

A MESSAGE.

WHAT do you think I heard to-day
Echoing sweetly, far away?
Tidings to send a joyful thrill
Through the valley and over the hill,
Telling that old Boreas had lost
His sceptre, and fled with old Jack Frost;
That all the dear little streams would be
Laughing and rippling soon in glee;
That pussy willows were waiting shy,
Ready to peep out by-and-bye;
That daintiest grass blades would be seen
Spreading a carpet soft and green;
That bloom of apple, and peach, and pear,
Soon would sweeten the sunlit air,
And violets, bluebells peeping out,
Waited the children's joyous shout.

Without ever a single word,
This wonderful tale was told to me,
With chippety wink and chippety wee—
The earliest note of the earliest bird.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

LESSON V. [Jan. 31.]

THE BOLDNESS OF PETER AND JOHN.

Acts 4. 1-14. Memory verses, 10-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.

There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.—Acts 4. 12.

OUTLINE.

1. The Mighty Name, v. 1-7.
2. The Saving Name, v. 8-12.
3. The Victorious Name, v. 13, 14.

THE LESSON STORY.

Peter preached his first sermon in the street, but this, the second, was preached in the temple. Many priests and Sadducees who hated Jesus heard it, and they took Peter and John and put them in a prison near by, for it was too late to bring them to court that day.

Early in the morning they were taken before the Sanhedrin in the hall of judgment close by the temple. There were about seventy judges belonging to the Sanhedrin. Caiaphas was the high priest. Annas, who had been high priest and was father-in-law to Caiaphas, was there too. The judges sat in a half circle around the wall, and Peter and John stood before them. The lame beggar who had been healed stood near them.

The judges looked at the beggar's bright face, and then said to Peter and John, "By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?" Peter answered quickly that it was by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the Holy One whom they had crucified, that the poor cripple was saved from his lameness; and then he spoke the words of the Golden Text, which tell

the only way we can be saved from sin and death. The judges were surprised at Peter's boldness, but with the man who had been cured standing before them they could say nothing against it, so they only threatened the apostles and let them go.

LESSON HELPS FOR EVERY DAY.

- Mon. Read the lesson verses twice. Acts 4. 1-14.
- Tues. Read the rest of the story. Acts 4. 15-22.
- Wed. Read about the meeting afterward. Acts 4. 23-31.
- Thur. Learn the beautiful Golden Text.
- Fri. Find what strange power moved Peter. Verse 8.
- Sat. Learn what made the weak man strong. Acts 3. 16.
- Sun. Read Hymn 822 in Methodist Hymnal.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON STORY.

Where did Peter preach his first sermon? Where was the second preached? Who heard it? What did they do to Peter and John? Before whom were they brought the next day? The great Jewish council. Who belonged to it? Who was the high priest at this time? Who came and stood near Peter and John during the trial? What question was asked the apostles? What was Peter's answer? Why was Peter no longer afraid? The Holy Spirit gave him courage. What did he say about the only name? What surprised the judges? Why did they not punish the apostles? What did they do?

THE ONLY NAME.

"Jesus! the name to sinners dear,
The name to sinners given;
It scatters all their guilty fear;
It turns their hell to heaven."

LESSON VI. [Feb. 7.]

TRUE AND FALSE GIVING.

Acts 4. 32 to 5. 11. Memory verses, 32, 33.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.—1 Sam. 16. 7.

OUTLINE.

1. True Giving, v. 32-37.
2. False Giving, v. 1-11.

THE LESSON STORY.

There were about eight thousand people now who believed in Jesus. Three thousand were converted on the day of Pentecost, and five thousand after Peter preached in the temple. This great Church lived very happily. The rich sold their property and gave their money to help the poor, and God smiled upon them and blessed them.

A rich man named Barnabas sold his land and brought the money to the apostles. He was a good man, and was glad to bring all he had to the Lord. But the new believers were not all so true and good as this man.

A rich man named Ananias thought he would sell some land and give the money. But he did not want to give it all. So he talked with his wife, Sapphira, and they agreed to keep back a part of the price while pretending to give all. To pretend is to lie, and God gave Peter the power to see the heart of Ananias. He told him that Satan had filled his heart with falsehood, and that he was lying to God, and not to men. When Ananias heard this he fell down and died, and was carried away to be buried. Soon after Sapphira came, and when Peter asked her the price of the land she told the same falsehood that Ananias did, and she too fell down and died. These things made the new Church fear to deceive God and man.

LESSON HELPS FOR EVERY DAY.

- Mon. Read about happy believers in Jesus. Acts 4. 32-37.
- Tues. Read the sad story of Ananias. Acts 5. 1-11.
- Wed. Find what other disciple was tempted of Satan. Luke 22. 3.
- Thur. Learn why it is foolish to tell a lie. Psalm 139. 4.
- Fri. Learn what is the root of evil. 1 Tim. 6. 10.
- Sat. Learn the Golden Text.
- Sun. Learn a verse about truth. Psalm 51. 6.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON STORY.

How many believers were there now? How did these Christians live? How did they show that they loved one another? What did Barnabas do? Were all the new believers good people? What did some still have? Proud, foolish hearts. What did Ananias think he would do? What shows that he did it to be praised? What did both Ananias and Sapphira forget? That God sees all hearts. What power was given to Peter? What did he tell to Ananias? What happened then? Who came to Peter soon after? Did she know that Ananias was dead? What did she tell Peter? What happened to her? What did God want to teach the young Church? To be true.

NEVER FORGET—

That "Thou God seest me."
That to pretend is to be untrue.
That a lie kills something in the soul.

DON'T BE CROSS.

Now, little ones, I will tell you something that perhaps you do not know. Crossness is a habit. Are you surprised at that? Harry comes in and flings down his hat, and accidentally hits you. Before you stop to find out whether he meant it or not, you say "Stop that, you horrid boy" Perhaps your toast is a little scorched in one corner; but before you look you say: "This toast is burnt; I can't eat such stuff as that." Mamie comes in singing, and you scowl and say "I wish you'd stop that horrid noise." You didn't think, I know. Now do try to form a habit of being pleasant.