

WHAT BECAME OF A LIE.

FIRST, somebody told it,
Then the room wouldn't hold it,
So the busy tongues rolled it
Till they got it outside,
When the crowd came a-rass it,
It never once lost it,
But tossed it and tossed it,
Till it grew long and wide.

From a very small lie, sir,
It grew deep and high, sir,
Till it reached to the sky, sir,
And frightened the moon;
For she hid her sweet face, sir,
On a veil of cloud lace, sir,
At the dreadful disgrace, sir,
That happened at noon.

Thus he brought forth others,
Dark sisters and brothers,
And fathers and mothers—
A terrible crew,
And while headlong they hurried,
The people they flurried,
And trou'd and worried,
As lies always do.

And so, evil-boded,
This monstrous lie goaded,
Till at last it exploded,
But in smoke and in shame;
While from mud and from mire,
The lie grew higher,
And the said liar,
And killed his good name!

THE CHILDREN AT THE PALACE DOOR.

TWO little children were out in the field one day, and seeing a palace in the distance went up to the door, and touching it with their fingers it opened before them. Walking in they came upon other doors, which all opened at their touch. By-and-by they came into the presence of a king, who was seated at a table. He was very kind to the children, and showed them a great many beautiful things, and amongst them a lovely sparkling diamond, which he offered to give them. Somehow—they could not tell how—they came away without it. Twenty years afterwards they came back to the same place; they were strong young men now. They went up to the palace door and touched it with their fingers, but it would not open. It was only after much effort and application of all their strength that they succeeded in forcing the door open. They had to force every door until at last they got into the presence of the king again, and got from him the precious diamond, which they might have had so easily when they were children.

Now while you are young you can get from Jesus His great gift of a new heart so sweetly, so easily, but if you wait and delay you may have to force your way to Him with much pain and many tears. The door opens at your touch now, and He is waiting to receive you and bless you.

STRAIGHT AHEAD.

A BRIGHT-EYED boy stood at a corner where four ways met. He looked puzzled. A little shadow of anxiety began to cloud his face. Turning suddenly, he saw a kind-looking old gentleman coming slowly up the road. The boy's face brightened.

"Will you please tell me, sir," he asked, lifting his hat, "the shortest way to South Haven?"

"Straight ahead, my boy. Straight ahead!" And as the boy, with a cordial "Thank you," was about to move on, the old gentleman added, "I'm

going that way myself. Will you keep me company!"

The two walked on together for nearly a mile, and then the old gentleman reached his home. He had made himself so agreeable to his young friend that the boy was sorry to part with him. Before saying good-bye, the old gentleman said, earnestly, "My boy, there's another and a better Haven than South Haven, and you will reach that by getting on the right track, and then going straight ahead."

The two did not meet again in this world, but the boy never forgot the words of his venerable friend. What is better, he acted upon them. He made haste to get on the right track, and then he went "straight ahead," even to that Haven which we name Heaven.

LEARN TO UNITE STRINGS.

THE story of the eccentric Stephen Girard says that he once tested the quality of a boy who applied for a situation by giving him a match leaded at both ends and ordered him to light it. The boy struck the match, and after it had burned half its length threw it away. Girard dismissed him because he did not save the other end for future use. The boy's failure to notice that the match was a double ended one was natural enough, considering how matches are generally made; but haste and heedlessness—a habit of careless observation—are responsible for the greater part of the waste of property in the world.

Said one of the most successful merchants of Cleveland, Ohio, to a lad who was opening a parcel: "Young man, untie the strings, do not cut them."

It was the first remark he had made to a new employee. It was the first lesson the lad had to learn, and it involved the principles of success or failure in his business career. Pointing to a well dressed man behind the counter he said:

"There is a man who always whips out his scissors and cuts the strings of the packages in three or four places. He is a good salesman, but he will never be any more. I presume he lives from hand to mouth, and is more or less in debt. The trouble with him is that he was never taught to save."

"I told the boy just now to untie the string, not so much for the value of the strings as to teach him that everything is to be saved and nothing wasted."

LESSON NOTES.

A.D. 60] LESSON XI. [March 15.

PAUL BEFORE AGRIPPA.

Acts 26. 1-18 Commit to memory vs. 16-18.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest. Acts 26. 15

OUTLINE.

1. The Orator's Opening, v. 1-3.
2. The Pharisee's Record, v. 4-11.
3. The Christian's Call, v. 12-18.

TIME.—A.D. 60, probably in the summer, a few weeks after the rule of Festus began.

PLACE.—Cesarea.
EXPLANATIONS.—*Speak for thyself*—That is, defend thyself. This was his fourth defense. *Accused of the Jews*—Paul was

charged by the Jews with having forsaken his national religion, which, according to Roman law, was punishable with death. *Most straitest*—The very strictest, a double superlative in the old English. *Promise*—Namely, of the Messiah. *Instantly*—Intensely, as if striving to reach a goal, namely, the fulfilment of the promise. *Voice—Vote*. "I have assented." *Every synagogue*—Not absolutely, but wherever the occasion offered. *To blaspheme*—To utter some imprecation against Jesus. *Open their eyes*—Give susceptibility for the knowledge of divine truth.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That zeal is not godliness?
2. That in injuring God's servants we are fighting against God?
3. That the Lord has a service for those whom he calls?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Why did Paul account himself happy? Because he spoke for himself. 2. For what was Paul judged? For the hope of God's promise. 3. What did God promise? That he would raise the dead. 4. For what purpose was Paul sent to the Gentiles? "To open their eyes."
DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Conversion from sin.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

14. Where is He said to sanctify the heart and life? Galatians v. 22, 23; 2 Thessalonians ii. 13.
15. How may you obtain the help of the Holy Spirit? By prayer in the name of Jesus. Luke xi. 13; John xvi. 23. [Acts ii. 33; Philippians i. 19.

A.D. 60. LESSON XII. [March 22.

PAUL VINDICATED.

Acts 26. 19-32. Commit to memory vs. 22-25.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day. Acts 26. 23.

OUTLINE.

1. Paul and his work, v. 19-23.
2. Paul and Festus, v. 24-25.
3. Paul and Agrippa, v. 27-32.

TIME.—A.D. 60, immediately following the last lesson.

PLACE.—Cesarea, the Roman capital of Palestine.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Heavenly vision*—So called because it was an appearance of the glorified Jesus. *Prophets and Moses*—Christianity is true Old Testament religion, and so Paul had not forsaken the national religion. *First . . . rise*—Not the first to be resuscitated, for Lazarus and others were raised and died again; but the first of the complete resurrection, not only from death but from mortality. (Whedon.) *Much learning*—Some believe that Festus referred to Moses and the prophets, and thought that he had poured over them until his brain was turned. *Mad*—Festus undoubtedly thought that Paul's brain had become affected. *Almost*—Literally, with little (supply time, or effort). The answer seems to be ironical, and to mean, "With little effort, or in a short time, you would make me a Christian." That Paul should make the king a Christian (!) was thought to be ludicrous.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. Obedience to the call of duty?
2. Boldness in a good cause?
3. Need of a complete surrender to Christ?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. In obeying the vision what did Paul show to the people and to the Gentiles? "That they should repent and turn to God." 2. How was Paul strengthened in his work? He obtained help of God. 3. What did Agrippa say to Paul? "Almost thou persuadest me." 4. What would Paul have had? That he were fully persuaded. 5. What was the judgment concerning Paul? He was declared innocent of offense.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The fulfilment of prophecy.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

1. What is the law of God? The law of God is His declared will respecting what men are to do.
2. Where is the law to be found? In the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

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