

"OH! TO BE READY."

Words by I. M. HARTSOUGH.

Harmonized by Miss ALICE HARTSOUGH.

1 "Oh! to be ready, ready," Ready to work or to rest, Just as the Master

wish es, Just as He thinks for the best; Oh, to be read-y, read-y,

Read-y to go or to st-y, Just as the Mas- ter choos-es,

Chorus.

Just as He o-pens the way. Oh, to be read-y, ready, Ready and

watching in pay'r, Ready for Christ's appearing, Ready His glory to see.

- 2 Oh! to be ready, ready,
Ready God's word to obey,
Shunning the path of danger,
Seeking the one narrow way.
- Oh! to be ready, ready,
Ready to suffer His will,
Whom the Lord loves He chas'ens,
Chastens for good, not for ill.
- 3 Oh! to be ready, ready,
Ready to go at His call,
Over the cold, dark river,
Flowing so near to us all.

- Oh! to be ready, ready,
Ready my dear one to meet,
Shouting the Saviour's praises,
Casting their crowns at His feet.
- 4 Oh! to be ready, ready,
Ready to join in the song,
Filling the courts of glory,
Sung by a numberless throng.
- Oh to be ready, ready,
Ready with Jesus to dwell;
Saved evermore in heaven,
Saved evermore from hell.

ject of Paul's preaching? Ans. Christ crucified. 15. How did Christ appear to many? (Repeat the golden text.) 10. What is Christ to those who believe? (Repeat v. 24.)

A. D. 57. LESSON IV. [April 27]
ABSTINENCE FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.

1. Cor. 8. 1, 13. *Con. v. 10* memory vs. 10 19
GOLDEN TEXT.

If meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth. 1. Cor. 8. 13.

CENTRAL TRUTH:

We should deny ourselves for the good of others.

TIME. 1st Corinthians was written early in A. D. 57.

PLACE. At Ephesus, toward the close of Paul's three years' abode there.

AUTHOR.—Paul, aged 55.

CORINTH.—See Lesson No. 1st Quarter.

INTRODUCTION.—In this chapter Paul discusses a question of great practical importance to the Corinthian Church. The principles involved, though not the exact form, apply to many questions of the present day.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. *As touching things offered unto idols.* Where a sacrifice was offered to idols, a large part of the animal offered was eaten by the offerers or by the priest. Sometimes this meat was offered for sale in shops where Christians might buy. Much of it was used in social feasts, weddings, etc., to which Christians might be invited. The question was, Whether it was right for Christians to eat such meat? *On the one hand*, it would be said, (1) The meat was not harmed by having been used as a sacrifice. (2) Christians

should be above such superstition as to care what had been done with it. (3) To refuse to eat would shut them out from social intercourse with their heathen neighbours. (4) It would interfere with the liberty of Christians. (5) It would repel heathen from the Gospel. *On the other hand*, (1) To eat was forbidden by the Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15. 29.) (2) It was distasteful to their Jewish brethren. (3) It would seem to endorse idolatry. (4) It would lead them to temptation to join in the sinful orgies of the feast where this meat was eaten. *Knowledge puffeth up*—Makes conceited, if without love. *Charity*—Love, *edifyeth*, builds up the individual and the Church. 4. *An idol is nothing*—There is no real God or spirit in the image. 6. *One God, the Father*—i.e., the Author, the Creator of all. *Christ, by whom all things*—God created all things by him (John 1. 1-3.) *And received him*—We are Christians, children of God, by his salvation. 7. *Some, with conscience of the idol*—By familiarity with idols in their past life. *Their conscience being weak*—A weak conscience (1) imagines things to be wrong; (2) it is not clear as to what is right or wrong; (3) it is not able to prevent the person from yielding to temptation. *Is debilitated*—(1) when it cherishes sin; (2) when it has a sense of guilt. 10. *Be emboldened*—Contrary to his own convictions. 12. *Sin against Christ*—(1) by injuring his children; (2) therefore by wrong against himself; (3) by injuring his cause and kingdom. 13. *My brother to offend*—i.e., to stumble, to fall into sin.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Meats offered to idols.—The question at issue.—Reasons for eating.—Arguments against eating.—Knowledge and love.—Verse 6.—Idols are nothing.—A weak conscience.—A defiled conscience.—Paul's decision.—The reasons he gives for it.—The light thrown on this lesson by 1 Cor. 10. 19-31.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTION.—Who wrote the Epistle to the Corinthians? When? Where? What was the character of the Corinthians? (See Les. 10, 1st Quar.)

SUBJECT: HOW THE STRONG SHOULD HELP THE WEAK.

I. A QUESTION OF CONSCIENCE (vs. 1, 1.)—What difficult practical question arose in the Corinthian Church? What did the Corinthian heathen worship? What was done with the sacrifices offered to idols? How would the Christians be tempted to eat of these sacrifices? What two opinions were held in the Corinthian Church as to whether this was right? What arguments could be given in favour of eating such food? What arguments could be given against it? What one is recorded in Acts 15. 29? What argument in 1 Cor. 10. 20, 21?

II. KNOWLEDGE VERSUS LOVE, A BASIS OF SETTLEMENT (vs. 1-3).—What did they all know? What is the effect of knowledge without love? What is meant here by *charity*? What does charity do for the individual and for the Church? Meaning of *edifyth*? How should those who know more and have brighter minds treat those who are slower and duller? How will this edify? Can we have the true knowledge by means of the intellect only? What can we learn only by the heart as well as the head? (See Practical Suggestions.) How can we know God? (v. 3; Eph. 3. 17 19.)

