



ANNOUNCING DAY-BREAK.

Anna M. Pratt.

The sparrow told it
to the robin,
The robin told it to
the wren,
And passed it on
with sweet remark,
To thrush, to bobolink
and lark,
The news that dawn
had come again.

THE BIRDS' FAREWELL.

THE days have been getting cold and chilly. The sun sets with a yellow glow and the sky has a deep purple appearance, that the birds have learned to regard as indications of cold weather. The trees have put away their finery and look as solemn and grave as Quakers. Among the busy birds there has been much hurrying to and fro, chattering and twittering, and calling back and forth from one tree to another. The important season has arrived when they must make their long journey south—a trip which is as essential to a bird's existence as *Madam La Mode's* annual summer trip to the sea-side.

Occasionally a little bird ruffles its feathers (the bird method of shrugging the shoulders), and from its quick, noisy twitter it seems to say: "It is, indeed, time we were off to a happier climate. What is the use of singing without our audience, the flowers?" A sympathetic little bird, with an impatient hop, and a quick "Twitter, twit, twee," says, "That is true, and what are we to do in case of a heavy rain storm, when all our pretty umbrellas (the leaves), are gone? We will be quite unprotected." Hopping back to its former position, with its head thrown wistfully to one side, it adds, "For my part, I wanted to go long ago, but my mate is so very slow. I am afraid he will freeze to death some cold season."

Just then light snow-flakes began to fall. The birds looked at the snow with apparent dismay and flew together on one tree, where a lively discussion began. One finely shaped old robin, with a pretty reddish-yellow breast, spread out his wings and shook the snow off them; then with all the dignity of a new robin, said "To-morrow morn-

ing we must begin our journey and travel as many miles south as we possibly can, or some of us may starve, or freeze to death." At this a gay young robin—who had never seen snow before, and did not know that no more worms could be had when the snow came, and that it meant that even colder weather was coming—looked up disdainfully with his little twinkling, black eyes and began to flutter round the group, saying, "This cold only makes me feel like flying, and the 'snow,' as you call it, is very pretty, soft stuff. It looks like feathers, and I should like to hop in it. I, for my part, can't see why you all make such a fuss about it. I think this flying south every year is a useless waste of time. We will have to make new nests in the south, and others again when we come back. I don't believe I'll go. This climate just suits me!"

The wise old birds glanced with compassion on this conceited and ignorant young thing, and solemn old Father-Robin said, "The blissful ignorance of our young friend is quite amusing. We might let him learn by sad experience his folly, but I think that to-morrow morning he will be glad to go with his companions. I propose, in order to get warm before we go to sleep, that when we have sung our evening hymn we sing a hearty farewell to dear old Canada."

When their vesper song was ended the birds burst forth into a loud and noisy chorus. All twittered, chirped and sang till their little throats seemed ready to burst. Each sang its own song, so that in the confusion the little children who had come to the window, to see "what could be the matter with the birds," did not hear a word they said, and were grieved that the

birds were bidding them good-bye and making pretty speeches about our country and the kind children who had not disturbed their nests.

By and by it grew quite dark and the little birds became quiet. Soon all their heads were hidden under their wings and they were asleep. When the children looked out of their window next morning the birds were every one gone—even the silly little robin who liked the snow so much.

A TREMENDOUS RING.

THERE is a story going the rounds, of a countryman at a city hotel, who, meddling with the little electric knob in the bedroom to see what it was, rang the bell unknowingly and a servant appeared. "Why, how do you do?" he said, extending his hand to the astonished servant, whom he thought a visitor. "Sit right down; what can I do for you?" "Did you ring?" said the servant. "Ring? Why, no. Ring what? There ain't no bell here." Then the servant explained the bell-knob, and left. After he had gone, the man thought he would try that bell-knob again, just for fun. He gave it a pull, and just then a tremendous gong rang for dinner, and feeling sure he had created an awful catastrophe downstairs, he, in great alarm, bolted out into the street, expecting the police to be after him.

