pillage. Failing to get money they tied the priest in a heap of straw and burned him to death.

THE SHIPBUILDING stagnation causes great distress in the north of England, where subscription lists are opened to alleviate the distress of the work people.

The New Orleans city car drivers are on strike.

THE GOVERNMENTS of Tasmania and Queensland have joined with Victoria in a protest against the annexation by Germany of any portion of New Guinea and the neighboring islands. The authorities of New South Wales and South Australia refuse to join in the protest.

THE DUKE of Cambridge, commander-in-chief of the British forces, and the Marquis of Hartington, secretary of state for war, exchanged Christmas greetings by telegraph with General Lord Wolseley at Korti. Lord Wolseley informed them that the troops were having a concert in Camp, which was a great success.

PRINCE ALBERT will join the Grenadiers at the close of his studies at the University; and no distinction will be made between his duties and those of the other officers.

THE PARIS *Temps* denies the truth of the report that France had purchased English vessels to take reinforcements to Tonquin and declares that the French mercantile marine is fully equal to all demands on it.

CARDINAL MANSING is writing a life of St. Vincent de Paul.

A FRENCHMAN has confessed that it was he who murdered Sarah Beker in Moscow, the Jewish girl for whose murder a man named Mironowitch was last week sentenced to seven years' imprisonment and a supposed accomplice (Bezeak) exiled to Siberia.

AN EXTRA guard has been placed on duty at the principal prisons of London as a precaution against the operations of dynamiters.

IT IS EXPECTED that the German emperor will remit the sentence of death passed upon Rupert and Kuehler, found guilty, as stated in our last issue, of conspiring to take his life.

THE GERMAN Reichstag, which refused to vote the salary of an assistant to Prince Bismarck, is now the subject of a bitter attack by most of the German papers, while the Prince is daily receiving resolutions of confidence in his policy from all parts of the Empire, and from his compatriots in other countries.

GENERAL SANFORD, the American delegate to the Congo Conference, proposes that opium shall be included under the rule prohibiting the sale of alcohol in the Congo territory.

THE EDITOR and manager of the anarchist paper *Le Flambeau*, (Paris) have been sentenced respectively to imprisonment for a year and eight months for inciting to plunder during the cholera epidemic.

EIGHTY native chiefs have proclaimed Spanish sovereignty over 150 square kilometers of land on the Gulf of Guinea, opposite Corisco Island.

THE FEELING is general in political circles that the Mudir of Dongola is secretly a traitor to England.

THE BRITISH flag has been hoisted in St. Lucia, and the Governor of Cape Colony has asked the Home Government to approve the raising of the flag.

CHARLES SMITH and Henry Davis, negroes, were arrested at Raleigh, N. C., on Saturday last on the charge of robbing a store in Johnston County and assaulting the clerk who slept there. The prisoners were taken to Clayton, and committed for trial. On Monday night a hundred disguised horsemen took them out of gaol. A procession was formed, and all rode toward the Neuse river. When the bridge was reached, the negroes, having been previously weighted, were thrown in. There were two deathly cries, a sudden splash, and all was over.

LORD RANDOLPH CHURCHILL has started for a tour of India, combining much needed recreation with a desire to acquire personal information of the state of affairs in Her Majesty's Indian Empire.

MR. GEORGE ELLIOT, who keeps a hotel at Brantford, while separating some young men who had been drinking in his place, and had adjourned to the street to fight, on Christmas morning, had his lung penetrated by the thrust of a knife from one of the combatants. He is not expected to recover.

IT IS REPORTED that negotiations have begun for an alliance between England and Italy and that the latter power will be asked to aid in restoring quiet in the Soudan, in return for which England will agree to the extension of Italian possessions.

THE RUSSIAN Government has closed numerous Catholic convents managed by sisters of charity in Russian Poland because they favor Polish patients and tried to make proselytes.

LATER details of the earthquake in Spain show the damage to property and the loss of life to be much greater than was at first supposed. At least 150 persons are believed to have perished. At Arnos del Rey 40 persons were killed, and disasters are reported from other towns.

A BOX containing an infernal machine was brought by a boy to the American Tract Society's Office, 50 Nassau street, New York, on Friday morning, the intention being, it is alleged, to kill Mr. Anthony Comstock.

## CHRISTMAS AND THE SATURNALIA.

No one who celebrates Christmas should be disturbed by the fact that not even the month in which Jesus Christ was born, much less the day, has been ascertained. The festival of the Nativity has been celebrated in January, May, September, October, and December. No historian pretends to fix the date at which Christmas became a general festival. About all that is known is that during the fourth century the feast of the Nativity was observed by the Western churches, and that in the sixth century Eastern and Western Christians united in celebrating it on the 25th of December. It is well known that certain Christmas customs originated in the pagan rites of the ancient Druids and Romans.

