

assurances at least; moreover, he kept his object before him instead of being distracted from it.

And was not his way, though peculiar, and therefore striking me as very original, the natural one, after all, the way in which a child might act as a matter of course?

And surely it was a wise way. There was far less reason than usual to fear that he would forget and give up his attempt. All his Christian friends were enlisted to keep him in mind of it and to cheer him on in moments of discouragement, while his old comrades felt that he had already left them and come out on the Lord's side.

I never saw him again nor heard about him, but ever since that I have wished that I could give intelligently to inquirers his idea that our great sacred interest is one of our every-day interests, and that it is natural to treat it as such.—American Messenger.

SEEKING TO SAVE.

BY MRS. ANNIE A. PRESTON.

"Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wandering from the fold of God,"

said Harry Eustace, a rather flashily dressed, showy young man, as he walked hurriedly toward the railway station in a large New England town.

"How did that ever get into my head, and what is the rest of it? There must be a rhyme to it," and he repeated the words again. "I certainly didn't hear them at the theatre last evening nor at Jerry Howe's saloon this morning, and I haven't read anything of the sort. Confound it all! can't I think of anything else?" and he began to whistle softly a popular strain from the last opera.

The train was about starting, he hurried to get a seat, and when they were fairly on the way he found the objectionable words had set themselves to the whir of the car wheels.

All the way along the Shore Line, past New Haven, New London, across the Thames on the great steam ferry boat, on, on, almost to Providence. He had said the words a thousand times, he was sure. At last, in sheer desperation, he turned to a pleasant, gentlemanly-looking stranger who had occupied a seat in front of him for the whole distance, and said,—

"I beg pardon, sir, but did you ever happen to hear just these words, and can you tell me what will rhyme with them, for they must be a part of a stanza of a hymn, I think,—

"Jesus sought me when a stranger Wandering from the fold of God?"

"Why, yes, certainly," said the gentleman, cordially. "Don't you remember? It is the second verse of Robert Robinson's familiar hymn, and the remaining two lines of the verse are,—

"He to save my soul from danger Interposed His precious blood."

"Worse and worse," said the young man with a sigh. "Thank you, sir. I don't think I ever heard them before. I am not much in the way of hearing hymns myself. How in thunder the tormenting words got into my head I don't see. They have sung themselves over there to a tune of their own all day long. I have tried in vain to banish them, and at last I thought I must seek relief from the torture by asking some one for the rest of the verse."

"It is a beautiful hymn," said the gentleman. "There is a great deal of comfort in it. I frequently sing it over to myself when travelling," and he now sang it through softly, but clearly and with expression.

Harry Eustace sat with his arms crossed on the back of the seat in front of him, and listened attentively. The passengers in their car had nearly all left at Stoughton, and as the gentleman ceased singing and looked at him with a smile, he took up the tune and sang the second verse through in a rich tenor voice.

"Yes, there is comfort in it if any one knew how to find it," he said. "I don't."

"Are you to be in the city over Sunday?" asked the gentleman, and receiving an affirmative reply, he said,—

"Will you not come to the — Street church to the morning service and hear the choir sing your hymn?" and handing Harry a card as the train drew up at the station, he was quickly lost in the crowd.

"I wonder if he is a minister?" said Harry as he crossed the street. "He don't catch me so easy." But the words of the hymn sung him to sleep that night and resumed

their appeal so quickly when he awoke in the morning that he said,—

"Perhaps the easiest way to get rid of them will be to go to church and hear them rendered by the choir."

The pastor was already in his place as an usher took the young man to a seat in the body of the house, and Harry saw at a glance that it was his travelling acquaintance of the day before.

He rose at once and gave out the hymn, the very one they had been talking about, and as he began reading the second verse he smiled down into Harry's upturned eyes in a way that sent the thought buzzing through the young man's brain, "Jesus is seeking for me. This good man, His servant, has been praying for me!"

I need not tell the story of the day, but before its close Harry had found the "comfort" in the hymn, and Monday morning he retraced his steps rejoicing as only those rejoice who find the Lord.

As he went back with a light step up the familiar street he paused, as he had done on his way to the depot, as, indeed, he did almost every day, to buy an apple of a nice, neat old woman who kept a little box of a place on the corner.

There right before his eyes in large letters was the verse that had made the last three days the most eventful of his life. He knew, now, he had read them almost unconsciously, in his hurry, but they had fixed themselves in his mind and remained there until their mission for him had been accomplished.

