

Trust God.

The summer trees are gaunt and bare,
The summer sky is clouded;
The whirling snow is in the air,
The summer earth is shrouded.
And the birds? Oh! are they not afraid!
Will they freeze upon the bough?
God sheltered them in the summer shade—
He'll not forsake them now.
The summer fruits, a golden spoil,
Were gathered long ago;
The seeds lie sleeping in the soil
Or buried 'neath the snow.
And the birds? who will their tables set?
Who, who their mouths will fill?
They have a Friend who'll ne'er forget,
And He will feed them still.
Poor trembling heart! thy sorest needs
Be sure thy God can see:
Who, while the hungry birds He feeds
A store-house keeps for thee.
He says—though dark the winter's day,
And troubles round thee throng—
"Art thou not better far than they?"
Then trust Him and be strong.

[From the New York Observer.]
INTERNATIONAL S. S. LESSONS.

BY REV. E. P. ROGERS.

JANUARY 18.

JESUS BAPTIZED BY JOHN.

MATT. 3:1-17.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"And lo! a voice from heaven, saying: This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased."

Central Truth.—The divine witness to the "beloved Son."

Thirty years have passed away since the events recorded in the last lesson.—Over all these years, almost an entire generation, a veil of dim obscurity is drawn, lifted only to reveal his visit to Jerusalem with Joseph and Mary, when he was twelve years old, and his remarkable interview at that time with the scholars of the temple.

It is somewhat remarkable that we know so little about the youth and early manhood of Jesus. But it shows us that the great interest which the world has in him is connected with his public ministry, his suffering and his death. He came to this world for one great purpose, and in the obscurity of Nazareth and the retirement of his father's humble home, laboring doubtless with him at his honest and useful occupation, and was waiting for the time when his great earthly work was to be done.

Now the time approaches, and he is to be formally inducted into his special mission. He had been carefully trained at home, educated perhaps above his station, for his acquirements excited the wonder and the envy of his countrymen; for his mother had kept all the sayings which she heard about him in his infancy, and pondered "them in her heart." And she doubtless watched over his mind and heart, and all the influences which surrounded him, with more than a mother's ordinary care, and endeavored to train him up in a manner suited to some lofty vocation.

Joseph, the husband of Mary, had probably, by this time passed from earth. Great political changes had taken place in the land. Archelaus had gone into exile, and Judea was feeling the yoke of the Roman power. Pontius Pilate was the royal governor, Herod Antipas was the ruler of Galilee, and all the rest of the life of Christ was to be passed under the administration of these two men.

In those days, that is while Jesus was living in Nazareth, John the Baptist, the son of Elizabeth, the cousin of Mark, came forth before the public as a herald or prophet, beginning his public ministry in the rude country district near Hebron, from which he afterwards went to the wild tracts between Jerusalem, the Jordan and the Dead Sea.

His appearance was commanding and stern. A coarse garment, woven of camel's hair, covered him, bound about him by a leathern girdle; he lived on the poorest fare; his voice rung through the desert in clarion tones, and the burden of

his cry was, "Repent! for the kingdom of heaven is at hand?"

The whole community was aroused by his appearance and his words. It was long since a prophet had appeared among the people. His mission was to awaken and arouse the sluggish and forgetful nation, and he fulfilled it well. Crowds gathered round him and listened with rapt attention to his burning words. With confession of sin, they sought to be baptized at his hand, and bowed before this "stern prophet of the wilderness," before whose scathing denunciations the Pharisees and Sadducees, the prominent purists and moralists of the nation, shrunk and trembled as stigmatizing them as "serpents and a generation of vipers," he warned them to "flee from the wrath to come!"

But John did not come to exalt himself, but to announce the coming Messiah, one mightier than he. He was the herald of a greater, and was satisfied to "prepare the way of the Lord." This greater one was now to manifest himself, and his first appearance was on the bank of the Jordan, asking for baptism at John's hands. The Baptist, divinely instructed, naturally and modestly shrank from assuming this position towards him from whom he felt that it would be more becoming in him to receive that rite. But Jesus felt that it was for him to set an example of honoring the commandments of God, and of obeying both the spirit and the letter of the law, and so received the ordinance from inferior though authorized hands.

This was followed by a miraculous manifestation of the Holy Spirit as a witness for Christ, and a divine endorsement of his divine relationship to the Father, and as one in whom the Deity was well pleased.

With this striking scene the lesson closes.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. The first message of a Christian teacher is an awakening message.

Men are slumbering in sin; they need to be roused. They are insensible to danger, and need to be alarmed. So the gospel message is not couched in smooth, mellifluous phrases, but comes in earnest and startling language: "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light!"

2. The most earnest preacher will have the most hearers.

Who should be earnest, if not the preacher of the gospel? His subject and his object alike demand it. The great salvation by the blood of Christ; the lost state of sinful men; the shortness of time, and the nearness of death, judgment and eternity, all conspire to make him earnest.

All the world needs and demands earnest men.

