

always wholesome, always needed, and without which the world below would be in a bad way."

"Bless me! that is the queerest thing I've heard yet. But I don't wonder you want to go; I'm tired of sweets myself, and long for a good piece of bread, though I used to want cake and candy at home."

"Ah, my dear, you'll learn a good deal here; and you are lucky not to have got into the clutches of Giant Dyspepsia, who always gets people if

they eat too much of such rubbish and scorn wholesome bread. I leave my ginger behind when I go, and get white and round and beautiful, as you will see. The Gingerbread family have never been as foolish as some of the other cakes. Wedding is the worst; such extravagance in the way of wine and spice and fruit I never saw, and such a mess to eat when it's done. I don't wonder people get sick; serves 'em right." And Snap flung down a pan with such a bang that it made Lily jump.

## Convention Echoes

### ILLUSTRATIVE LESSON

#### The Friars

Two chief orders—1, Franciscans, Grey Friars; 2, Dominicans, Black Friars.

Franciscans—1, Founder, Francis of Assisi (1182-1226), an Italian; 2, aim to act as Christ had acted. To go about doing good among the sick and needy.

Dominicans—1, Founder, Dominic (1170-1221), a Spaniard; 2, aim to teach the ignorant by kindly instruction and so win them back into the church.

Rules—The Friars were to entertain poor, beggars depending upon charity for their daily bread. They were thus to live among the people to whom they ministered.

Hardships—1, Harsh climate of England compared with sunny Italy or Spain; 2, only the poor infirm Friars in winter wore shoes; 3, along the frozen roads the footsteps of the Friars could be traced from the blood stains left by their naked feet.

Why Friars Were Needed—1, The monasteries, like all other corporate bodies whose usefulness was at an end, failed to meet the needs of the times. The aim of the monk was to live apart from the world, to live in retirement in the country. He believed in penance and prayer and contemplation, to work out his own salvation. The world which he turned his back upon required men to devote their lives to the new problems which arose with the growth of the towns; with their problems of crime, poverty and disease. The Friars grappled with these problems.

2. The clergy of the English Church had lost their spiritual influence because of:

- (a) The Disuse of Preaching;
- (b) The Monastic orders had become rich land owners.

(c) The parish priests were ignorant and non-resident.

Illustration—Orders issued by Bishop Gresseteste of Lincoln to his clergy:

Clergy were forbidden to haunt taverns, to gamble, to share in drinking bouts, to mix in the riot and debauchery of the life of the baronage.

How the Friars Worked—1, By the entire reversal of the elder monasticism; 2, by seeking the salvation of self in the effort to save others; 3, by exchanging the seclusion of the cloisters for the preacher; 4, by exchanging the Monk for the Friar.

Effects of the Work of the Friars — 1. Moral: (a) The coming of the Friars to the towns was a religious revolution. The towns had been left for the most part to the worst and most ignorant of the clergy—the mass priest, whose subsistence was fees; (b) the burghers and artisans received religious instruction.

2. Physical: The needy and neglected who were not citizens were not allowed to dwell within the town. Hence many people lived in sordid misery outside the gates, lepers and beggars. Few cared for these neglected poor until the Friars came. The Friars brought joy and cheer to the lepers and poor and a hearty welcome awaited them.

3. Intellectual: The Friars made Oxford University one of the greatest centres of scholasticism.

4. Political: The classes in the towns on whom the influence of the Friars told most were the steady supporters of freedom throughout the Baron's War.