

Blackett himself, "come in! Now you're tarred with the same stick as my lads, you needn't stand off from me no more. You and me'll be as thick as thieves now. Come in, my lad," he added in as kindly a tone as he could assume. "I'm right sorry for thee, and I've news for thee."

For a moment David hesitated, remembering his mother's dread of her neighbour; but Blackett came to the door, and dragged him in, in no way roughly.

"You've come to look after your poor mother?" he said gravely.

David nodded.

"She's dead,—died the very night after you was booked for another three months," said Blackett.

David did not speak. No change passed over his hard and sullen face. He had known it all the while in the dreary solitude of his prison-cell. He would never see his mother's face again,—never! Yet, as he stood there opposite to Blackett, he felt as if he could see her lying in the room beyond on the sacking of her comfortless bed, with her white face and hungry eyes turned towards the door, watching for him to come in.

"And Bess is gone away—nobody knows where," continued Blackett, eyeing the boy with a keen, sinister gaze, "on the streets somewhere. There's not much chance for Bess, neither."

David flinched and shivered. Should he ever see little Bess again? Never again as he had been used to see her. He could recollect all his life through having her given into his care and keeping,—a younger, smaller, feebler creature, dependent upon him. He had played with her, and fought for her. They had eaten and been hungry together, and had had every event of their lives in common, until he was sent to jail. Was little Bess likely to be sent to jail too? Girls as young as Bess were sent to prison; and the chances were all against her keeping out of it.

"Queen Victoria and my Lord Euclid are gone," went on Blackett, with a sneer. "They made a moonlight fit of it, and they hadn't the manners to leave their address behind 'em. They carried all their fortune with them."

Still David did not speak, but stood looking into Blackett's face, with a forlorn and listless strangeness, which touched even him with its utter loss of hope.

"Come, come, my lad? never say die?" he exclaimed. "Take a drop out o' my glass here, and pluck up your spirits. Take a good pull at it, David. You haven't asked after Roger. He's in better luck than you. He cribbed a parcel of money from under Victoria's pillow, and my Lord Euclid had him took up for it. I was always in hopes of gettin' him off my hands, the poor hang-dog! But he had grand luck. Old Euclid sets to and pleads for him to the justice; and they found out as it was a sin and a shame to send a lad like him to jail,—a lad o' fourteen! And they've sent him to school!—to school, David, where he's quite the gentleman!"

But here David broke into a loud and very bitter cry. Why had they not done the same with him? Oh! why had they committed him to jail, and sent Roger to school? He hid his face in his hands, and hot tears of anger and despair rolled down his cheeks.

"They've made an order on me for half a crown a week," continued Blackett, after a pause. "I've paid it six weeks, and now I'm giving 'em the slip. I'm a-going to cross the river into Surrey to-night; and, if you'll come along with me, I'll say you are my son, and I'll pay your lodgin' to-night. An old neighbour's son sha'n't sleep in the streets. Come, David! You haven't got another friend in this place; and I don't ask you to be a thief. You shall get your livin' quite honest, if you can. You're not a lazy bound like Roger, or I'd have nought to say to you. But you'll always be worth your bread and cheese, if you can get work. Come, and we'll get supper at the tavern afore we start."

"I'll come," said David. At the word "supper" he felt how hungry he was; and he remembered that he was penniless. Blackett had already disposed of his few possessions to the tenant who had taken his room: so there was nothing now to be done but to pick up his bundle of clothes, and his glazier's tools, and, as it was already night, to take his departure across the river, where he was as yet unknown by sight to the police. David fell followed him as his only friend.

(To be continued.)

IN a certain school, during the parsing lesson, the word "waif" occurred in a sentence. The youngest, who was up, a bright-eyed little fellow, puzzled over the word for a few minutes, and then a bright idea struck him. "I can parse it: positive, waif; comparative, waifer; superlative, scaling-wax."

A Junior League Boy.

MRS. ANNIE E. SMILEY.

A LITTLE lad followed the surging throng,
The Nazarene Prophet to see;
He was borne by the press of the people along
To the shores of Galilee.

On his arm he carried a basket wide,
Which his mother had filled complete
With five barley loaves, and two fishes beside,
That her boy might have food to eat.

Close to the Prophet's side he pressed,
And listened to what was said:
How the hungry people were sore distressed,
And the Master needed bread.

At once he offered his little store,
But was grieved to hear them say,
"Five loaves and two fishes—have you no more?
For this multitude what are they?"

Then he watched, but could not understand,
How the loaves and fishes so small
Kept growing and growing in Jesus' hand,
Till there was enough for all.

Right glad was he, as he homeward sped,
And thought of the Master good,
Who had used his fishes and loaves of bread
To feed the multitude.

My boy, there is little that you can bring,
Perhaps you have often said,
But Jesus can use your offering
That the multitude may be fed.

THE LOOKOUT.

(See next page.)

FAR over the waters, the faithful lookout is peering, to catch the first glimpse of some distant island or the dim outline of some approaching ship. From constant practice in gazing over the great blue expanse of water, the sailor's eyes become very sharp in detecting the first angry swell of the waves, or threatening aspect of the sky overhead; and some far-away object, that to a landsman's eyes appears to be but a speck of white cloud or small line of gray mist on the horizon, he will recognize as a ship, a steamer, or the outline of an island.

It is very important that the sailor on the lookout does his duty honestly. Many accidents have occurred from the sailor on this duty neglecting to keep up his watch. We remember once being in a fog for several days, during which time the captain himself kept on the outlook day and night. At last, when he thought the vessel was in little danger of running on the treacherous islands, he went to have a sleep. His post was taken by the first mate, a dull, lazy-looking man.

