

continual rain in beautiful country or by losing her luggage so that she cannot retire to rest without inconvenient special arrangements. In church matters she is thoroughly religious, without being able to see any vital distinction between her own church and that of the Presbyterians. In a word, she is in everything a warm-hearted, natural, simple-minded, undogmatic woman, as well as a Queen. And that is so difficult for the world in general to realize, that this book will probably give as much pleasure by convincing its readers of this, as it would have done if it had contained a great amount of new and original matter on the subject of the Queen's deepest and most carefully considered convictions—which, however, it is certain that she could never have given us without doing far more mischief than she could have done good.

VICTORIA, QUEEN OF ENGLAND.

The following is the outline of a lecture delivered by the Hon. George Makepeace Towle, Boston, Mass., in the Chautauqua Amphitheatre.

The present Queen of England is the granddaughter of George III. Her mother was a German princess, the daughter of Francis, Duke of Saxe-Cobourg, and sister of the late King of the Belgians. Her father, Edward, Duke of Kent, was poor, and repaired to Germany, and Victoria was born in really humble circumstances.

When she was only eight months old her father died. Her mother, the Duchess of Kent, was a woman of sense, of character and culture, and after her husband's death her life-work was the care and education of her daughter. As she grew up, the princess was taught to care for her health by temperate living and outdoor exercises. Horseback riding, rowing, and sailing were among her recreations. The family was compelled to practice economy, and yet the princess was taught lessons in practical charity. The Duchess of Northumberland became a member of the family, and took a lively interest in the education of the child. Victoria saw her fourteenth birthday without knowing anything of her relation to the reigning dynasty. Mr. Towle gives us a picture of the device resorted to by her teacher to convey this information in the most impressive manner. Extending back some generations she placed the family record in a book the princess was studying. As she saw the record she scanned it closely and noted that there was but one name between her own and the crown. Her teacher was intensely delighted, as she saw an expression of surprise flit across her pupil's face. Turning her honest German eyes full upon the duchess, she said, "I did not know that I was so near the throne." "It is so; it is so," she replied, "and I thought you should know it." A pause ensued, and the girl was lost in thought. Finally she said: "Well, I will be good." From this moment the current of her life somewhat changed. She was more thoughtful and more studious. She became accomplished in music, drawing, and the continental languages. Attention was given to some of the sciences, especially botany. To Viscount Melbourne belongs the credit of educating her in the principles of the British constitution, and this work was thoroughly done.

Thus time passed on; she had often heard of her cousin Prince Albert, Prince of Saxe-Cobourg and Gotha, second son of the then reigning duke, but had never seen him. Her uncle Leopold, King of the Belgians, an old match-maker, had an idea in his head, and Prince Albert was sent to London on some matter of business not requiring haste in his return. Of course it would be politic in him to call upon his cousin Victoria, and possibly spend some days in the family of her mother, his aunt. The project worked to perfection, the parties met, were pleased with each other, were much in each other's company, and parted as lovers.

One night in June, 1837, a little after midnight, Victoria was awakened by loud, rapid thumps upon the door of her bed-chamber, and she was told that her presence was needed in the drawing-room with the least delay. Throwing on a loose dress, and with her luxuriant hair flowing over her shoulders, she entered the room and found in waiting the

Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Melbourne, and other state officials. Being seated, the bishop made the following address: "We make no apology for disturbing your ladyship at this early hour, as our business is urgent. We bring you sad news; it is but a few minutes since the King of England expired, and you are now our royal Queen, and we your loyal subjects." He then advanced a few steps, knelt before her and kissed her hand. Lord Melbourne did the same; an old duke, an uncle, worn out and decrepit with age, advanced, hobbling along, to do the same homage, but the gracious young Queen met him and said: "Do not kneel, uncle; I am still your niece, the Victoria." These ceremonies ended, the magnates retired, and so did the young Queen, though perhaps not to sleep. June 20th, 1837, was the day set for her coronation. The ceremonies were elaborate, old customs were sacredly observed, and the Lord Archbishop placed the crown of the British Empire upon her head with, not only his prayers and benedictions, but with the best wishes and highest hopes of the people.

