



THE DRAUGHT OF FISHES.

What are They Saying?

BY MARGARET J. PRESTON.

I HEAR the voice of children
Calling from over the seas;
The wail of their pleading accents
Comes borne upon every breeze.

And what are the children saying,
Away in those heathen lands,
As they plaintively lift their voices
And eagerly stretch their hands?

"O Buddha is cold and distant;
He does not regard our tears.
We pray, but he never answers;
We call, but he never hears."

"O vain is the Moslem prophet,
And bitter his creed of 'Fate,'
It lightens no ill to tell us
That Allah is only great."

"We have heard of a God whose mercy
Is tenderer far than these;
We are told of a kinder Saviour
By sahibs from over the seas."

"They tell us that when you offer
Your worship, he always hears:
Our Brahma is deaf to pleadings,
Our Buddha is blind to tears!"

"We grope in the midst of darkness,
With none who can guide aright;
O share with us, Christian children,
A spark of your living light!"

This, this is the plaintive burden
Borne hitherward on the breeze;
These, these are the words they are saying,
Those children beyond the seas!

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OUR LORD.

A.D. 27.] LESSON II. [Oct. 14.

THE DRAUGHT OF FISHES.

Luke 5. 1-11. Memory verses, 4-6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.—Mark 1. 17.

OUTLINE.

1. Teaching by Word, v. 1-3.
2. Teaching by Work, v. 4-11.

TIME.—A.D. 27.

PLACE.—The lake of Gennesaret.

RULERS.—Herod in Galilee; Pilate in Judea.

EXPLANATIONS.

1. "The people pressed upon him"—He stood with his back to the lake, and the constantly increasing crowd pressed him to the water's edge.

2. "The lake of Gennesaret"—Also called the Sea of Galilee and the Lake of Tiberias—a beautiful sheet of water in the northern part of Palestine. On its waves and around its margin, many of the most wonderful works and words of Jesus were wrought

and spoken. "Two ships"—What we would call boats. "Washing their nets"—Cleaning them of tangled seaweeds.

3. "Prayed him"—Asked him. "Thrust out a little"—Pushed out a short distance, so as to be rid of the crowd of people.

4. "Left speaking"—When his sermon was closed. "Launch out"—Row or sail. "Into the deep"—Far from shore. "A draught"—A catch.

5. "Toiled all the night"—Peter had been discouraged; but whatever Jesus suggested he was ready to do.

8. "Depart from me"—Peter does not mean, "I do not desire your company;" he rather means, "I dread to be near One so holy and so powerful."

10. "Thou shalt catch men"—He was no longer to be a mere fisherman. A great future was dawning.

11. "Forsook all"—Left their business and their families, and, without counting the cost, became Christ's followers.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The draught of fishes.—Luke 5. 1-11.
 Tu. Fishers of men.—Matt. 4. 18-25.
 W. Another draught of fishes.—John 21. 1-11.
 Th. A full net.—Acts 2. 41-47.
 F. "Follow Me."—Matt. 9. 9-13.
 S. Denying self.—Luke 9. 23-27.
 Su. Hesitating to follow.—Matt. 19. 16-22.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where in this lesson can we find—

1. A lesson of faith?
2. A lesson of obedience?
3. A lesson of humility?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did Jesus now do? Out of Peter's boat he preached to the people on the shore.
 2. What did he afterward tell Peter to do? To sail out and begin to fish.
 3. What did Peter tell him they had done? Toiled all night and taken nothing.
 4. What did they gather? An astonishing number of fishes.
 5. What was the effect on Peter? Jesus's power made him feel his own weakness and sin.
 6. What is the Golden Text? "Come ye after me," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The consciousness of sin.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What is declared of his helping us in prayer?

And in like manner the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity; for we know not how to pray as we ought; but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.—Romans 8. 26.

A JUBILEE.

THE Oakland church, Chicago, held its "silver anniversary" recently. Bishop Fowler preached the morning sermon, and the large audience were fed with the sincere milk of the Word. We do not know of a habitual finer congregation in any Methodist church in the Northwest. All seats were full, and rows of people stood in the aisles along the walls. Pastor P. H. Swift is leader of this enthusiastic host, and more need not be said. These celebrations are worth their weight in gold.

even for their value in grateful emphasis. A week is given to the jubilee, and in that time the people are assisted to see that the foundation and growth of a church during a quarter-century means far more for the world than many railways or telegraphic lines around the globe. The eight days of rejoicing, and even the youngest child to see that there is one in a mighty host whose God is the Lord. Nearly three hundred people have been assisted toward the kingdom during those twenty-five years. At first, of course, the church was feeble, but it now is quite the reverse of that.