In a short time the fog raised, and we saw about seventy yards off a long, wild and desolate-looking island and in a few seconds there was a great thumping noise on the bottom of the boat and we were aground. Every effort was made to get the vessel off the rocks. The captain was on the scene in a moment and gave the order to reverse the engines; the engineer put on full power of steam, but not until ten hours afterwards, when thousands of dollars' worth of corn had been pitched into the water, making little islands of yellow corn, could the vessel be moved. When it was thus made light, and the engine running in full force, we drifted easily off the rocky island. The accident, however, had incurred a heavy loss, which might have been prevented had the mate been doing his duty.

A JUNIOR LEAGUE TRAVELLING CLASS.

THE young secretary of the Junior League writes in the *Epworth Herald* of a very interesting course of study they have pursued in their League, which they called "A Travelling Class." Their travels took them through the Holy Land, and the secretary says: "We have learned about all the important places of Palestine."

Dr. J. E. Price, in another issue of the *Epworth Herald*, tells us of two leaflets, published by our Book Concern, on "Walks and Talks with Jesus," and "Palestine Exploration." These would be a great help in taking such a tour as I have suggested.

"The Junior League Songster" will furnish lively, inspiring music; or, if the larger book, "Epworth Songs," is used by the Senior League, a number of suitable Junior songs will be found in that.

Many Junior workers are cramped for money to secure these needed helps, but if a collection is taken at each meeting, it will constantly replenish the fund in the treasury. If we are to train good Methodists in our Junior Leagues, we must teach them the blessedness of giving. If a half-dozen copies of either of these song-books are ordered, and given out to the older and better singers, and the words plainly written on the blackboard for the others, all will soon learn them.

I am glad to learn that there is a blessed revival interest in many of our Junior Leagues. When we remember that a majority of the present members of our churches were converted before they were fourteen years old, we shall begin to realize our responsibility as teachers of the future Church of God. May God give us needed wisdom, grace and love for this work!—*Zion's Herald*.

SARNIA, ONT.—A Junior Epworth League has been started in connection with our church with sixty-four members, and during the past few weeks this number has been increased to ninety-seven. This department is under the able leadership of Miss Learoyd, is in a flourishing condition, and it is confidently hoped that by thus getting the younger members to work for the Master, that they will be drawn closer to him and be led to give themselves to him. You may expect to hear from us again soon.

W. WHITE, Sec. E. L.

TRICYCLES AND BICYCLES.

SOME boys are born lawyers. They can render a reason for anything at a moment's notice, and there is nothing they don't know. Here is a case in point.

The following conversation, reported by a friend, was recently overheard between two little brothers, aged four and six years old respectively:

"Say, Winnie, what is the difference, anyway, between a bicycle and a tricycle?"

Elder (with patronizing air): "Why, Ray, don't you know that? If a man takes the thing home to see how he likes it, it is a tricycle; but if he buys it outright, it is a bicycle."

This etymology is not more fantastic than some proposed by older children.

THE mere fact that charity is to begin at home is all the proof we need that it should not stay there.

ONE of the times that a man begins to cry and sigh that all men are not honest, is when he gets the wrong hat.

You will find ninety-nine men finding fault with somebody else's work to where you will find one doing his own right.

God's benefits come not alone, but one is a pledge of another. A drop of dew from heaven is prognostic of a gracious shower, which nothing can dry but ingratitude.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

OLD TESTAMENT TEACHING.

B.C. 1706.] LESSON V. [April 29.

JOSEPH FORGIVING HIS BRETHREN.

Gen. 45. 1-15. Memory verses, 3-5.

GOLDEN TEXT.

If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him.—Luke 17. 3.

OUTLINE.

1. A Forgiving Brother, v. 1-8.
2. A Loving Son, 9-15.

TIME.

B.C. 1706. The year of the descent into Egypt. Two hundred and fifteen years after the call of Abram; two hundred and fifteen years before the exodus of Egypt.

RULER.

Pharaoh, one of the dynasty of the "Shepherd kings."

CONNECTING LINKS.

The famine has come, but Egypt has abundance of corn, and the starving easterly nations seek food in Egyptian cities. Among the buyers come Joseph's brethren. He recognizes them, but keeps his secret. The incidents of our lesson occur in the second visit.

EXPLANATIONS.

"Could not refrain himself"—Could not withhold his tears. "The house of Pharaoh"—The members of the royal household—slaves and ministers. "Troubled at his presence"—They were conscience-stricken. "Paring nor harvest"—That is, ploughing nor harvesting. To ear is an old English word, not now used, meaning to plough. "To preserve you a p steric."—That is, to secure you from utter destruction, and so fulfil the promise made to the fathers. "A father to Pharaoh"—A wise and confidential friend and counsellor.

HOME READINGS.

M. Joseph forgiving his brethren.—Gen. 45. 1-15.

Tu. The famine.—Gen. 43. 1. 14.

W. Second journey to Egypt.—Gen. 43. 15-25.

Th. Joseph's affection.—Gen. 43. 26-34.

F. Forgiveness confirmed.—Gen. 45. 16-28.

S. The united family.—Gen. 47. 1-12.

Sa. Overcome evil with good.—Rom. 12. 14-21.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That we should repay evil with good?
2. That a guilty conscience causes fear?
3. That we should honour our parents?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What came upon all the lands while Joseph was ruler over Egypt? "A great famine?" 2. Who came down to Egypt to buy food? "The brothers of Joseph." 3. How did Joseph at first act toward them? "He treated them roughly." 4. How did he afterward treat them? "He forgave them freely." 5. What is the teaching of the lesson as shown in the Golden Text? "If thy brother," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The forgiveness of sins.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What is repentance?

Repentance is true sorrow for sin, with sincere effort to forsake it.

Can we repent of ourselves?

No; it is the grace of the Holy Spirit which gives the sinner to know and feel that he is a sinner.

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