Still the question was pondered by all thoughtful minds: "What kind of a Queen has England now? we don't know her; will she be ambitious, arbitrary, and severe like Elizabeth, or will she be an easy, careless, good soul like Queen Anne? As yet she is but a pretty, cultured young lady, and she is yet to grow into the Queen. We will wait and pray." Victoria was pleased, not to say a little intoxicated, with this sudden change in her situation. She wrote Prince Albert that she could not think of marrying in less than four years, and that subject must not be mentioned. The coldness of her letter to him indicated that without knowing it, perhaps she had really married her crown. He was disappointed and angered, and at the earliest moment these facts were communicated to her Royal Highness. The old uncle, Leopold, became acquainted with the facts in the case, but felt himself to be equal to the emergency. When he thought the time had come for the parties to become engaged, Prince Albert was sent to London to convey his congratulations to the newly-crowned Queen. Elaborate arrangements were made for the interview, and as he ascended the stairs to her reception room at Windsor, she met him on the landing, and her greeting was so cordial that all wounds were healed and the two were royal lovers once more. She studied with delight the changes which two years had made in his appearance. Tall, broad-shouldered, symmetrical in form, with clear, mild eyes, dignified in his bearing, she could not reserve herself to herself that he was not only a prince, but what was better, he was a splendid man. According to law and royal custom, if they should ever wed the proposal must come from the lady; and after a few days the Prince received a card inviting him to the drawing-room of the Queen. He found her alone, standing, waiting to receive him, and with blushes, but no embarrassment, she proposed to become his wife, and February 10th, 1840, at St. James' Palace, they were married. It was a love match all round, for everybody was pleased with it.

Queen Victoria's reign has been characterized by many great events, resulting in the spread and advancement of civilization. She has been closely associated with the great men of her own realm, and with all the courts of Europe. The Queen is not the cipher or figure-head in the British government. Personally she is truly loyal to the laws of England. She is cautious in no case to interfere with the rights and prerogatives of even the meanest of her subjects. She does not rule, she governs. In all important matters she is consulted, and her advice receives the most respectful consideration of her ministers and of Parliament. It was her friendly counsel, aided by the clear judgment of her noble consort, that did much to help us out of the Trent affair and arrest threatened war.

"In Queen Victoria," says an English writer, "her subjects have found a wiser, gentler, happier Elizabeth. No former monarch so thoroughly comprehended the great truth that the powers of the crown are held in trust for the people, and are the means, and not the end, of government. This enlightened

policy has entitled her to the glorious distinction of having been the most constitutional monarch England has ever seen. Not less important and beneficial has been the example set by her Majesty and her late consort in the practice of every domestic virtue. Their stainless lives, their unobtrusive piety, and their careful education of the royal children, have borne rich fruit in the stability of the throne, and have obtained for the royal family of England the respect and admiration of the civilized world. Whilst on all sides of the British Isles the nations have been as a sea lashed with storms and tempests, the throne of England has stood unshaken, and its stability is the result of the virtues of the reigning Queen."

JUNIOR EPWORTH LEAGUE. PRAYER-MEETING TOPIC.

MAY 31, 1896.

A prayer for everybody.—Psalm 19. 12-14.

AN INQUIRY.

Verse 12. Man invariably misjudges himself when making an estimate respecting his own character. There is a good deal of the Pharisee in all of us, we think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think.

SUBSTANTIAL PRAYER.

"Cleanse thou me from secret faults." Men often sin in the dark, and even when no outward sin is committed, what secret sins are frequently perpetrated in the heart? "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked." God searches the heart and knows the imaginations of the thoughts, the tendency of which we do not always rightly understand, hence how wise to pray, "Cleanse thou me from secret faults." We should watch against evil thoughts concerning others.

ADDITIONAL PRAYER.

