



JOSEPH SOLD INTO EGYPT.—[GEN. 37, 25-38.]

When Christians Vote as They Pray.

TUNE—"Sweet By-and-Bye."

THERE'S a time that's coming at last—
Oh! hasten the long looked for day,
When the rum fiend no shackles can cast
For all Christians will vote as they pray.

CHORUS.

In the sweet by-and-bye,
We shall welcome that beautiful day,
In the sweet by-and-bye,
When all Christians shall vote as they
pray.

When the fire shall go out at the still,
And the worm shall be taken away,
And its ruins give place to the mill,
Making bread that doth hunger allay.

And the prison shall close every door,
And the poor-house tenanted stand;
When the dram-shops shall darken no more
The dear homes of our beautiful land.

When the Church and the State shall arise,
In the strength of their virtue and might,
And improve every moment that flies,
In their daring to vote for the right.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

OLD TESTAMENT TEACHING.

B.C. 1729.] LESSON III. [April 15.]

JOSEPH SOLD INTO EGYPT.

Gen. 37. 23-36. Memory verses, 26-28.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good.—Gen. 50. 20.

OUTLINE.

1. The Missing Son, v. 23-30.
2. The Mourning Father, v. 31-36.

PLACES.—Dothan; Egypt; Hebron.

RULERS.

The Pharaohs in Egypt, probably of "the Shepherd-King dynasty."

CONNECTING LINKS.

1. Jacob sends Joseph to inquire concerning his brothers. 2. He finds them at Dothan, and they conspire to kill him, but Reuben saves his life.

EXPLANATIONS.

"His coat of many colours"—The token of his father's favoritism. "The pit was empty"—This was a cistern or well dug to catch and preserve the rain water, and, at this season was dry. "A company of Ishmaelites"—A travelling company, or caravan, on the way to Egypt. One of the indications of the early development of commercial pursuits. These men were distantly related to Jacob's sons. "Spicery, and balm and myrrh"—Gums from trees in the mountains of Gilead, highly prized by the Egyptians for their uses in the arts. "Twenty pieces of silver"—Probably not coin; but bars, or cut pieces of silver. There were

ten brothers, and two bars for each. "Reuben returned unto the pit"—This shows that considerable time had elapsed since the beginning of this story, and Reuben, being away with the flocks, did not know of the caravan and the sale. But he seems to have joined the rest in lying to his father, and probably took his two bars of silver. "Rent his clothes"—Tore down toward the lower hem of his skirt. A common sign of grief. "Sackcloth"—The customary sign of mourning. "All his daughters"—Dinah is the only daughter whose birth is mentioned; but there were probably others, and the wives of the sons may have been included.

HOME READINGS.

- M. Joseph sold into Egypt.—Gen. 37. 23-36.
Tu. The conspiracy.—Gen. 37. 13-22.
W. The Lord with Joseph.—Gen. 39. 1-6.
Th. Sent before.—Psalm 105. 16-22.
F. Trust and rest.—Psalm 37. 1-13.
S. Not forgotten.—Matt. 10. 21-31.
Su. Suffering wrongfully.—1 Peter 3. 8-17.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where in this lesson are we shown—

1. The fruits of hatred?
2. The fruits of lying?
3. That sin is progressive?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What was the result of Jacob's special love for his son Joseph? "The envy of his brethren." 2. What great wrong did his brethren do to Joseph? "They sold him as a slave." 3. Where was Joseph taken? "Into Egypt." 4. How did his brothers deceive their father? "By dipping Joseph's coat in blood." 5. What did Jacob suppose when he saw the garment? "That Joseph was torn in pieces." 6. What is the Golden Text? "Ye thought evil," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Human depravity.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What does the Gospel promise?

The Gospel is the promise of God to pardon, sanctify, and save from eternal destruction all who, according to his commands, repent and believe on his Son.

Who were the first preachers of the Gospel?

The apostles of our Lord, whom he called to be witnesses to both Jews and Gentiles of his resurrection.

ROCK OF AGES.

ONE of our missionaries in the south land related, a few years ago, a bit of her experience among some of the dwellers of the neglected portions of the mountain region. Towards the close of a beautiful day she and her husband came in their carry-all to a large clearing among the pines. A man clad in faded blue cotton jeans and a straw hat, and in his bare feet, stood in the field leaning on his hoe. They reined up their horses and entered into conversation with him. "Did he go to church?" "No." "Could he read?" "No." He said that some years ago he had heard a man preach, but hadn't heard a sermon since. "Would he like to have them read of Jesus to him?" They read some pas-

sages from the life of Christ to which he attentively listened. He then said he had heard sung a "new song" which had sounded "awful good." "What was the new song?" He couldn't remember. Mrs. M. then sang, "Shall we gather at the river?" "The ninety and nine," and several other popular favorites, but none of them was the "new song." Finally, before bidding him good-bye, she began, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me." Suddenly he cried out, "Lady, that's the new song!" She sung it all through for him, the tears gathering in his eyes as the simple hymn touched his heart. As they drove away they heard him repeating, "Yes, that's the new song, 'Rock of Ages, cleft for me.'" The sunset hour, the shadow of the tall pines, the sweet-voiced woman singing of Jesus to the hungry-hearted mountaineer the "new song," affords a rare picture, such as Raphael or Titian have never painted.—*Christian Standard.*

BOTTLED KINDNESS.

