

Fancy's Pictures.

BY REV. R. STRAGHAN.

WITHIN the realm of Fancy, Some wondrous things are wrought, Which though a fair resemblance Of real things, are nought. Such marvellous constructions As "castles in the air," And "bridges built of fancies," And "mines of wealth" are there.

All these are only pictures Which Fancy paints most fair; They are no more enduring Than bubbles in the air. Do not for pleasure travel O'er bridges built on nought; Seek something more substantial, E'en though more dearly bought.

Be careful where you're driven When Fancy holds the reins; Her greatest cheat is often Imaginary gains. Her fast increasing riches Will make your hopes expand; But draughts upon such prospects Are like a rope of sand.

MIDLAND, ONT.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

A.D. 29.] LESSON IX. [May 30

JESUS FEEDING FIVE THOUSAND.

John 6. 1-11. Commit vs. 9-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Jesus said unto him, I am the bread of life.—John 6. 35.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus Christ has power to help us in every time of need.

DAILY READINGS.

M. John 5. 19-47. Tu. John 6. 1-21. W. Matt 14 13-36. Th. Mark 6. 30-56. F. Luke 9. 10-17. Sa. Ps. 78. 1-32. Su. Ps. 107. 23-33.

TIME.—April, A.D. 29. Almost a year after our last lesson.

PLACE.—A plain on the north-east shore of the sea of Galilee, belonging to Bethsaida, which lies at the entrance of the Jordan into the sea of Galilee.

JESUS.—Aged 32-33 years; just beginning the last year of his ministry.

PARALLEL ACCOUNTS.—Matt 14. 13-33; Mark 6. 30-52; Luke 9. 10-17.

INTERVENING HISTORY.—Almost a year of Jesus' life comes between the last lesson and this, largely spent in Galilee.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—After these things—Spoken of in our last lesson. The interval was about a year. Over the sea of Galilee—From the western side, probably near Capernaum. He had just heard that Herod, in whose dominions he was, had beheaded John the Baptist (Matt. 14. 13).

3. Into a mountain—The mountainous region that bordered the plain of Bethsaida on the south-east. 4. The Passover—This year, April 16. 5. Saw a great company—5000 men (v. 10), besides women and children (Matt. 14. 21). They came by land from all parts. 7. Two hundred pennyworth—About \$30.00. A penny, denarius, is 15 cents, the price of a day's work. 9. Barley loaves—The food of the poorest. Fishes—Salted, and eaten as a relish, like sardines.

14. That Prophet—The Messiah, or his forerunner, whom the Jews were expecting to come and deliver them. 15. Make him a king—The expected Prophet was to be a king. Five and twenty or thirty furlongs—Three or three and a half miles, half way across the sea. Afraid—Thinking he was a ghost or apparition (Matt. 14. 26). 21. At the land—Capernaum.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Intervening history.—Why the multitude followed Jesus.—Jesus' power over nature.—The teachings of this miracle.—Jesus alone on the mountain.—The storm.—No fear when Jesus is with us.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—How much of Jesus' ministry intervenes between this lesson and the last? Where are the events recorded? In how many of the Gospels are the events of this lesson given? Have you read the account in each of them?

SUBJECT: JESUS' POWER OVER NATURE.

I. POWER TO SUPPLY OUR DAILY WANTS (vs. 1-14).—To what place did Jesus go? (v. 1. Luke 9. 10.) Why? Mark 6. 31; Matt. 14. 12, 13.) Who followed him? (v. 2.) How did they get there? (Mark 6. 33.) What did Jesus do for them? (Luke 9. 11.) What did the disciples propose toward night? (Luke 9. 12.) What did Jesus say to Phillip? For what purpose? What did Phillip reply? How much in our money is 200 pence?

How did Jesus feed the multitude? How many were there? How much was left after all had eaten? Why were the fragments gathered up? What does this miracle show as to Jesus' power? As to his care for our bodily wants?