Verse 13. "Keep back thy servant from presumptuous sins." We are no longer kept than we are kept by the power of God, hence there is need to pray, "Keep me as in the hollow of thy hand." There is a danger of allowing an inclination to a sin to creep into our hearts. It may be a sin either against God or our fellow-men, and we have need to constantly watch and pray, and seek for divine guidance. This is the only way to pursue if we would be upright and innocent from the great transgression.

A SWEET PETITION.

Verse 14. "Let the words of my mouth," etc. When the words of the mouth and the meditations of the heart are well pleasing in the sight of God, how calm and happy we then feel. We can walk abroad as conquerors of sin, triumphing over the enemy of souls, rejoicing in the God of our salvation. Let the prayer of this lesson be often presented at the mercy-seat.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE.

LESSON IX.—MAY 31.

DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM FORETOLD.

Luke 21. 29-36. Memory verses, 34-36.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my words shall not pass away.—Luke 21. 33.

Time.—Tuesday, April 4, A.D. 30.

Places.—Mount of Olives and Jerusalem.

DAY BY DAY WORK.

Monday.—Read the verses which come before the lesson (Luke 21. 5-19), and recall the Time, Place, and Rulers.

Tuesday.—Read the Lesson (Luke 21. 20-36), try to tell it in your own words.

Wednesday.—Read Psalm 122, which tells of Jerusalem in prosperity.

Thursday.—Read Luke 19. 37-48 (Christ weeping over Jerusalem).

Friday.—Read Luke 13. 31-35, the words

of Christ about Jerusalem, and find answers to the Questions on the Lesson.

Saturday.—Read the prophecy of Jerusalem's destruction in Isa. 64. 1-12, and see where the teachings are found in the lesson.

Sunday.—Read about the heavenly Jerusalem in Rev. 21. 1-7, 22-27.

QUESTIONS.

1. Woes, verses 20-24.
20. What should the disciples see? What were they then to know? 21. What were they bidden to do? 22. What are those days called? 23. What should there be in the land? 24. What evils should come to the people? What should become of Jerusalem? Who are meant by "the Gentiles?" How long was this trouble to last?

2. Signs, verses 25-31.
25. What signs in the heavens are named? What signs on the earth? 26. How would men feel in those times? 27. Whom would men see coming? 28. How should the followers of Christ act in those times? 29. What parable did Christ give to illustrate the time to come?

3. Fulfilment, verses 25-31.
32. When were these things to be fulfilled? 33. What shall never pass away? 34. Against what sins are the followers of Christ warned? 36. What are we commanded to do? Before whom may we hope to stand?

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Just as Jesus told his disciples to keep his words in their mind and to watch for their fulfilment, so he tells us. Let us study and learn and think over all the words of Jesus, and for this purpose let us search the gospels, which contain them. When the people of this world are in trouble and in danger let us remember that we are the children of the King, and that no harm can come to us if we trust in our Lord. Let us beware of the things that would turn our hearts from God, and watch ever against sin, and hope to stand before the throne of Christ.

There is a "whistling well" on a farm in Clare County, Michigan. It is 130 feet deep, and whistles loudest just before a storm.

Ready 24th April.

Stephen: A Soldier of the Cross.

BY

FLORENCE M. KINGSLEY.

Author of "Titus: A Comrade of the Cross."

Paper Covers - - - 50 cents.
Cloth Boards - - - 75 cents.

The story is a continuation of "Titus: A Comrade of the Cross. A Tale of the Christ," which has reached a sale exceeding one million copies within a year.

The author presents, in the form of an historical novel, the life of the early Church to the beginning of the ministry of Paul. The chapters follow each other like scenes in a tragedy, while the characters are vivid and thrilling with historic realism.

Every Sunday-school should at once order this splendid story. The larger schools should have two or three copies.

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

Methodist Book and Publishing House, Toronto.

C. W. COATES, MONTREAL.

S. F. HUESTIS, HALIFAX.