

Hold the Fort.

A BAND OF MERCY HYMN.

Peace on earth, good will to mortals,
And God's creatures all,
Every living thing that moveth,
On this earthly ball.

Chorus—

Hold the fort, for we are coming,
Fifty millions strong!
Listen, and you'll hear the music
Of the angels' song.

Poor and patient, dumb and silent,
They have waited long;
Now the world is getting nearer
To the heavenly throng.

Now the world is growing kinder,
Notes of love are heard;
Bands of mercy multiplying,—
Gentleness the word.

Now the stars are getting brighter,
And the sky more blue,
And the sunshine growing softer,
Over hearts more true.

Now the holy name of Jesus
Sweeter grows each day,
And the number is increasing,
Of the hosts that pray

Now the glorious day is dawning,
Long by seers foretold,
Grand millennium of glory,
Promised age of gold.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE.

LESSON IV.—APRIL 26.

THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS.

Luke 16. 19-31. Memory verses, 25, 26.
GOLDEN TEXT.

Ye cannot serve God and mammon.—
Luke 16. 13.

Time.—A.D. 30, and closely following
last lesson.

Place.—Perea.

CONNECTING LINKS.

After the parable of the Prodigal Son, Jesus by the story of the unjust steward taught the right use of riches. Then as a contrast he illustrated the wrong use of wealth by the parable of to-day's lesson. It was spoken especially to the Pharisees.

DAY BY DAY WORK.

Monday. Read the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16. 19-31). Prepare to tell in your own words the last lesson and this.

Tuesday.—Read the danger of too much ease (Amos 6. 1-6) Fix in your mind Time, Place, and Connecting Links.

Wednesday. Read unsafe trusting (Luke 12. 13-21). Learn the Golden Text.

Thursday. Read wealth without goodness (Eccles. 6) Learn the Memory Verses.

Friday.—Read concerning the love of this world (1 John 2. 8-17). Answer the Questions.

Saturday.—Read of the treasures contained in heaven (Matt. 6. 19-34) Study Teachings of the Lesson.

Sunday.—Read of the greatest of all rewards (Matt. 25. 31-46).

QUESTIONS.

1. Our Lord's View of a Palace, verses 19-21.—19. Whom did the rich man represent? How is his great wealth indicated? 20. What words are used to show how helpless Lazarus was?

2. Our Lord's View of Hell, verses 22-26.—22. What was meant by "Abraham's bosom"? 23. How are men divided after death? 24. Which is the only prayer to saints mentioned in the Bible? Was it answered? 25. Will there be memory in the life to come? What are the "good things" of the rich man? 26. Why is the gulf called "great"?

3. Our Lord's View of the Human Heart, verses 27-31. 28. What led him to ask for a message to his brethren? What did the request imply? 31. How has it been proved that the return of

people from the other world would not lead people to repent?

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Our gifts and possessions are to be used for God and our fellows. There will be terrible changes in the next world. We cannot hide our real condition from God. Sins of omission will condemn many. The evil and the good will be separated hereafter. It is not more light we need, but an eye to see and a heart to love. Our last chance comes in this life.

THE PROTECTION OF BELGIAN DOGS.

A little while ago we told our readers of the dogs that draw the teams in Belgium. As you may well believe, all the

ever goes crooked, or shies into the ditch, he is not to blame. To the rider who masters him he is ever obedient, and will go fast without the whip, or slow without the guidance of the voice.

He is all skeleton, and the air has free circulation through his bones of steel. He requires to be rubbed down like other horses, but he never goes to sleep, and you do not need to build a stable for him, for you can keep him in the hall-way of the house.

The most curious thing about him is, that though he can go a mile in three minutes he cannot stand alone. If he is not in motion he drops down, unless you take the precaution to lean him against the wall. He never runs away of his own accord. He has a great objection to a stranger mounting him; and if you doubt this, make the trial. To walk up the mountain side, to climb up the steps

Only a Bird.

