

California Department.

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Bible Study.

We greatly rejoice to see such an interest taken in Bible study. So many more persons are being marshalled into the ranks of truth seekers each week throughout the world. This is done through the Sunday-school work more than in any other way. But while this work is going on there are many more who might be engaged in this if they would. They are good and zealous Christians but they do not believe in taking the Sunday-school lessons as a means to accomplish the end. They have no other means, nor do they study the Bible any more than before the present method was adopted. The studies now in the Old Testament are very interesting, embracing some of those bold movements of Jehovah in his dealings with the children of Israel such deep impressions of his hand as stood out before Israel as reminders to them through ages, how God would not look on sin with the least degree of allowance. These bold juttings of the Divine hand are as deeply marked as the rough granite out-croppings that mark the original ledges or strata through mountain chains, and it is with so much interest the Geologist studies these rocky pages. The elementary forms of life, either animal, or vegetable, the time of their beginning, the hour of their origin, the condition of light, heat, and moisture of the primitive age are among the interesting lessons to the scientist. And many times with the smallest conceivable amount of data does this lover of nature spend days, months, and years in trying to read some dim outline—a lesson God gave ages ago when he commanded and it was so. And many times this rocky lesson has not been read correctly. We know that by the simple change or omission of letters in our language, fog may be read dog, plain, pain etc. The scientific world has accepted sometimes these incorrect readings as the true reading and the mass of mankind has taken up many times these readings and become romantic rambles after a very wrong impression received from nature.

There is no better time than now to take up this line of Bible study, and if you want more of the Bible

lessons than are given in the regular series, all the reader has to do is to take up the intervening lessons and read the connected history and the whole line that is given. There is no use to stand off and say, "I won't do anything unless it is done my way," when the "my way" is of no more Bible authority than some other way. The coming generation will be a Bible people as much so at least as any generation that has ever lived. There is more real, true Bible study and investigation to day than ever before, and let each one of us do as much as he can to further on the work. The Bible-time is always, to-day. I have seen it the case when the brethren were content to spend most of their time in Sunday-school and Bible study in the Book of Acts. The more careful study is made of the Old Testament, the more beauty is seen in the New. The Bible lessons taken from the O. T. are such as are of the greatest interest to both old and young, and the live Christian cannot afford to stand outside of the grand army of near 15,000,000 persons who form the rank and file of Bible students who are found in every nation, tongue, tribe and people. "Search the Scriptures."

Obituary.

Died, in Colusa, Cal. of heart disease, on August 15, 1883, Mrs. Mary Hathaway.

Sister Hathaway was born in London, England, in 1840, and was married at New Bedford, Mass., in 1860. They came to Oregon in 1869 where they remained till 1878, when they came to Cal. Sister H. joined the church at Ashland, Oregon in 1876. They came to Colusa last Oct. She was a devoted Christian, and on the morning of her death, she prayed earnestly for her family and declared herself ready to depart, trusting in all confidence in her risen Savior. She bore her sufferings without a murmur, and fell asleep in full hope. She leaves three daughters and five sons with a stricken husband. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Let us beware of losing our enthusiasm. Let us ever glory in something, and strive to retain our admiration for all that would ennoble, and beautify our life.

Wealth is like a viper, which is harmless if a man knows how to take hold of it; but if he does not, it will twine round his hand and bite him.—*St. Clement.*

Acknowledgement.

