

THE REPORT OF THE HOURS.

AMID the blue and starry sky,
A group of hours one even
Met as they took their upward flight
Into the highest heaven.

Commissioned each to bear above
Whatever had been done,
By little children, good or bad,
Since the last rising sun.

And some had gold and purple wings,
Some drooped like faded flowers,
And sadly sooted to tell the tale,
That they were misspent hours.

Some glowed with rosy hopes and smiles,
And some had many a tear;
Others had some kind words and acts,
To carry upward there.

A shining hour with golden plumes,
Was laden with a deed
Of generous sacrifice, a child
Had done for one in need.

And one was bearing up a prayer
A little child had said,
All full of patience and love,
While kneeling at his bed.

And thus they glided on and gave
The records dark and bright,
To him who marks each passing hour
Of childhood's day and night.

O, let us all remember how
Each hour is on its way,
Bearing its own report to heaven
Of all we do and say.

GIANT SELFISHNESS.

IT was Freddie Gadton's birthday, and Freddie's mamma made him a pie, "all for himself," though she did not think but what he would share it with his little brothers and sisters. It was very nice pie, and when Freddie smelt how good it was, and saw what a rich brown it was baked, Giant Selfishness said to him: "It is all your own. You don't have to give any of it away. I'd eat it all myself, if I were you." Perhaps if Fred had recognized the giant talking to him, he would not have been so ready to listen; but as he did not, he not only listened, but really took his advice and ate it up himself. That night Fred was very sick, so sick that they had to send for the doctor, who said he'd been eating too much pie. He ought to have killed that giant. As it was, he was not only made very sick, but the giant was stronger than ever, and would be a great deal harder to kill the next time; for this dreadful giant is one that grows very fast indeed.

SMILES.

A HEADSTONE in a Dorsetshire (Eng.) churchyard bears this inscription: "Methuselah Coney, aged twelve months."

Does it pay to have a dozen intelligent young men turned into thieves and vagabonds, that one man may get a living by "selling them rum?"

"AN' that's the pillar of Hercules?" she said, adjusting her silver spectacles. "Gracious! what's the rest of his bed-clothes like, I wonder?"

"EMELIE," asked the teacher of a class in natural history, "what animal attaches himself the most to man?" Emelie, after some reflection: "The leech, sir!"

"DID you ever think what you would do if you had Rothschild's income?" said Seedy to Harduppe. "No, but I have often wondered what Rothschild would do if he had my income."

ONE of George III.'s first acts was to knight a gentleman named Day. "Now," said he, "I know that I am king, because I have turned Day into knight."

THE English alphabet is tolerably virtuous. Twenty of the letters have never been in prison. Yes, but look what a lot of them are now in penitentiary.

AN Irish crier at Ballinasloe, being ordered to clear the court, did so by this announcement: "Now, then, all ye blackguards that isn't lawyers must leave the court."

"WELL, madame, how's your husband to-day?" "Why, doctor, he's no better." "Did you get the leeches?" "Yes, but he only took three of them raw—I had to fry the rest."

"YOUR father is entirely bald now, isn't he?" said an Austin man to the son of a millionaire. "Yes," replied the youth, sadly, "I'm the only heir he has left."

At a child's fair—Uncle Jack: "It is very good lemonade; but, Bonny, why do you sell yours for three cents a glass when Charlie gets five for his?" Miss Bonny: "Well, you musn't tell anybody, Uncle Jack, but the puppy fell into mine, and I thought it ought to be cheaper."

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

B.C. 1023.] LESSON VII. [Aug 17.

ABSALOM'S DEATH.

2 Sam. 18. 24-33. Commit to memory vs. 32, 33.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Whoso curseth father or mother let him die the death. Mark 7. 10.

OUTLINE.

1. A Father's Anxiety, v. 24-31.
2. A Father's Agony, v. 32, 33.

TIME.—B.C. 1023.

PLACE.—Mahanaim, in the tribe of Gad.

EXPLANATIONS.—*David sat*—Awaiting the news of the battle with Absalom in the wood of Ephraim, east of the Jordan. *Between the two gates*—The outer and inner gates, with an open space of the thickness of the wall between them. *Loaf over the gate*—The top of the wall. *A man running*—This was Ahimaaz, who had gone as a messenger from Joab after the battle. *If he be alone*—One running away from the battle would be followed by others. *Another man*—This was Cushie, perhaps an Ethiopian slave. He had started first, but arrived after Ahimaaz. *He is a good man*—He was the son of Jonathan, a priest. *All is well*—The victory had been won, and Absalom's army defeated. *Absalom safe*—As father, he loved his son more than his duty as king would allow. Had he been more careful in his own duty, he might have been less anxious now. *Joab, the king's servant*—Joab was the commander of David's army. *A great tumult*—The defeat of Absalom's army. *Knew not*—Probably he did not know that Absalom was dead. *Stand here*—In the company around the king. *Cushie came*—Who had started before Ahimaaz. *He as that young man is*—Absalom was slain by Joab, when he had been caught by his hair in a tree after the defeat of his army. *Chamber over the gate*—Between the walls. *O my son Absalom*—He felt that Absalom's death was in large degree the result of his own sinfulness and neglect.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That love hopes for the best?
2. That a son's sin is a father's sorrow?
3. That nothing can destroy a father's love?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Where did David wait for news of the battle? Between the two gates. 2. Who were sent to convey the news? Ahimaaz and Cushie. 3. What did David ask of the messengers? "Is the young man Absalom safe?" 4. How did the announcement of Absalom's death affect David? He was much moved.

