

and strong in a minute. Ask what God makes an apple-tree for? Teach that as he makes the tree to bear apples, so he makes our bodies to bear fruit of good deeds for him. When he cures us, or gives us life from him, then we are ready to begin to bear fruit. The first fruit that this lame man bore was praise to God. Show that this is a good fruit, and that we must bear it, too. Teach that another fruit was *testimony*. Explain what this means, and read, "All the people saw him walking and praising God." He did not try to hide his cure. He was not ashamed to have people hear him say that Jesus had cured him. Teach that when Jesus has given us love, patience, meekness, any kind of strength, we must be willing, as this man was, to let it be known. Make a vine on the board, with branches. Print above, "I am the vine, ye are the branches," and teach that as the branches get their life from the vine, the vine needs to be strong and healthy. Has Jesus plenty of life and strength? Then we may have, if we will only be willing to take it from him.

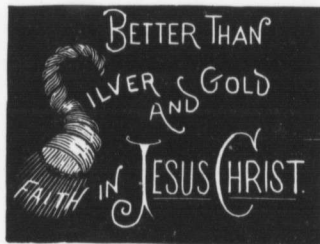
#### Lesson Word-Pictures.

There is the stir of preparation in the temple. It is almost three, the hour for evening sacrifice, when the crimson fires will flash above the altar and the censer breathe out its sweet offering. Peter and John are among the temple-worshippers. Two—that means fellowship in worship, and four arms in an emergency. They are stopped by a beggar. What a contrast between him and the Beautiful Gate at whose foot he lies! He is a cripple, never able to walk, to traverse the fields, to climb the hill-slopes, to go to another's help, or save himself from danger, only an object to be carried by charity, perhaps half-starved and half-clad. Above him is that gate of Corinthian brass, fifty cubits high and forty broad, glittering with the gold and silver plates that cover it, and so massive that the strength of twenty men is needed to move it. That gate so costly, beautiful, finished, and he so unfinished, beggarly, uncomely, weak! It is an old custom to give alms at temple-gates, and the alms-boxes in churches to-day are a trace of that custom. O Peter and John, this mis-shapen, ragged, helpless mass of beggary appeals to you! "Look on us!" is Peter's cry. Eye meets eye. It is the pitying Christ looking through Peter's eyes upon the penalty for broken laws, and he came into this world to repair and prevent that transgression, bringing men into harmony with himself and so with his laws. In the name of Christ he is bidden to rise and walk! He lays hold of Peter's extended hand. Human effort must meet the divine power. And see! The fettered joints are

loosened. The helpless limbs are stirring. Twisted, awry, up out of his humiliation he suddenly leaps, and stands erect, a man! What wonder if he goes into the temple shouting excitedly his thanks to God! He not only recognizes the bounty of heaven, but he acknowledges its dispensers. He bows with them in prayer. How near God must have seemed, God so wonderfully working! The consciousness of his presence must have extended among and awed the people. They wonder as they hear those excited outcries of thanksgiving, and when the man will not let the disciples depart, clinging to them, the people hurriedly cluster about the three in Solomon's Porch, pressing, pushing, eager to see, eager to hear. O wonderful name of Jesus, that failed not the disciples when, leaning on it, they met that pitiful case of want! Strong in faith, still stronger in achievement, behind them is the Power, greater than "silver and gold," the conqueror of disease, and that shall vanquish a world of sin.

#### Blackboard.

BY J. B. Phipps, Bsq.



EXPLANATION. This design is to teach that there is something that is better than silver and gold. Of these says the apostle, in verse 8, "have I none." But he had a greater treasure. *What was it? FAITH.* Not faith in itself, but in Jesus Christ. Faith is represented as coming out of the horn of plenty, thus teaching that the Christian may have an abundance of this treasure. If this design is placed on the board in colors, make the horn with yellow and brown, the word *silver* in white, and *gold* in yellow; *faith* in white. Avoid making too much fancy colouring. Simplicity is always best.

#### LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY, 1885.

- FEB. 4. The Prince of Life. Acts 3.12-21.
- FEB. 11. None Other Name. Acts 4.1-14.
- FEB. 18. Christian Courage. Acts 4.18-31.
- FEB. 25. Ananias and Sapphira. Acts 5.1-11.