

Christ With the Worthies.

(Daniel 3. 25.)

BY EMMON TUCKER CLARK.

Never was a stranger story by the pen
Of prophet told,
In that grand-at of all histories, the
wonder-book of old,
Than the story of the Hebrews, in the
fiery furnace's glow,
When a spirit walked with Shadrach,
Meshach, and Abed-nego.

Much I marvel how the monarch called
that fourth one by his name,
When as yet so many years must pass
before Messiah came
As the Lord of light and glory, with the
sons of men to talk,
And with carpenters and fishermen by
Galilee to walk.

O thou Crucified and Risen, when eter-
nity began,
Thou wert counselling the Godhead for
the happiness of man;

From the rolling world's creation has
thy precious blood been shed,
And a thorny crown been platted for a
more than kingly head!

In the furnace of affliction though my
soul be sorely tried,

I shall never be quite overcome with
Jesus by my side;

For may not a sinful soul to-day as well
the Master know

As the wicked king of Babylon three
thousand years ago?

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

LESSON III. - JULY 16.

THE HEBREWS IN THE FIERY FURNACE.

Dan. 3. 14-28. Memory verses, 16-18.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us.—Dan. 3. 17.

OUTLINE.

1. Courage, v. 14-18.

2. Trial, v. 19-21.

3. Triumph, v. 22-28.

Time - Between 587 and 568 B.C.

Place - The plain of Dura, near Babylon.

LESSON HELPS.

14. The preceding verses shed light upon those of the lesson. "Belshazzar"—Then king of Babylon, a rich, proud, and cruel king. Three of the many Jews were accused, and they because of envy. They had been set over the affairs of the province, and there was an effort to put them out of office. Their enemies tried to cover up their baseness with the cloak of religion. The charge was "they serve not thy gods." Nor worship the golden image which I have set up.—The king emphasizes the pronoun "I."

15. Music in all lands and ages has been the accompaniment of religious rites and ceremonies. Music, as we know it, is almost a modern art. This is owing to the improved musical instruments and the genius of great composers. "Who is that God?" Asked in haughty scorn. It is hard for us to conceive the arrogance of the ancient king, who was regarded as a superior being. His will was nearly all powerful, his anger terrible when he was thwarted.

16. "We are not careful"—That is, care full. We have no anxiety; no cause to have, for Jehovah is (1) able and (2) willing to rescue.

"In the furnace God may prove thee,
Thence to bring thee forth more bright."

17. "He will deliver us"—The deep feeling of faith, the glad note of prospective triumph. Faith makes the timid brave, and robs death of its sting.

18. "We will not"—Courage makes a man positive in his assertions of what he will or will not do. Moral courage is the kind the world needs.

19. "Full of fury"—Blind, unreasoning fury. How strange when he had seen many proofs that Jehovah reigned. When fury enters the soul reason and wisdom depart. "Seven times more"—As hot as possible. The word seven expresses the intensity of the heat.

20. "The most mighty men"—The chief officers; those who excel in power, not in physical strength.

21. "Their coats, their hosen, and their hats"—Their cloaks, their turbans, and their loose, flowing garments.

24. "Astonied"—Old English for astonished.

25. "Like the son of God" Rather like a son of the gods. The king had neither Christian nor Jewish ideas. He spoke as an idolater, which indeed he was. See verse 28. "God hath sent his angel."

27. "The fire had no power" The test of Innocence by a fiery ordeal was familiar in the ancient world. This was a miraculous interposition, and the king and his officers knew it.

28. "Blessed be the God" etc. A noble testimony (1) of a heathen, (2) produced by noble conduct and (3) the presence of the saving Jehovah.

HOME READINGS.

M. Jesus teaching humility.—John 13. 1-17.

Tu. The humble exalted.—Luke 14. 7-14.

W. Humility in prayer.—Luke 18. 9-17.

Th. Grace for the humble.—1 Peter 5. 1-7.

F. A rebuke to pride.—Mark 9. 30-37.

S. Greatness of service.—Matt. 20. 20-28.

Su. Christ's example.—Phil. 2. 1-11.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Courage, v. 14-18.

What did the king ask of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego?

What demand did he make?

What threat did he utter?

What reply did the three make?

In whom did they trust for deliverance?

What is the Golden Text?

What was their decision?

What lesson may we here learn?

Acts 5. 29, last clause.

2. Trial, v. 19-21.

How was the king affected by the reply?

What command did he give about the furnace?

What did he order to be done with the three Hebrews?

How were they prepared for the trial?

What does Peter say about a fiery trial? 1 Peter 4. 12, 13.

3. Triumph, v. 22-28.

What fate befell the king's servants?

Where were the three Hebrews?



WATER-PEDDLERS.

What strange question did the king ask?

Whom did he see in the fire?

What was their condition?

What did he say the fourth was like?