BY MARY C. JOHNSON.

Only a bird, a little sprite
That made the wild woods ring
With the silvery note
From its merry throat,
In the early, glad some spring,
Wee bosom red, black shiny head,
And eyes with a soft warm light.

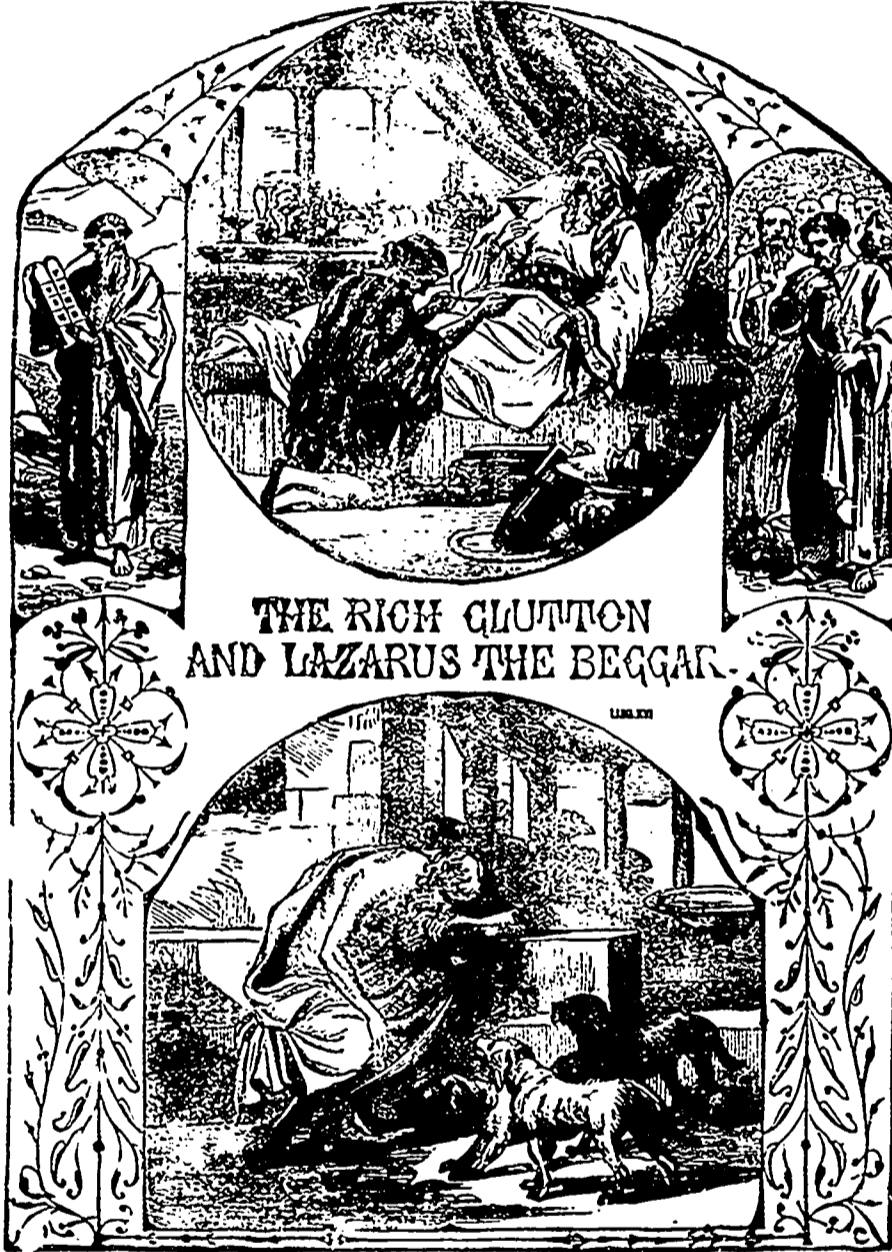
Only a bird—Dame Fashion heard,
And her proud lips curled in scorn;
"To my taste," said she, "'twould better
be
If a bird on the hat was worn."

