

The Lesson Catechism.

[For the entire school.]

1. What is said of knowledge and charity? "**Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.**"

2. What is said of idols? "**An idol is nothing.**"

3. If we sin against our brother what else do we also do? **Sin against Christ.**

4. What text in the Bible is illustrated by this lesson? "**Avoid the appearance of evil.**"

5. What does this lesson teach? **Regard for others.**

6. What is the GOLDEN TEXT? "**We then that are strong,**" etc.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

65. What do you call this wonderful mystery?
The Incarnation of the Son of God.

66. Where is the Redeemer called a Mediator?

1 Timothy ii. 5. For there is one God, one Mediator also between God and men, Himself man, Jesus Christ.

The Broken Link.

A FINE statue was being hoisted into its place on a lofty pedestal. It was a valuable piece of sculpture, the fruit of patient and skillful work, and an object of great interest. Careful men were employed to fix it in position, but just when they had raised it to a level with the top of the shaft the chain broke, the statue fell, and the labor of years was dashed to pieces in a moment. They examined the chain. A single link had yielded. All else was sound, but the crowning work of a lifetime had perished by the breaking of that one link.

As teachers our labor in some respects is akin to that of the sculptor. We seek to mold young character until it is fit to stand in an honored place in the Church of Christ, and yet we have so often to confess, with sorrow, our disappointment. Just as we have lifted the young life to that point where it should take its permanent place in the temple of God, the chain breaks, and our labor is lost. It is sadly true that of tens of thousands of men and women to-day who belong to no church, and join in no act of worship, a large proportion have passed through the Sunday school. They have been in

our hands and under our influence; on many of them good impressions were made, yet they have slipped away.

The fault is sometimes laid upon the churches. It is said that, as the young people grow up and leave school, there is no corresponding place found for them in the church life. But is not that rather an excuse than a cause? In the Midlands an intermediate service has been provided in the adult Bible class movement. One of its special aims was to bridge over the gap that was supposed to exist between school and church. Yet the religious census of attendance at divine worship, which has just been taken in Birmingham, shows the attempt in this respect to have been a dismal failure. The bulk of the places of worship were almost empty. The men, young and old, were in the streets, in the betting rings, in the excursion trains, and in the public houses.

The pleasant services of the adult schools have done a noble work in bringing back numbers of men and women who had drifted away. They have attracted to places of worship, and united in one great bond, many thousands who seemed altogether beyond the reach of the churches. They have put the Bible into hands that up till now have touched only the sporting papers, and they have, in addition, helped to circulate an enormous amount of bright and useful literature. And yet, granting all this, it cannot be denied that these classes have not succeeded in preventing our young people from dropping out between the school and church.

Is not our failure in this? We labor for years to train the children, to inform their minds, and to mold their habits; but the chiefest work of all is too often left to some chance visitor or to some special service. We teachers must aim at bringing our scholars to a conscious decision for Jesus Christ. A lad may know much of his Bible, and have very little religion. In his interesting book the Rev. J. W. Horsley tells of one boy under his charge in Clerkenwell Gaol who had won a Scripture prize in a London board school, and yet could not repeat the Lord's Prayer. It is so easy to learn and yet know nothing. We must apply the truth to the consciences of our scholars, and seek by direct and definite aim to bring them into living contact with Jesus Christ. Then the chain which binds the young life to Christ will be strong in every link, and the precious living stone will be safely lifted into its place in the house of God.—*Sunday School Chronicle.*