

A Mother Song.

MOTHER, O mother! forever I cry for you,
Sing the old song I may never forget!
Even in slumber I murmur and sigh for
you,
Mother, O mother,
Sing low, "Little brother,
Sleep, for thy mother bends over thee yet!"

Mother, O mother! the years are so lonely,
Filled with weariness, doubt and regret!
Can't you come back to me—for to-night
only,
Mother, my mother,
And sing "Little brother,
Sleep, for thy mother bends over thee yet!"

Mother, O mother! of old I had never
One wish denied me, nor trouble to fret!
Now—must I cry out all vainly forever—
Mother, sweet mother,
And sing "Little brother,
Sleep, for thy mother bends over thee yet!"

Mother, O mother! must longing and sorrow
Leave me in darkness with eyes ever wet,
And never the hope of a meeting to-morrow?
Answer me, mother,
And sing "Little brother,
Sleep, for thy mother bends over thee yet!"

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.

B.C. 1427.] LESSON I. [Oct. 6.

THE TIME OF THE JUDGES.

Judg. 2. 1-12, 16. Memory verses, 11, 12, 16.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord raised up judges, which delivered
them.—Judg. 2. 16.

OUTLINE.

1. A Faithful Rebuke, v. 1-5.
2. A Forgetful People, v. 6-12.
3. A Gracious God, v. 16.

TIME.—This lesson contains a general statement of the condition of Israel from the death of Joshua, B.C. 1427, during the period of the judges, about three hundred and thirty years.

PLACE.—The land of Israel; especially Shiloh, where, doubtless, the Israelites were assembled, and Bochim, which we suppose to have been a locality in Shiloh.

RULERS.—As yet the Hebrews had no definite government except that of the priesthood, and the power accorded to the "elders" of the tribes.

INTRODUCTORY.

The tribes soon took a very dangerous course; they made terms with their idolatrous enemies, and permitted them to reside in the land on payment of tribute. Intermarriage followed and led to community of religious worship. The two religions were in some sort incorporated, and if the first commandment of the law was not generally broken the second was.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The time of the judges.—Judg. 2. 1-10.
 Tu. The time of the judges.—Judg. 2. 11-17.
 W. A sad history.—Judg. 2. 18-23.
 Th. Command and warning.—Num. 33. 50-56.
 F. Forsaking God.—Jer. 2. 4-13.
 S. Folly of disobedience.—Psalm 81. 8-16.
 Sa. Unfaithfulness.—Psalm 106. 34-45.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. A Faithful Rebuke, v. 1-5.
 What visitor came to Bochim?
 What had he done for Israel?
 What had he promised to keep unbroken?
 What alliance had he forbidden?
 What duty had he enjoined?
 What did he say of Israel's conduct?
 What punishment would result from their disobedience?
 How were the people affected by this rebuke?
 What name did they give to the place?
 Why?
 What did they offer to the Lord?
 Of what are God's rebukes a proof?
 Rev. 3. 19.
2. A Forgetful People, v. 6-12.
 Where did the people go from Bochim?
 How long did they remain true to God?
 What was Joshua's ago at his death?
 Where was he buried?
 What is said of the next generation?
 What evil did Israel do before the Lord?
 Whom did they forsake? Whom follow?
 Name some of the gods whom they followed?
 Which commandment did they break?
 Repeat it.
 How did God punish them? Verses 14, 15.

3. A Gracious God, v. 16.

How did God show himself gracious?
(Golden Text.)

What was the source of power to the judges? Verse 18.

What happened when the judge died? Verse 19.

Why were not all the Canaanites driven out? Verses 21, 22.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we shown—

1. That God always keeps his promises?
2. That disobedience to God brings evil?
3. That God shows mercy to those who forget him?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. How long did the Israelites serve God? While Joshua lived. 2. What did they do after Joshua and the elders died? They forgot God. 3. What other sin did they commit? They followed idols. 4. How did they suffer for this? They were oppressed by

possible to save her life. A narcotic was given to her, and she fell asleep.