I wish to acknowledge the following sums for the support of our foreign missions:

For General Fund: John Shackelford, Lexington, Ky., \$10.00; Ladies' Miss. Soc., Mt. Healthy, O., 10.00; Church, Kellogg, Ia., 15.00; Mrs. Rebecca Taylor, South Wales, N. Y., 1.00; A Disciple, Shalersville, O., 5.00; G. C. Winship, Decorah, Ia., 20.00; Findley L. Underwood, Mt. Vernon, Mo., 20.00; S. S. N. Roylton, O., 3.00; Church, Bethel, Clermont Co., O., 13.00; South Russell church, Chagrin Falls, O., 2.00; First S. S., Akron, O., 100.00; Mrs. M. I. Beal, Louisville, Kan., 1.00; Mrs. Welty, Wamego, Kan., .50; Mrs. E. J. Ellingston, Blooming Ferry, Minn., 5.00; Antioch church, Rutland, Ill., 4.83; S. S., Chattanooga, Tenn., 5.00; H. B. Goe, Pittsburg, Pa., 25.00; S. S., Johnson City, Tenn., 1.85.

For Turkish Mission: W. S. Powell, Princeton, Ky., \$5.00; Church, Givens, Ky., 7.00; Mrs. M. J. Giltner, Milton, Ky., 1.00; Bella Metcalf, Carlisle, Ky., 6.10; A sister in Mo., 5.00; Mrs. Eudora South, Frankfort, Ky., 5.00; Brethren at Hustonville, Ky., 5.00; Church, Kirksville, Ky., 5.61; W. S. Smith, Mt. Sterling Ky., .50; A sister in Mo., 5.00; W. S. Clark, Hardinsburg, Ky., 5.00; Mrs. Palina Crawford, Shelbyville, Ky., 20.00.

For French Mission: S. S., Glencairn, Ont., \$5.00.

Total receipts for week, \$317.39.

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Self-Repression.

To live to self, whether it be our judgment or our own taste, or our passions, or our own lusts, is sin, and it is death. To live to God is goodness and life; and to live to God is the only way by which we cease to live to self. We must die in order to live. All goodness is martyrdom, the martyrdom of self that the life of God, which is life indeed, may flow into our souls. In the lowest region of all we must sacrifice possessions, and in every region of experience we must give up ourselves, our prejudices, our ambitions, our notions, our tastes, and, worst of all, and most comprehensive of all, our will, and everything that is ours but our consciences, if we would have the fair beauty of goodness in our characters. Old fairy tales describe how a loathy serpent, twining round a tree, had

to be slain by a sharp sword ere the spell was broken, and the foul thing became a princess living in her beauty. So we ourselves have to slay ourselves, and out of the ugly, poisonous self that we slay struggles forth, beautiful and radiant, the better self, which is the image and gift of Christ. All goodness is self-repression.—*The Churchman.*

It may be set down as a rule that no one can ever afford not to be a gentleman. It is best to learn this rule early and practice it late. It is not well to say mean things of another, because in most cases you will have to take it all back in bitterness of heart when he does you an unexpected favor. It is not wise to treat any one brusquely, because you can not always judge a bird by the feather he has on. It is not well to look down on any body, the time may come when he will look down upon you. There is a certain selfhood in every one which should be respected. We have no right to infringe upon it. It is not morality, it is not mere conventional rule, it is not simply a social regulation; it is something in the nature of things that you should always show a delicate regard for others. One who did not fail here was never known utterly to fail elsewhere.—*Rural Home.*

There are times in one's life when all the world seems to turn against us. Our motives are misunderstood, our words misconstrued, malicious smiles reveal to us the unfriendly feelings of others. Oh! how hard it all seems, and the more so that we cannot divine the cause. Courage, patience, disconsolate ones! God is making a furrow in your heart, where He will sow His grace. It is rare when injustice, or slights patiently borne, do not leave the heart at the close of the day filled with marvelous joy and peace.—*Rural Home.*

Spurgeon recently gave an anecdote of James Smith. Mr. Smith visited one of the members, who was dying, and said to her: "You are failing?" "Yes," said she. "Do you feel yourself sinking?" "What did you say, Mr. Smith?" He asked whether she was sinking. "No! my dear minister," said she "never ask such a question of a child of God. Did you ever know one to sink through the rock? If I were standing upon the sand, I might sink; but I am upon the Rock of Ages."