

The Refuge.

Within the car a little girl
With hair of gold, and tress and curl
Like living sunshine—all alive,
Kept flitting up and down the aisle;
Now here, now there, from seat to seat
Danced merrily the little feet;
The sunny face now pressed the pane,
Now called the sunshine back again.

All loved her, as from place to place
She fluttered with a birdlike grace;
And now with this one, now with that
Stopped to exchange a smile or chat,
So the long journey was beguiled;
Her blue eyes could so friendly be,
Nobody knew whose treasure she.

But suddenly from sunlit plain
Into a tunnel rushed the train.
Ah, then we knew whose arms should
hold

The little one with locks of gold:
"Papa! papa!" she trembling cried,
And, groping, sought her father's side;
As we into the day we dashed,
Her head lay on her father's breast!

'Tis so with us: when life is fair,
We, too, forget our Father's care,
And wander wheresoe'er we will;
But oh, he's watching, watching still;
And when the shadows around us fall,
He hears and heeds his children's call.
We run to him with fear oppressed—
He folds us to his gracious breast.
—Selected.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE.

LESSON VII.—MAY 17.

PARABLE OF THE POUNDS.

Luke 19. 11-27. Memory verses 13-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.—Luke 16. 10.

Time. A.D. 30.

Place.—At or near Jericho.

CONNECTING LINKS.

A rich young ruler was told how he might inherit eternal life; the crucifixion was foretold; two blind men were healed; Christ became the guest of Zaccheus, a publican; and to the crowd assembled around his house, as well as to the disciples, he spoke this Parable of the Pounds.

DAY BY DAY WORK.

Monday.—Read this week's lesson (Luke 19. 11-27). Prepare to tell in your own words the last lesson and this.

Tuesday.—Read about our talents and how to use them (Matt. 25. 14-30). Fix in your mind Time, Place, and Connecting Links.

Wednesday.—Read how a young man won promotion (Gen. 41. 37-35). Learn the Golden Text.

Thursday.—Read what God promises good servants (Mal. 3. 13-18). Learn the Memory Verses.

Friday.—Read a list of God's gifts (1 Cor. 12. 1-11). Answer the Questions.

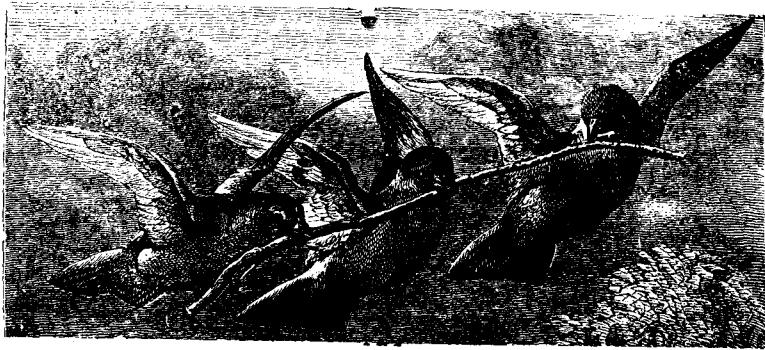
Saturday.—Read what is the right use of gifts (Rom. 12. 1-9). Study the Teachings of the Lesson.

Sunday.—Read what will happen on the last day (2 Peter 3. 1-14).

QUESTIONS.

1. The King, verses 11-15.

11. How far was Jericho from Jerusalem? What led Jesus to speak this parable? 12. Whom did the nobleman represent? 13. To how many servants did he intrust money? What did Christ mean to teach by the few faithful ones and the many rebels? What was the value of a pound? How did Eastern masters make money? 14. Who was represented by these rebellious citizens? 15. Can opposition hinder Christ's plan? For what are our talents given us? Is Christ's kingdom to be advanced by persecution?



THE SICK SPARROW.

2. The Workers, verses 16-19.

16. How much did the first man gain? How did he show his modesty? 17. For what will God reward people? Will there be different degrees of reward? 19. Why was the second man's reward less? What classes are represented by these two people?

3. The Idler, verses 20-27.

20. What was this napkin? How might he have used it? 21. How did he excuse himself? For what do men blame God? Was his charge a true one? 22. Why was he called "wicked"? 23. What was meant by the bank? 24. If we do not use our powers what follows? Give instances of people losing in this way. 26. How can we win promotion? 27. What will be the doom of the rebellious?

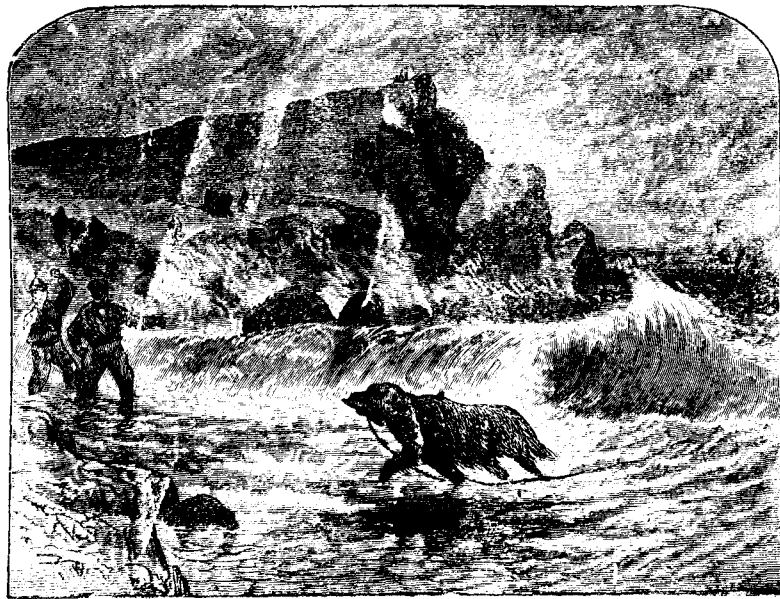
TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Our talents are in no sense our own. We hold them in trust. All can be equally faithful; we must use or lose. There is no excuse for idleness. God gives the means to do what he requires. If we gain for God he will give us words of approval and higher positions. If we fail to serve God we will have no excuse at last. Opposition to Christ will hurt no one so much as ourselves; we should make Jesus our friend now.

