

**The Little Captive.**

BY SOPHIE GRAVES FOXWORTH.

Though all the earth with bloom is rife,  
How dull that little captive's life!  
The golden light that shimmering falls,  
Cheers not his gloomy dungeon walls.

'Tis vain the sweetest notes to sing,  
To plume the little glossy wing,  
And wistful peep at dewy lawns,  
When rosy tinted morning dawns.

O never more he'll skim the air,  
Nor joyous mount the leafy stair,  
Nor join the choir his fellows make  
When merry songs the welkin wake.

And never home, or sheltered nest,  
With birdies, 'neath their mother's breast,  
While he in sadness pines forlorn,  
Shall wait his coming, eve or morn.

From side to side he restless flits,  
Or else, for hours, he moping sits,  
No sweet rehearsals of his songs,  
In silence brooding o'er his wrongs;

Then fluttering beats the wiry wall,  
As if he'd break his cruel thrall,  
And then in desperation sings,  
To find how feeble are his wings.

Such tremulous sweetness thrills my heart,

As never a master's practiced art,  
When trills that bird in rondos brief,  
And molting minors tell his grief.

But God, who marks the sparrow's fall,  
Metes justice to his creatures all,  
Who robs the helpless of his own,  
For such a deed must make atone.

**ANCIENT WEAPONS OF WARFARE.**

The weapons the Assyrian soldiers mostly carried were few and simple, yet with arms that would seem to us now so ineffective they conquered most of the then known world. We present in this paper two illustrations, showing a form of weapons used for siege purposes, and doing practically the service that is accomplished in modern warfare chiefly by heavy guns.

The lower cut represents the battering-ram. This machine was used for making breaches in the walls of cities and so open a door for entrance. All ancient cities were inclosed with massive walls; and sometimes it required weeks of incessant work to break through the great stones. Usually the men working the battering-rams had to protect themselves with their shields from darts cast from the walls above. In modern warfare such weapons would not be of the slightest value, nor would high walls be any protection to a city. From the distance of one to several miles cannon balls may be so effectively directed as to completely destroy a city in a brief time.

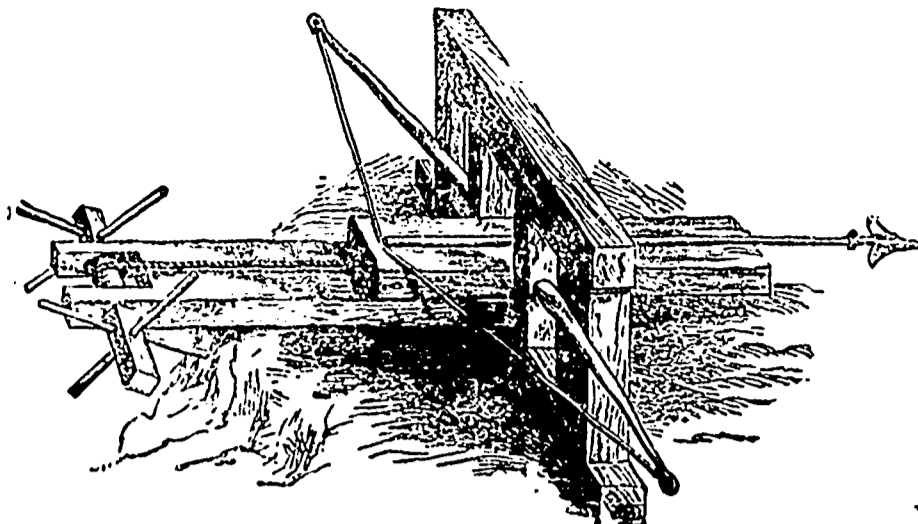
Our other illustration represents what is called the "ballista." It was a device consisting of a heavy frame, supplied with bow and cords, for casting heavy spears or javelins at an enemy. (See verse 22 of the lesson). It was practically a huge bow for shooting heavy arrows. This was, so to speak, the cannon of ancient warfare. But of how little service it would be in a conflict where our modern cannon should be employed against it! In those days gunpowder had not yet been discovered, nor were there any other of the terrific explosives known to modern science, as dynamite, nitro-glycerine, and others. There were, of course, no rifles and no cannon, nor any form of weapon requiring gunpowder or ball.

Yet with such weapons as these—with the sword, and spear, and shield—the Assyrian armies reduced a great portion of the world. We may learn from them that our best success in life does not depend so much on the abundance of our resources as on the skilful and persevering use of the means or advantages we have, and above all, in dependence upon God. Our lesson shows how he delivered Jerusalem from the Assyrians.

"Yes, we went all over Europe, but papa really only enjoyed himself in Venice."

"Ah, yes, no wonder. The gondolas, St. Mark's, the Rialto, the—"

"Oh, it wasn't that. But he could sit in the hotel, you know, and fish out of the window."



ANCIENT BALLISTA.

