



JESUS AT JACOB'S WELL.—John 4. 9-26.

Jesus at Jacob's Well.

BY THE EDITOR.

By the well I see the Master sitting,
The sky is hazy o'er the arid land,
No cloudlet 'thwart the torrid vault is flitting,
A lifeless languor breathes on every hand;
The Master, sitting on the fountain's brink,
Gives as a precious boon the cooling drink.

Nay see, I come, Samaria's sinful daughter—
Ah, happy hand to give the grateful draught!
Methinks I hear the cool drip of the water,
And now the Master the pure lymph hath quaffed,
And speaketh tender words whose holy flow
Are sweeter far than earthly fount may know.

He speaketh of the everlasting fountain,
That from the oracles of God doth flow,
Whose streams make glad in all the holy mountain.

Whose waters do such wondrous virtue know,
That those whose lips once taste the sacred store
Shall thirst again—Oh, never, nevermore.

O Lord of life, O fount of holy teaching!
Ah, deeply let me drink from that pure spring,
Which Thou in David's house didst open,
reaching
To all the world; which in its flow doth bring
Such holy healing, and such healthy balm,
Such rest and happiness, and sacred calm.

An old peasant in north-west India, learned by heart the first chapter of St. John's Gospel. After his harvest was over he would go out year by year into the villages around and repeat what he had learned. In eight years he had brought some 400 of his countrymen to embrace Christianity and receive baptism.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OUR LORD.

A.D. 28.] LESSON XII. [Sept. 16.

JESUS AT JACOB'S WELL.

John 4. 9-26. Memory verses, 11-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst.—John 4. 14.

OUTLINE.

1. The Water of Life, v. 9-13.
2. The Worship of God, v. 19-26.

TIME.—Probably early in the year A.D. 28.
PLACE.—In Samaria, near Sychar. In sight, Mounts Ebal and Gerizim.

ROLERS.—Herod in Galilee; Pilate in Judea.

CONNECTING LINKS.—Our Lord was now on his way homeward to Galilee. His direct route led across Samaria.

EXPLANATIONS.

9. "Have no dealings"—A Jew would not in any way communicate with a Samaritan; would not pass through his country if possible to avoid it, nor aid him, nor recognize him.

11. "Thou hast nothing to draw with"—There was no curb or sweep as with us, and no way of drawing water, but each one brought his own means for drawing.

12. "Our father Jacob"—The Samaritans loved to claim descent from Jacob, though they were a mixed people of Israelitish and Chaldean blood.

14. "Shall never thirst."—A true Christian is absolutely satisfied with what the Spirit gives.

19. "A prophet"—One who received revelation from God, and so know her life.

20. "Ye say"—That is, the Jews say.
22. "Salvation of the Jews" The Messiah was to come from the tribe of Judah, as announced by prophecy.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Jesus at Jacob's well. John 4 5-15.
- Tu. Jesus at Jacob's well.—John 4 20-66.
- W. Samaritans believing.—John 4 27-42.
- Th. Come, ye thirsty!—Isaiah 5. 1-7.
- F. Christ's invitation.—John 7. 28-39.
- S. Water of life.—Revelation 22. 1-7.
- Su. Whosoever will.—Rev. 22. 8-17.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—
1. Whom we should worship?
 2. How we should worship?
 3. The true place for worship?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Where did Jesus stop on his journey from Judea to Galilee? "At Jacob's well."
2. Whom did he meet at the well? "A woman of Samaria."
3. Of what did Jesus talk with her? "Of the water of life."
4. What did he promise to those who should drink this water that he would give them? "Everlasting life."
5. Who did Jesus tell the woman of Samaria that he was? "The Saviour of the world."
6. Repeat the Golden Text.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—God a spirit.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What does the Spirit perform for the Church?

He calls and qualifies men, from time to time, to preach the word and administer the sacraments; makes their preaching effectual to the conversion of sinners and the edification of believers; and is present as the representative of the Lord-Jesus in all the ordinances of public worship.

