

Cardinal Manning's Pledge.

A PROMISE TO GOD.

I PROMISE thee, sweet Lord,  
That I will never - loathe the light  
Which shines from thee within my soul,  
And make - my reason bright,  
Nor ever will I lose the power  
To serve thee by my will,  
Which thou hast set within my heart  
Thy precepts to fulfil.

O let me drink as Adam drank,  
Before from thee he fell;  
O let me drink as thou, dear Lord,  
When faint by Sycchar's well  
That from my childhood, pure from sin  
Of drink and drunken strife,  
By the clear fountain I may rest,  
Of everlasting life.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

A. D. 30-33.] LESSON VII. [Aug 14.

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA.

Acts 5. 1-11. Memory verses, 9-11

GOLDEN TEXT.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.—Gal. 6. 7.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The hope of the hypocrites shall perish.

CIRCUMSTANCES.

After the release of Peter the Church prospered. The Christians lived together as brethren—preached, taught, helped the poor, rejoiced in the Lord. Many sold their property to give aid to the poor. Among this number was Barnabas, who afterwards became the companion of Paul. In contrast with him, and with the holy life of the Church, an instance of hypocrisy is given in the case of Ananias.

HINTS OVER HARD PLACES.

Ananias—Grace of God. Nothing is known of him but what is related here. Sapphira—A sapphire, or beauty. Sold—Ostensibly to give to the poor. Kept back part—While pretending to give it all. (Verse 8.) His wife also being privy to it—Mentioned to show that the sin was deliberately committed. Laid it at the apostles' feet—In public, at a meeting, thus seeking to gain notoriety as a generous man and a saint. Lie to the Holy Ghost—Because the offering was made to God rather than to man. While it remained—Undedicated to God. No one compelled him to give away his money. Gave up the Ghost—His spirit—life. Peter did not kill him. It was the direct act of God. Buried him—The Jews usually buried their dead the same day they died. His wife—Peter gave her an opportunity of confession. But he did not wait for her to know how her husband had died, for then her confession would have been insincere. Great fear—Or awe. All the Church—They feared to do wrong and to be hypocrites. As many as heard—Others feared on account of their sins. And they feared to join the disciples unless they were real Christians.

Find in this lesson—

- An acted lie.
- A spoken lie.
- The punishment of lying.
- How much God hates lying.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. What trouble now arose in the Church? "Some hypocrites joined them." 2. What did Ananias and Sapphira do? "They brought some money, pretending it was all, while they kept back a part." 3. What was their object? "That they might seem better than they were." 4. How were they punished? "They fell down dead." 5. What was the effect? "Great fear upon all, so that the Church was purified and grew, and many others repented of their sins."

CATECHISM QUESTION.

3. What does the Spirit perform for the Church?  
He calls and qualifies men, from time to time, to preach the word and administer the sacraments; makes their preaching effectual to the conversion of sinners and the edification of believers; and is present as the representative of the Lord Jesus in all the ordinances of public worship.

Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you bishops.—Acts 20. 28.

IN THE CRADLE OF THE DEEP.

ONE of the most impressive sights at sea is a full-rigged vessel riding the billows. Sometimes she is heaved up high and then apparently swallowed up by the waves. Sometimes it seems as though she would never come into view again, so long does she remain concealed behind some huge, intervening wave.



ROCKED IN THE CRADLE OF THE DEEP.

A WOODCOCK CARRYING HER YOUNG.

A PECULIAR habit of the woodcock is that of taking her young to the food, instead of bringing the food to the nestlings, as most birds do. She takes them tenderly between her long claws, and carries them safely to the feeding ground, and then back again to the shelter of the woods.

A SPOTTED CAT.

THE number of animals that belong to the Felidae, or cat family, is quite surprising, yet there is no danger of mistaking one for another. Many of them are beautifully marked, as we see in the common cat; the tiger is ringed, the jaguar covered with black rosettes, and the leopard is spotted.

The spotted cat, which is almost if not quite the same as the panther, is a graceful animal with a slender form, an unusually long tail, and a very cat-like head and face. It is generally of a tawny or yellowish colour, like the tiger, and the spots are arranged in close rows along the sides. These spots are in rings of four or five small spots; and the under part of the



A WOODCOCK CARRYING HER YOUNG.

body is much lighter than the upper part.

It is found in most countries where the lion and tiger abound; and it is so much lighter than these animals that it can perform feats of which they are quite incapable. Its leaps are much higher, and unfortunately for those of whom it is in pursuit, it can climb trees very rapidly. "It haunts wooden places, and is seldom to be found in open regions of long grass, like the tiger.

When pursued, it takes refuge if possible in a tree, and if hard pressed, springs down on its assailants. It is cunning, and adopts devices similar to those of the fox for carrying on its depredations and concealing the place of its retreat."

For food, the leopard is especially fond of deer and antelopes, but it will also carry off pigs and poultry from the outskirts of a village. It seldom attacks people unless in self-defence; and although large enough and strong enough to be very dangerous, it seems to prefer getting away when it can. It is easily tamed by kindness, and becomes very playful and mischievous.

An officer living in India had a tame leopard, that was very fond of gazing out of the window. But the children liked it, too, and they would try to drag "Said" down from his seat. He made himself as heavy as he could, and would not budge an inch until they all rolled over on the floor together. Then sometimes one party got the seat, and sometimes the other.

"Said" liked practical jokes, and once frightened a poor woman dreadfully, who came to the house to do some extra work, while she was down on her knees scrubbing a floor, by springing suddenly on her back. She did not hear his cat-like tread,

and not having seen a pot leopard before, she gave herself up for lost. The naughty "Said" was properly reproved; but he looked as if he had enjoyed it very much.

DID YOU EVER THINK, MY DEAR,

THAT a kind word put out at interest brings back an enormous percentage of love and appreciation?

That though a loving thought may not seem to be appreciated, it has yet made you better and braver because of it?

That the little acts of kindness and thoughtfulness day by day are really greater than one immense act of goodness shown once a year?

That to be always polite to the people at home is not only lady-like, but more refined than having "company manners"?

That to learn to talk pleasantly about nothing in particular is a great art, and prevents you saying things you may regret?

That to judge anybody by his personal appearance stamps you as not only ignorant, but vulgar?

That to talk, and talk, and talk about yourself and your belongings is very tiresome to the people who listen?

That to be witty (?) at the expense of somebody else is positive cruelty many times?

That personalities are not always interesting, and very often offensive?

That the ability to keep a friend is very much greater than that required to gain one?

That if women would allow their friends to enjoy themselves in their own way there would be fewer stumbling-blocks in life?

That if the girls all over the world were to form societies of one, each being her own president and house committee and entertainment committee and secretary and treasurer, and make kind words the currency, considerate actions the social functions, and love the great aim, the whole world would be sweeter and purer for it? Just form one society where you are, and see what a great success it will be.

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