

OUR MOTHER

How many lips are saying this,  
Mid falling tears to-day,  
And many hearts are aching sore—  
Our mother's passed away,  
We watched her fading year by year,  
As they went slowly by,  
But cast far from us on the fear  
That she could ever die

She seemed so good, so pure, so true  
To our admiring eyes,  
We never dreamed this glorious fruit  
Was ripening for the skies,  
And when at last the death stroke came,  
So swift, so sure, so true,  
The hearts that held her here so fast  
Were almost broken too.

We robed her in familiar dress,  
We smoothed her gray hair down,  
Gave one last kiss, then laid her 'mid  
The autumn leaves so brown;  
Then each took up the broken thread  
Of life and all its cares;  
How sad the heart 'mid daily tasks—  
We miss our mother's prayers.

We ne'er shall know from what dark paths  
They may have kept our feet,  
Yet holy will their influence be,  
While each fond heart shall beat;  
And as we tread the thorny way,  
Which her dear feet have trod,  
Ever shall feel our mother's prayers  
Leading us up to God.

And for the one still left to us—  
Our father, old and lone,  
Who hears perhaps by night and day,  
The old familiar tone—  
We'll gather closer round him now  
To guard from every ill,  
As near the darksome riverside  
He waits a higher will.

And when the storms of sorrow come  
To each bereaved heart,  
Let faith glance upward to the home  
Where we shall never part:  
Where one awaits with loving eyes,  
To see her children come,  
As one by one we cross the flood,  
And reach the heavenly home.

—Miss Anne Merritt.

TEN GOOD FRIENDS.

"I WISH I had some good friends to help me on in life!" cried idle Dennis with a yawn. "Good friends! why, you have ten," replied his master. "I'm sure I haven't half so many! and those I have are too poor to help me." "Count your fingers, my boy," said his master. Dennis looked at his large, strong hands. "Count thumbs and all," added the master. "I have; there are ten," said the lad. "Then never say you have not got ten good friends able to help you on in life. Try what those true friends can do before you begin grumbling and fretting because you do not get help from others."

VARIETIES.

"NEVER would call a boy of mine 'Alias,'" said Mrs. Jones, of Huntsville, Ala., "if I had a hundred to name. Men by that name is allus cuttin' up capers. Here's Alias Thompson, Alias Williams, Alias the Night-hawk—all been took up for stealin'."

A GOOD book, is one that leaves you further on than when you took it up. If when you drop it, it drops you down in the same old spot, with no finer outlook, no clearer vision, no stimulated desire for that which is better and higher, it is in no sense a good book. —Anna Warner.

DR. JOHN HALL, speaking recently, thus eulogized Protestantism. He was dealing with the assertion that "Protestantism is a failure": "How," asks the Doctor, "can that be a failure

which in A.D. 1500 did not exist, and in A.D. 1883 controls populations to the extent of 408,000,000; while its rivals, the Roman and Greek Churches, combined, control 280,000,000!"

THE name of the forget-me-not is derived from a German tradition full of melancholy romance. It is related that a young couple on the eve of marriage, while walking along the banks of the Danube, saw a cluster of the forget-me-not, floating on the stream which was bearing it away. The affianced bride admired the beauty of the flower, and lamented its fatal destiny. The lover plunged into the water to secure it. No sooner had he caught it than he found himself sinking; but making a last effort, he threw it on the bank, at the feet of the maiden and at the moment of disappearing forever, exclaimed, "*Ver-giss mein nicht!*" Since this occurrence, the flower has been made emblematical of the sentiment, forget-me-not. We have seen this flower growing in great profusion on the banks of the rivers and streams of France, Germany and Switzerland.

A CHINESE leper girl was brought to Miss Houston by her friends, on foot, for nearly a hundred miles, that she might take her to Jesus, for Him to lay his hands upon her and cure her of her leprosy. She had heard a native catechist preach on the Scripture narrative, and thought that the missionary lady at Foochow could lead her to that powerful Healer. Miss Houston stated that she should never forget the poor girl's look of bitter disappointment when she explained to her that the Lord Jesus was no longer upon earth, but she hastened to tell her of His power still to heal the worst leprosy—that of the soul—and set before her "the old, old story." The leper girl remained for a short time in Foochow before returning home, and Miss Houston had cause to rejoice over her having really found the Saviour, whom, with such a simple trust, although in ignorance, she had come to that city to seek.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

B.C. 1062.] LESSON X. [Dec. 9.

