

MY COUNTRY, 'TIS OF THEE.

My country, 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing;  
Land where my fathers died,  
Land of the pilgrim's pride,  
From every mountain side  
Let freedom ring.

My native country, thee,  
Land of the noble free,  
Thy name I love;  
I love thy rocks and rills,  
Thy woods and templed hills;  
My heart with rapture thrills  
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze,  
And ring from all the trees,  
Sweet freedom's song;  
Let mortal tongues awake;  
Let all that breathe partake;  
Let rocks their silence break,  
The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God to thee,  
Author of liberty,  
To thee we sing:  
Long may our land be bright  
With freedom's holy light;  
Protect us by thy might,  
Great God, our King.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL BY JOHN.

LESSON VIII. [May 21.]

CHRIST BEFORE THE HIGH PRIEST.

John 18. 15-27. Memory verses, 23-25.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He came unto his own, and his own received him not.—John 1. 11.

A LESSON TALK.

Matthew tells the same story of Jesus and the high priest, and so do Luke and Mark. You will read the lesson verses, which will give you John's story. You have not forgotten how bold Peter was before the hour of danger really came. How hard it was for Peter's loving Lord to hear this disciple deny that he had ever known him! But do not blame Peter too much until you are sure that you are always and everywhere true to your Lord and Master. See by Matthew's story how Peter's sin grew and grew by yielding to it (Matt. 26. 69-75). It was very early in the morning of Friday that Jesus stood before the high priest. What a sad night he had passed! Notice the wise, calm words he used in speaking to the high priest. Even when the rude men near by struck him he did not lose his patience. What a lesson is this for quick-tempered boys and girls! Do not forget that Jesus bore all this sorrow and shame for you.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where was Jesus taken prisoner? In the garden of Gethsemane.  
Where did the soldiers take him? To Annas.  
Where did he send him? To Caiaphas the high priest.  
Who followed Jesus? Peter and John.  
How did Peter follow? "Afar off."  
Who denied that he was a disciple of Jesus? Peter.  
Why did he do this? He was afraid.  
What is much worse than to be hurt? To do wrong.  
Who asked Jesus about his teachings? The high priest.  
How did the men near by treat Jesus? In a shameful way.  
How did Jesus behave? With patient dignity.  
What happened when Peter denied the third time? The cock crew!

LESSON IX. [May 28.]

CHRIST BEFORE PILATE.

John 18. 28-40. Memory verses, 38-40.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I find no fault in him.—John 19. 4.

A LESSON TALK.

No doubt the Jews who wanted so much to get rid of Jesus were angry because they could not condemn him to death. They were ruled now by the Romans, something as it might be if a foreign nation, as, for instance, Russia or Germany, ruled us and made our laws. They were not allowed to say that any one should die, and that was why Jesus had to be taken to Pilate, the Roman governor. It was still very early in the morning, and Pilate perhaps did not like to be disturbed so early, and called, as he supposed, to settle one of their foolish quarrels about their religion. He wanted them to settle it themselves, but when he found that it was a question of life and death he began to talk with the prisoner to see what the trouble was. Read the talk between Jesus and Pilate carefully, and see how calmly and patiently Jesus spoke. The story of Pilate's wife, and the poor attempt that Pilate made to shove the responsibility off himself, are interesting, and each has its own lesson to teach us.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

To whom was Jesus taken next? To Pilate.  
Who was Pilate? The Roman governor.  
What did the Jews want him to do? To crucify Jesus.  
What did they say he had done? Called himself a king.  
What did Pilate think? That Jesus did not deserve to die.  
What did he want to do? Release Jesus to them.  
What was always done at the passover feast? A prisoner was set free.  
What did the Jews keep crying? "Crucify him! crucify him!"

Whom did they want set free? Barabbas.  
Who was Barabbas? A very wicked man.  
What did Pilate at last do? He let them have their way.  
For whose sakes did Jesus die? For all our sakes.

"MY DARLING."

In bright letters these words stood out in bold relief on the dashboard of a huge four-horse truck in a street blockade. The driver looked as unsentimental as possible, but he was not profane or brutal to his horses. Patiently he waited the loosening of the jam, and finding his horses restive, he climbed from his box and soothed them with gentle words and caresses. A newspaper man standing by, asked him why he called his truck "My Darling." This was his reply:

"Well," he said, "because it keeps me in memory of my daughter, little Nelly. She's dead now, but before she died she put her arms about my neck and said:

"Father, I'm going to die and I want you to promise me one thing, because it will make me so happy. Will you promise?"

"Yes," I said, "I'll promise anything. What is it?"

"Then fixing her eyes upon mine, she said,

"O father, don't be angry, but promise me you will never swear any more, nor whip your horses hard, and that you will be kind to mother."

"That's all there is about it, mister. I promised my little girl, and I've kept my word."

When the blockade was lifted the big truckman resumed his seat and was soon lost in the tide of travel.

THE TEACHER'S MICROSCOPE.

A friend of mine, when she goes to the seaside or the mountains, asks the children of the place where she is staying to come every Sabbath and study the Bible with her, and hear about Jesus.

Once, when she wanted to explain to them God's way of looking at sin, she took a microscope and gave them some very small print to look at through it.

They were all surprised to see how very large the letters which had been so small before became when looked at with the little glass.

Then their teacher said: "This is the way with sin. You may think it very small—a very little thing to tell a lie, or get out of temper, or be disobedient. But God does not think it a small thing. It is so great in his eyes that nothing but the blood of Jesus can wash it away."

Do not think sin a small matter. Remember how large the letters were when looked at through the microscope, and think that thus our sins are in God's sight. Neither can you hide sin from God. All your actions are plain to him.