



EASTERN MOURNERS.



LADY DOLEFUL.

EASTERN MOURNERS.

The people of the East have a very demonstrative way of expressing their grief. Often a band of hired mourners are engaged for a funeral, and their outcries and lamentations are very distressing to hear. The picture shows a scene in India, but the same custom prevailed in Palestine, and many allusions are made to it in Scripture. It will be a good plan to turn to them and read what is said about the custom.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. Who was Saul? "Saul, called also Paul, was a Jew, of the tribe of Benjamin. Born in Tarsus, educated at Jerusalem, and now thirty-five years old." 2. What was he now doing? "Persecuting the Christians." 3. What befell him on the way to Damascus? "Jesus appeared to him at midday, in a great light." 4. What was the effect of this? "He was converted, and became a disciple of Jesus." 5. What three things followed? "He received his sight, he was filled with the Holy Ghost, and he was baptized."

CATECHISM QUESTION.

Where is he spoken of as teaching us to understand the Scriptures?

John 16. 13, 14.—When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he shall guide you into all truth. . . . He shall glorify me: for he shall take of mine, and shall declare it unto you.

1 Cor. 2. 14.—The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God.

1 John 2. 20.—And ye have an anointing from the holy One, and ye know all things.

The Discontented Seed.

Out in the meadow all brown and bare,
A tall tree waved in the soft spring air;
And down at its foot there lay a seed,
Grooving to think it was but a weed.

Up in the tree-top the bluebird sang;
Over the meadow the sweet song rang;
"Up, little seeds—come up little seeds!
Every one of you springtime needs!"

"I'm only a very common weed,"
Said the discontented, silly seed.
"I can't be one that's wanted above;
So homely a thing no one can love."

But the rain came down and soaked him through,
The sun shone warm and the soft breeze blew.
And almost before he was aware
He shone a star in the meadow there.

And all the grasses were glad he came,
And called him many a pretty name;
Till one bright day a child came by,
And saw the gleam of his golden eye.

And gaily laughing she knelt beside
And kissed the blossom, and softly cried:
"Precious and beautiful little thing,
Spring without you would never be spring!"

Then surely the dandelion knew
That a weed had grace and beauty too;
And brightly blossomed and held its balls
Full of downy seeds for "mother's calls?"
And as they are blown away they sing,
"Spring without us could never be spring!"

LADY DOLEFUL.

We wonder what has happened to the dog to make her look so doleful. She looks as if she had lost all her friends, doesn't she? Perhaps she is sick, or maybe she is only sulky, and if that is the case she must be a very naughty dog, and a very foolish one too, to make her face look so ugly.

Special Columbus Number of "Onward."

The regular number of ONWARD for October 1st will be specially devoted to Columbus. It will contain a descriptive article by the Editor on his life and times, accompanied by several illustrations, poems by Tenyson and Lowell on his character, and an account of the pre-Columbian discoverers of America. The Minister of Education for Ontario has directed that a Columbian celebration be held in all the public schools of the Province. Every Sunday-school scholar ought to have this special Columbian number of ONWARD to enable him to thoroughly appreciate and enjoy that celebration. Of this paper we shall print a large edition over what will be required to supply regular subscribers, and it will be furnished to non-subscribers or subscribers requiring additional copies at the rate of \$1.00 a hundred in any quantity of not less than ten copies. Let every scholar have a copy.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

A. D. 37.] **LESSON I.** [Oct. 2

SAUL OF TARSUS CONVERTED.

Acts 9. 1-20. **Memory verses, 15-18.**

GOLDEN TEXT.

Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.—John 3. 3.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus Christ changes the heart and life.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

Breathing out—His vital breath was threatening. *High priest*—Who, by Roman permission, had authority over foreign Jews in matters of religion. *Of this way*—Of Christ's way of religion and worship. *As he journeyed*—On horseback. It was nearly a week's journey. *Damascus* The oldest city in the world. It then contained 50,000 Jews. *A light from heaven*—It was midday. (Acts 23. 13.) In this light he saw Jesus himself (Acts 9. 7; 22. 14). *Kick against the pricks*—The ox goads. Oxen kicking against the goad hurt themselves and gained nothing. So Paul, in resisting the truth and disobeying conscience. *Stood speechless*—They had fallen at first (26. 14) and had risen up. Or it may mean simply "they remained speechless." *Hearing a voice*—i. e. the sound, but not understanding the words (22. 9). The words were in Hebrew. *Three days without sight*—He was blinded by the light. In these days he had his great conflict. *Straight*—Then the main street of Damascus, one hundred feet wide. Saul, before his conversion, was sincere, moral, religious. Conversion (1) made him more truly sincere; (2) filled his soul with love to God and man, making him truly moral; (3) changed his feelings toward Christ; (4) brought the forgiveness of sin; (5) changed his life purpose.

Find in this lesson—

1. What great change Jesus can make in a person.
2. What to say when Jesus calls us.
3. Two examples of prompt obedience.
4. Two things we all need.

THE BRUSH BRIGADE

BY MARY C. HUNGERFORD.

Not long ago I heard a mother tell her boys that intimate and constant acquaintance with brushes went a great way toward making a gentleman. The remark struck me, and I asked how many brushes one needed to be familiar with.

"Tell her, boys," said their mother; and the merry fellows shouted:

"One to brush our hair we need,
And one to polish our boots,
One to clean our nails, indeed,
And one to dust our suits,
And one to give our hats a switching,
To make us all look very bewitching,
And that's the song of the Brush Brigade."

"Willie always twists everything they have to remember into a jingle, and then they don't forget it," said the mother smiling as the brigade went off in a vivacious procession to practice on their brushes. "Tramps went out, but gentlemen came back," said the clever little mother when they came in again, presenting each of the brush-improved four with an apple turn over for his lunch-box.

"Cleanliness is next to godliness, and dirt is an abomination," said grandmother from her corner.

"It runs in the family," I heard one of the boys say as they put on their coats. "I guess grandma brought up her boys to brushes just as mother serves us. Never mind, all her boys are gentlemen clear through; and I s'pose we'll be the same if we stick to the brushes."

A life without Christ is the life of an orphan.

LOOK AND SEE.

How many schoolboys in all the land, a very thoughtful one inquires, can tell what kind of timber will bear the heaviest burden, or why you take white oak for one part of a wagon and ash for another, and what timber will last longest under water, and what out of the water? How many know sandstone from limestone, or iron from manganese? How many know how to cut a rafter or brace without a pattern? How many know which turns the faster, the top of the wheel or the bottom, as the wagon moves along the ground? How many know how steel is made, or how a snake can climb a tree? How many know that a horse gets up before and a cow behind, and that the cow eats grass from her and the horse to him? How many know that a surveyor's mark on a tree never gets any higher from the ground, or what tree bears fruit without bloom?

There is a power of comfort in knowledge, but a boy is not going to get it unless he wants it badly. And that is the trouble with most school boys. They do not want it. They are too busy, and have not got time. There is more hope of a dull boy who wants knowledge than of a genius who generally knows it all without study. These close observers are the world's benefactors.

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