Looking up at the woman as she handed him his change, something gentle and motherly in her air tempted him to tell her his story, although he was not ordinarily a communicative person.

"Why, dear heart," said the old woman smoothing her white ruffled apron with both her hands, "my Johnnie made that, the lame boy, you know, who is here sometimes. He has not been so well lately, and at home he has amused himself while I was away by cutting the large letters from the headings of newspapers and from advertisements, posters and the like, and pasting them on short papers, and thus making mottoes. This one he made in large letters for my comfort here. And to think, sir, that I should have helped the seeking Saviour to find and to save you. Johnnie will be glad, sir. He is always praying for the unconverted, and wishing there was something he could do to lead them in the right way. This is but a proof, sir, of what I have often told him—to do the best that he could with what was given him, and the Lord would find a place for his work. We see a great deal that needs doing among the poor people where we live, sir."

"I think the Lord sought me that, with my money and influence, I could help Johnnie," said Harry Eustace. And should you go to that town to-day, you would hear of a blessed work among the lowly that the prayerful labor of these two has accomplished.—Watchman.

"ONE TEACHER looks at his pupils and sees nothing in their faces but an exhaustive demand on his strength and patience; and other sees in each face a mute appeal to all the wisdom, sympathy, and love that are in him." So says the Christian Union. The words are fitly spoken. We recommend them to the consideration of every teacher. Let each ask himself and herself, "What do I see in the faces of my pupils? To which class of teachers do I belong?" The answer will go far to enable one to determine whether he is a true teacher or no.—Canada School Journal.

REAL INTEREST, not affected or feigned, is the teacher's privilege with reference to pupils. We sadly lack the penetration belonging to a revived humanity, if, in the shabbiest and dullest, we can not see "something to love."

SCHOLARS' NOTES.

(From International Question Book.)

LESSON I.—JULY 3.

THE INFANT JESUS.—MATT. 2:1-12.

COMMIT VERSES 7-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins.—Matt. 1:21.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Those who earnestly seek the Saviour shall find him; one finding should worship and love him.

DAILY READINGS.

- M. Matt. 1:18-25. T. Matt. 2:1-12. W. Matt. 2:16-23. Th. Luke 2:1-14. F. Luke 2:15-21. Sa. Luke 2:25-35. Su. Luke 11:36-40.

TIME.—Jesus Christ was born in the year of the world 4000, four years before the date from which we number our year, A.D. (Anno Domini, the year of the Lord.) So that Christ was born 1891, not 1887 years ago. The visit of the wise men was a few weeks after the birth of Christ, in the winter.

PLACE.—Bethlehem of Judea, a small village five or six miles south of Jerusalem, containing at present about five hundred houses. Here Rachel was buried and Ruth gleaned, and David was born and anointed.

RULER.—Augustus Cæsar, emperor of Rome; Herod the Great (the first of the seven Herods named in the New Testament), king of Judea.

INTRODUCTION.—Mary, the mother of Jesus had a home in the city of Nazareth in Galilee; but when the Roman emperor ordered a list or enrolment of all the people, for the purpose of taxing them, they had to go to their family home. Mary's family was at Bethlehem, five or six miles south of Jerusalem. Here the Saviour was born, and laid in a manger, because the tavern was full of people. Some shepherds, watching their flocks, were told by an angel that the Saviour of the world was born. They went and found the babe, as the angel said. Months before this, some wise men in Persia, far away to the east, saw a new and splendid star, and God led them by this star to Jerusalem to find the Redeemer. It took them several months to come. Our lesson to-day is about their visit.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

1. THE DAYS OF HEROD—Herod the Great. Christ was probably born in December, B.C. 5; and Herod died at the age of 70 in the middle of the following March (B.C. 4). WISE MEN—Magians, or a class of learned men who studied science, medicine, etc. These men came from Persia, called here the East. SEEN HIS STAR—probably a miraculous star. STAR IN THE EAST—seen in the eastern sky, or while they were yet in the East; probably both. HEROD WAS TROUBLED—he was afraid this child would be king in his place. 4. CHIEF PRIESTS—the leaders, the high priests, and heads of the 24 courses of priests. SCRIBES—writers, those who copied and studied and taught the Scriptures. WHERE SHOULD BE BORN—where the Scriptures taught should be born. 5. BETHLEHEM—See Place. WRITTEN BY THE PROPHET—Micah, in chapter 5:2. NOT THE LEAST—a small town, but great in influence and renown. 7. PRIVILY—secretly, to avoid public notice and excitement. 11. FELL DOWN—bowed down, in the Eastern mode of reverence. WORSHIPPED—did him reverence and honor. Three acts here,—worship with body, with soul, with goods. FRANKINCENSE—a vegetable resin, from a tree, burned for its odors in offering incense; a symbol of prayer. MYRRH—another aromatic gum, which distills from incisions in a small thorny tree; used in embalming the dead. Both are very precious. "Myrrh is a mortal, gold to a king, frankincense to God."