AN ITALIAN "REPUBLIC."

DEBT to the verge of bankruptcy, military and naval burdens under the Triplo alliance, challenges of the right of Humbert to be king, and papal conspiracy cause much talk about Italian prospects of having a republic. The Pope's war with the King, "Italian unity" at the expense of the Church, and the cry that the "Pope is a prisoner in the Vatican," are elements in the new political watchword in that land. An alleged republic means increased individual suffrage. The Church can manage the returns of elections. That new order might change the aspect of France toward Italy, since the Victor Emmanuel royal line was and is a disappointment to French republicans. Just what Germany and Austria will say about the republican suggestion it is hard to foretell. The word "republic" may mean almost any sort of a political thing. We think that the new rallying cry is simply another attack upon King Humbert and the Italian unity which the Church does not relish.

HOW SEA BIRDS QUENCH THEIR THIRST.

THE question is often asked, "Where do sea birds obtain fresh water to slake their thirst?" But we have never seen it satisfactorily answered until a few days ago. An old skipper with whom we were conversing on the subject said that he had seen these birds at sea, far from any land that could furnish them water, hovering around and under a storm-cloud, clattering like ducks on a hot day at a pond, and drinking in the drops of rain as they fell. They will smell a rain squall a hundred miles or even further off, and scud for it with almost inconceivable swiftness.

How long sea birds can exist without water as only a matter of conjecture, but probably their powers of enduring thirst are increased by habit, and possibly they go without water for many days, if not for several weeks.—*Golden Days*.

KEY-HOLE ADVICE.

THERE was once a young shoemaker who became so much interested in politics that his shop was filled with loungers, talking and discussing, and disputing about one thing and another, from morning till night; and he found it often necessary to work till midnight to make up for the hours lost in talking during the day. One night, after the shutters were closed and he was busy on his bench, a boy put his mouth to the key-hole, and mischievously piped out: "Shoemaker, shoemaker, work by night and run about by day."

"Had a pistol been fired off at my ear," he said, "I could not have been more startled. I dropped my work, saying to myself, 'true, true; but you shall never have that to say of me again.' I never forgot it. To me it was the voice of God, and it has been a word in season throughout my life. I learned from it not to leave till to-morrow the work of to-day, or to be idle when I ought to be working. From that time I turned over a new leaf."

He did indeed, worked in working hours, left off idle talk and the society of idle people, and became in the end a "physician of eminence."

DREAMING AND DOING.

"I WISH I could draw as well as Harry does," said Tom Lee. And he stood and watched his brother Harry as he rapidly and skilfully drew a picture of a horse.

Now, the fact of the matter was, that one brother had quite as much ability to draw as the other, only Harry diligently applied himself to his drawing every day, while Tom would simply look on, wishing the while that he could do as good work as his brother did. And if Tom did put in a few strokes himself, he would sit and look at them, and then begin to dream of the grand things that would come to him when he was a great painter.

There is a vast difference between dreaming and doing. The boy who allows the former to suffice him will never have his dreams realized. It is only by doing—by keeping at the work in hand steadily and persistently—that we can hope to attain the desired end.

A PRAYING MACHINE.

IF some of you little folks were to go to Japan and see a very tall post with a very small wheel, and a number of strange-looking letters and figures on the sides, you would begin to wonder what it was for. I think you would be puzzled, for it does not look like a windmill, the wheel is too small and low; and it cannot be used for a water-wheel in grinding corn and wheat. What can it be?

Well, it is the strangest kind of a machine you ever heard of; it is intended to grind out prayers, and all a man has to do is to go there and set the little wheel in motion, and every time it revolves it turns out a prayer, which, he believes, is recorded to his credit in heaven. In some places they have machinery to turn the wheel, so that by setting it in motion once they can say a great many prayers without any labour or trouble.

"What lazy people!" you will exclaim; but is not altogether because they want to save time and trouble that they pray in this way; it is ignorance on their part. Some of them have prayer chains in their houses, with beads for a thousand prayers on them; and they will sit for hours saying them over and over, thinking they are doing the right thing and will be helped by it.

If everyone in Japan knew of Jesus, what a kind friend he is, and how they might go right to him with all their wants and receive the help they need, they would not use the praying machine, for it would seem foolish and wicked to them. Let us do what we can to help these people learn of Jesus.

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