So she sent herimps on their fendish quest
To roam the woodland through,
To tear the wings from the mother's breast,
For no pity their cruel hearts knew.
Alas! for the homes in the woodland bowers,
Where their vandal feet have trod,
For the dew shone red on the weeping flowers,
And the blood-stains marked the sod.

But never a word of pity stirred
The heart of Fashion cold,
The ears of beauty never heard
The terrible tale that was told;
Told by the weeping flowers in the glen
Where their voices have ceased to ring,
Told by the shrieking wee birds in the nest
Unwarmed by a mother's wing.

Only a bird, a ghastly thing
That sat in a milliner's shop,
With ruffled plumage and stiffened wing
And a miserable cotton crop.
A tuneless throat; alas! alas!
Held stiff by an ugly wire,
And staring, expressionless eyes of glass,
That emit no sparks of fire.

Only a bird, a little sprite,
That made the wild woods ring
With the merry note
From its beautiful throat,
In the early, glad some spring,
Stuffed bosom red, black dried-up head,
And eyes with a crazy stare.



THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS THE BEGGAR.

men who use these dogs are not kind to them. Some of the dogs are not only abused and beaten to compel them to draw the very heavy loads, but they are not well fed, and show that they are hungry. Now some kind hearted people in Belgium are trying to protect the dogs, and have laws passed that will put the men in prison who do not use them well.

People all over the world are growing kinder-hearted, and abuse of animals rouses all the people to defend them.

If you can get somebody to read to you the story of "The Dog of Flanders," this story will make you love dogs more than ever before.

THE BICYCLE.

The bicycle is a curious horse, and a useful one. He has lately come to earth, and he has come to stay. He has two wheels instead of four legs. He eats no oats, he drinks no water, but now and then he takes a few sips of oil, and if he does not get it he squeaks with every foot of ground he travels over. He never gets tired, though his rider may; and if he

of the Pyramid in Egypt, is an easy task to mounting a bicycle for the first time. It cannot be done unless a friend holds with a firm grip the ugly beast. He goes to the right and to the left, and at the first chance drops himself and you. Then he goes straight into danger when you want him to stop, and he stops when you want him to go on. You wildly steer all sorts of ways, and he goes no ways at all.

WINDFALL.

The origin of this term is said to be the following:

Some of the nobility of England, by the tenure of their estates, were forbidden to fell any of the trees upon them, the timber being reserved for the use of the royal navy. Such trees, however, as fell without cutting, were the property of the occupant. A tornado, therefore, was a perfect godsend to those who had extensive forests on their estates, and the windfall was sometimes of very great value.

Every Methodist School should have in its Library Dr. Withrow's inspiring story,

BARBARA HECK:

A Story of Early Methodism in Canada.

Cloth, Illustrated, - - - - 75 cents.

In the form of a graphic story Dr. Withrow traces the adventures of the heroic little group of Palatine emigrants who left Ireland for New York, and subsequently settled in Canada. Prominent in this band was the heroine of our story, Barbara Heck, the "mother of Methodism in the New World." Of absorbing interest are the descriptions given of pioneer life, of the Quaker settlement, of the Virginia Loyalists, of the backwoods camp-meeting, and the tragic episode of the last siege of Quebec.

Dr. Withrow's Other Stories.

- Life in a Parsonage, or Lawrence Temple's Probation..... 0 50
- The King's Messenger. A Story of Canadian Life..... 0 75
- Neville Trueman, the Pioneer Preacher. A Story of the War of 1812..... 0 75
- Valeria, the Martyr of the Catacombs..... 0 75

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

METHODIST BOOK AND PUBLISHING HOUSE, TORONTO.
C. W. COATES, Montreal, Que.
S. F. WATSON, Halifax, N.S.