

"I'm going to keep right on building my pigeon house. I knew it would be hard work hunting the boards and especially putting on the roof ; but I've made up my mind to build it, and I'm going to stick at it." (Suitable illustrations will come to the minds of teachers.)

*Jesus' Parables*—These stories make us think of some parables Jesus taught about "counting the cost." Recall Lesson I., April 5. Crowds followed Jesus. They did not know how hard it was going to be to keep on following Him (explain). Tell and explain vs. 27-30, and 31-33. Jesus is thinking of the life of those who begin to be His followers as being like building a tower. Some count the cost and are ready to stick at the building, others find the work too hard and give it up.

*Building for Jesus*—Jesus wants us each to start a beautiful life-building for Him. (Outline the beginning of a tower.) All repeat :

"Little builders all are we,  
Building for God's eye to see.  
Though no tools our hands may show,  
All the while the buildings grow.  
Building, building every day,  
Building with the words we say,  
Building with the deeds we do,  
Actions bad or pure and true—  
Oh, how careful we should be,  
Building for eternity!"

*A Good Foundation*—What would you think of the carpenter or mason who put rotten wood or broken material into the foundation of his building? What about the boy or girl who builds bad habits, bad thoughts, into the foundation of their life building? LAY A GOOD FOUNDATION, BE IN EARNEST (print).

*Hard Things*—Think of some hard things we may have to do in following Jesus. Think how nice it is to do hard things. "There, I have learned that old lesson at last!" "See, father, I did manage to fix up that broken cart!" How strong it makes you feel when you overcome a difficulty! How it helps to make your life-building strong when you overcome a temptation to do wrong, or to be selfish or proud or unkind or lazy!

*The Salt*—You all know what a useful and necessary thing salt is. We could not well do without it in our food. Now Jesus said that unselfish disciples are like salt which can be used to season food. But those who are selfish, he said, were like salt which had lost its taste and was therefore fit for nothing.

*Golden Text*—Repeat Golden Text.

*Symbol*—A lighted candle, JESUS SEEKING THE EARNEST.

*Key-word*—BUILDING.

*Our "Remember" Box*—Our "thought" is, I SHOULD BE IN EARNEST.

### FROM THE PLATFORM

*What does it cost?*

Write on the blackboard, *What does it cost?* and call for the two illustrations which Jesus, in the Lesson, uses to teach the importance of counting the cost before commencing any undertaking,—the builder who wishes to build a tower and the king who sees himself in danger of being attacked. Next ask about what it is of which Jesus teaches us that we should count the cost, namely, becoming one of His disciples. Bring out from the Lesson what that cost is,—the hating even of those dearest to us if they would hinder from following Jesus and the surrender, if need be, of our own life (v. 26), the bearing of the cross (v. 27) and forsaking all that we have (v. 3). Dwell on the other side,—the gain of following Jesus, the truest happiness in this world and eternal blessedness in heaven, and urge every scholar intelligently to make the right choice.