

BY ANNA ROSS.

The Quiet Hour.

Review.

S. LESSON. March 29, 1903.

GOLDEN TEXT—Matt. 28: 20. Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.

How to Illustrate Review.

Christ's Presence.

Lo, I AM with you always (Golden Text, Matt. 28: 20). A recent writer comments on difficulty one often finds in obtaining an interview with an old neighbor with whom was once a barefoot comrade, after that neighbor has risen into prominent position. He may find a butler at the door, or a guard in the ante-room, or if one succeeds in carrying these outer works, there is the private study in the office next to his own. A committee of the most eminent citizens of Westport long since made a trip to New York to talk with a certain rich man upon the matter of vital importance to the public, to their best, they never got within the face of the man they sought. A traveler in Europe knows the moment the royal family has returned to any national city by the closed gate and the armed guard. How differently Christ deals with us. No armed sentry keeps us away from Him. The humblest saint,—yes, the humblest sinner who comes with repentance and faith—may always come without question His presence, and know His loving presence.

The Highest Success.

Rejoice in the Lord always (Golden Text, Matt. 28: 20). When Mr. Russell Sage was fifty-five years old, and still pushing his business interests as keenly as at any time in his last threescore years, he was asked in an interview why he continued in business at that great age, when he already had more money than he could possibly use. He replied: "I do not care for money as money, but I am not avaricious. I enjoy my work and I want to be successful." It is very likely that is true of a great many men of large wealth who continue in business, to enjoy its success. It brings to them a certain happiness. The highest success in the world comes from doing with full devotion the work which God gives us to do, and from the consciousness that we are pleasing Him in blessing our fellowmen. If we have that consciousness, we may "rejoice in the Lord always."

The Bible Lamp.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet (Golden Text, Lesson 3). The late Rear Admiral Phillip was one of the most beloved heroes who gained added glory at the battle of Santiago. It was he who, when his men were cheering over the victory, said to them, "Don't cheer, boys; the poor fellows are dying." And immediately after the battle he called all the officers and men together on deck, and told them that he wanted to read his testimony to his faith in God, and to thank God for his preservation of their lives. Seldom has the nation been so filled as it was by these two deeds of reverence and thanksgiving. Since the good admiral has gone home to heaven, a man who has seen his Bible, says of it: "I have never seen a Bible more marked and thumbed in his life. The portions most marked are the fourteenth chapter of John and the eighth chapter of Romans. It was Admiral Phillip's custom to note on the margin the

dates when he began either the Old or the New Testament in his readings in course. I find twelve dates noted when he began to read the Old Testament, and thirty-four when he began to read the New. Many, many times he must have read the Bible from its beginning to its end. I find here the secret of his gentleness and power."

Getting the Worst of It.

Hold fast that which is good (Golden Text, Lesson 4). A boy came to the door of a lady's house, and asked if she did not wish some berries, for he had been out all day gathering them. "Yes," said the lady, "I will take them." So she took the basket, and stepped into the house, the boy remaining outside, whistling to some canary birds hanging in their cages on the porch. "Why don't you come in and see that I measure your berries right?" said the lady. "How do you know but that I may cheat you?" "I am not afraid," said the boy, "for you would get the worst of it." "Get the worst of it!" said the lady. "What do you mean by that?" "Why, ma'am," said the boy, "I should only lose my berries, but you would make yourself a thief. Don't you think that would be getting the worst of it?" It is only by holding fast to that which is good that we escape the worst and make sure of the best.

People who Abide.

Now abideth (Golden Text, Lesson 8). "What sort of a person is most helpful to you?" asked one clergyman of another. "I mean to you personally and individually." His friend looked puzzled, and the questioner went on: "Is it the man who agrees with all your views, and so helps you with his sympathy and comprehension, or the independent thinker, who argues with you, and stimulates you to write convincing, stirring sermons?" "If you really want to know," said the older man, with symptoms of a smile at the corners of his mouth, "it isn't either of those men who helps me most. It's the man who may or may not agree with my views, but who cares enough about my sermons to come on a stormy Sunday, when most people stay at home. He is my best helper." Faith, hope, and charity incarnate in boys and girls and men and women are the abiding forces in Sunday school and church, as these graces are the abiding factors in the holy life.

Mr. Spurgeon's Prayers.

How much more shall your heavenly Father give? (Golden Text, Lesson 9). Dr. Wayland Hoyt tells how he once asked Mr. Spurgeon, who had been telling him some of the wonders that prayer had wrought for him, how he prayed. The great preacher answered, "I take a promise and plead it." What infinite zest and enthusiasm it would add to the Bible reading of many if they would thus appropriate the promises of God as they read!—L. A. Banks, D.D. in S.S. Times.

The Lesson.

I did not know, till 'neath the rod
I passed, how sore I needed God;
In sorrow's night, lo! like a star
I saw His love shine from afar.

I did not know, until above
God called the idol of my love,
Beyond the reach of yearning eyes,
How beautiful is Paradise.

—S. M. Doet, in Harper's Magazine.

Patrick was a missionary of Paul's own type. He did not feed his Irishmen with mere sentimentalities, but with strong Theology. Impressing upon a stout chieftain one day the great doctrine of the Trinity, he was met by outspoken unbelief. "If there are three Persons," said the Irishman, "there must be three Gods. One cannot be three, and three cannot be one." The quick eyed and quick witted Scotchman stooped down, picked a little leaf of Shamrock growing close by, and held it up between his thumb and finger. "Look at this," he said to the objector, "here is one leaf, and yet three. Here are three leaves, and yet one."

So deep an impression did the illustration and the doctrine illustrated make upon the Irish church, that the Shamrock leaf has ever since been the emblem of the land for which Patrick prayed.

Here are two texts out of which, when taken together, even a child can learn the doctrine of the Trinity, mighty to save.

"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him."

God the Father is in both. In the first He "so loved the world that He gave the Son" that we should not perish. In the second, He so loves that He will give the Holy Spirit that we may be put in possession of the everlasting life ours through the death and life of the Son.

Here is a rescuing Trinity, each Person of the Godhead at work in His own peculiar way to undo the terrible havoc wrought in us by sin.

Tremendous, as the undertaking is, the Rescuing Force is adequate. Where is discouragement then, to one who knows the Trinity?

Since writing the above, a letter has come in from a missionary in China. He calls his converts "babes" as to general intelligence. And yet he tells of one of these "babes" talking to him about the Trinity in a way that reminded me of Patrick and his Irishman. They were passing together through the heathen city, discussing as they went our Lord's parable about prayer, where the poor man went to his friend at mid-night to borrow three loaves for a hungry stranger. The Chinaman looked in the missionary's face and asked "Does the Lord mean that the three loaves stand for the three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost? and does He mean that we should go to our Friend for these three loaves if we want to feed the hungry round us with the true knowledge?" Truly the word is again fulfilled, "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings Thou hast ordained strength."

The missionary adds, "Will you pray for us, that our God will greatly add to the number of such converts?"

Worth Keeping.

These "keep texts" are all in the Bible. Find them and learn them, and so make them yours.

"Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life."

"Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile."

"Keep thee far from a false matter."