From the Druids came that hanging up of the mistletoe, which still retains its hold in England. The grim old Saxons who jured huge bonfires to Thor, transmitted to our English ancestors the ceremony of burning the Yule log. And from ancient Greeks and Romans came the custom of interchanging presents and making entertainments, which marks our observances of Christmas.

In ancient Greece the whole people, during the last days of December, gave themselves up to fun and frolic. It was the Harvest Home of the wine-growers, which they called the Festival of Bacchus. It was a time of universal, if not of riotous gayety, and some of our own Christmas customs may be traced to December games and usages of the Greeks that were old when Socrates was young.

In Rome, long before the Christian era, we find the originals of certain Christmas customs. Some readers may remember short poems of the Roman satirist Martial, descriptive of the "December Liberty," which distinguished the observances of the Saturnalia, eighteen hundred years ago.

It was a time of universal present making as it is with us. On one occasion, Martial sent to a friend a copy of his own poems, and with it he sent a few lines of poetical apology for the meagreness of his present. Now, mark what he says: "I may seem to you stingy or impolite, since in this month of December when nappings, elegant shoe-fastenings, wax tapers, tablets and tapering vases filled with Damascus plums fly about in all directions, I have sent you nothing but my own little books."

A custom of the Roman Saturnalia, which came unchanged to our times, familiar to us all. We mean the three days' holiday given to the slaves. The slaves in the Southern States, down to the close of the war, enjoyed this privilege. Throughout the Roman Empire slaves went about bare-headed, except on the three great days of the Saturnalia, when all were permitted to wear the cap of familiar shape, which still figures as the Liberty Cap upon the tops of liberty poles.

Schools and colleges all had a vacation during the Roman Saturnalia. There were particular kinds of toys made of earthenware which were sold only during this festival. Families came together, just as they now do, to the unbounded joy of the children; and there was the great family dinner at which the children were present, if never again during the year.

How are we to account for these coincidences? The explanation is not difficult. When Christianity was first preached in the Roman Empire, it was a message of hope and comfort to the poor and to the oppressed and above all to the great multitude of

slaves whose labors sustained the Roman world. We can dimly perceive, in the letters of Piny the Younger, and elsewhere, the slaves gathering on a hilltop at the dawn of day to hear the Christian tidings, and to partake of the communion; then separating for the labors of the field and household.

The first Christian congregations in Italy were largely composed of slaves and of the common people, though among them were found educated and highly gifted persons. The early Christian teachers and the greatest difficulty to keep their converts from joining in the pagan festivals, to which they had been accustomed, and which were even needful to ameliorate their hard and monotonous life. When the Saturnalia came round, the Christian slave or freedman found himself struggling between the habits of his old life and the claims of his new faith. If he withstood the old, he missed the one holiday which would be his during twelve months of labor. If he yielded, his religious life might be injured by contact with idolatrous rites.

and unusual merriment. Gradually, too, old Christmas revived, and thus it came to pass that this country is favored with two festivals a month apart—one the Harvest Home, and the other the nativity of the Saviour. —*Youth's Companion.*

## THREE DIARIES.

BY MINNIE E. KENNEY.

Three of the prettiest little diaries, one red, one black, one blue, with gilt edges, cunning little places for pencils, and above all the name of the owner in gilt letters on the cover. The three children found them on the breakfast-table under their plates when they came downstairs bright and early New Year's morning.

Mamma never had to call them twice on that morning, for one of their new resolutions to start the new year with always was to be early for prayers and breakfast. This good resolution, I am sorry to say, never lasted the year out, but they were on time for school morning at least.

"And every time you get down to the foot of the class!" asked May, mischievously.

"I want to propose something to you," said grand'ma, quietly. "You have all made ever so many good resolutions for this year, I know, now suppose you write them all down on the first page of your diary, and then every evening put down how many of them you have kept and how many you have broken."

"Oh, that will be splendid," exclaimed May. "Let's do it now," and in a few minutes the children were seated around the table, busily writing down in their pretty little books all their good resolutions. "There, I'm all through," exclaimed May, putting down her pen with a sigh of relief.

"Grandma, I think I shall hardly be able to wait for evening to come after this, I shall be so anxious to write in my dear little diary."

Grandma smiled.

"I hope you won't get so tired of it that you will give it up entirely after a while, dear," she remarked.

Impulsive May blushed, for she had often given up things after a few days, that she had thought at first it would be impossible to get tired of.

"Haven't you finished yet, Harry?" she exclaimed, in surprise, after a few minutes had passed in silence, broken only by the busy scratching of pens.

"What a long list you are making. Why Lily you are only sitting there, thinking, instead of writing. Can't you think of any bad habits that you want to give up," she asked.

"Plenty of them," answered Lillian. "My only trouble is that I don't know which of them to make resolutions about. I am afraid to make very many at first, for fear I should forget some of them."

"Now, I'm all done," exclaimed Harry, raising his flushed face from the book over which he had been bending so long. "Hurry up, Lily, and we'll let grandma read them all."

