



of the righteousness of that holy law which condemned him: it was guilt that was before his mind. *Loving-kindness* - Note the three words expressing God's mercy in this verse. *Transgressions* - Note the three words expressing sin: (1) *transgressions*, going over the bound into forbidden ground; (2) *iniquity*, injustice; (3) *sin*, from a word meaning "to miss the mark," failing of duty. The three involve every kind and degree of guilt except that of wilful, impenitent wickedness. *Against thee, thee only, have I sinned*. He had wronged man; but all wrong to man is sin against God, and that sin was so great as to overshadow the wrong to man. *That thou mightest be justified* - He confessed his sin, so that he might show that all God's punishment was just. *I was shapen in iniquity* - He inherited wrong tendencies. *Dearest truth in the inward part* - *Reverity, sincerity, true holiness, heart-fidelity.* *Purge me with hyssop* - i.e., by sprinkling atoning blood upon him. (Lev. 14. 32, Numb. 19. 18.) He wanted the real purification thus symbolized. *Make me to hear joy and gladness* - Make him hear the voice of forgiveness, which would give him double joy, "joy and gladness." There are few joys greater than that of reconciliation with God, and the assurance of forgiveness. *Hide thy face from my sins* - Forgiveness implies (1) reconciliation to God, the being received again into his favour; (2) the forgetting the sin, the treating the sinner as if he had not sinned; (3) the removal of so much of the punishment for sin as is inflicted directly from God, but not necessarily all the natural consequences of sin. *The joy of thy salvation* - The joy that comes from knowing we are saved by God. I. It is salvation (1) from sin; (2) from the effects of sin in the soul, the sinful nature; (3) from the punishment of sin. II. It is salvation (1) to God's favour; (2) to God's family; (3) to purity of heart; (4) to joys of a pure and loving and useful life; (5) to heaven and eternal life. *Free spirit* - Willing, ready for service.

MADAGASCAR PERSECUTION.

In the days of persecution in Madagascar, Christians were suspended by a rope over a precipice, and after hanging there for a while, the rope was cut, letting the victims fall to meet instant death. Many Christians perished in this way. Some of the brightest stories of faithfulness even unto death, are to be found in the history of the converts in Madagascar.

On the very spot here represented, the scene of such bitter hatred to Christians and Christian truth, now stands a church. At a meeting in that church the present Prime Minister is reported as saying:

"Standing upon this spot years and years ago there was gathered together some officers of the kingdom. My father was there, and a little girl was brought before him. My father looked at the little girl and said: 'Take the child away; she is a fool.' But the little girl answered, 'No, sir; I am no fool, but I love the Lord Jesus. Throw me over.'"

Accordingly she was hurled over the rock. It might seem as if that little girl's life availed nothing. She died young, but the witness she gave for Christ was not in vain. She may have accomplished more by her early death as a martyr for Christ than she could have done by a long life. - *Mission Stories.*

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE PSALMS AND DANIEL.

B.C. 1034.] LESSON V. (May 1.)

THE PRAYER OF THE PENITENT.

Psalms 51. 1-13. Memory verses, 10-13.

GOLDEN TEXT

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. - Psalm 51. 10.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Repentance, confession, and a new heart are the way to salvation.

WELLS OVER HARD PLACES.

Have mercy upon me - Admitting everything, and humbling himself low before God, he pleads for mercy. There is no complaint

with God, and the assurance of forgiveness. *Hide thy face from my sins* - Forgiveness implies (1) reconciliation to God, the being received again into his favour; (2) the forgetting the sin, the treating the sinner as if he had not sinned; (3) the removal of so much of the punishment for sin as is inflicted directly from God, but not necessarily all the natural consequences of sin. *The joy of thy salvation* - The joy that comes from knowing we are saved by God. I. It is salvation (1) from sin; (2) from the effects of sin in the soul, the sinful nature; (3) from the punishment of sin. II. It is salvation (1) to God's favour; (2) to God's family; (3) to purity of heart; (4) to joys of a pure and loving and useful life; (5) to heaven and eternal life. *Free spirit* - Willing, ready for service.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. What took place about the middle of David's reign? "He fell into a great sin."
2. What did he do in regard to it? "He repented with his whole heart."
3. What did he desire? "God's mercy and forgiveness."
4. What next did he pray for? "A new heart, that he might sin no more."
5. How did he show that he was sincere? "(1) He confessed his sin publicly; (2) he praised God; (3) he sought to lead others to God."