Acts 20. 28.—Take heed unto yourselves, and to all the flock, in the which the Holy Ghost hath made you bishops.

A HEAVENLY MESSAGE.

DURING the early ministry of Charles H. Spurgeon he was invited to preach in the vast Crystal Palace at Sydenham. He queried whether his voice would fill the immense arena, and resolving to test it, he went in the morning to the palace, and thinking for a passage of Scripture to repeat, as he reached the stage, that came to his mind. "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Pronouncing the words, he felt sure that he would be heard, and then he repeated the verse in a softer tone.

More than a quarter of a century later, Mr. Spurgeon's brother and co-worker was called to the bedside of a man, an artisan, who was near his end.

"Are you ready?" asked the minister.
"Oh! yes!" answered the man, with assurance.

"Can you tell me how you obtained the salvation of your soul?"

"It is very simple," said the artisan, his face radiant with joy. "I am a plumber by trade. Some years ago I was working under the dome of the Crystal Palace, and thought myself entirely alone. I was without God and without hope. All at once I heard a voice coming from heaven which said: 'This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ came into the world to save sinners.' By the hearing of these words I was convinced of sin; Jesus Christ appeared to me as my Saviour. I accepted him in my heart as such at the same moment, and I have served him ever since."

This voice was from heaven, though human lips uttered it; and God's word shall not return to him void, but shall prosper in the thing whereto he sends it.—*Epworth Herald*.

"Now we have money enough to send our minister away for a two months' vacation." "Isn't that a long holiday?" "Yes, but then we feel as though we deserve it."

QUENCH THE FIRST SPARK.—It has been well said, during the terrible fire which two centuries ago laid one-half of London in ashes, which defied for days and days the efforts of thousands of strong men, there was a moment when a pitcher of water from the hands of a little child might have put it out.

The Lyttel Boy.

(Imitation of Old English.)

BY EUGENE FLETCHER.

SOMETIME there ben a lyttel boy,
That wolde not renno and play;
And helples like that litte tyke
Ben alweis in the way.
"Goo, make you merry with the rest,"
His weary moder cried;
But with a frown he catcht her gown
And hong untill her side.

That boy did love his moder well,
Which spake him faire I ween;
He loved to stand and hold her hand
And ken her with his een;
His cosset bloated in the croft,
His toys unheeded lay—
He wolde not goo, but tarrying soo,
Ben alweis in the way.

Godde loveth children, and doth glrd
His throne with soche as these,
And he doth smile in plaisance while
They cluster at his knees;
And sometime, when he looked on earth,
And watched the bairns at play,
He kenned with joy a lyttel boy
Ben alweis in the way.

And then a moder felt her heart
How that it ben to-terne—
She kissed each day till she ben gray
The shoon he us'to worn;
No bairn let hold until her gown
Nor played upon the floore—
Godde's was the joy; a lyttel boy
Ben in the way no more.

"Yes," said the boy, "I might just as well be at the head of my class as not. But I don't mind being at the foot, and the other boys do, so I sacrifico myself."

A LITTLE Swedish girl was walking with her father one night under the starry sky. At last, looking up to the sky, she said, "Father, I have been thinking that if the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, what will the right side be?"

A HARMONY of the GOSPELS

BEING THE

LIFE OF JESUS IN THE WORDS OF THE FOUR EVANGELISTS.

ARRANGED BY

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., F.R.S.C.

From the Revised Version of the New Testament.

AN UNSOLICITED TESTIMONIAL.

W. E. DYER, of Oshawa, writes us: "After a careful perusal of it as a layman and Sunday-school worker, I want to express my gratitude for the effort of the author, as I consider it an invaluable aid to an intelligent study of the life of our Lord Jesus Christ. Were it in my power I would place a copy in the hands of every teacher in the land. To me it has been a long felt need, and I dare say there are hundreds like me. I have the life of Christ by different writers, but none to my mind will take the place of this little volume."

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