In a few moments Lily had finished her writing, too, and then the three children gave their books to grandma, while they bundled up to go out for a game in the snow.

Grandma wiped her glasses carefully before she opened the tiny volumes.

The first was Harry's. He had written in his round boyish hand quite a formidable list of resolutions. Grandma smiled as she read them. Would you like to know what they were?

"Jan. 1st, 1884. Harry Livingstone Gordon.

"I resolve:

"1st. To get up every morning before I am called.

"2nd. To be early at school every morning.

"3rd. To be always at the head of my class.

"4th. Not to smoke cigarettes any more with the boys.

"5th. Not to use a crib for my Latin exercises.

"6th. Not to be ugly about going errands for mother.

"7th. To write in my diary every day this year."

"Quite a list of resolutions," thought grandma, as she laid it aside and took up May's book.

"Jan. 1st, 1884. May Egerton Gordon. Good resolutions.

"I resolve:

"1st. To get up early.



"YOU CAN'T COME IN JACK FROST."—Drawn by H. P. Walcott.

Christian pastors, seeing the strife of habit with conscience, would seek for the golden mean between license and prohibition. They acted upon the principle, that though there must be unity in essentials, there should be liberty in non-essentials, and love in all things. They took what was good in the Roman holidays and associated it with the birthday festival of Him who came to bring peace on earth and good will to men.

The Pilgrim Fathers thought they were doing God's service in trying to kill Christmas. Being learned in Roman antiquities, they stigmatized the festival as the survival of a pagan holiday. The first Christmas occurred just after their landing at Plymouth. December twenty-fourth was Sabbath, and busy as they were, not a hand was lifted to work. The next day was Christmas, and Governor Bradford had a grim pleasure in recording that no man rested on that day.

They appointed a Thanksgiving day at the end of November, which soon became the Puritan Christmas, a day of family gatherings

"Oh! oh! oh!" was the delighted chorus as they saw their new possessions.

Harry L. Gordon, May E. Gordon, Lillian H. Gordon. Could anything be prettier than these three names printed in tiny golden letters?

"Grandma, you couldn't have possibly given us a lovelier present," exclaimed May, enthusiastically, giving the dear old lady a loving hug as she spoke.

"I always wanted a diary," said Harry, "but I thought only grown-up people ever had them."

"How pretty our names look in print, don't they?" said Lillian, patting her little book with caressing fingers.

"Now I want to have a little talk with you about these diaries," said grandma, after breakfast, seating herself with her knitting, in her big easy chair. "What are you going to write in them?"

"Oh, everything that happens, I am going to put in mine," said Harry. "All I do at school, and every time I get up to the head of the class—"

you like to know what they were?

"Jan. 1st, 1884. Harry Livingstone Gordon.

"I resolve:

"1st. To get up every morning before I am called.

"2nd. To be early at school every morning.

"3rd. To be always at the head of my class.

"4th. Not to smoke cigarettes any more with the boys.

"5th. Not to use a crib for my Latin exercises.

"6th. Not to be ugly about going errands for mother.

"7th. To write in my diary every day this year."

"Quite a list of resolutions," thought grandma, as she laid it aside and took up May's book.

"Jan. 1st, 1884. May Egerton Gordon. Good resolutions.

"I resolve:

"1st. To get up early.

"2nd. To go to bed when mamma says it is time, without being cross.

"3rd. Not to copy examples in school.

"4th. To practise every day without being reminded.

"Very good resolutions," commented grandma.

Now came Lillian's diary. She was nearly three years younger than May, and grandma smiled a little at the crooked, unsteady letters so carefully and laboriously made.

"Jan. 1st. Lillian Heywood Gordon.

"I resolve," and after these words, thoughtful little Lillian, with a wisdom that both her older brother and sister had lacked, had written, "by God's help."

Grandma looked very lovingly at these three words.

"Dear little one," she said to herself. "With His help she will be able to keep all her good resolves."

"1st. I will try to mind mamma pleasantly whenever she wants me to do anything.

"2nd. I will try to do something to make somebody happy every day.

"3rd. I will try always to be kind and obliging to Harry and May.

"Well, grandma, have you finished reading them all?" asked Harry, as the three children came in to warm their cold fingers after their snow-balling.

"Yes, dear, I have read them all," answered grandma, "and if you all keep them there will be three model children in this house. But Harry, dear, I am sorry that there is any need for two of these resolutions. I didn't know that you had ever smoked a cigarette, and as to a 'crib,' why, Harry, that is dishonorable, not only to your classmates, and teacher, but to your father as well."

Harry's face flushed.

"Well, you see, grandma, the exercises got so hard last term that we couldn't possibly get them right, and so one of the fellows got this crib, and then we began to use it, first only for extra hard sentences, and then, somehow, we got to using it most all the time. It will be pretty hard work to stop, I tell you, grandma."

"I know it will," she answered. "You must try to persuade all the other boys to stop, too, Harry."