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Who wrote the Gospel we now begin to study? Why is it called "the Gospel"? Give some account of Matthew. When and where did he write this Gospel? In what language? Under what government was Judea at this time? Who was emperor of Rome?

SUBJECT: SEEKING AND FINDING THE SAVIOUR.

I. THE BIRTH OF JESUS THE MESSIAH (v. 1).—Who was Jesus before he came to this world? Where was he born? How long ago? How long after the creation of Adam? Who was his mother? Where did she live? (Luke 2:4.) Why did they come to Bethlehem? (Luke 2:14.) How came Jesus to be laid in a manger? Who first heard of his birth? (Luke 2:8-12.) What song did the angels sing? (Luke 2:14.)

In what respects was the world specially prepared at this time for the coming of the Saviour? Meaning of A.D. as applied to our dates. How did it happen that we do not count from the right date? How much out of the way is it? What advantage to the world that Christ came into it as a little child?

II. THE SEEKERS FROM AFAR (vs. 1, 2).—Who came to see the infant Messiah? Who were these wise men? Where did they come from? Was the journey long and hard? How was this coming a proof of their wisdom? Will we, if wise, seek Christ as earnestly? (Matt. 13:45, 46.) Why did they expect the Messiah? How may they have learned of the time? (Dan. 2:48, and 9:24-27.) How were they led to Jerusalem? When did the star appear again? (v. 9.) What things are like this star leading us to Christ? Why is Jesus called "the King of the Jews"? Is he our king?

Was there a general expectation of a great king and new kingdom at this time? Whence did it arise? Was this star a miraculous star, or a bright, natural star, or both?

III. HINDERANCES CHANGED INTO HELPS (vs. 3-8).—Why did the wise men go to Jerusalem first? Who was king of the Jews at this time? Why was he troubled? Why does the coming of Christ's kingdom trouble the wicked? What did Herod do? Who were the scribes? The chief priests? How did they know where the Messiah was to be born? (Mic. 5:2) Give some account of Bethlehem. How may small places and people be made great. What were Herod's policy and intentions?

IV. THE MESSIAH FOUND AND WORSHIPPED (vs. 9-12).—How were the wise men guided to the place? Where was Mary and the child? What did the wise men do on their arrival? In what three ways did they worship? What gifts did they bring? What is frankincense? Myrrh? How may giving be an act of worship? What gifts should we bring to Jesus? (Rom. 12:1; Prov. 23:26.) What became of the wise men?

LESSON II.—JULY 10.

COMMIT VERSES 10-21.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He delivered me, because he delighted in me.—Ps. 18:19.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus the Saviour and the example for children.

DAILY READINGS.

- M. Matt. 2:13-23. T. Hos. 11:1-12. W. Jer. 31:10-17. Th. Ps. 2:1-12. F. Ps. 91:1-16. Sa. Luke 2:30-52. Su. Eph. 6:1-18.

TIME.—B.C. 4, when Christ was a few weeks old.

CONTEMPORARY HISTORY.—The census (Luke 2:1) still in progress. Herod falls sick, and dies at Jericho, April 1, B.C. 4. Archelaus greeted as king, April 2. Riot and massacre of the Jews in the temple at the Passover on April 10th.

CIRCUMSTANCES.—The wise men of the last lesson had returned to their own country, without reporting to Herod. It is probable that Joseph had concluded to make Bethlehem his future residence. He also may have found profitable employment here; but his plans were changed, and to-day's lesson shows how.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

