

## WHAT THE STARS SAW.

WHEN the sexton came to the town stair,  
Where the coil of bell-rope lay,  
He cheerily called, "Old bell up there,  
Ring out! It is Christmas Day!"

He seized the rope in each wrinkled hand,  
He pulled with a youthful might  
Till the glad sound pealed o'er the sleeping  
land,  
And soared to the stars so bright.

"Ho, ho" laughed the stars o'er earth and  
main,  
"What know you of Christmas-tide?  
We shone on that far-off Eastern plain  
Where a star was the wise Man's guide.

"We saw the Child in his manger bed,  
And the gifts that the magi gave,  
We shall shine when your voice has fled,  
We shall shine on the sexton's grave."

Said the sexton: "Stars! to you 'twas given  
To herald the Christmas birth;  
Though the praise and the glory belong to  
heaven  
'Tis the joy belongs to earth."

## TO TEACHERS.

LEARN the lesson so well that you can adapt your teaching to your class no matter what the grade of your class may be. But it is always best to have some prearranged and definite plan, according to which you will teach each lesson. Write that plan out briefly; go over it in your mind carefully; arrange your different topics methodically; and have all your illustrations ready beforehand. In this way your teaching will be successful, and you will benefit your scholars and do good.

## HOW DO YOU KNOW?

Two and two make four—that is mathematics. Hydrogen and oxygen in certain proportions make water—that is science. Christ, and him crucified, is the power and wisdom of God for salvation—that is revelation. But how do you know? Put two and two together, and you have four—count and see. Put hydrogen and oxygen together, and you have water—taste and prove. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt know.

## LESSON NOTES.

B.O. 700] LESSON VII. [Dec. 20.

## THE GRACIOUS INVITATION.

Isa. 55: 1-11. Commit to mem. vs. 6-9.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters. Isa. 55: 1.

## OUTLINE.

1. The Call, v. 1-7.
2. The Promise, v. 8-11.

TIME.—B.C. 700.

PLACE.—Jerusalem.

EXPLANATIONS.—That thirsteth—That hath desire. The waters—Representing the widely different blessings of Christ's kingdom. No money—The poorest might enjoy them. Buy and eat—Not in the sense of purchase, but of ownership. Buy wine and milk without money—indicating still richer blessings. Sure mercies—The covenant promises of God. Given him—That is, Christ as the son of David. A witness—Christ was the assurance of God's favour, one to confirm the promises God had made to the fathers. Nations that knew not—Referring to the ingathering of the Gentiles. While he may be found—Showing a limit to probation. Void—Empty, showing that as rain and snow do not fall from heaven uselessly, but only return thither after having accomplished a beneficent purpose, so God's word has a fruitful mission.

## TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—  
1. That all men are called to seek God!

2. That now is the time to secure salvation!  
3. That God is found only by the penitent heart

## THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. When should we seek the Lord? "While he may be found." 2. What should the wicked do? "Let the wicked forsake his way." 3. If he returns unto the Lord, how will he receive him? "He will have mercy on him." 4. What does God do? "Abundantly pardons." 5. What does the Lord say concerning his word? "It shall not return unto me void."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The universality of salvation.

## CATECHISM QUESTION.

44. What is the teaching of the New Testament concerning children as members of the Church? It is implied that their baptism places them in the same relation to the New Covenant in which infants were placed to the Old by the rite of circumcision. Hence they are spoken of, addressed, and exhorted, as heirs of gospel privilege. [Matt. xix. 14; Isa. x. 14; Isa. xl. 11.]

## FOURTH QUARTERLY REVIEW.

Dec. 27.

## REVIEW SCHEME.

Lesson I. *Elisha at Dothan*.—By whose advice were the Syrian king's plans defeated? Whom did he send to seize the prophet? What did the prophet's servant see? Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT. What did Elisha do to the Syrian army? What treatment of an enemy did he propose?

Lesson II. *The Famine in Syria*.—What prophecy of plenty did Elisha make? What did he predict for a doubter? Who caused the Syrian army's defeat? Who discovered their flight? How was plenty secured to the Israelites? What became of the doubter? Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.

Lesson III. *Jehu's False Zeal*.—Whom did Jehu call for a witness? What did he invite him to see? What priests did he destroy? What idolatry did he still permit? Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.

Lesson IV. *The Temple Repaired*.—What was the character of Jehoiash? What did he order set aside for the repair of the Lord's house? How long was his order disobeyed? How was the money at last collected? Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.

Lesson V. *Death of Elisha*.—To whose sick bed did a royal mourner come? What was the king ordered to do? What penalty did his failure bring upon him? What miracle was wrought by the bones of the prophet? Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.

Lesson VI. *The Story of Jonah*.—What command was given to Jonah? [GOLDEN TEXT.] What did he do to avoid obedience? How was his escape prevented? What did the sailors do to the disobedient prophet? How was he preserved?

Lesson VII. *Effect of Jonah's Preaching*.—To whom was Jonah sent a second time? What was his threatening message? What effect did it have upon the people? What testimony did Jesus bear to this part? [GOLDEN TEXT.]

Lesson VIII. *Hezekiah's Good Reign*.—Who was Hezekiah? What was his character? [GOLDEN TEXT.] What did he do to destroy idolatry? How did the Lord reward his faithfulness? What Samaritan city was destroyed by the Syrians? Why did the Lord forsake Israel?

Lesson IX. *Hezekiah's Prayer Answered*.—What message did Isaiah bring to King Hezekiah? What did the king do in his distress? What is the psalmist's benediction to the afflicted? [GOLDEN TEXT.] What promise did the Lord give the king in answer to prayer? What sign was given to Hezekiah?

Lesson X. *The Sinful Nation*.—How does the Lord describe his rebellious people? With what does he say he is not satisfied? What does he ask them to put away? [GOLDEN TEXT.] What invitation is given to the sinful? What promise to the penitent?

Lesson XI. *The Suffering Saviour*.—How is the promised Saviour described by the prophet? For whom were these sufferings borne? What burden was laid upon Jesus? [GOLDEN TEXT.] How were these sufferings borne?

Lesson XII. *The Gracious Invitation*.—What gracious invitation is given? [GOLDEN TEXT.] What remonstrance is given to the worldly? What are the steps necessary to pardon? What is the extent of the pardon? By what has God assured his pardon to men?

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