"I'm afraid I can't do that," said Harry, "but I'll stop using it myself, anyhow. As to smoking, grandma, why all the fellows do that. I wouldn't have told you about it, only as I am going to stop you might as well know about it as not."

"My hands are warm now," exclaimed May, drawing on her scarlet mittens again. "Let's put our diaries away and go out to play again."

As Lillian took her diary grandma put her arm around her and gave her a loving little squeeze.

"I haven't made as many resolutions as the others, grandma," said Lillian. "I was afraid I would forget some of them if I made any more."

"If you keep these three, dear, you will be a very good little girl," answered grandma; "and I am glad that you remembered that you couldn't do it in your own strength alone," she added, kissing the sweet little face before Lillian followed her brother and sister.

That evening the children could hardly wait for the tea-table to be cleared so anxious were they to write in their diaries.

None of the good resolutions had been broken so far. With nothing but play all day, there had not been much temptation to be anything else than good children.

"It's just as easy to be good as to be anything else," exclaimed Harry closing his book.

"It has been to-day, because nothing has happened to make us anything else," said May. "Just wait till to-morrow when we go to school again and see if it is so easy."

That night Harry went up his alarm clock, and placed it on a chair by the bedside, where he would surely be able to hear it the next morning.

It seemed as if he had hardly been asleep more than a few hours when whir-rr-rr went the alarm, and he opened his eyes with a start to find that it was already the grey dawn of a winter's morning, and if he wanted to keep his resolution he must jump up right away.

He hesitated just for an instant, his warm, soft bed was so tempting, and a nap of even five minutes more would be such a luxury. He closed his eyes, drew the warm blankets

up over his head, then remembering his resolution, suddenly conquered his inclination, and with a "One Two! Three! Away goes he!" sprang out of bed and began to dress.

"Good resolution number one is all right for to-day," he said to himself, as he hurried downstairs to the warm sitting-room fire.

"Now for number two."

It was very easy to make an early start for school, but before recess Harry found that one of his resolutions was going to cost him no little effort.

"Here's the crib, Harry," said his desk-mate, pushing the volume along the seat to him.

Harry shook his head.

"No, thank you," he whispered back. "I'm going to work them out myself."

"Oh, you are, are you? Well, just see how far you'll get by yourself, that's all," responded his companion, returning the book to his desk with an aggrieved air.

"I wish I had never seen the old thing, so I do," thought Harry to himself as he puzzled over the sentences which seemed perversely disposed to refuse being put into Latin.

"I'll catch it for this exercise, see if I don't," he murmured to himself. "Here goes for one resolution. I won't be able to keep at the head of my class, unless I use the crib, and if I use that then I'll be breaking any one."

"I am perfectly sure that there isn't one correct sentence in the whole thing."

With this comfortable assurance, he went to his class when it was called. He lost his place at the head of the class, of course, and worse than that, received a sharp reprimand for inattention and indolence from his teacher.

He had to stay in after school to correct the numerous mistakes, and knowing that no amount of application could make them right, he opened the next desk, took out the key, and corrected his exercise by it.

"This looks more like your usual work," said his teacher, approvingly. "You must have exercised your ingenuity considerably to make as many mistakes as you did the first time. Some of the simplest sentences that you never made a mistake in before were entirely wrong. I hope I shall never have such an exercise again from you."

"I may as well scratch that resolution out right away," thought Harry to himself. "I have broken it once already, and I shall just have to keep on breaking it, or else study up all the back lessons, and I haven't got time for that. Oh, dear!"

Before he reached home his spirits had risen again, for he had kept one of his other resolutions by declining a cigarette, and after he had made up his mind to scratch out the resolution about the key to his Latin Exercises, he thought it wouldn't be such a hard matter to keep the others.

Harry had forgotten that his own strength would carry him but a very little way in the right path.

Before Saturday evening he had broken every one of the good resolutions he had made, even the one about writing regularly in his diary; for on Friday evening he had taken the little book out, glanced over the pages upon which he had written the record of his shortcomings, and thrown it back again, with the impatient exclamation:

"Now, you can stay right where you are until I have something good to write about. I am just sick of writing all the bad things I do."

And how fared it with May's diary? She had made fewer resolutions than Harry, but she had made the same mistake that he had, in trusting entirely to her own strength in keeping them; so it is not at all wonderful that every evening she, too, had to record broken promises.

Her resolution to rise early was the first to be broken, for there was nothing that May loved better than a morning nap, and her pillow always seemed the most inviting just after she had been called. Then she liked to sit up in the evening just as well as she liked to sleep in the morning, so it was not long before a very cross little face, and fretful, complaining tones answered mamma's call of "Bedtime, little folks."

Then a hard example in school one day was too much for the third resolution to stand proof against, and the fourth one soon shared the fate of the others.

Now we must see how Lillian kept her good resolutions.

