



HOW SOME LADIES TRY TO LOOK BEAUTIFUL.

The Legend of Robin Redbreast.

BY ANNA M. PRATT.

When Jesus walked to Calvary,
 'Tis said a little bird
 Beheld 'Him, and its gentle heart
 With pitying love was stirred.
 It flew and plucked a cruel thorn
 From out the mocking crown,
 While drops from Jesus' bleeding brow
 Fell on its bosom brown.
 They dyed the glossy plumage red—
 And now all robins wear
 A stain upon their breast to show
 That deed of loving care.
 Nor have they ever lacked a friend—
 'Twas thus the legend read—
 For Robin Redbreast when in need
 By children has been fed.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON VI.—NOVEMBER 5.

NEHEMIAH'S PRAYER.

Neh. 1. 1-11. Memory verses, 8-10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Prosper, I pray thee, thy servant this day.—Neh. 1. 11.

OUTLINE.

- 1. A People's Need, v. 1-3.
- 2. A Patriot's Prayer, v. 4-11.

Time.—About B.C. 444.
 Place.—Susa.

Introductory Note.—Nehemiah followed Ezra in the government of Judah, specially of Jerusalem. He was a deeply religious man, and wise in his efforts to rebuild the city. He was an ardent patriot. Though a noble in the Persian court and raised to wealth and honour, he forgot not his own land, desolate and afflicted. He prayed for its welfare; he worked as he prayed. He was governor of Jerusalem for twelve years, and then returned to the Persian court, whence, after five years, he again came back to his own land and corrected evils which had crept in.

LESSON HELPS.

1. "The words of Nehemiah"—A good man, a ruler, and a patriot. His wealth was given for the public good. Probably of an eminent family, as only such a one could be placed in what was then a very responsible position, cupbearer of the Persian king.
2. "I asked them"—The question was about (1) the Jews and (2) Jerusalem. His solicitude is manifest. He was not a selfish man. He thought of others. He thought most of his brethren in affliction. So should we.
3. "The wall of Jerusalem also is broken down"—The walls were broken down at the time of the captivity.
4. "And mourned certain days"—From the month Chisleu, which answers to a part of our November and December, to the month Nisan, a period of about four months. The great work he undertook was not done in haste. It was preceded by much prayer.
5. The prayer now follows. "The great and terrible God"—Great, for he is able to work mighty works; terrible, for he can punish his foes.
6. "Let thine ear now be attentive"—Hear us. Answer our petition and receive our confessions. "Thine eyes open"—See us in our sorrow. "Both I and my father's house"—He joins himself with others. Personal and national confession together. If we ask God to forgive others let us ask him to forgive ourselves.
7. "The commandments"—Of the divine law which regulates life. "The statutes" are the ceremonies of religion, and the "judgments" are the precepts of justice given through Moses to the chosen people.
- 8, 9. "The word that thou commandest

thy servant Moses"—Here follow quotations from Deuteronomy and Leviticus. It is well to quote Scripture in prayer. God is pleased when his children have his promises in their hearts and utter them with their lips. "Will bring them unto the place"—And so indeed he did.

11. "To the prayer of thy servant, and to the prayer of thy servants"—Union in prayer, as in other things, is strength. Our united petitions should ascend to the throne of heavenly grace.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Nehemiah's prayer.—Neh. 1.
- Tu. The request granted.—Neh. 2. 1-11.
- W. A good resolve.—Neh. 2. 12-20.
- Th. Confession and forgiveness.—Lev. 26. 40-46.
- F. Precious promises.—Deut. 30. 1-10.
- S. Solomon's prayer.—1 Kings 8. 46-53.
- Su. Turn us, O Lord.—Psalms 80.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY

1. A People's Need, v. 1-3.
 Whose words have we in this lesson?
 Who came to visit Nehemiah?
 Where was Nehemiah?
 In what month and year did the visit occur?
 Concerning whom did Nehemiah ask?
 What was the report about the people?
 What about the holy city?
 Who had caused this ruin? 2 Kings 25. 10.
2. A Patriot's Prayer, v. 4-11.
 What three things did Nehemiah do?
 To whom did he pray?
 How did he address the Lord?
 For whom did Nehemiah pray?
 What confession did he make?
 What promise of the Lord did he plead?
 Through whom was this promise given?
 What did Nehemiah say of the people?
 Whose favour did he desire to secure?
 What office did he hold?
 What king was this? Neh. 2. 1.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—
1. A lesson of patriotism?
 2. A lesson of piety?
 3. The value of prayer?



