

THE ADVANTAGE OF STUDY.

I never knew how wonderful
The world could be to me,
Until I saw it on the map
In our geography.

The country where we live is green—
The colour, as you see,
That we have here on all our grass
And every bush and tree.

But when I'm bigger, I will go
A-travelling, I think!
The country lying next to ours
Is such a lovely pink!

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

LESSON VI. [Feb. 8.]

THE CHURCH AT CORINTH FOUNDED.

Acts 18. 1-11. Memorize verses 9-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Other foundation can no man lay than
that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.—
1 Cor. 3. 11.

THE LESSON STORY.

The Athenians were people who knew many things, and liked to hear men talk of their new ideas, but they did not easily believe in them. They only mocked at Paul's words about Jesus and the resurrection, and so Paul soon left them. Though a few believed, there is no "Epistle to the Athenians" in the New Testament, so we cannot be sure that a church was formed there.

Paul went from Athens to Corinth, which was also a beautiful city with a templed hill like that at Athens, but it was a gayer city. At Corinth he found a Jew named Aquila, who, with his wife Priscilla, had come from Italy. They were tent makers, and Paul stayed with them and preached each Sabbath in the Jewish synagogue.

After a while Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, and Paul began preaching with new courage that Jesus was the Christ, but when the people rose up and spoke wickedly about Paul's Master, Paul turned from them and said that he would go to the Gentiles. After this he preached in the house of Justus, a good man who lived near the synagogue. He stayed for a year and a half, and many became Christians. Among them was Crispus, chief ruler of the synagogue, and all his family.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where did Paul go from Athens? To Corinth.

Where did Paul stay in Corinth? With Aquila and Priscilla.

How did he help them? In tent making.

Where did he preach at first? In the synagogue.

Where afterward? In the house of Justus.

Who came to help him? Silas and Timothy.

What family believed? That of Crispus, ruler of the synagogue.

What did God promise Paul? To take care of him.

LESSON VII. [Feb. 15.]

CHRISTIAN SELF-CONTROL.

1 Cor. 8. 4-13. Memorize verses 8, 9.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace.—Rom. 14. 19.

THE LESSON STORY.

You will remember that Paul stayed a long time with the people who became Christians at Corinth. He knew that they would have many temptations, for the city was given up to idolatry and thoughtless gaiety. After Paul went away some fell back into their old ways, while they still called themselves Christians. When they were guests at the houses of their friends or relatives they would sometimes eat meat that had first been offered to an idol, and they did other things that they had been taught were sinful. Paul wrote them a letter full of loving and wise advice. He wrote it with tears, for he loved his spiritual children in Corinth. After hearing this letter read in the church, the Corinthian Christians were very sorry, and all were ready to do as Paul wanted them to do.

There are people in all the churches now who are tempted by what they see with their natural eyes and hear with their natural ears, and forget to look to the Lord from their hearts and to listen to his word. Happy are they if they have a friend like Paul, and will listen to his wise and loving words.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where had Paul preached for a long time? In Corinth.

What did he leave there? A large church.

Were they faithful? Some were not.

What did some do? Ate food offered to idols.

Had this been forbidden? Yes.

Who would be hurt by it? Those who were weak in faith.

Who should we try to help? Our neighbour.

For whose sake? For Jesus' sake.

What now hurts the weak? Wine and strong drink.

Should Christians, then, use it? No.

Why should we care? Because our Lord cares.

What should we be? Lights along the way.

WITHOUT PAY.

Janie was a poor little beggar girl. She did not want to beg, but her mother was dead, and her father was a bad man, who drove his child out to get money and food, so that he might live without working.

Sometimes she was not able to get much money to take home, and then her father would beat her or make her go to bed without any supper. Poor Janie often went hungry, and a hard life she led.

One day as she was going down the street, she saw a number of boys and girls about her own age going into a large building. They belonged to a mission school, and Janie watched them until they all went in, wishing that she might go in, too, and see what the children were doing.

A gentleman who belonged to the mission school saw Janie as she stood looking so wistfully up at the house, and said to her, "Would you like to go in and get a nice dinner with the other children?"

"I have no money," she answered.

"You do not need money. The dinner is free, and you can eat all you want," said the gentleman.

"I will go then, sir," and her eyes sparkled as she thought of the nice warm dinner she should have.

Just as Janie was invited to eat the dinner without paying for it, so Jesus invites us to come to him without money and get eternal life. He only wishes us to come and give ourselves to him, and he will save us from sin and death, and give us a body at last that will live for ever. When upon earth, he made the children come to him. He loves children now as much as he did then.

YOU CAN IF YOU WILL.

"You can if you will," said Harry Crossley to his schoolfellow the other day. The two boys were coming home from school together. I had overtaken them just in time to hear the remark.

"Can what?" said I to Harry.

"Good afternoon, sir," said Harry, looking up into my face. "I was saying to Willie that we can do most anything if we try. I want him to give up smoking cigarettes and join our temperance society."

"Well, I think that would be a wise thing to do," I replied. "It appears to be a matter of cigarette and will. Your friend must rule out the cigarette and every bad habit, or the habits will rule. This is the case with us all."

I passed on, and I thought how blessed it would be if all the members of our Sunday-schools were as eager to advocate the principles of my young friend Harry Crossley.

Remember this: God will help all who ask him to give up their bad habits. Drinking, smoking, using profane words, and gambling are bad habits.