BY KATE W. HAMILTON.

"CAPTAIN NED," the children called him, for his father, a sea captain, had taken the motherless lad with him on so many of his voyages that Ned was quite a sailor. His appearance on the lawn was sufficient to stop any ordinary game of tennis or croquet while the children gathered around him to hear of the strange lands he had visited, and the adventures he had met.

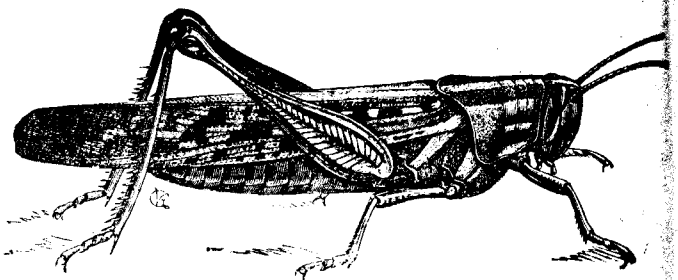
"Storms?" he said, in answer to Mabel's question. "Oh yes, but I don't know that I was ever in any great danger of shipwreck, though I'll always remember one time when I thought I was. I didn't know so much about the sea as I've learned since, and I thought we'd surely go down—the sky was so dark, the wind went whistling by us and the waves were fearfully high. It was queer, but the thing that troubled me most was something cross I'd said to Dick a little while before I left home—Aunt Mary's, you know. I'd meant to give him my football, too, but after our spat I didn't do it. Well, it seemed as if I couldn't bear to think of Dick never knowing I didn't mean what I said, and never having what I intended to give him. I liked all the cousins, but Dick was my special chum, and I knew how he'd feel when he heard our vessel had gone down. I couldn't bear to not say good-bye to Dick and fix things straight. Then I remembered about messages from ships sometimes being found in bottles that are washed ashore, and I thought I'd try it. I didn't write but a few lines—everything was pitching so—but I told Dick what I wanted to, and marked his address on the paper very plainly. Then I sealed the bottle and threw it overboard. We were about a thousand miles out from New York, then."

"Well?" said Mabel, questioningly.

Ned laughed.

"I don't need to tell you that the *Laurel* wasn't wrecked, do I? The storm was over in a few hours, we had a safe voyage, and had been home several weeks when, one day Dick received a letter inclosing my message. Someone had found it and forwarded it as requested. The cousins keep it as a curiosity, but Aunt Mary has twisted it into a proverb, and whenever there is any good thing that ought to be done—a letter written, or visit paid, or some kindness shown—she always says: "Do it right away; don't wait till you have to bottle it."

A LITTLE Massachusetts boy, who deserves election to the Law and Order League, recently printed a sign and fastened it on one of the posts of the front piazza. The sign read: "No smokeness, nor drunkenness, nor swear-words, nor wickedness 'round this house." "Of course we don't do such things," said little Master Virtue, "but I thought it would be good to have the sign up there for the tin-peddlers and the visitors to read."



THE LOCUST.

THE LOCUST.

THERE are two insects which we read of in Scripture as being used as instruments of divine punishment, the hornet and the locust. The above picture is a representation of the latter, a species which chiefly makes its home in the East. The Arabs who are well acquainted with the terrible ravages made by these insects, claim that the spots and markings on its wings are a statement in good Arabic, that the insects are avenging armies of the Deity. However, this may be, we know that they appear in such numbers as to block a river and impede the progress of travellers. The male produces a shrill noise by rubbing the hind legs over the projecting veins of the wing, on the same principle as a bow drawn over the strings of a violin.

THE CHRIST-CHILD.

Has he come to you, and to you, and to you, dear little ones? If he has, how glad you must be! For the Holy Child could not enter your heart without making it light and clean and sweet, could he? If he has not come, why is it? Be sure he wants to come and live in your little heart! Open the door this very hour, and let him in. Remember it is your enemy, Satan, that wants you to keep him out, and do not listen to him any longer. Will you not say to him now:

"Jesus, thou art great and high,
Just a little child am I;
But I come at thy dear call,
Give to thee my little all."

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