SPARE THE BIRDS.

SPARE THE BIRDS.

The New York Tribune tells of a society formed in New York to assist in preventing the killing of birds for use in the decoration of ladies' bonnets. "For the last five years," says The Tribune, "songbirds and pipers, birds with gay plumage and without, have been killed in season and out of season—in the woods, fields, marshes, and on the sea-shore—in numerous numbers. Shooting birds and selling their heads and skins has become a business with hundreds of men and boys along the Atlantic coast and in the interior. The terns and sea-swallows, once so abundant from Cobbs Island in Virginia to Cape Cod, have been almost exterminated, and the meadow-larks, thrushes, robins, and bobolinks of our country fields are heard more and more rarely near the large cities, or even through long stretches of Long Island and New Jersey. "It is hard to say at all accurately how many birds pass yearly through the great millinery establishments. A writer in The Science supplement for February puts the number between five million and ten million. "A correspondent of Forest and Stream tells of a single collector who brought back eleven thousand skins from a three-months' southern trip in 1884, and says that from one small district of Long Island seventy thousand skins were sent to New York in four months. There is a single New York taxidermist,

according to the same paper, who confesses to preparing thirty thousand bird-skins for hats and bonnets every season. "The members of the society, which is named after the great naturalist Audubon, pledge themselves, first, to discourage the killing of any bird not used for food, second, to discourage the robbing of any bird's nest or the destruction of its eggs, third, to refrain from the use of any wild bird's plumage as an article of dress or adornment. The English sparrow, however, is excluded from its protection. Will not our boys and girls be glad to assist in the work of such a society.

ONLY TWO GLASSES OF BEER.

A boy in a court-room was arraigned for throwing a stone at a street-car. When asked by the judge what he had to say for himself, he drooped his head and stammeringly replied, "Nothing, sir—except—that I—had taken a—couple of—glasses—of—beer! Nothing—sir—except—"

As if that would be accepted in extenuation of a boy's lawlessness! A barn burns down, and the person charged with the responsibility says he has no excuse, only that he left a shovel of burning coals on a hay mow! The boy's stammering tongue did not make an acceptable plea, and he was marched off by the police, to think the matter over in a stone cell. "Nothing—sir—except—"

And yet some people think beer is a temperate drink, and that brewers are the apostles of good order, good health, good morals. Two glasses, only, of beer, and yet therein was room sufficient for a stone that did a deal of trouble. There is room in a glass of beer for many ugly things—hot words and hard blows, a lying tongue, and a thief's fingers. But every glass of beer is sure to have this within: a stairway that leads one down to a glass of something stronger. "Beer" is one ugly step in the drunkard's descent toward hell! A young man who didn't want to die a drunkard, and came to us for help, said he started the trouble in a glass of

beer. A second, who came for our prayers, traced his drinking habits back to the quaffing of a glass of beer while he was getting in coal when a boy. "Nothing—sir—except—"

This is the season when beer and its kindred nuisances that have been behind doors in town come forth, like snakes' tongues out of a hole occupied in winter, and temptingly are paraded before our boys at pleasure excursions and summer resorts. Set your face and foot against the evil, and be right when you are boys. Don't put your foot on the top stair of the drunkard's descent. You then will not surely reach the last and lowest step.

"BRING PLENTY OF RUM."