Every morning after her prayers she added a simple, earnest petition that

God would grant her strength to keep the good resolutions she had made, and with his help it was not as hard for her as it was for the others.

One day, indeed, her unselfishness was put to a severe test.

She went to see a little friend who was recovering from a long illness, and told her about all the pretty gifts she had received at Christmas. One of the presents that had most delighted Lillian was a dear little canary bird that her mother had given her.

He was such a pretty little fellow, bright yellow with a cunning little top-knot of feathers—a bang Harry called it. Then he was so tame. He would hop out of the cage on her finger and eat seeds and bits of soaked bread from between her lips, and he could sing as Lillian thought no bird had ever sung before.

She was telling Susie all about her little pet, when suddenly the little girl exclaimed "Oh, Lillie, won't you bring him around here and let him stay with me till I get better? I am so tired of everything that I have got, I will take ever such good care of him, if you only will. I wouldn't mind lying here all day half as much if I only had him to look at and play with."

"Oh, I couldn't," exclaimed Lillian in dismay. "Why, Susie, you don't know how I love him. I couldn't lend him to you possibly."

Susie's eyes filled with tears.

"You are a selfish thing, so you are," she said, fretfully. "I wish you had been here for nearly two months then you would know how pleasant it is. You can keep your old bird and I don't ever want to speak to you again," and she buried her face in the pillow, refusing even to look at Lillian again.

"How selfish Susie is," thought the little girl as she walked slowly homeward. "I don't see how she could expect me to lend her my darling little birdie."

"How selfish Lillian is," a voice seemed to whisper to her after a few minutes. "She won't lend her bird to her poor little sick friend for even a few days. Is she doing as she would be done by?"

Then Lillian remembered her resolution to try to make somebody happy every day, this seemed to be her opportunity for to-day, and how could she neglect it, and yet how could she spare her bird?

It was a pretty hard struggle between selfishness and a desire to do right that went on in the little girl's mind, and for a long time it seemed as if self would conquer.

After a quiet half hour spent in her room her mind was made up, and not trusting herself to look at her little pet again, she ran quickly downstairs to her mother.

"Mamma, would you mind if I lent little Susie Ray my birdie for a few days? It would amuse her so much to watch him."

Mamma glanced up in surprise. She knew how Lillian loved her bird, and wondered at her proposal to part with him.

She saw traces of tears in the blue eyes and the trembling of the little girl's voice showed her that it was only by a great effort of self-denial that Lillian had been able to make up her mind to it.

She would not say anything that might discourage her little daughter in her kind purpose, and in a few moments Lillian was on her way to her little friend's house with the bird cage clasped tightly in her arms.

Susie gave a scream of delight as she saw Lillian enter the room with the bird, and sat up, holding out her thin hands for it, while a flush of pleasure glowed on her pale cheeks.

"I brought you the bird to stay with you till you get well," said Lillian, bravely keeping back the tears, as she gave her treasure into the outstretched hands.

"Oh, have you really?" exclaimed the little girl, in delight. "I am so sorry I was cross to you about it," and she held up her face for a kiss of reconciliation. "You are not going now, are you?" she asked, as Lillian turned to go away.

"Yes, I must run right home again," answered Lillian. "Good-bye. I hope birdie will be pleasant company."

She ran swiftly homewards, trying to remember only Susie's happiness, and she succeeded so well that by the time she reached home her sunny face was as bright as usual.

That evening when she sat down to write in her little diary, she was very glad that she had a deed of kindness to record instead of a broken resolution.

One Sunday afternoon, when the children

came home from Sunday-school, May and Harry stood by the fire warming their cold hands, while Lillian went upstairs to put away her books.

"How are the diaries?" asked grandma. "Are they the records of resolutions broken or kept?"

"Mine have all been broken ones," answered May, sadly, while Harry said: "I have given mine up entirely, grandma. I broke every resolution I had made right away, and I really did try as hard as I could to keep them. It's no use trying, and I don't mean to any more."

"Don't say that, dear," said grandma, gently. "Don't give up trying, but see if you can't try in a better way. I think you and May both forgot whose help you need to strengthen you in your good resolves. Don't you think that if you had written, as Lillian did, 'By God's help,' before your resolutions, and then remembered to ask for that help every day, you would have succeeded better?"

"I forgot all about that, grandma," answered May.

"It isn't too late now, dear children," said grandma, lovingly. "Don't be discouraged by this week of failures. If it has taught you that you can do nothing good in your own strength, it has not been in vain. Begin again and, 'with God's help,' try to keep your good resolutions."

"We will," answered May and Harry together, and after that, though the little diaries recorded many a failure and defeat, they recorded as well many a resolution faithfully kept "by God's help."—*The Churchman.*

THE SCEPTICAL SHOEMAKER.

"I have read," said the shoemaker, "a great deal about the heathen gods, and I believe the account of Christ is taken from some of the heathen writings."