What promise was thus fulfilled? Isa. 43. 2.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. Concerning faith in God?

2. Concerning fidelity to duty?

3. Concerning help in trouble?

The heathen king's command.—Try to picture the scene, the wide plain, the gathered multitudes, the golden image.



Before no
idol
bow the
knee

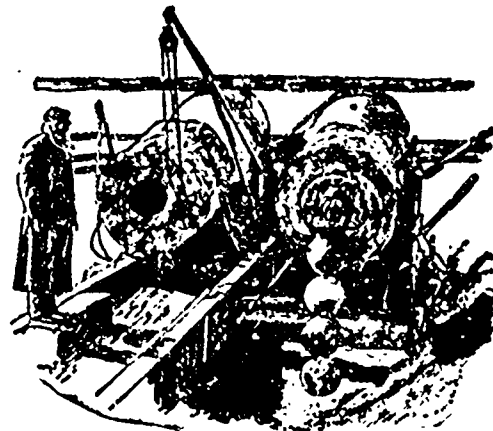
the king's words, and the burst of music, at which all the heathen followers of the heathen king fell down to worship.

A WONDERFUL MAGNET.

Probably the largest and strongest magnet in the world is that at Willet's Point, New York. It came to be made by accident. Major King happened to see two large fifteen-inch Dahlgren guns lying unused side by side on the dock and immediately conceived the idea that a magnet of enormous power could be constructed by means of these cannon, with a submarine cable wound around them. The magnet, which stands about ten feet from the ground, is eighteen feet long, and has eight miles of cable wound about the upper part of the guns. It takes a force of 25,000 pounds to pull off the armature. A seemingly impossible experiment was performed with some fifteen-inch solid cannon balls, the magnet holding several of them suspended in air, one under the other. The most interesting experiment was the test made of a non-magnetic watch. The magnet was so powerful that an ordinary watch was stopped stock still as soon as it came within three feet of it, while an American non-magnetic watch was for ten minutes held in front of the magnet, and it did not vary the hundredth part of a second. A sledge-hammer welded in a direction opposite to the magnet feels as though one were trying to hit a blow with a long feather in a gale of wind.—Chicago Railway Review.

WATER-PEDDLERS.

In many of the towns on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande del Norte ("the Grand River of the North"), which separates Texas from Mexico, water is scarce, although a river flows beside them. They have few cisterns for rain-water, and no springs, hydrants or pumps. Quite a number of men make their living by selling water. The city of Matamoros refused to allow a company to erect waterworks to supply the city, because it would deprive the water-peddlers of their business.



A WONDERFUL MAGNET.

Vacation Song.

BY FRANK D. SHEPHERD.

When study and school are over,
How jolly it is to be free,
Away in the fields of clover,
The honey-sweet haunts of the bee!

Away in the woods to ramble,
Where merrily all day long
The birds in the bush and bramble
Are filling the summer with song.

Away from the stir and bustle,
The noise of the town left behind;
Vacation for sport and muscle,
The winter for study and mind.

There's never a need to worry,
There's never a lesson to learn,
There's never a bell to hurry,
There's never a duty to spurn.

So play till the face grows ruddy
And muscles grow bigger, and then
Go back to the books and study:
We'll find it as pleasant again.

—Every Other Sunday.

Readable Books.

The Miracle at Markham.

How Twelve Churches Became One. By Charles M. Sheldon. With numerous illustrations. Paper, 30c.; cloth, 50c.

A new story by Sheldon will interest a world of readers. The success of his books is without a parallel. Fifteen London publishers are competing for the market. Already 4,000,000 copies are reported as sold. "The Miracle at Markham" is said to be Mr. Sheldon's best.

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A Story of the Christ and How To-day Received Him. By "Pansy" (Mrs. G. R. Alden). Cloth illustrated, 70c.

This is one of the most remarkable books Pansy has yet written. Her book is unlike anything else in print. Into the to-day of railroads and telegraphs, phonographs and electric lights, the author brings a central figure—Jesus the Christ. It is an appropriate sequel to her beautiful life of Christ, which appeared last season.

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The extraordinary popularity of "Titus," which enjoyed a sale of nearly a million copies within a year, made Mrs. Kingsley's a household name in all America. The new story is well worthy of the excellent series to which it forms a complement.

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Miss Fowler's "Concerning Isabel Carnaby" was one of the most successful books of the past year. The London Speaker remarked of it: "The novel of the season" will probably be the verdict upon this amazingly witty and brilliant story. This book positively radiates humour.

I, Thou and the Other One.

By Amelia E. Barr. Author of "Jan Voder's Wife," "A Bow of Orange Ribbon," etc., etc. Illustrated. Paper, 60c.; cloth, \$1.00.

Mrs. Barr well maintains the popularity won with her earliest stories. This new one is said to be the best she has written since "A Bow of Orange Ribbon" appeared.

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