

Prince.

BY WALTER CHURCH.

PAT REAGAN'S DOG.

[An incident of the great Western forest fires when they struck Hiuckley, Minn., September 1st, 1894.]

"You needn't ask to buy this dog—
The reason why can soon be told,
We love him as our dearest friend;
No! stranger, no!—take back your gold!

"A cyclone from the forest fire
In flaming billows came rushing down,
It wrecked the hundred happy homes
Which made our peaceful, happy town;

"The air was full of fireballs;
The very earth was smoking hot;
And nothing but a blackened waste
Now stands where stood our little cot.

"We heard a flying neighbor shout
'The gravel pit!—run for your life!'
I dragged two children as I ran—
Our babe was carried by my wife.

"She plunged into the blessed pool,
And with one daughter followed I—
The eldest, frightened, ran away,
But Prince ran too, with warning cry.

"He pulled her back with gentle force,
Came with her to her mother's side,
And held her safe while over all
For hours rolled on the flaming tide.

"That's why we call him 'Hero Prince';
He proved himself wise, true and bold;
We're homeless and in want, but we
Won't sell this dog for any gold."

SCENES IN THE DESERT.

THERE are two words which are not spelled alike, and yet which I have known boys and girls to confuse, "desert" and "dessert." We are not going to speak about the latter, which one little boy confuses as "rice pudding and oranges," but of the great sandy plains, the "desert."

The largest desert in the world is the Sahara in Africa, which is a great ocean of sand. It has, like the ocean, its little islands, bright green patches of land called oases. These refreshing resting-places, with their springs of fresh water and shady palm trees, are a welcome sight to the hot, dusty traveller of these desert wastes. Like the ocean, too, the desert has its ships. Can you guess what ships travel the sand-oceans? They are the camels, whose great, clumsy, lanky bodies, long necks and small heads you have seen at menageries. But God has made these animals to endure these trying regions where no other beast of burden could travel and live. A camel will travel for days at the rate of eight miles an hour, with its long, swinging strides, going without food or water for that time. The camel is able to do this on account of its wonderful storehouses. It is provided with a second stomach for its supply of drink. This is the camel's well. Then it has, too, its cellar. You thought that hump on the camel's back was a very ugly disfigurement, did you? Well, there the camel has a store of jelly-like fat which supplies it with nourishment . . . time of need. Thus the brave, faithful camel is able to swing himself along steadily over the sand till an oasis is reached. There he fills himself from the cool spring, eats his shrubs and thorn bushes, and stoops down on his knees to allow the heavy load of baggage to be fastened to his back. Away he goes again when his master thinks they have had sufficient rest, on, on, until after the long weary journey they reach the market-town at the desert's end.

"He wakeneth morning by morning."
May God wake us up every day in a right frame. How it cheers and strenthens us for the day to awake in a good frame! Morning thoughts are regarded by us with no little interest. If we begin the night with God, we may hope to say: "When I awake I am still with thee." God will wake us up at the last day. May he now do it, "morning by morning."

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OUR LORD.

A. D. 29.] LESSON IV. [Jan. 27.

THE GREAT CONFESSION.

Matt. 16. 13-23. Memory verses, 13-16.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.—Matt. 16. 16.

OUTLINE.

1. The Christ, v. 13-20.
2. The Cross, v. 21-23.

TIME.—A. D. 29. Summer.

PLACE.—Near Caesarea Philippi.

RULERS.—Pontius Pilate, procurator of Judea; Herod Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee and Perea.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The great confession.—Matt. 16. 13-16.
 Tu. Another confession.—John 6. 66-71.
 W. The chief corner stone.—1 Peter 2. 1-8.
 Th. Peter's witness for Christ.—Acts 4. 5-12.
 F. Cost of confessing.—Matt. 10. 32-42.
 S. Believing and confessing.—Rom. 10. 1-11.
 Su. Confessing and enduring.—2 Tim. 1. 1-12.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

Who is my neighbour, whom we are commanded to love as we love ourselves?

Our Lord has taught us by the parable of the good Samaritan that every man, of every nation, is our neighbour; and that if any be in distress we are bound to help and relieve them.

SPARE MOMENTS.

A boy, poorly dressed, came to the door of the principal of a celebrated school one morning and asked to see him. The servant eyed his mean clothes, and thinking he looked more like a beggar than anything else, told him to go around to the kitchen.

"I should like to see Mr. —," he said.

"You want a breakfast, more like."

"Can I see Mr. —?" asked the boy.

"Well, he is in the library; if he must be disturbed, he must."

So she bid him follow. After talking awhile the principal put aside the volume that he was studying and took up some Greek books, and began to examine the new comer. Every question he asked, the boy answered readily.

"Upon my word!" exclaimed the principal, "you do well. Where did you pick up so much?"

One of God's Little Heroes.

BY MARGARET J. PRESTON.

THE patter of feet was on the stair,
As the editor turned in his sanctum chair,
And said—for weary the day had been—
"Don't let another intruder in."