"Will you abide by your own decision on two questions that I will put to you?" said the Bible reader. "If so, I will freely do the same. I will abide by your own answers; by doing so we will save much time and arrive more quickly at the truth."

"Well," said he, "out with it, and let us see if I can answer; there are few things but that I can say something about."

"Well, my friend," replied the reader, "my first question is, suppose all men were really Christians to the account given to us in the gospels concerning Christ, what would be the state of society?"

He remained silent for some time in deep thought, and then was constrained to say:

"Well, if all men were really Christians in practice as well as in theory, of course we should be a happy brotherhood indeed."

"I promised you," said the reader, "that I would abide by your answer. Will you do the same?"

"(Yes," he readily replied; "no man can deny the goodness of the system in practice; but now for the other question, perhaps I shall get on better with that. You have a chalk this time against me."

"Well, my next question is this:—Suppose all men were infidels—what then would be the state of London and of the world?"

He seemed still more perplexed, and remained a long time silent, the reader doing the same. At length he said, "You have certainly beaten me, for I never before saw the two effects upon society. I now see that where the Christian builds up the infidel is pulling down. I thank you; I shall think of what has passed this afternoon."

The sequel was that he was fully persuaded in his own mind to give up all his infidel companions and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. But the change did not stop here. When first the reader called he had to sit on an old, dirty chair, with a number of half-starved children sitting in their rags on the floor around him neglected and uncared for; now they have removed to a better home in a cleaner street. Within all is cheerful and happy. The father, no longer faithless, delights in the company of his wife and children, all of whom are neatly dressed; and his chief happiness is to read and speak to them of the things which belong to their everlasting peace.—*E.*

THERE IS NOTHING so strong or safe in any emergency of life as the simple truth.

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From International Question Book)

Studies in the Acts of the Apostles.

LESSON II.—JANUARY 11.

PAUL AT MILETUS.—ACTS 20: 17-27. COMMIT VERSES 18-21.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.—Acts 20: 21.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The life and work of a faithful teacher.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Acts 20: 17-27. T. 1 Cor. 4: 1-16. W. 2 Cor. 6: 1-10. Th. Luke 9: 51-62. F. Phil. 3: 1-14. Sa. 2 Tim. 4: 1-18. Su. Rom. 8: 31-39.

TIME.—Sunday, April 21 A.D. 58.

PLACE.—Miletus, then a celebrated city of Asia Minor 30 or 40 miles south of Ephesus, famous for its commerce, riches, and noted men.

SHUTTERS.—Nero, Emperor of Rome. Felix, Governor of Judea.

PAUL.—Aged 56 on his third missionary journey, toward the close of the fourth year.

INTRODUCTION.—In our last lesson Paul was hastening on toward Jerusalem, where he wished to arrive by Pentecost (May 16). The vessel did not stop at Ephesus, but passed by it, and came to Miletus. Here Paul sent for the elders of Ephesus to meet him for a few words of counsel, which are given in this lesson and the next.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

17. HE SENT TO EPHESUS.—because the vessel might sail at any time, and it was not safe for him to go there. THE FELLOWS.—the leaders, the officers of the church—called "overscers," i. e., bishops; in v. 28. IS THE FIRST DAY (CAME)—four years before this, ASIA—the province of Asia in the western part of Asia Minor, Ephesus was its capital. 18. WITH MANY TEARS—of sorrow that so many refused to believe; of sympathy with the trials of others. TEMPORAL—trials. 20. KEEP BACK NOTHING—preached the whole truth, the hard doctrines as well as the pleasant. 22. BOWED UNTO THE SPIRIT—compelled by his own conscience and sense of duty. 23. THE HOLY GHOST WITNESSETH—by prophecies as in Acts 21: 3 and 11, and by his next experience. 24. MOVE ME—from my purpose. FINISH MY COURSE—he was like an athlete running a race, and he had just won the goal, which was the completion of the work God had given him to do. 26. TAKE YOU TO RECOGNITION—call you to witness. FLEE FROM THE BLOOD—those who killed others had usually stains of blood on their hands or garments. Some to whom Paul preached might be lost but he was not to blame. There was no stain on him. He had done all he was able to save them.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTION.—Why were Paul at this time? From what place was he travelling? To what place? Trace out the journey. Why did he not stop at Ephesus? When did he reach Miletus?

SUBJECT: THE FAITHFUL TEACHER.

I. HIS LIFE (vs. 17-19).—Who did Paul do as he reached Miletus? How far was it to Ephesus? Who were the elders? How long had Paul lived in Ephesus? (Acts 20: 18). What did Paul say to them? Where was Asia? What did this appeal show us to Paul's life among them? Can we do much good to others unless we have the religion we teach? What can you learn of Paul's character from this address?

What was Paul's object in life? What is humanity? For whom did Paul shed tears of joy? What does this remind you in Jesus' life? (Luke 19: 41-44; John 11: 55). What is meant by "temporal"?

