

Alone with Conscience.

I SAT alone with my conscience,
In a place where time had ceased;
And we talked of my former living
In the land where the years increased;
And I felt I should have to answer
The question put to me,
And to face the answer and question
Throughout an eternity.

The ghosts of forgotten actions
Came floating before my sight,
And things that I thought were dead things
Were alive with a terrible might;
And the vision of all my past life
Was an awful thing to face,
Alone with my conscience, sitting
In that solemnly silent place.

And I thought of a far-away warning,
Of a sorrow that was to be mine,
In a land that then was the future,
But now was the present time;
And I thought of my former thinking;
Of a judgment day to be;
But sitting alone with my conscience,
Seemed judgment enough for me.

And I wondered if there were a future
To this land beyond the grave;
But no one gave me an answer,
And no one came to save;
Then I felt that the future was present,
And the present would never go by;
For it was but the thought of my past life
Grown into eternity.

Then I woke from my timely dreaming
And the vision passed away,
And I knew the far-away warning
Was a warning of yesterday;
And I pray that I may not forget it
In this land before the grave,
That I may not cry in the future,
And no one come to save.

And so I have learned a lesson
Which I ought to have learned before,
And which, though I learned in dreaming,
I hope to forget no more.
So I sit alone with my conscience
In the place where the years increase,
And I try to remember the future,
In the land where time will cease;
And I know of the future judgment,
How dreadful soe'er it may be,
That to sit alone with my conscience
Will be judgment enough for me.

—The London Spectator.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OUR LORD.

A.D. 60 (?). LESSON XII. [March 24.

PURITY OF LIFE.

Rom. 13. 8-14. Memory verses, 10-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Abstain from all appearance of evil.—
1 Thess. 5. 22.

OUTLINE.

1. The Perfect Law, v. 8-10.
2. The Vital Force, v. 11-14.

TIME.—A.D. 60 or 58.

PLACE.—Written by Paul at Ephesus.

RULER.—Nero, emperor of the Roman world.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Purity of Life.—Rom. 13. 8-14.
W. Dead to sin.—Rom. 6. 11-18.
W. A living sacrifice.—Rom. 12. 1-9.
W. Be separated.—2 Cor. 6. 11-18.
P. Resist.—James 4. 1-10.
S. Be ye holy.—1 Peter 1. 13-23.
Su. For Christ's sake.—1 Peter 4. 1-7.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Perfect Law, v. 8-10.
What is the only duty that we should owe?
Who fully keeps the law?
What five commandments are cited in verse 9?
What covers all the other commandments?
What does James call this saying? James 2. 8.
What will love keep one from doing?
How does Paul define love?
How does John define love? 1 John 4. 16.
What does he say about loving a brother? 1 John 4. 20.
Can a Christian, then, countenance liquor selling?

2. The Vital Force, v. 11-14.

What is it high time to do?
What reason is given for this?
What is nearly gone, and what is near by?
What should be put off, and what put on?
How ought we to walk?
How should we not walk?
Whom ought we to put on?
For what should no provision be made?
What should we carefully shun? (Golden Text.)
What should be our rule about eating and drinking? 1 Cor. 10. 31.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. What law will keep us from strong drink?
2. What law will keep us from tempting others?
3. What will make our example always safe?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who fulfils the law of Christ? "He that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."
2. What will such love make men do? It

to a sacred banyan tree, and planted around it a grove of mango trees. This shrine contained no image, except a model of a tomb erected in Moulton, in honour of a famous Mohammedan saint named Sultan. This saint is much revered, and, in fact, worshipped by both Mohammedans and Hindus on the Punjab. His position was soon established among the people of the neighbourhood, who came in large numbers to the shrine. As none came empty-handed, Prem Dass soon found his position a source of wealth as well as honour.

Among other presents, he received a large iron bell from a neighbouring prince who visited the shrine, which, when sounded, could be heard by the village people for many miles round. Perhaps, the most valuable present, however, in his estimation, was that of a little boy, who, with one hundred rupees, was made over by his parents to be Prem Dass's disciple, to learn from him the sacred mysteries he was supposed to be able to impart, and



A BRAHMIN PRIEST OF INDIA.

will make men "walk honestly as in the day." 3. What does that man do who indulges himself at the risk of injuring his neighbour? Breaks the law of love; for "love worketh no ill to his neighbour." 4. How may one show that he is awake to the duty of the present hour? By avoiding "rioting and drunkenness . . . strife and envying." 5. What is the only sure safeguard against the dangers of intemperance? By putting "on the Lord Jesus Christ." What is the Golden Text? "Abstain from all appearance of evil."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The authority of God's law.

PREM DASS, A CONVERTED
PRIEST OF INDIA.

PREM DASS, whose name translated into English means, "Servant of Love," was in youth a follower of a Hindu saint who lived in the jungle, near the foot of the Himalaya Mountains. This saint, before his death, about forty years ago, gave to his disciple, Prem Dass, the position of teacher or priest. Having received this position, he established himself at a village called Gandouli, about seventy miles from Simla, at the foot of the hills.

There he built a shrine or temple, near

We ask for long life, but 'tis deep life,
or grand moments, that signify.

BOAT HOMES IN CHINA.

OUR young people will, no doubt, be surprised to learn that a very large number of the people of China live in boats on the rivers.

This mode of life is especially hard on the children, who are constantly tumbling into the water, many of them getting drowned. In order to prevent this loss of life, some of the families have adopted the custom of tying an empty gourd between the shoulders of the babies, so that, when they fall into the water, they may be kept afloat. I dare say some of you would like to be a boat baby in China. But then I imagine it isn't so much fun after all, for some of the horrid dirty water is sure to get into the babies' mouths.

It is surprising to see the number of persons that one of these boats can hold, father, mother, children, and often many relatives crowded into a space far too small to contain even a half-dozen people in comfort.

The boat women, on going ashore to transact their business, often carry their babies strapped upon their backs.

Some of these boat women and girls are said to be quite intelligent and to have pretty and pleasing faces. For the most part they are not of Chinese origin, but are descended from a people who are said to have been the first inhabitants of the country.

A SWEET SINGER.

SUSIE visited at grandma's house one spring when the little chickens were being hatched; and nothing on the great farm was so wonderful and nice to her mind as those same downy chickens were.

One day one of them lost his mother, and what a yelping he made about it!

You may be sure that grandma ran to find his mamma for him.

"Don't hurry 'bout it, grandma, don't hurry," coaxed Susie. "What a nice little singer he is! Just hear his sweet clear voice! Don't you like to hear him sing? I do."—*Youth's Companion*.

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