13. WHEN THEY—the wise men. FLEE INTO EGYPT—because Egypt was near; it was a Roman province, but not under Herod. Many Jews lived there, and Joseph could find work at his trade. 14. BY NIGHT—so that their flight would be concealed from Herod. 15. UNTIL THE DEATH OF HEROD—only a few weeks after, April 1, aged 70. BY THE PROPHET—Hosea, chap. 11:1. OUT OF EGYPT, etc.—originally spoken of the nation of Israel, led from the bondage of Egypt. But the words also have a perfect fulfillment in Christ, who was called out of trouble, out of Egypt, to his promised land and his great work. 16. MOCKED—foiled, baffled in his plan. WHOOT—angry, in a rage. SLEW ALL THE CHILDREN—male children. Bethlehem had not over 2,000 inhabitants, and therefore not over 25 or 30 male children under two years. 17. JEREMY—Greek form of Jeremiah (31:15). COASTS—borders, neighborhood. 18. RAMA—a little town six miles north of Jerusalem. Here Nebuchadnezzar, after the siege of Jerusalem, B.C. 586, gathered together the captives for transportation to Babylon. There was great mourning. Rama was in the tribe of Benjamin, the son of Rachel, who is represented thus as mourning for her captive children. A like mourning was now heard in Bethlehem, the place where Rachel was buried. 22. HEARD THAT ARCHELAUS DID REIGN—he was the son of Herod, and even more cruel. 23. SPOKEN BY THE PROPHETS—not by any one, but the substance of what many had said. Nazareth means shoot or branch, contrasted with a tree. The prophet spoke of Jesus as a branch (Isa. 53:2; 4:2; Jer. 23:5; 33:15; Zech. 3:8; 6:12).

Jesus was called Nazareth, "from Nazareth," because he lived in Nazareth.

For the childhood of Jesus, see Luke 2:39-52

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—When was Jesus born? Where? Who came to visit him? From what country? What led them to Jesus? What did they do? What did they give him? Where did the wise men go from Bethlehem? Who remained there? Where had been their home? (Luke 2:4.)

SUBJECT: THE CHILDREN'S SAVIOUR.

I. THE CHILD IN DANGER (vs. 13, 16-18).—What danger threatened the child Jesus? Why did Herod wish to destroy him? How was Joseph warned of this danger? What does this teach us about the ministrations of angels? (Heb. 1:14.) What of God's care for his children? How did Herod think the wise men had treated him? What did he do in his anger? How many children were probably slain?

What are some of the dangers to which children are now exposed?

Does God warn us now by angels and dreams? Why is there less need of such methods now than then? In what ways does God speak to us? Will he always guide and guard his children? In what sense are the three Old Testament Scriptures referred to in this lesson prophetic, and in what sense were they fulfilled in Christ?

II. THE CHILD IN SAFETY (vs. 14, 15, 19-22).—Where was Jesus taken for safety? Why would he be safe there? How long did they remain in Egypt? What prophecy was fulfilled by this journey into Egypt? How may God be said to have called all his children out of Egypt? When did Herod die? How did Joseph learn when to return? To what place did he go? Why not to Bethlehem?

III. THE CHILD AT HOME (v. 23).—Where was Jesus' home? Describe Nazareth. Why was Jesus called a Nazarene? What prophecy was thus fulfilled? How long did Jesus remain at Nazareth? (Luke 3:23.) What trade did he learn? (Mark 6:3.) What kind of a boy was he? (Luke 2:40, 52.) What was said of his obedience to parents? (Luke 2:51.) What made him attractive to men? What made him pleasing to God? Give one incident of his childhood. (Luke 2:11-50.) How do we know that he studied the Bible and went to church? In what respects can children now imitate him? What help to them in the fact that Jesus was once a child?

LESSON CALENDAR.

THIRD QUARTER, 1887.

- 1. July 3.—The Infant Jesus. Matt. 2:1-12. 2. July 10.—The Flight into Egypt. Matt. 2:13-23. 3. July 17.—John the Baptist. Matt. 3:1-12. 4. July 24.—The Baptism of Jesus. Matt. 3:13-17. 5. July 31.—The Temptation of Jesus. Matt. 4:1-11. 6. Aug. 7.—Jesus in Galilee. Matt. 4:17-25. 7. Aug. 14.—The Beatitudes. Matt. 5:1-16. 8. Aug. 21.—Jesus and the Law. Matt. 5:17-26. 9. Aug. 28.—Piety Without Display. Matt. 6:1-15. 10. Sept. 4.—Trust in our Heavenly Father. Matt. 6:24-34. 11. Sept. 11.—Golden Precepts. Matt. 7:1-12. 12. Sept. 18.—Solemn Warning. Matt. 7:13-29. 13. Sept. 25.—Review, Temperance. Rom. 13:6-14. Missions. Matt. 4:12-16.