DAVID'S FRIEND, JONATHAN.

1 Sam. 20. 32-42. Commit to memory. vs. 41, 42.

GOLDEN TEXT.

A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Prov. 18. 24.

OUTLINE.

1. The Peril. v. 32-34.
2. The Token. v. 35-40.
3. The Vow. v. 41-42.

TIME.—B.C. 1062.

PLACE.—Probably near Gibeah in the tribe of Benjamin.

EXPLANATION.—Answered Saul—See the conversation in the verses preceding. Wherefore shall he be slain—Saul had said that David must be put to death. Saul cast a javelin—His anger was so great that he would have slain his own son. Fierce anger—Not for himself, but for his friend. Done him shame—Wronged him. In the morning—On the next morning, as had been agreed with David, who was hiding near by. See verses 18-22. A little lad—To pick up his arrows. Beyond him—This was a warning to David. Make speed, haste—Words which would have a meaning for David. Artillery—Weapons, here meaning bows and arrows. Toward the south—Behind a store. Ver 19. Bowed himself—Showing honour to the prince. David exceeded—Because his trouble was the deepest, as he was going forth into exile.

We have sworn—Vows of faithfulness to each other. Between me and thee—As a witness to the pledge and its fulfilment. My seed and thy seed—Children and descendants. He arose (David) and departed—To have no home, no safety for the years until Saul's death.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson do we find—

1. A tender friendship!
2. A self-sacrificing friendship!
3. A lasting friendship!

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who was David's friend? Jonathan, the son of Saul. 2. What did he do for David? He pleaded for him with Saul. 3. What did he do when he found Saul was determined to kill him? He gave him warning of danger! 4. What did Jonathan and David make? A covenant of faithfulness. 5. Who is our friend more faithful and greater than Jonathan? Jesus Christ.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—God's covenant with his people.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

48. What success had their preaching? The apostles on the day of Pentecost preached the gospel to the people with great success; for three thousand were converted and baptized in that day, and a great multitude afterwards.

B.C. 1061.] LESSON XI. [Dec. 16.

DAVID SPARING HIS ENEMY.

1 Sam. 24. 1-17. Commit to memory vs. 15-17.

GOLDEN TEXT.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you. Matt. 5. 44.

OUTLINE.

1. Love Forbearing. v. 1-7.
2. Love Pleading. v. 8-15.
3. Love Conquering. v. 16, 17.

TIME.—B.C. 1061.

PLACE.—Engedi, west of the Dead Sea.

EXPLANATIONS.—When Saul was returned—He had been pursuing David before, but was called off by an attack of the Philistines. Wilderness of Engedi—A wild region near the Dead Sea. Upon the rocks—Places so wild that wild goats found refuge in them. A cave—Great caves abound in that region. Saul went in—He could not see David and his men within, but they could see him. Behold the day—David's men thought that he would slay his enemy. Do... as it shall seem good—So David did as it seemed good to him, and treated Saul kindly. Skirt of Saul's robe—The end of his flowing mantle, as he lay asleep. Smote him—Feeling that he had not been respectful to the king. The Lord's anointed—The kings were anointed with sacred oil, and were regarded as sacred persons. Suffered them not—They would have killed Saul if he had not prevented them. David stooped—Bowed in reverence to the king of Israel. Men's words—Saul's jealousy had been increased by false reports about David. Know thou and see—The piece of Saul's robe was a proof that Saul's life had been in David's hand. The Lord avenge—David left his case in God's hand, conscious that he was innocent. Dead dog—David assured Saul that it was unworthy of a king to pursue one so lowly. Rewarded me good—Given kindness when revenge was in his power.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where do we find in this lesson—

1. How to treat those who do us evil?
2. How to conquer our enemies?
3. How to show trust in God?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Where did Saul pursue David? In the wilderness of Engedi. 2. In what place did David and his men find refuge? In a cave. 3. Who came into the cave? Saul. 4. What did David's men urge him to do? To kill Saul. 5. What did David do to Saul? He cut off the skirt of his robe. 6. What did David say to Saul after he had left the cave? That he had done no harm.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The Lord our Judge.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

49. What miracles did they work to confirm their doctrine?

The miracles wrought by the Apostles to confirm their doctrine were,—some that were cripples had the use of their limbs given them, multitudes of sick were healed by them; some persons were struck dead, and others raised to life.

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