5. What did David say of Absalom? "Would God I had died for thee!"

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Parental responsibility.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

83. How do evil spirits tempt to sin? By putting evil thoughts and desires into their minds. Luke xiii. 3; Acts v. 3.

84. Is there any other temptation? Yes; that which comes from our own evil heart. James i. 14.

85. What is redemption? Redemption is the deliverance of mankind from the curse and penalty of sin through the death of the Redeemer.

B.C. 1017.] LESSON VIII. [Aug 24.

THE PLAGUE STAYED.

2 Sam. 24. 15-25. Commit to memory vs. 24, 25.

GOLDEN TEXT.

So the Lord was entreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel. 2 Sam. 24, 25.

OUTLINE.

1. The Hand of Destruction, v. 15, 16.
2. The Voice of Supplication, v. 17.
3. The Altar unto the Lord, v. 10-25.

TIME.—B.C. 1017.

PLACE.—The threshing-floor of Araunah, the Jebusite, on Mount Moriah, the place where the Temple was afterward built.

EXPLANATIONS.—*A pestilence*—This was because of the sin of David in numbering the people, an act of pride. *Time appointed*—Unto the third day; or, as some understood, until the time of the evening sacrifice. *Dan to Beer-sheba*—Two towns on the boundary, one in the north, the other in the south of Palestine. *The angel*—Who was fulfilling God's command. *The Lord repented*—God changed his mind because the people and the king had changed theirs. *Threshing-place*—A level place used for threshing grain. *I have sinned*—It was David's sin that had caused the wrath of God. *Against me*—A noble nature never seeks to cast blame on others. *Gad*—A prophet of God. *An altar*—This stood on the place where afterward stood the altar of Solomon's Temple. *Take and offer*—The Jebusite showed the heart of a true worshipper of God. *Oven for burnt sacrifice*—The burnt-offering must be of a domestic animal. *Threshing instruments*—Tools of wood for beating the grain. *Araunah, as a king*—Some think that Araunah had been the chief of the Jebusites before the taking of the city. *Cost me nothing*—Our gifts to God should be our own. *Burnt-offerings*—Sacrifices which were entirely consumed on the altar. *Peace offerings*—Sacrifices which were partly burned and partly eaten at a feast before the altar.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where are we shown in this lesson—

1. That punishment follows guilt?
2. That God is long-suffering and merciful?
3. That true sacrifice means self-sacrifice?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did the Lord send upon Israel? A pestilence. 2. What did the Lord say when the angels would have destroyed Jerusalem? "It is enough; stay now thine hand." 3. What did David say to the Lord? "Let thine hand be against me." 4. What did Gad tell David to do? "Rear an altar unto the Lord." 5. What happened when David built the altar and offered sacrifices and entreated the Lord? "The plague was stayed from Israel."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Atonement for sin.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

86. Who is the Redeemer of mankind? Our Lord Jesus Christ. Galatians iii. 13; Ephesians i. 7; Thessalonians i. 10. [Matthew xx. 28; Colossians i. 14; 1 Peter i. 18.]

87. Who is Jesus Christ? Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, who became man, and so was, and continues to be, God and man, in two distinct natures and one Person for ever. John i. 1; John i. 14; 1 Timothy ii. 5. [Philippians ii. 6-11.]

88. How did Christ, being the Son of God, become man?

By taking to Himself a true human body and soul, being conceived of the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary, yet without sin. Hebrews ii. 14; Galatians iv. 4; Hebrews iv. 15. [Luke i. 35; Matthew xxvi. 38; John xii. 27; Luke ii. 40; 1 Peter ii. 22; Hebrews vii. 26.]

THE

"ROCK OF AGES" SERIES

OF

SCRIPTURE TEXT CARDS.

IN PACKAGES.]

Prevailing Prayer.

Single Flower Sprays. Twelve in a package. Price 35 cents.

Floodings and Promises.

Autumn Leaves in Sepia. Six in a package. Price 35 cents.

My Saviour.

Chaste Floral Sprays in Sepia. Eight in a package. Price 35 cents.

My Hope.

Clusters of Primroses. Twelve in a package. Price 35 cents.

My Father.

Autumn Leaves and Berries. Six in a package. Price 35 cents.

My Faith and Hope.

Rose Sprays on Sepia. Twelve in a package. Price 35 cents.

My King and Father.

Embossed Floral Sprays. Twelve in a package. Price 17 cents.

Hero and Hereafter.

Upright Bouquet of Roses. Twelve in a package. Price 17 cents.

My Faith.

Flowers by Moonlight. Eight in a package. Price 35 cents.

Father and Lord.

Landscape, with Floral Foreground. Six in a package. Price 35 cents.

My Stronghold.

Geranium Sprays. Twelve in a package. Price 35 cents.

Resurgam.

[Easter texts.]

Blossoms and Butterflies, Circular Sky. Nine in a package. Price 35 cents.

Daily Meditations.

Elegant Sprays of Wild Flowers. Twelve in a package. Price 35 cents.

The Darkness Pierced.

Floral Crosses, with Easter Mottoes. Twelve in a package. Price 17 cents.

Greetings and Blessings.

Half-round Sprays of Convolvulus, etc. Six in a package. Price 35 cents.

Scripture Palettes.

Floral Reward Cards for the Young. Seventy-two in a package. Price 17 cents.

Any package mailed post-free on receipt of price.

WILLIAM BRIGGS, 78 & 80 King St. East,

TORONTO.

O. W. COATES,

S. F. HUESTIS,

Montreal, Que.

Halifax, N.S.