NOTHING BUT WATER ON THE TABLE.

THERE is a certain large boarding-school for boys in England, where we have seen sixty or seventy of them at their desks, and fine, merry, strong, clever lads they were. No intoxicating drinks whatever are placed on the table, and yet several brewers and wine merchants send their sons there for education. This proves that even dealers in strong drink do not regard it as essential to their intellectual activity and physical health. Well, one of the young gentlemen had a white swelling in his knee, and was sent home for medical treatment. When the family doctor arrived and examined the limb he evidently thought it a serious case, and said:

"What sort of a school are you at?"
"Oh! a jolly school."
"What kind of a master have you?"
"Oh! a jolly master."
"But what sort of a table does he keep?"
"Oh! a jolly table."
"Yes, yes; but what does he give you to drink?"
"Oh! the governor's a teetotaler; he puts nothing but water on the table."
"Then," said the doctor to the patient's anxious mother, "we can save his limb. Do not fear; he will soon get better." And he did so, and went back to his desk, his games, and his "jolly table"—not less jolly to him now that he knew water-drinking had been so good for him.

LESSON NOTES. FOURTH QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OUR LORD.

A.D. 27.] LESSON VI. [Nov. 11.]

THE TWELVE CHOSEN.

Mark 3. 6-19. Memory verses, 13-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit.—John 15, 16.

OUTLINE.

1. Christ's Enemies, v. 6.
2. Christ's Friends, v. 7-12.
3. Christ's Messengers, v. 13-19.

TIME.—A.D. 27. Soon after the events of the last lesson.

PLACE.—Near the Sea of Galilee.

SCENE.—Heredin Galilee. Place in Judea.

EXPLANATIONS.

6. "Took counsel"—Formed a plan. "Do not destroy him"—They hated Jesus because they were wicked and he was good, and because he would not do their will.

7. "Withdrew"—For the time of his death had not yet come. "To the Sea"—The Sea of Galilee.

9. "A small ship"—A rowboat, not a sailing vessel. "Wait on him"—Should be at hand to carry him from place to place.

10. "To touch him"—Believing that by touching him they would be healed. "Plagues"—Diseases.

11. "Unclean spirits"—Wicked spirits which had entered into men and controlled their actions. "Thou art the Son of God"—The evil spirits knew that he was God, and bowed down before him.

12. "Straitly charged them"—Jesus did not wish a testimony that came from evil spirits.

13. "Into a mountain"—Where he prayed all night before calling his apostles (Luke 6. 12, 13). "Ordained"—Appointed, chose.

14. "Be with him"—To learn from him, and to be able to bear testimony to his life and works.

17. "Boanerges"—On account of their fiery earnestness in his service.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The twelve chosen.—Mark 3. 6-19.
- Tu. A night of prayer.—Luke 6. 12-19.
- W. Chosen by Christ.—John 15. 13-19.
- Th. Chosen to serve.—John 13. 12-20.
- F. God's choice.—1 Cor. 1. 22-31.
- S. A chosen people.—Deut. 7. 6-11.
- Su. Fruit bearing.—John 15. 1-8.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

What in this lesson are we taught as to—

1. The spirit of Christ's enemies?
2. The duty of Christ's friends?
3. The selection of Christ's messengers?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Whom did Christ call to be with him? "Twelve disciples." 2. What were the twelve disciples called? "Apostles, or those sent." 3. For what were they sent forth? "To preach his Gospel." 4. What power did he give them? "Power to work miracles." 5. Who were the three leading ones among them? "Peter, James, and John." 6. Which was the disciple that betrayed Jesus? "Judas Iscariot." 7. What did Jesus say to his disciples? Golden Text: "I have chosen," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The call to the ministry.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What are the Ten Commandments?

Law first written by the finger of God on two tables of stone, and given to Moses, but now recorded in the twentieth chapter of the book of Exodus.

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