But scarce had he uttered the words before
A face peered in at the half-closed door,
And a child sobbed out—"Sir, mother said
I should come and tell you that Dan is dead."

"And pray who is Dan?" The streaming eyes
Look questioning up, with a strange surprise;
"Not know him? Why, sir, all day he sold
The papers you print, through wet and cold."

"The newboys say they could not tell
The reason his stock went off so well;
I know! With his voice so sweet and low,
Could anyone bear to say him 'No'?"

"And the money he made, whatever it be,
He carried straight home to mother and me.
No matter about his rags, he said,
If only he kept us clothed and fed."

"And he did it, sir, trudging through rain and
cold,
Nor stopped till the last of his sheets was sold;
But he's dead—he's dead! and we miss him so!
And mother—she thought you might want to
know."

In the paper, next morning, as "leader," ran
A paragraph thus—"The newboy, Dan,
One of God's little heroes, who
Did nobly the duty he had to do,
For mother and sister earning bread,
By patient endurance and toil—is dead."



SCENE IN THE DESERT.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The Christ*, v. 13-20.
Near what city were Jesus and his disciples?
What question did Jesus ask the disciples?
What was their reply?
What then did he ask them?
Who answered for the disciples?
What was Simon's reply? (Golden Text.)
Who had told Simon this truth?
What did Jesus say about building the Church?
What about its security?
What authority would Peter have?
What were the disciples charged not to tell?

2. *The Cross*, v. 21-23.
What four things did Jesus tell his disciples?
Who protested against these things?
What did Peter say to Jesus?
What answer did Jesus make?
What was God's thought about the cross?
John 3. 14-16.
What is demanded of all Jesus's followers?
Verse 24.
What gain must prove a great loss?
Verse 26.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—
1. That Jesus was the promised Messiah?
 2. That it was necessary for Jesus to die?
 3. That Jesus is the defender of the Church?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What question did Jesus ask of his disciples? "Whom say ye that I am?" 2. Whom did Peter declare that he was? Christ, the Son of the living God. 3. Where did Christ say that he would build his Church? On the rock of this truth. 4. What did Jesus tell his disciples? That he must suffer at Jerusalem.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The divinity of Christ.

"In my spare moments," answered the boy.

He was a hard-working lad, yet almost fitted for college by simply improving his spare moments. A few years later he became known all the world over as the celebrated geologist, Hugh Miller. What account can you give of your spare moments?

GOD'S PROVIDENCE.

TALMAGE relates a number of instances which show that that God guides every action of his servants:

A minister in Boston seated at his table, lacking a word, puts his hand behind his head and tilts back his chair to think, and the ceiling falls and crushes the table, and would have crushed him. A minister in Jamaica at night by the light of an insect, called the candle-fly, is kept from stepping over a precipice a hundred feet. F. W. Robertson, the celebrated English clergyman, said that he entered the ministry from a train of circumstances started by the barking of a dog. Had the wind blown one way on a certain day, the Spanish Inquisition would have been established in England; but it blew the other way, and that dropped the accursed institution, with the seventy-five thousand tons of shipping, to the bottom of the sea, or flung the splintered logs on the rock.

"If you cannot pray over a thing, and cannot ask God to bless you in it, don't do that thing. A secret that you would keep from God is a secret that you should keep from your own heart."

Sunday-School Lesson Helps FOR 1895.

Illustrative Notes.

With Original and Selected Comments, Methods of Teaching, Illustrative Stories, Maps, Pictures, etc.

By JAMES LYMAN HURLBUT and ROBERT REMINGTON DOHERTY.

Price, \$1.25.

Peloubet's Select Notes.

Inductive, Suggestive, Explanatory, Illustrative, Doctrinal, and Practical. With Illustrations, Maps, Pictures, etc.

Price, \$1.25.

Monday Club Sermons.

Sermons on the Sunday-school Lessons for 1895 by eminent preachers. Price, \$1.25.

Berean Lesson Books.

- No. 1.—THE BEGINNER'S.
- No. 2.—THE INTERMEDIATE.
- No. 3.—THE SENIOR.

Price, 30c.

Berean Leaf Cluster.

Large pictures printed in eight colours, illustrating the International S. S. Lessons. Title and Golden Text in large letters. Price, \$1.25 per quarter; \$5.00 a year, postpaid.

Golden Text Booklets.

Sunday-school Lessons and Daily Bible Readings, with Golden Texts and Bible Facts. Price, postpaid, each, 3c.; per doz., 35c.

The Picture Lesson Roll.

Large colored pictures, 24 x 34 inches, printed in four colors, illustrating the International S. S. Lessons. Title and Golden Text in large letters. Price, \$1.00 per quarter; \$3.50 per year, postpaid.

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

Methodist Book and Publishing House,

Toronto.

G. W. COATES, MONTREAL.

S. P. HUNTER, HALLOW.