Making after some hours, she asked for water. The nurse immediately called the doctor. In a minute he was beside the cot. He felt the pulse, ominously shook his head, gave some more instructions, and turned to go away. As he did so, the little creature turned half around. The dim light of a candle shone on the blackened face. The swollen lips pursed out, and, in a clear, sweet voice, the dying child began to sing the hymn, "Nearer, my God, to thee." The doctor stood transfixed. The other patients in the silent, darkened ward leaned on their elbows and drank in the sweet melody.

The first verse completed, her strength began to fail, and with it her voice, and only the humming-like distant music of the air of the hymn could be heard. That ceased, she heaved a sigh, and all was

soul, canst thou see a bright light beaming on thee? "Where?" you say, "where? How can I find it?" Look along by the line of the Cross of the Son of God! Do you not see it trembling with all tenderness and beaming with all hope? It is the star of Bethlehem.

Deep horror then my vitals froze,
Death-struck, I ceased the tide to stem,
When suddenly a star arose—
It was the star of Bethlehem.

O hearer, get your eye on it. It is easier for you now to become Christians than it is to stay away from Christ and heaven. When Madame Sontag began her musical career, she was hissed off the stage at Vienna by the friends of her rival, Amelia Steininger, who had already begun to decline through her dissipation. Years passed on, and one day Madame Sontag, in her glory, was riding through the streets of Berlin, when she saw a little child leading a blind woman, and she said: "Come here, my little child, come here. Who is that you are leading by the hand?" And the little child replied: "That's my mother, that's Amelia Steininger. She used to be a great singer, but she lost her voice, and she cried so much about it that she lost her eyesight." "Give my love to her," said Madame Sontag, "and tell her an old acquaintance will call on her this afternoon."

The next week in Berlin, a vast assemblage gathered at a benefit for that poor, blind woman, and it was said that Madame Sontag sang that night as she had never sung before. And she took a skilled oculist, who in vain tried to give eyesight to the poor, blind woman. Until the day of Amelia Steininger's death, Madame Sontag took care of her, and her daughter after her. That was what the queen of song did for her enemy.

But, oh, hear a more thrilling story still: Blind, immortal, poor and lost, thou who, when the world and Christ were rivals for thy heart, didst hiss thy Lord away—Christ comes now to give thee sight, to give thee a home, to give thee heaven. With more than a Sontag's generosity, he comes now to meet your need. With more than a Sontag's music, he comes to plead for thy deliverance.—Talmage.



FLAMINGOES.

their enemies. 5. How did God still show them mercy? Golden Text: "The Lord," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The discipline of affliction.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Why was the sacrament of the Lord's Supper ordained?
 For the continual remembrance of the death of Christ, and of the benefits which we receive thereby.

What is the outward part or sign in the Lord's Supper?

b. and wine, which the Lord hath commanded to be received.

1 Corinthians 11. 23, 25. The Lord Jesus in the night in which he was betrayed took bread. . . . In like manner also the cup, after supper, saying, . . . This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

A HAPPY ENDING.

A CHILD'S song in a hospital startled the nurses and patients. On the night before, an ambulance was called from Gouverneur Hospital to a house in Hester Street for a burned child. She had been sent by her parents to the cellar for firewood, and in descending the steps she stumbled and dropped the lamp, which exploded and set her clothing on fire. The surgeon wrapped the poor, cringed, writhing form of the child in what is known as a "prepared sheet," and told the driver to get to the hospital quickly. There all was done for her that science could do, but it was im-

possible to save her life. A narcotic was given to her, and she fell asleep. Making after some hours, she asked for water. The nurse immediately called the doctor. In a minute he was beside the cot. He felt the pulse, ominously shook his head, gave some more instructions, and turned to go away. As he did so, the little creature turned half around. The dim light of a candle shone on the blackened face. The swollen lips pursed out, and, in a clear, sweet voice, the dying child began to sing the hymn, "Nearer, my God, to thee." The doctor stood transfixed. The other patients in the silent, darkened ward leaned on their elbows and drank in the sweet melody.

THE BRIGHT AND MORNING STAR.

SOME time ago, Professor Henry, of Washington, discovered a new star, and the tidings sped by submarine telegraph, and all the observatories of Europe were watching for that new star. O hearer, looking out through the darkness of thy

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