II. POWER TO HELP IN TIME OF TROUBLE. (vs. 15-21).—Why did they want to make Jesus a king? Where did Jesus spend some time? (v. 15.) How long? (Mark 6. 45-48.) For what purpose? (Mark 6. 46.) What trouble came upon the disciples? What did they see when in the middle of the lake? Why were they afraid? What did Jesus say to them? What became of the storm when Jesus entered the boat? (Mark 6. 51.) Has Jesus still such power over nature? What comfort to us in this fact? (Matt 6. 13; Rom. 8. 28, 35-39.)

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- 1. Jesus ever has compassion on the multitudes. 2. Jesus is ever multiplying the little talents, spiritual life, power, faith of his people, for the good of the world. 3. When we freely give to others what God gives us, there is more left for us than if we had given none. 4. Jesus is able and willing to supply our daily needs. 5. We need much prayer, meditation, and communion with God. 6. Jesus is with us in our storms and trials. 7. Where Jesus is there is safety and peace.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. What miracle did Jesus work near Bethsaida? Ans. He fed five thousand on five barley loaves and two fishes. 2. How much was left over? Ans. Twelve baskets full. 3. Where did Jesus then go? Ans. To the mountain to pray. 4. What took place while he was there? Ans. His disciples were in a storm on the sea of Galilee. 5. What did Jesus do to help them? Ans. He came to them walking on the water. 6. What did he say to them. Ans. "It is I; be not afraid."

A.D. 29.] LESSON X. [June 6.

JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE.

John 6. 22-40. Commit vs. 27-29.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Lord, evermore give us this bread.—John 6. 34.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus is the bread of life.

DAILY READINGS.

M. John 6. 22-40. Tu. John 6. 41-71. W. John 4. 1-15. Th. Ps. 42. 1-11. F. Ps. 84. 1-12. Sa. Ex. 16. 1-18. Su. Isa. 55. 1-13.

TIME.—April, A.D. 29. The day following our last lesson.

PLACE.—Capernaum, on the north-west shore of the lake of Galilee.

CIRCUMSTANCES.—This lesson follows naturally after the last, being the instruction Jesus gives the multitude, with the feeding of 5000 for a text and object lesson.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—22. The day following—The one in which the 5000 were fed. 23. Howbeit, other boats—This is said to show how the people came across when it had just been said that no boats were left. 26. Not because ye saw the miracles—Not for the teaching of the miracles, but for the benefits they obtained from them. 27. Labour not—Do not make the wants of the body the chief end of life. The meat which endureth—The food of the soul, that gives it life, that enlarges and strengthens it, and satisfies its immortal wants. Nath the Father sealed—Attested as his Son and sent from him with the true message. Sealing to the ancients was like signing the name with us. 29. The work of God that ye believe—Faith is the source and fountain of all good works. 31. As it is written—Ps. 78 24. 32. Moses gave you not—It was not Moses, but God,

who gave the manna (Ex. 16). They implied that Moses had done what was more wonderful than Christ, for he fed many thousands 40 years with sweet manna. 35. Never hunger—With pain and unsatisfied desire. But only as in the Beatitude. 37. The Father giveth me—The divine side of salvation, life, desire, new hearts, come from God only. 39. Raise it up again—At the resurrection. Death should not destroy those who believe.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The meat that perisheth.—The bread of life.—The work of God.—What is it to believe.—Moses and the manna.—How Jesus is the bread of life.—What this bread does for us.—v. 37.—"Raise him up at the last day."

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—What two miracles of Jesus did we study in our last lesson? Where were Jesus and his disciples then? To what place did they go?

SUBJECT: THE BREAD OF LIFE.

I. SEEKING THE BREAD OF LIFE (vs. 22-27).—Why did the people wonder where Jesus was? Where did they find him? What question did they ask him? What did Jesus say was their object in seeking him? What should have been their motive? What earnest counsel did Jesus give them? What is meant by "the meat that perisheth?" Why should they not labour for this? Does this mean they are not to work for anything to eat? (2 Thess. 3. 10-12; Rom. 12. 11; Eph. 4. 28.) What is "the meat that endureth unto everlasting life?" Why should this be the chief object of their labour? How were they to obtain it? What is meant by "him hath the Father sealed?"