II. HIS WORK (vs. 20, 26).—What was Paul's work among the Ephesians? What shows Paul's tenderness in teaching? Is it just as necessary to teach men the greatness and the danger of their sins as the mercy of God? In what place and ways did Paul teach? Why was he so earnest and faithful? (vs. 21, 26). To what does he refer in the words, "pure from the blood of all"? How may we be guilty of the loss of souls?

III. HIS TEACHINGS.—(vs. 21, 27).—What were the two great subjects of Paul's teaching? What are they called in v. 27? Why called God's "counsel"? What is repentance? Why is it called repentance toward God? What great evangelical doctrines are in it? How did Paul look at these things? What is meant by finishing his course? How could he do it with joy?

IV. HIS OUTLOOK (vs. 22-25).—Where was Paul going? What is meant by "beyond in the spirit"? Is it well that we do not know what is before us? Do whom can we comfort? How? What did the Holy Ghost witness? How? How did Paul look at these things? What is meant by finishing his course? How could he do it with joy?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

I. We should live that we shall be most approved where we are best known.

II. Paul, in this address, shows the characteristics of humility, earnestness, devotion to God's service, tenderness, boldness, faithfulness, faith in the midst of trials.

III. The true object of life is serving God in saving men.

IV. Personal work is a powerful means of bringing men to Christ.

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COMMERCIAL.

MONTREAL, Dec. 30, 1884.

This is the holiday week and of course there is being nothing done, but the prospects for the New Year are improving, stocks are being reduced in great Britain, and holders are stiffer than formerly. If the favorable outlook becomes a favorable future it will be a happy New Year for many persons, particularly the farmers who have held on to their wheat.

Chicago wheat has made a substantial advance this week and it is not fluctuating greatly. The quotations are:—Wheat at 75c Jan. 75½ Feb. 81½ May. Corn is quoted at 35c year and Jan. at 35 May.

The local market is unchanged in every way. We quote Canada Red Winter, 82c to 84c; White, 83c to 84c; Spring 81c to 83c; Peas, 72½ to 73c; Oats, 31c. Barley, 55c to 67c. Corn 54c.

Flour. The members go up on change still but they do not go for business. Holders are quoting far higher than buyers will here of. We quote as follows:—Superior Extra, \$3.70 to \$3.80; Extra Superior, \$3.60; Fancy \$3.45; Spring Extra \$3.40; Superfine, \$3.25 to \$3.35; Strong Bakers' (Can.), \$3.75 to \$4.00; Strong Bakers' (American), \$4.00 to \$4.25; Fine, \$3.10 to \$3.15; Middlings, \$3.80 to \$3.85; Pollards, \$2.60 to \$2.70; Ontario bags, (bags included) Medium, \$1.75 to \$1.85; Spring Extra, \$1.65 to \$1.70; Superfine, \$1.45 to \$1.55; City Bags, (delivered), \$2.35.

MEALS unchanged.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Both butter and cheese are quiet and unchanged. We quote as follows:—Creamery, 21c to 23c; Eastern Townships, 17c to 20c; Western, 14c to 17c. Cheese is unchanged at 11½ to 12c for September and October, and 8c to 11c for other makes.

Eggs, fresh, are selling at 20c to 22c, as to quality.

POLTRY AND GAME are steady as follows:

—Turkeys, 11c to 12c; ducks, 10c to 12c; geese and chickens, 7c to 8c per lb.; partridges, 45c to 50c per brace; venison saddles, 7c to 9c; do, carcasses, 5c to 6c per lb.

Hog products are very quiet. We quote:—Western Mess Pork \$14.75 to \$15.00; Hams, city cured, 14c to 14½; Bacon, 13c to 14c; Lard, western, in pails, 10½ to 10¾; do, Canadian, 10½; Tallow, common refined, 7c to 8c.

ASHES are very weak, Pots selling at \$3.40 to \$3.45 as to rates.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

The city butchers did not invest so largely as usual in extra beef for Christmas and the consequence is that there is a better demand for ordinary fat cattle than is generally the case during the holidays, and prices of this kind are higher than they have been for several weeks past. Very choice cattle sell at about 5c per lb., and pretty good steers, extra fat bulls and good fat cows sell at from 4½ to 4¾ do; while common dry cows sell at from 3c to 3½ do. Sheep are in fair supply at about former rates, but most of the butchers have laid up their winter's supply of frozen mutton. Live hogs are scarce and bring over 5c per lb. There have been scarcely any milch cows brought to the city for over a week.

FARMERS' MARKET.