Drones in the pulpit will have sleepers in the pew.
Said an earnest man: "Raise me but a barn in the shadow of St. Paul's Cathedral, and with the conscience-searching power of a Whitefield, I will fill that barn with multitudes of eager listeners, while the matins and vespers of the great Cathedral shall be chanted only to the statues of the mighty dead."

3. It is a great honor and privilege to point men to Christ.

So John the Baptist considered it. He might have led an enthusiastic following and achieved great popularity. But it was glory enough for him to be the herald of the Messiah, and when that was accomplished, he was willing and ready for obscurity, for martyrdom, for heaven.

4. Repentance and confession of sin must precede pardon and peace.

Regret is not repentance. You must "change your mind." And since we cannot atone for our sins, the least we can do is to confess them.

5. Baptism by whomsoever administered, cannot take away sin. The baptism of the Spirit must precede that of water, as the thing signified is greater than the sign.

6. Complacent self-righteousness and

cultivated scepticism are alike hateful to God.

The Pharisee and the Sadducee, both trembled before the bold preacher of the desert.

7. The tree that is not good for fruit is only maturing into firewood.

9. To every true child of God the heavens shall at last be opened, and the universe shall be told that in them, as in their precious Lord, God is "well pleased."

COAL.

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Aug. 30

N. TIDD.

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aug26

H. JACOBS.

Text Book Uniformity.

RESULT WHERE BOOKS HAVE TO STAND ON THEIR OWN MERIT.

At a Convention of School Directors, of Centre County, held at Bellefonte, December 26, 1878, pursuant to the call of H. Meyer, Esq., County Superintendent, for the purpose of considering the propriety of taking measures to secure a uniformity of the text-books used in the schools of said county, the following action was taken, over fifty directors being present and nearly all the district in the county being represented:

COPY OF MINUTES.

Upon motion of C. P. Stonerod, of Snow Shoe township, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS: Great expense and waste are frequently incurred by the present and constantly changing variety of text-books used in the common schools of Centre county, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the representative directors here in session, that a system of text-books, suitable, complete and uniform, be adopted in accordance with the laws of the State, throughout the county.

Upon motion of J. C. P. Jones, the following plan was adopted with but one dissenting vote, to carry into effect the following preamble and resolutions:

First. The various publishing houses to send samples of their books to each school board in the county for examination and to submit therewith the lowest exchange, introductory and wholesale prices, and the length of time they will guarantee to furnish them at said price.

Second. No agent of any publishing house to be permitted to do any work in the county, to be either general or local agent, beyond sending his books and terms as above stated. Any house or agent violating this understanding, their books to be counted out of the contest.

Third. The several school boards of the county, after examination of the various books which may have been submitted, to hold a meeting at which each director shall make out a list of the books which he prefers to have adopted in the county, and send it to Henry Meyer, Esq., County Superintendent, at Rebersburg, Pa., prior to the first day of June, 1879, who shall make several statements so sent, and the books upon the various branches having the highest number of votes or preference shall be the series recommended for county uniformity.

The County Superintendent, after having made the above canvass as above, to send the result of the same to each of the papers in the county for publication.

W. C. HEINLE, Chairman.

J. C. P. JONES, Secretary.

The following is the result of the votes of the Directors of Centre county, Pa., on the uniformity of Text-books in said county, with the number of votes cast for each book, under the foregoing plan and resolutions:

READERS.	No. vote for each
New Graded.....	74
Independent.....	20
Appleton's.....	17
New American.....	12
SPELLERS.	
Swinton's.....	83
New American.....	6
Independent.....	23
Appleton's.....	1
Patterson's.....	1
Sander's Union.....	1
Raub's.....	1
GEOGRAPHIES.	
Swinton's.....	100
Colton's.....	14
Mitchell's.....	10
Independent.....	1
Monteith's.....	5
HISTORIES.	
Swinton's.....	63
Redpath's.....	5
Barnes' Brief.....	7
Butler's.....	1
Quackenbos.....	1
Watson's.....	6
WRITTEN ARITHMETIC.	
Robinson's Shorter Course.....	57
Greenleaf's.....	14
Brook's.....	1
Gilne's.....	22
Boff's.....	12
Nrook's Union.....	3
Mew American.....	4
MENTAL ARITHMETIC.	
Milne's.....	7
Greenleaf's.....	4
ALGEBRA.	
Robinson's.....	53
Greenleaf's.....	1
COPY BOOKS.	
Spencerian.....	69
Appleton's.....	30
Ellsworth's.....	10
GRAMMARS.	
Kerl's.....	72
Swinton's.....	17
Clark's Brief.....	15
Bullion's.....	1
Harvey's.....	20
Quackenbos.....	3
Fewsmith's.....	1
LANGUAGE LESSONS.	
Kerl's.....	5
Clark's.....	1
Harvey's.....	5
Morton's.....	3
BOOK-KEEPING.	
Bryant & Stratton's.....	44
Folsom's.....	6
Smith's.....	1
CIVIL GOVERNMENT.	
Townsend's.....	1