

The Windmill

BY H. W. LONGFELLOW

Behold 'a giant am I'
Aloft here in my tower,
With my granite jaws I devour
The maize, and the wheat, and the rye
And grind them into flour.

I look down over the farms,
In the fields of grain I see
The harvest that is to be,
And I fling to the air my arms,
For I know it is all for me.

I hear the sound of flails
Far off, from the threshing floors,
In barns, with their open doors,
And the wind, the wind in my sails,
Louder and louder roars.

I stand here in my place,
With my foot on the rock below,
And whichever way it may blow
I meet it face to face,
As a brave man meets his foe.

And while we wrestle and strive
My master the miller stands
And feeds me with his hands;
For he knows who makes him thrive,
Who makes him lord of lands.

On Sunday I take my rest,
Church-going bells begin
Their low melodious din;
I cross my arms on my breast,
And all is peace within.



THE WINDMILL.

OUTLINE.

1. Jesus Received as a Prophet, v. 43-46.
 2. The Nobleman's Petition, v. 47-50.
 3. The Miraculous Cure, v. 51-54
- Time.—Probably in A.D. 28.
Places.—Sychar, Cana, Capernaum.
Rulers.—Pontius Pilate in Judea, Herod Antipas in Galilee.

LESSON HELPS.

43. "After two days"—The two days he stayed in Sychar. "Into Galilee"—Which province he always regarded as his home.

44. "A prophet hath no honour in his own country"—The full meaning of this verse is made plain by the next verse. Jesus, knowing that a prophet has no honour in his own country, did not begin his ministry in Galilee, but came back to his own province after he had gained honour at the capital of Judea.

46. "A certain nobleman"—"One belonging to Herod," a man of high position at the court of the king who had just thrown John the Baptist into prison.

48. "Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe"—The man was looking only for a Healer, Jesus proposed to be his Saviour, and emphasized cure of souls rather than cure of bodies.

49. "Sir"—Lord. "Come down"—He supposed the presence of the wonder-worker to be necessary. "Ere"—Before.

50. "Thy son liveth"—These words must have greatly tested the nobleman's faith. "Believed the word"—He had believed in the power of Jesus; that was creed. He now believed that what he said had come to pass; that was faith.

51. "His servants met him"—Full of the good news of his son's recovery.

52. "The seventh hour"—Early in the morning.

53. "Himself believed, and his whole house"—This was a third step in faith. He began by believing that Jesus could and did work miracles; then he believed that he had worked a miracle on his own sick son; now he believes in him, leans on him, takes him as his spiritual guide, believes (with more or less of intelligence) that he is the Messiah.

54. "The second miracle"—Not the second of all his miracles, but the second "when he was come out of Judea."

HOME READINGS.

- M. The nobleman's son healed.—John 4. 43-54.
Tu. Doings at the feast.—John 2. 13-25.
W. A believing centurion.—Matt. 8. 5-13.
Th. A ruler's faith.—Matt. 9. 18-26.

- F. Boldness in prayer.—Heb. 4. 9-16.
S. Necessity of faith.—Heb. 11. 1-6.
Su. Faith and life.—1 John 5. 10-16.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Jesus Received as a Prophet, v. 43-46.
How long did Jesus remain at Samaria?
Whither did he journey?
Why had Jesus first preached the Gospel in Jerusalem? Verse 44.
What treatment did he expect?
Why did the Galileans receive him?
How did they know of his miracles?
To what city of Galilee did he return?
What miracle had Jesus wrought in Cana?
Who was sick at Capernaum?
2. The Nobleman's Petition, v. 47-50.
Of whom had the centurion heard?
What did he do to secure help?
What answer did Jesus make to his call?
What was the ruler's reply?
What assuring command did Jesus give him?
How did he show his faith in Jesus?
3. The Miraculous Cure, v. 51-54.
What good news met him on the way?
What did he inquire of his servants?
When did the cure begin?
What had occurred at the same hour?
What effect had this miracle on the ruler and his household? Golden Text.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson do we see—
1. The plea of anxious love?
 2. The answered prayer?
 3. The power of faith?



What do we call asking the Lord for what we want? Praying? Yes. The man was in trouble and he came to pray. We will put this word in our lesson chain. It is a golden word in a golden link of our chain. Well, what did the nobleman pray about? Did he ask the Saviour to make him very wise? Did he ask Jesus to make him rich, or to prosper his business, or to help him to understand some strange things in the Bible, or any such things as these? Were these in his heart? What was he thinking about? Of the cure of his sick son. So what did he ask when he prayed? John tells us this nobleman went to Jesus as soon as he heard that the Lord had come to Cana, and "besought him that he would come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death"—so near as that—at the very point—not far to go to slip out of life. He besought the Saviour—that is, asked very earnestly indeed. He asked for what he wanted most.

CHINESE WEDDING PROCESSION.

The Chinese can do nothing without a great noise, and without great display of pomp, banners, and bright colours; and their music is the most discordant thing you ever heard. You cannot tell much difference between this picture and that of a funeral procession, except that, instead of the sedan chair in which the bride rides, in the cut below, there is a funeral bier. There are the same gongs and trumpets and clang of cymbals, the same display of ceremonial umbrellas, gigantic fans, huge lanterns, and banners with brilliant inscriptions, the same stolid and immobile expressions on the countenances. But alas, they are without the knowledge of the blessed Presence who sanctified the marriage of Cana in Galilee, and who turned into joy the funerals at Nain and Bethany.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL BY JOHN.

LESSON VI.—FEBRUARY 5.

THE NOBLEMAN'S SON HEALED.

John 4. 43-54. Memory verses, 49-51.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Jesus said unto him, Thy son liveth, and himself believed, and his whole house.—John 4. 53.



A WEDDING PROCESSION.

CHINESE WEDDING PROCESSION.