A DOG SAVING A SHIPWRECKED CREW.

A gentleman connected with the Newfoundland fishery was once possessed of a dog of singular fidelity and sagacity. On one occasion a boat and a crew in his employ were in circumstances of considerable peril, just outside a line of breakers, which, owing to some change in wind or weather, had, since the departure of the boat, rendered the return passage through them most hazardous.

The spectators on shore were quite unable to render any assistance to their friends afloat. Much time had been spent, and the danger seemed to increase rather than diminish. Our friend the dog looked on for a length of time, evidently aware of there being a great cause for anxiety in those around. Presently, however, he took to the water, and made his way through the raging waves to the boat. The crew supposed he wished to join them, and made various attempts to induce him to come aboard; but no, he would not go within their reach, but continued swimming about at a short dis-



A DOG SAVING A SHIPWRECKED CREW.

tance from the boat. After a while, and several comments on the peculiar conduct of the dog, one of them suddenly divined his apparent meaning, "Give him the end of a rope," he said, "that is what he wants." The rope was thrown, the dog seized the end in an instant, turned round, and made straight for the shore, where, a few minutes afterwards, boat and crew—thanks to the intelligence of our four-footed friend—were placed safe and sound!—Aims and Objects of the Toronto Humane Society.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ANIMALS.

A poor sparrow, being unable to fly, clung to a twig which two others bore, as shown in the cut.

The greyhound runs by eyesight only, and this we observe as a fact. The carrier-pigeon flies his two hundred miles homeward by eye-sight, viz., from point to point of objects which he has marked; but this is only conjecture. The fierce dragon-fly, with twelve thousand lenses in its eye, darts from angle to angle with the rapidity of a flashing sword, and as rapidly darts back, not turning in the air, but, with a dash, reversing the action of his four wings, and instantaneously calculating distance of the objects, or he would dash himself to pieces. But in what conformation of his does this consist? No one can answer.

A cloud of ten thousand gnats dance up and down in the sun—the minutest interval between them—yet no one knocks another headlong upon the grass, or breaks a leg or a wing, long and delicate as they are.

A four-horse coach comes suddenly upon a flock of geese on a narrow road, and drives straight through the middle of them. A goose was never yet fairly run over, nor a duck. They are under the very wheels and hoofs, and yet, somehow, they contrive to flap and waddle off. Habitually stupid, heavy, and indolent, they are, nevertheless, equal to the emergency.

Why does the lonely woodpecker, when he descends his tree and goes to drink, stop several times on his way, listen and look around before he takes his draught? No one knows.

A young student of Natural History conveys to the N. H. Farmer some of his observations in the stock-yard. He noticed that a horse in rising from a recumbent position, employed his fore legs as a fulcrum to raise his body, but that

with the bovine tribe the system is reversed. It was noticed, too, that fowls, in flying from one place to another, unless frightened or hardly pressed, light upon the top of the fence or wall and take a brief survey of the new field before dropping into it. There is another characteristic of the hen family not readily explained, and that is a propensity to steal away to some blind place where an egg is to be deposited, but making a terrible cackling when leaving, thus betraying what she seemed so anxious to conceal. A dog, in seeking a place of repose, is very apt to circle around two or three times before dropping down, even though no bedding is there requiring this preparation. A bird, in seeking rest upon the limb of a tree, almost invariably drops below the point selected, and rises to it by a gentle upward curve.

Several observers have stated that monkeys certainly dislike being laughed at, and they sometimes invent imaginary offences. In the Zoological Gardens I saw a baboon that always got into a furious rage when its keeper took out a letter or book and read it aloud to him, and his rage was so violent that, as I witnessed on one occasion, he bit his own legs until the blood flowed out. All animals feel wonder, and many exhibit curiosity, the latter quality affording opportunity for the hunters, in many parts of the world, to decoy their game into their power. The faculty of imitation, so strongly developed in man, especially in a barbarous state, is not a peculiarity of monkeys. A certain bull-terrier of our acquaintance, when he wishes to go out of the room, jumps at the handle of the door and grasps it with his paws, although he cannot himself turn the handle. Parrots also reproduce with wonderful fidelity the tones of voice of different speakers, and puppies reared by cats have been known to lick their feet and wash their faces after the manner of their foster-mothers. Attention and memory are also present in the lower animals, and it is impossible to deny that the dreams of dogs and horses show the presence of imagination, or that a certain sort of reason is also present. Animals also profit by experience, as any man realizes who has closely observed their actions.—Aims and Objects of the Toronto Humane Society.

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