Although the weather has been unfavorable and the farmers south of the St. Lawrence are unable to bring their teams across the ice, still the markets are pretty well supplied with most kinds of seasonal farm and garden stuffs, and prices are generally much lower than is usual at this season of the year. There has been a great decline in the prices of dead poultry since Christmas, but dressed hogs are advancing in price. Potatoes, turnips, onions and cabbages are lower priced than they have been for many years at the end of December. There is a slight decline in the prices of meal and feed. Tommy Cods are plentiful and sell at about twenty cents the peck. The supply of hay is equal to the demand and prices are weaker in anticipation of more liberal supplies coming to market when the ice-bridge becomes passable. Oats are 75c to 85c per bag; peas, 75c to 90c per bushel; beans \$1.40 to \$1.80 do; potatoes 35c to 50c per bag; turnips, carrots, beets and

onions 30c to 50c per bushel; cabbages 15c to 30c per dozen heads; butter 14c to 40c per lb.; eggs 22c to 60c per dozen; apples \$2.00 to \$3.00 per barrel; dressed hogs 7c to 7½ per lb.; mutton quarters 5c to 7c do; young turkeys 9c to 12c per lb.; geese 7c to 10c do; fowls 7c to 10c do; ducks 12c to 15c do; hay \$5.00 to \$9.60 per 100 bundles.

New York, Dec. 29, 1884.

GRAIN.—Wheat, 83½ Jan.; 85½ Feb.; 87½ Mar.; 89½ April; 91c May. Corn, 66c Dec.; 4½c Jan.; 47½c April; 46½c May. Rye, quiet, 63½c. Oats dull; 33½c Dec.; 33c Jan.; 35½c May. Barley. Canada No. 2, 76½c. Peas nominal.

FLOUR, quiet and unchanged. We quote: Superfine, \$2.30 to \$2.70; Low Extra, \$2.65 to \$3.50; Clears, \$3.45 to \$4.00; Straight \$3.70 to \$4.70; Patent, \$4.00 to \$5.00. Winter Wheat; — Superfine, \$2.45 to \$2.85; Low Extra, \$2.70 to \$3.05; Clears (R. and A.), \$3.70 to \$4.00; Straight (R. and A.), \$4.00 to \$4.80; Patent, \$4.40 to \$5.15; Straight (White Wheat), \$4.05 to \$4.90; Low Extra (City Mill), \$2.80 to \$3.05; West India, sacks, \$3.50 to \$3.60; barrels, West India, \$4.40; Patent, \$4.60 to \$5.15; South America, \$4.25 to \$4.30; Patent \$4.65 to \$5.40. Southern Flour—Extra, \$3.00 to \$4.25; Family, \$4.55 to \$5.10; Patent, \$5.10 to \$5.60. Rye Flour—Fine to superfine, \$2.40 to \$3.40.

MEALS.—Cornmeal, \$3.30 to \$3.40 in burl; oatmeal, \$5.00 to \$5.90 per bbl.

DAIRY PRODUCE.—Butter unchanged. Creamery, ordinary to select 18c to 31c. Half firkins, ordinary to best 16c to 24c; Welsh tubs 19c to 23c; Western ordinary factory, to choice imitation creamery, 9c to 23c. Cheese, state factory, ordinary to fall cream, 3½c to 13½c. Ohio flats, fair to choice 6c to 11½c; Skins 1c to 3c.

THE ESTON Steel Works, Middlebury, Eng., are closed, and now 2,000 workmen are thrown out of employment.

NEGOTIATIONS with France for the neutralization of the territory of the African International Association have been renewed in Paris. Prince Bismarck has sent a special communication to M. Ferry urging him to withdraw his opposition.

MOST HAVE THEM.—There is an old story of an artist who sent a sketch of some Indian scene to one of the illustrated papers, and afterward complained that it had been tampered with before publication.

A group of palms having been introduced into the background, whereas those trees were unknown in the region which he had depicted. "That is very possible, Mr. —" replied the editor, "but let me tell you that the public expects palms in Oriental landscapes and will have them.—The Cornhill Magazine."

THE LATE THOMAS CARLILE undoubtedly possessed the popular homage.

"A stranger on the box of an omnibus, seeing the historian g. in, observed that the "old fellow" had "a queer at." "Queer at?" answered the driver. "Ay, he may wear a queer at; but what would you give for the 'old-piece that's inside of it'?"

A LOVER gazed on the eyes of his mistress till she blushed. He pressed her hand to his heart and said, "My looks have plained roses on thy cheeks; he who sows the seed should reap the harvest."

WE ARE but passengers of a day, whether it is in years. Why, then, not make the way as pleasant to each other as possible?

A MAN said to his aged mother, speaking of his wife, "I'd wish I could keep Mary from exaggerating so." "Get her to talk about her own age," so responded the shrewd old lady.

SMALL DEBTS are like small shot, they are rattling on every side and can scarcely be escaped without a wound. Great debts are like cannon, of loud noise, but little danger.

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The National Temperance Society's Tracts are on hand at the Witness Office, and will be forwarded at cost to all who remit for them. They are as follows:—

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9. Penny Papers—a series of 12 papers, Tracts, prepared by the same—10c.
10. Union Handbills—Clear series, 40 numbers—10c.
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Money must invariably be in our hands in advance, as there is not even a margin to pay for answering letters.

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