A Boston sea-captain's wife was one day reading a letter written to her husband by a trader on the coast of Africa, telling him what articles to bring on his next voyage to that country. After naming this, that, and the other thing which it would be well to bring, the list concluded with, "Bring plenty of rum." This is the Macedonian cry that comes to America from the conscienceless traders who infest the African coast. "Bring plenty of rum!" Rum is in good demand. Rum will sell any time. Rum will buy anything which the poor ignorant natives have. "Bring plenty of rum!" How does America answer such re-

quests as this? She is fully equal to the occasion. A single vessel sailing from the port of Boston has taken one hundred and thirty-one thousand gallons of rum to Africa, and reports have come of ships carrying a single missionary and a hundred thousand gallons of rum. What will the harvest be if this is the seed sown? and what shall be the doom of the wretches who thus scatter degradation, debauchery, and damnation among the benighted heathen? Surely, this is a most solemn question, and a question which merits our most careful consideration.

We send out missionaries to the heathen, but one cargo of rum will ruin more heathen in a year than a missionary could save in a life-time. Is it not high time that something was done to stop this infamous business? Do not the circumstances of the case demand that a little mission work be done nearer home? Is it not high time that civilized nations tie a millstone to the neck of this infernal traffic, and sink it in the nethermost hell? Surely those who boast of their righteousness and their civilization should take some measures to prevent this wholesale poisoning which is going on before their eyes. The whole business is wrong, and the sooner it is blotted out of existence the better. God speed the day when men shall be done with this dire and deadly traffic, and heathen nations shall no more be cursed with these abominations sent out from civilized lands.—Safeguard.

BOOKS FOR Young Naturalists

BY REV. J. G. WOOD, M.A., F.L.S., ETC.

- Bird Life of the Bible. With 32 illustrations. Cloth . . . \$1 25
- Wonderful Nests. From "Homes Without Hands" With 30 illustrations. Cloth . . . 1 25
- The Branch Builders. From "Homes Without Hands" With 27 illustrations. Cloth . . . 1 25
- Wild Animals of the Bible. With 29 illustrations. Cloth . . . 1 25
- Domestic Animals of the Bible. With 23 illustrations. Cloth . . . 1 25
- The Illustrated Natural History. With new designs by Wolf, Zwacker, Weir, Coleman, Harvey, etc., etc. Cloth, net 1 00

BY DR. G. HARTWIG.

- Wonders of the Tropical Forests. With 40 illustrations. Cloth . . . 70
- Winged Life in the Tropics. With 55 illustrations. Cloth . . . 90
- Sea Monsters and Sea Birds. With 75 illustrations. Cloth . . . 90
- Dwellers in the Arctic Regions. With 28 illustrations. Cloth . . . 90
- Danizens of the Deep. An account of Fishes, Molluscs, Crustacea, etc. With 117 illustrations. Cloth 90
- Wild-Animals of the Tropics. With 66 illustrations. Cloth . . . 1 25

MISCELLANEOUS

- Birds of Ontario. Being a Concise Account of every species of bird known to have been found in Ontario, with a description of their nests and eggs. By Thomas McLlwraith. Second edition, enlarged and revised to date, with illustrations. Cloth 2 00
- Pearls and Pebbles; or, Notes of an Old Naturalist. By Mrs. Catharine Parr Trail. With Biographical Sketch by Mary Agnes FitzGibbon. With Portraits and illustrations. Cloth 1 50
- Insect Lives as Told by Themselves. By Edward Simpson. with 23 illustrations. Cloth 50
- Bible Plants and Animals. Illustrations of over one thousand passages of Scripture. From the Works of Travellers and other sources. By Alfred E. Knight. Illustrated. Cloth 90
- Flashlights on Nature. By Grant Allen. Illustrated by Frederick Enock. Cloth 1 25
- "This is a fascinating book, in which Grant Allen raises the curtain on some of nature's mysteries."—The Buffalo News.
- A Guide to the Wild Flowers. By Alice Lousberry. With 64 coloured and 100 black and white plates and 54 diagrams, by Mrs. Ellis Rowan. With an introduction by Dr. N. L. Britton, Emeritus Professor of Botany, Columbia University. Cloth, net 2 50

WILLIAM BRIGGS,
 Methodist Book and Publishing House,
 Toronto.
 C. W. Cooke, Montreal. & F. Woodis, Halifax.