CATECHISM QUESTION.

19. What is Christian adoption? It is the act of grace which bestows on believers the name and the privileges of sons of God. Romans 8. 15; Galatians 4. 5.

OLEVER SAYINGS OF LITTLE CHILDREN.

A LITTLE girl, on being asked what dust was, replied that it was mud in high spirits.

A little boy on being asked one day how old he was, by a gentleman, replied, "I'm not old at all, I'm nearly new!"

A social examiner lately put the question - "What is the highest form of animal life?" "The giraffe!" responded a little girl.

A little boy, when reproached for breaking a new rocking horse, said: "What's the good of a horse till it's broke?"

"What is the feminine of tailor?" asked a teacher of a class in grammar. "Dressmaker," was the instant reply of a sharp little boy.

"Oh, manna!" exclaimed a little Burlington, Vt., boy, on seeing a calf,

"there is the little cow that gives the condensed milk."

"Papa," said a little boy of six, "where's atoms?" "Atoms? I don't know, my boy, you mean Athens, probably." "No, I mean atoms, the place where everything is blown to."

Teacher: "Have animals a capacity for affection?" Class: "Nearly all." Teacher: "Correct. Now what animal possesses the greatest attachment for man?" Little girl: "Woman!"

A four-year-old girl, who had been to a circus for the first time in her brief life, greatly amused the family on her return by telling them "she saw an elephant eat with its front tail."

A four-year-old chanced to go into a room which had been dismantled for cleaning. Pictures were down from the walls, and the windows bare. She exclaimed: "Why, mamma this room looks like it hadn't any collar on."

A little girl asked a minister, "Do you think my father will go to heaven?"

"Why yes, my child; why do you ask?" "Well, because if he don't have his own way there he won't stay long, I was thinking?"

A Battle.

BY RICHARD E. BURTON.

I saw a battle yesterday;
And would you have me tell
The story of this fearful fray
And how it all befell?

Against the mists the sun made war;
The foggy mists, you know,
That in the morn by sea and shore
Their ghostly forces show.

The sun shot down his shafts of light
And pierced their ranks and made
Them scatter into shreds of white
And flying bits of shade.

It was an utter rout, I ween:
The mists were vanquished foes,
No bugle called, no blood was seen,
I heard no clash of blows.

Yet in an hour the day was clear,
The sky triumphant shone;
While, from a bush that budded near,
The wind a flower had blown

Till at my very feet it lay,
All white within the sun;
It was a flag of truce, to say
The fight was fought and won.
-St. Nicholas.

BORROWED RAIMENT.

"Of what are you thinking, dear mamma, that you look so grave?" asked little Anna Vernon of her mother one evening.

"I will tell," you said her mother, "though it may not interest you. I was thinking of a little girl whom I saw to day walking before me in the street."

"Who was she, mamma? Do you know her name? How was she dressed?" asked Anna.

"Listen and I will tell you. She had on what seemed a new silk dress to judge from the anxious glances she cast at it every few minutes, and new shoes, too, I should think, from the manner in which she tripped along, as though it were a condescension to touch the earth at all; while nothing less than a new hat and feather could have caused her to hold her head so high, as though she would say to all 'If I am not as good as you, I am certainly finer.'"

Anna's head was low enough now, and crimson blushes covered her face, while her mother continued: -

"I have just been reading a favourite French author, and I thought to myself, why should this little girl be so proud of a dress composed of the cast-off clothing of animals which browse in the meadows, or insects that crawl beneath our feet? There is scarcely one from which she has not borrowed a portion of its covering. Her grandest and richest attire is composed of threads stolen from the sheep and the silkworm. Yesterday this little girl was mild and amiable; to-day she is rude and haughty. What has created this change? Nothing, only she had on her head a feather plucked from the tail of an ostrich! How proud that ostrich ought to be, which has so many more, and all its own!"

"And then, too, her shawl, made of the hair of certain goats from Thibet - goats which I have seen, and which really do not appear anything like so proud of this hair as the little girl who had borrowed it of them."

"And that dress, whose great value induced such satisfied looks, is nothing but the web in which a large worm, called the silkworm, wrapped itself - a web which it abandoned with disdain as soon as it had become a white and plain moth!"

Anna looked at her new clothes with dismay.

"I think they are very pretty, mamma, if insects did make them," she said.

EVERY man can be managed, if you find out his handle.

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