III. RIGHTS VERSUS DUTIES, THE PRACTICAL ANSWER (v. 6-13).—How does Paul show that there is no harm in eating things offered to idols? What does he say idols are? What is God to us? How are all things by Jesus? (John 3. 1-3.) How are we by him? (John 3. 14, 15; 1 Peter 3. 18.) What does Paul say of rights as to this matter in 1 Cor. 10. 19, 23, 25, 27, 30? How did others feel toward this question? What is a weak conscience? What is a defiled conscience? What would Paul have the strong Christians do? (v. 13.) Meaning of *offend*? How does he state their duty in 1 Cor. 10. 23, 24, 27 31? What is the first reason for so doing? (v. 8.) What is the second reason? (vs. 9, 10.) What is the third reason? (v. 11.) What is the fourth reason? (v. 12.) How is sinning against a Christian a sin against Christ? (See Matt. 23. 40, 45.)

IV. APPLICATIONS.—How would you apply Paul's principle to temperance? To amusements? To social customs? Sabbath keeping? Does it mean that we are never to do anything that others disapprove or think wrong?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. The cultivation of the head and the heart should go together.
2. The world will never be made better by education of the mind, without education of the conscience and heart.
3. Only by the heart can we gain the highest knowledge of the best things, as of God, of man, of righteousness, of heaven.
4. The good man knows his rights, but does not always use them.
5. We should consider our influence on others in all that we do.
6. The more knowledge and power we have, the more carefully should we use it to help the weak.
7. Christ cares for the weakest Christian as for himself.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in Concert.)

17. What troublesome question arose in the Corinthian Church? Ans. Whether it was right to eat meat that had been offered to idols. 18. What did Paul say? Ans. It might be right in itself, because idols were nothing. 19. How did some feel? Ans. That it was wrong. 20. What then ought the others to do? (Repeat the Golden Text.)

TEMPERANCE LITERATURE.

SHOT & SHELL

FOR THE
Temperance Conflict.

By Rev. D. Rogers, with Introduction by Dr. Dewar. 12mo, cloth, illustrated. Price 55 Cents.

Dr. Ryckman, in the *Guardian*, says:— "If this book were in our families it would be read by the children not only, but by parents also, and by the grand-parents, too. If it were in our Sunday-school libraries, no book would be more frequently read. The young orators of our schools and homes will find in it pieces most suitable for recitation."

The Temperance Battle-Field

AND
HOW TO GAIN THE DAY.

A Book for the Young of all Ages. By Rev. J. C. Seymour. 12mo, cloth, illustrated. Price 65 Cents.

Temperance Tracts.

- Dram-Shops' Industry and Taxes. By A. Bunmill. Paper, 5c.
- Drinking Usages of Society. An Address by A. Potter. Paper, 5c.
- Duty of the Church-Toward the Present Temperance Movement. By the Rev. Isaac J. Lansing. Paper, 5c.
- Drinking and Abstinence. By C. H. Spurgeon. Paper, 5c.
- Erring through Wine. By Rev. A. Sutherland. Paper, 5c.
- Ethics and Policy of Prohibition. An Address by O. B. Chubbick. Paper, 5c.
- Example and Effort. By Shuyler Colfax. Paper, 5c.
- Evils of Intemperance, The. A Sermon to Young Men. By J. Romeyn Berry, D. D. Paper, 10c.
- Evil and the Remedy, The. By Canon Wilberforce. Paper, 5c.
- Evil Beast, The. By Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage. Paper, 10c.
- Facts and Figures. A Lesson of Statistics. By Rev. R. Wallace. Paper, 5c.
- Father Mathew, the Temperance Apostle. By Hon. H. Wilson. Paper, 5c.
- Facts about Tolacco. By Prof. E. P. Thwing. Paper, 5c.
- The Good Samaritan. A Sermon. By Rev. J. B. Dunn. Paper, 10c.
- The Giant with Three Heads. By Rev. W. M. Taylor. Paper, 10c.
- Gentle Women Roused. A Story of the Temperance Movement. By Rev. E. P. Roe. Paper, 5c.
- Gin Shops. Illustrated. By George Cruikshank. Paper, 10c.
- Gospel Temperance, the Law of God. By Rev. J. M. VanBuren. Paper 25c.
- History and Mystery of a Glass of Ale, The. By J. W. Kirkton. Paper, 5c.
- House that Rum Built, The. Paper, 10c.
- High Fence of Fifteen Bars, A. Paper, 5c.
- Hand-Book of the Woman's National Christian Temperance Movement. By Mrs. Annie Wittenmyer. Paper 10c.
- Heredity of Alcohol, The. By Nathan Allen, M. D. Paper, 5c.
- How to Suppress Intemperance. By Geo. Brooks. Paper, 10c.
- Heredity of Alcohol. By Norman Kerr, M. D., F.L.S. Paper, 5c.
- Impachment and Punishment of Alcohol, The. A Sermon. By Rev. C. E. Fowler, D. D. Paper, 10c.
- Is Alcohol a Necessary of Life? By H. Manroe, F.L.S. Paper, 5c.
- Is Alcohol Food? By Dr. F. R. Lee, F.S.A. Paper, 5c.
- Intemperance and Crime. By Noah Davis. Paper, 10c.
- Just for a Lark. A Tale for Workingmen. By F. H. Evans. Paper, 5c.
- Juvenile Temperance Manual. By Jalk Coleman. Paper, 25c.

WILLIAM BRIGGS,
78 & 80 KING STREET EAST, TORONTO.
C. W. COATES, Montreal.
S. F. HUESTIS, Halifax.