II. FINDING THE BREAD OF LIFE. (vs. 28-35).—What question did they ask Jesus? What did he say was the work of God? Show how believing on Jesus is "the work of God." What proof did they ask? Why did they refer to the manna? What three marks of the true bread are mentioned in v. 33? Who is this true bread? How is Jesus the bread of life?

III. EATING THE BREAD OF LIFE (vs. 35-40).—What did Jesus promise those who came to him? How do you reconcile this with the Beatitude in Matt. 5. 6? Is coming to Jesus the same as believing on him? What promises do you find in these verses? What is God's will for those who believe on Jesus? From these verses and v. 54 what do you learn as to the meaning of eating the bread of life?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

- 1. The true purpose of life is that which belongs to the soul and the character. 2. The soul needs food as really as the body. 3. The food of the soul is that which gives it spiritual life, develops character, satisfies its wants, strengthens its faculties. 4. A new heart, given through faith, is the source of all good works. 5. The true bread is (1) from God; (2) life-giving; (3) for all the world; (4) satisfies the wants of the soul. 6. This true bread (1) satisfies; (2) continues; (3) gives salvation; (4) brings eternal life here; (5) gives eternal life beyond the grave. 7. The way to obtain this bread of life is by coming to Jesus, believing on Jesus, loving Jesus.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

7. Where did the people next find Jesus? Ans. At Capernaum. 8. What instruction did he give them from the miracle they had seen? Ans. (Repeat v. 27.) 9. Who is the bread of life? Ans. Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life. 10. How may we obtain the bread of life? Ans. By going to Jesus and believing on him. 11. What promises does he make to those who believe? Ans. "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out, but he shall have everlasting life."

WHEN we look on God's face we do not feel His hand.

HARRY and Charlie—aged five and three respectively—have just been seated at their nursery table for dinner. Harry sees that there is but one orange on the table, and immediately sets up a wailing that brings his mother to the scene. "Why, Harry, what are you crying for?" she asks. "Because there ain't any orange for Charlie!"

STANDARD LIBRARY

Best Books for a Trifle.

These books are all uniform in size, being a 12mo.

Previous numbers (1-79) of this Library were known as the STANDARD SERIES.

Parties ordering will please be careful to designate which are required, (Standard Series, or Standard Library.)

1883 SERIES!

(CONTINUED).

- No. Price. 129. Prince Saroni's Wife, and the Pearl-Shell Necklace. Julian Hawthorne ..... \$0 15 130. Christmas in Narragansett. Edward Everett Hale ..... 0 25 131. Edwin Arnold—As Poetizer and Paganizer. Containing an Examination of the "Light of Asia," for its Buddhism. Wm. Cleaver Wilkinson ..... 0 15

1885 SERIES!

- 132. Working People and their Employers. By Washington Gladder. Paper ..... 0 25

The questions discussed by him so sensibly and practically are among the most important and pressing involved in what is called "THE LABOUR QUESTION." The book ought to have a wide circulation. It cannot fail to do good.

- 133. Aboard and Abroad in Eighteen Hundred and Eighty-Four. By W. P. Breed, D.D. .... 0 15

A book full of brilliant description and rare information respecting many of the special objects of interest which an intelligent traveller sees "abroad."

- 134. Howard. The Christian Hero. By Laura O. Holloway. Paper 0 25

"General Howard has been called the 'Havelock of the American Army,' and been likened to Palmer, to Vickers and latterly to Gordon, whose fine, spiritual character was akin to his own."

- 135. In the Volume of the Book. By George F. Pentecost, M.A. With Introductions by Revs. Joseph Cook and J. H. Vincent, D.D. Price, paper ..... 0 25

- 136. The Hero of Cowpens. Centennial Sketch. By Rebecca McConkey. 12mo, 295 pages . . . 0 25

This little book is highly recommended by competent authorities. The brief words by Gen Grant are ample testimony. He says: "I have read this book with very great interest. It gave me a clearer insight into the battle of Cowpens than anything I had read before. The whole book interested me."—U. S. GRANT.

Any of the above Books mailed free on receipt of price.

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