

"Where have you been, Sim?" asked Silas.

"Been?" he replied. "Oh, I went to the road with some old fool—"

"Who was it?" asked John.

"Couldn't say, John. Some old fool, and I intimated as much to him. You see I could not make him out, for he had on a long ulster, and the collar turned up and the rim of his hat turned down. I think he said he had lost his way."

"Lost his way?" said Tim. "Wonder who it could have been. Oh, I tell you, the man that carries the mail to Tyler-ville! He comes across the mountain-spur, as we call it, and folks have said it was foolhardy."

"Fact is—ha—ha!" said Sim, "I gave him to understand that it was about as silly a thing as he could do—his getting lost—yes, I told him. Then he said to me it was not so silly as getting lost through the old mug in my hand, for he said he thought it was a cider mug, judging by the smell—"

"He had you there!" cried Tim.

"He had me? I gave him a shot then," replied Sim.

"How?" asked Silas. "Fire the mug at him?"

"Gave him a piece of my mind, sir."

The conversation soon ceased, and the boys had supper.

It was about a week after this, when the boys were at home, that Sim and Silas chanced to meet. Silas remarked, "What makes you look so blue? Got your death sentence?"

"Yes," said Sim moodily. "Have just had a note from the Academy where I was going to attend, you know. Whom do you think I saw that night at the camp, that man who had lost his way?"

"Mail-carrier?"

"No, Principal Spearhead!"

"You don't say!"

"But I do say it, and all is lost through that old cider mug. You wanted to know, or somebody did, if I fired my mug at him. I am going to get it and fire it at something and never touch one of the kind again."

In a few minutes Farmer Bartlett, who was reading his paper in the kitchen of his comfortable home, looked up and said to his wife, "Huldah, what's that sound outside, of a sort of smashing?"

"I heard it, but don't know," said his wife.

Sim knew.

HOW UBECHÉ FOUND A FRIEND.

Ubeche lived away off in a village in Africa. There was a fence built around the village to keep off lions and tigers, and the little boys and girls played inside the fence. But one day Ubeche went out with his mother to gather berries. Some men came by on camels, and they carried

Ubeche off hundreds of miles, intending to sell him, for they were cruel slave-dealers. But one night they lost him.

The next day a good missionary lady was sitting by the bank of a river, when a poor ragged boy came up to her and asked her for something to eat. It was Ubeche. The missionary was so sorry for him that she took him home with her. Ubeche had never heard about the Good Shepherd, and the missionaries told him about Jesus, and taught him to read and write. He lived with the missionaries for many years, and when he died everybody remembered him as a noble Christian.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

LESSON XIII.—MARCH 26.

REVIEW.

Titles and Golden Texts should be thoroughly studied.

TITLES.

GOLDEN TEXTS.

1. C. the L. and L. of M. In him was—
2. The W. of J. the B. to J. Behold the—
3. J. W. H. F. D. Thou art—
4. The F. M. in C. Whatsoever—
5. J. and N. For God so—
6. J. at J. W. Whosoever—
7. The S. M. in C. The same—
8. J. at the P. of B. And a great—
9. The M. of the L. and F. I am the—
10. J. at the F. of T. Never man—
11. The S. of S. Whosoever—
12. H. of the M. B. B. I am the—

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

LESSON I.—APRIL 2.

JESUS THE GOOD SHEPHERD.

John 10. 7-18. Memorize verses 17, 18.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.—John 10. 11.

DAILY STEPS.

- Mon.* Read the lesson verses. John 10. 7-18.
- Tues.* Read about the Shepherd's care of his sheep. John 10. 18-30.
- Wed.* Find what a prophet says about false shepherds. Ezek. 34. 1-10.
- Thur.* And what about deliverance? Ezek. 34. 11-19.
- Fri.* Read also about the one Shepherd. Ezek. 34. 20-31.
- Sat.* Learn the beautiful Golden Text.
- Sun.* Read the Shepherd Psalm. Psa. 23.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON.

Where was Jesus teaching? What did he see, perhaps? What kind of a lesson would this be? Who could alone explain

the picture? How do the sheep enter the fold? What does the sheepfold stand for? Who is the door? Is there any other way to enter? What shall we do to enter the true Church, which we cannot see? Go first to Christ, the door. Can you see the real Church? Why? What can you see? How are we saved? What does the Good Shepherd do for his sheep? What are you? The lambs of his flock. What would a hireling shepherd do? What has he promised to his people everywhere?

THREE LITTLE LESSONS.

We have learned that—

1. There is a Good Shepherd—the Lord Jesus.
2. We are the lambs of his flock.
3. He will lay down his life to take care of us.

LOOKING UNTO JESUS.

There was a poor man in Ireland who listened for the first time to the story you know so well, of how the Lord Jesus came to save us, and of his exceeding great love. And, instead of waiting to hear it over and over again, as some of you do, he believed it at once, and said, "Glory be to God!" And then, with his ragged hat off, he went to the preacher and said, "Thank you, sir; you have taken the hunger off us to-day." You see it came true, what Jesus said so long ago—"He that cometh to me shall never hunger." And it will come true for you directly you come to him; he will "take the hunger off you."

You may thank God at once if he has made you "want Jesus" at all. For it is only the Holy Spirit that ever makes any one hungry for him. I never heard a sadder answer than a young lady gave me the other day. She said, "No, I don't want Jesus; at least not yet." She wanted all sorts of other things, but not Jesus. Are any of you saying that in your hearts? Oh, what will you do without him? What will you do when the day, not of wintry snow, but of fiery terror, is come? You will want him then, when "the great day of his wrath is come," but it will be too late. Will you not pray, "Lord Jesus, make me want thee now?"

Why should you do without him?

It is not yet too late;

He has not closed the day of grace,

He has not shut the gate,

He calls you! hush! he calls you!

He would not have you go

Another step without him,

Because he loves you so.

Why will you do without him?

He calls and calls again—

"Come unto me! Come unto me!"

Oh, shall he call in vain?

He wants to have you with him;

Do you not want him too?

You cannot do without him,

And he wants—even you.