

Birds.

Birds—birds! Ye are beautiful things.
With your earthy, breathing feet and your
cloud-claving wings,
Where shall man wander and where shall
he dwell
Beautiful birds! that ye come not as
well?
Ye have nests on the mountain all rug-
ged and stark,
Ye have nests in the forest all tangled
and dark;
Ye build and ye brood 'neath the cot-
tage's caves,
And ye sleep on the sod 'mid the bonnie
green leaves;
Ye hide in the heather, ye lurk in the
brake,
Ye dive in the sweet flags that shadow
the lake,
Ye skim where the stream parts the
orchard-decked land,
Ye dance where the foam sweeps the
desolate strand.

Beautiful birds! Ye come thickly around,
When the winds on the bench and the
snow's on the ground,
Ye come when the richest of roes flush
out,
And ye come when the yellow leaf eddies
about.

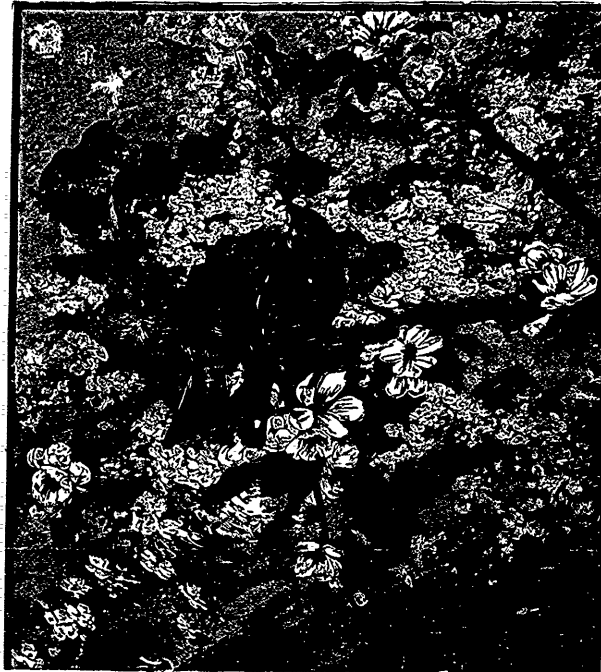
Beautiful birds! How the
scholarly remembers
The warriors that harassed
his holiday tones,
The folk that hurried in
the frosty Decembers,
The blackbird that whistled
thru' the flower-crowned
June!

That healthy remembers
his holiday ramble
When he pulled every blos-
som of palm he could
see,
When his finger was raised
as he stopped in the
bramble,
With "Hark! there's a she
"u' koo, hoo, hoo—close he
must be!"

MUSKRATS.

The beaver is well
known as one of the wisest
builders among animals.
It is not, perhaps, so
generally known that the
muskrat almost equals him
in constructive skill. Here
is a description of the
muskrat and the way in
which he builds his houses
with several stories and
spiral staircases!

The muskrat is some-
what similar in appearance
to his dry-land cousin, but
is incomparably larger.
The brown muskrat, which
is larger than the black
muskrat, when full-grown
will measure twelve to
fourteen inches from the
tip of the nose to the root
of the tail, and his rat-like
caudal appendage some-
times attains a length of
eight inches.



BIRDS.

birds. The rats are social in their habits,
and at extremely low ebb, when the sea
commodations are greatest in the houses,
quite a number may be found in the
same hut. At flood-tide fewer are found
in any one house, as the accommodation
is limited then only to the upper stories,
which are free of water.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL BY JOHN.

LESSON X.—JUNE 4.
CHRIST CRUCIFIED.

John 19. 17-30. Memory Verses, 28-30.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Son of God, who loved me, and
gave himself for me.—Gal. 2. 20.

OUTLINE.

1. The Cross, v. 17-22.
2. The Soldiers, v. 23, 24.
3. The Friends, v. 25-27.
4. The End, v. 28-30.

third was the official language, and was
used in the law documents of that day.
Thus in the title we have the language of,
(1) Religion, (2) Intellect, and of (3)
Empire.

21. "Write not"—For the Jews
thought that such a title exposed them to
contempt. "What I have written I have
written"—A common and usual expres-
sion to mean what is done cannot be un-
done. Pilate was obstinate, but he
would yield in his own interests.

23. "Took his garments"—The loose
outer garment called "toga," with the
girdle and fastenings. The clothes of
executed criminals were handed over to
the executioners. "His coat"—His un-
dergarment was without seam. That
of the high priest was seamless. Jesus
is the great High Priest, as described in
Hebrews.

24. "Cast lots"—There were gamblers
at the foot of the cross. "That the
Scripture might be fulfilled"—The quota-
tion is from Psalm 22. 18. "The prophecy
of a fact does not justify the accomplish-
ment of it by evil men. We are to do
right."

25. This incident is found in St. John's
gospel only. "There stood"—Better



2. The Soldiers, v. 23, 24.
Who took the garments of Jesus?
What division did they make?
How was the coat made?
What proposal was made concerning
it?
3. The Friends, v. 25-27.
What friends of Jesus stood by him?
To whose care did Jesus commend his
mother?
4. The End, v. 28-30.
How was this charge kept?
What was the cry of Jesus?
Who foretold this thirst? Psalm 69. 21
How was this cry answered?
What were the last words of Jesus?
What is said of the manner of his
death?
What did he say of himself? John 10.
17, 18.

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Time.—Friday, April 7, A.D. 30.

Place.—Golgotha (Calvary), outside the
walls of Jerusalem.

LESSON HELPS.

17. "Bearing his cross"—Compare the
account given by the other evangelists,
and especially Matt. 27. 33. "Went
forth into a place"—Outside of the city,
near to it and probably just north of it.
"Of a skull"—So shaped. A small eleva-
tion.

18. "Two others with him"—They
were "robbers," not thieves. Men who
were apt to unite violence with theft.
Jesus was crucified with them under a
similar charge of treason, for the rob-
bers were probably insurgents. "Jesus
in the midst"—A contrast, indeed, be-
tween Christ and the sufferer on each
side.

19. "Wrote a title"—Title is the
Roman name for an inscription of this
kind. It was common to put on the
cross the name of the sufferer and to
state his crime. "Of Nazareth"—For
there was the home of his parents, where
his youth was spent. Christ had no
home of his own. "King of the Jews"
—So Pilate thought and wrote.

20. "Hebrew and Greek, and Latin"—
The first was the national language, the
second was most widely known, and the

rendering, "there were standing." A
contrast between the four plundering
soldiers with the centurion and the four
ministering women with the disciples.

26. "Whom he loved"—Which ex-
plains why Jesus committed the two to
one another. "Woman"—A title of re-
spect, forgotten by those who use and
misuse the word "lady."
28. "I thirst"—Intense thirst accom-
panied crucifixion.

HOME READINGS.

M. Christ crucified.—John 19. 17-30.
Tu. Despised and rejected.—Luke 22.
62-68.
W. The penitent thief.—Luke 23. 39-49.
Th. The burial.—John 19. 31-42.
F. For us.—Isa. 53.
S. Dying for sinners.—Rom. 5. 1-11.
Su. Worthy the Lamb.—Rev. 5. 6-14.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY

1. The Cross, v. 17-22.
What burden did Jesus bear?
Whither was he led?
What was then done to Jesus?
Who suffered at the same time?
What was the written testimony of
Pilate?
In what languages was it written?
20. "Hebrew and Greek, and Latin"—
What change did the Jews desire?
What was Pilate's answer?