**LESSON NOTES.**

**FOURTH QUARTER.**

**STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF JUDAH.**

**LESSON VII.—NOVEMBER 13.**

**THE ASSYRIAN INVASION.**

2 Kings 19. 20-22, 28-37. Memory verses, 32-34.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.—Psalm 46. 1.

**OUTLINE.**

1. The Holy One of Israel, v. 20-22, 28.
  2. The Protected City, v. 29-34.
  3. The Angel of the Lord, v. 35-37.
- Time.—B.C. 699 or 698, toward the close of Hezekiah's reign.  
Place.—Jerusalem.

**HOME READINGS.**

- M. Refuge in trouble.—2 Kings 19. 8-19.  
Tu. The Assyrian invasion.—2 Kings 19. 20-28.  
W. The Assyrian invasion.—2 Kings 19. 29-37.  
Th. Hezekiah's prayer.—Isa. 38. 1-8.  
F. Thanksgiving.—Isa. 38. 9-22.  
S. A song of deliverance.—Psalm 76.  
Su. Reliance on God.—Psalm 46.

**QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.**

1. The Holy One of Israel, v. 20-22, 28. Who had threatened Hezekiah? Where was he with his army? Why did he want to fight against Hezekiah?

What pleasant prophecy was made about the remnant of the people? What is our Golden Text? What about the siege by the king of Assyria?

For whose sake would God defend that city?

**3. The Angel of the Lord, v. 35-37.**

Who left heaven that night on a message from God?

What awful fact was discovered in the morning?

- What did Sennacherib do?  
Where did he dwell?  
Whom did he worship?  
Who killed him?  
Where did they escape to?  
Who reigned in his stead?

**PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.**

- Where in this lesson do we see—
1. God insulted by the wicked?
  2. God comforting the godly?
  3. God punishing the wicked?

**FIRST DO IT, THEN TALK IT.**

A chaplain in the army during the war was passing over the field, when he saw a wounded soldier upon the ground. He had his Bible under his arm and he stooped down and said to the man, "Would you like me to read you something from the Bible?" The wounded man said, "I'm so thirsty, I would rather have a drink of water." The chaplain hurried off, and as quickly as possible brought the water. After the man had drunk the water he said, "Could you lift my head and put something under it?" The chaplain removed his light over-



ANCIENT BATTERING-RAM.

What had Hezekiah done to make peace with him?

What was the Lord's first message to Hezekiah?

How might the people of Judah regard the boasting Assyrians?

Against whom was Sennacherib really fighting?

Who had heard his boastful sneers?

What did God say he would do to him?

Where did he say he would send him?

2. The Protected City, v. 29-34. Whom does God now address?

How were the poor people to be fed that year and the next?

What were they to do the third year?

coat, rolled it up, and tenderly lifting the head, put it as a pillow for the tired one to rest on.

"Now," said the man, "if I only had something over me. I'm so cold!"

There was only one thing the chaplain could do and that was to take his coat off and cover the man. As he did so the wounded man looked up in his face and said, "For God's sake, if there is anything in that book that makes a man do for another what you have done for me, let me hear it."

There is a world of meaning in this incident. The need of to-day is the acting of the object-lessons that book teaches.

**BITS OF FUN.**

Flustered Old Lady—"Does it make any difference which of these cars I take to the bridge?" Polite Pedestrian—"Makes no difference to me, madam."

Miss Bacon—"Wasn't it Admiral Porter who said, 'Take no quarter from the enemy'?" Mr. Lake—"Naw; it couldn't have been; or, if it was, he's the only porter that ever said such a thing."

Bagley—"Bent is a very generous man."

Brace—"In what respect?"

Bagley—"He never passes a beggar that he doesn't borrow a dime from me to give to him."

Professor—"Margaret, please take the cat out of the room. I cannot have it making such a noise while I am at work. Where is it?"

Margaret—"Why, sir, you are sitting on it."

Mr. Gaswell—"An Eastern astronomer says he has discovered two groups of spots on the sun."

Mr. Gasbill—"I wish he would come to Pittsburg and make an effort to discover the sun itself."

Daughter—"There is only one thing more astonishing than the readiness with which Ned gave up tobacco when we became engaged." Mother—"What is that astonishing thing?" Daughter—"The rapidity with which he took it up again after we were married."

"O my friends! there are some spectacles that one never forgets!" said a lecturer, after giving a graphic description of a terrible accident he had witnessed. "I'd like to know where they sell 'em," remarked an old lady in the audience, who is always mislaying her glasses.

A candidate for priest's orders, preaching his extempore trial sermon before Bishop Tait and Dean Stanley, in his nervousness began stammering, "I will divide my congregation into two—the converted and the unconverted." This proved too much for the bishop's sense of humour; and he exclaimed, "I think, sir, as there are only two of us, you had better say which is which."

"Did you ever suffer from writer's cramp?" asked a bookkeeper who was conversing with a friend of some literary pretensions.

"Writer's cramp?" echoed the other. "I've suffered from it for years! The papers I write for are nearly always 'too cramped for space' to use any of my stuff."

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