

My Birds

BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES

Time on my north window, in the wintry weather,  
My airy oriel on the river shore  
I watch the sea-birds as they flock together  
Where late the boatman dashed his dripping oar

I see the solemn gulls in council sitting  
On some broad ree-floe, pondering long and late,  
While overhead the home-bound ducks are flitting,  
And leave the tardy conclave in debate.

How weighty questions in their breasts revolving  
Whose deeper meaning science never learns,  
Till at some distant clime's look resolving,  
The speechless senate silently adjourns.

He knows you "sportsmen" from suburban alleys  
Streeted under seaweed in the treacherous punt,  
Knows every lazy, shiftless lout that fishes  
Forto to waste prader as he says, to "hunt."

I watch you with a patient satisfaction,  
Well-pleased to discount your pedestrian bluck;  
The float that figures in your sly trout-trout  
Will carry back a goose, but not a duck.

Surewul is our bird, not easy to outwit,  
Sharp in the outlook of those pin-head eyes,  
Still, he is mortal, and a shot may not be  
One cannot always miss him if he tries.

O Thou who carest for the falling star-ow  
Canst thou the sunless sufferer's pang forget  
Or in thy bread account book's page so many  
Its one long column score thy creature's debt?

Poor, gentle guest, by nature kindly cherished,  
A world grows dark with thee in blinding death;  
One little gasp—thy universe has perished,  
Wrecked by the idle thief who stole thy breath!

what is the work of God, who gives true bread, who is the bread of life, what comes from eating this bread?

4. Recall whom men said Jesus was; what a disciple said; a promise about the Church; a story of suffering; two rebukes.

5. Recall four men on a mountain (who? why?); two strange victors (who? why?); three drowsy disciples; an eager request; a cloud and a voice (what?); and who then was seen?

6. Recall a question about greatness; a child in the midst; cutting off hands and feet; angels in heaven; a wandering sheep.

7. Recall a lawyer's question; what says the law? a man in trouble; two men neglecting; one man helping; a question and its application.

8. Recall a blind man by the wayside; a question and answer; a strange ointment; a pool and sight; perplexed neighbours; a frank confession.

9. Recall a sorrowful woman; a weeping

that vast empire in the hope that God will raise up native missionaries to carry on the good work, and this hope has not been disappointed. There have been several native missionaries who have proved very eloquent and successful in preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their countrymen. The picture below shows one of these standing in a doorway, and proclaiming to a group in the street the unsearchable riches of Christ. They seem to be very intelligent and docile hearers, and doubtless the seed thus sown in many places is followed with very blessed results.

THE "WHALEBACK" STEAMBOAT.

PROBABLY not since the invention of the steamboat has so important an advance been made in ship-building as has been

drical shafts—the latter serving as ventilators for the engine and boiler rooms—support the cabin superstructure.

On June 11, 1891, this unique steamship left Duluth and sailed to Montreal, where she took on a cargo of 90,000 bushels of wheat. She arrived at Liverpool on the 21st of July. Although successful in descending to Montreal by way of the rapids, it is impossible for the *Wetmore* to return, as the canals are much too small.

In her ocean voyage, though heavy seas were encountered, so steadily did the vessel ride that the footprints of the grain heavers and the marks of the shovels were distinctly visible in her cargo on arrival in England.

After returning to New York, she set out for Puget Sound, by way of the Straits of Magellan.

The Master of the House.

He cannot walk, he cannot speak,  
Nothing he knows of books or men;  
He is the weakest of the weak,  
And has not strength to hold a pen.

He has no pocket and no purse,  
Nor ever yet has owned a penny,  
But has more riches than his nurse,  
Because he wants not any.

He rules his parents by a cry,  
And holds them captive by a smile;  
A leoprot strong through infancy,  
A king from lack of guile.

He lies upon his back and crows,  
Or looks with grave eyes on his mother.  
What can he mean? but, I suppose,  
They understand each other.

In doors and out, early and late—  
There is no limit to his sway;  
For, wrapt in baby-ropes of state,  
He governs night and day.

Kisses he takes as rightful due,  
And Turk-like has his slaves to dress him;  
His subjects bend before him, too;  
I'm one of them. God bless him.



CHRISTIAN CHINAMAN PREACHING.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTERLY REVIEW.  
MARCH 31.  
GOLDEN TEXT.

Take my yoke upon you and learn of me.—Matt. 11. 29.

OUTLINE.

- M. Five thousand fed.—Mark 6. 30-34.
- Tu. Christ, the bread of life.—John 6. 25-35.
- W. The great confession.—Matt. 16. 13-23.
- Th. Christ and the children.—Matt. 18. 1-14.
- F. The Good Samaritan.—Luke 10. 25-37.
- S. The man born blind.—John 9. 1-11.
- Sa. Raising of Lazarus.—John 11. 30-45.

I. THE LESSON FRAMEWORK.

[A body or a building requires a frame to insure symmetry and stability. Our lessons must have bone and sinew if they are to be better than a jellyfish or a balloon. Commit these Titles and Texts thoroughly; they are the framework of the temple which we seek to build.]

TITLES.	GOLDEN TEXTS.
1. J. B. B.	Fear not them which kill—
2. F. F. T.	He hath filled the hungry—
3. C. B. L.	He gave them bread—
4. T. G. C.	Thou art the Christ—
5. T. T.	This is my beloved Son—
6. C. and C.	It is not the will—
7. T. I. S.	Thou shalt love thy—
8. C. M. B. B.	I am the light—
9. T. R. L.	I am the Resurrection—
10. T. R. Y. R.	Seek ye first the kingdom—
11. Z. the P.	The Son of man is come—
12. P. of L.	Abstain from all—

II. FINISHING AND FURNISHING.

[Both body and building need more than framework. Skeletons are not welcome at feasts unless properly clothed. Clothe these lessons with the flesh of fact, that they may abide with you as welcome guests.]

1. Recall a man in prison (who? where? why?); a feast (occasion?); a dance (by whom?); a promise (what?); a ghostly gift (what? to whom? why?)

2. Recall a tired company seeking rest; an eager multitude; a gracious teacher; a hungry people; an unexpected feast; an abundance left over.

3. Recall a command to labour (for what?);

friend; a tomb opened; thanksgiving; a command; the dead raised; who believed on him?

10. Recall an eager ruler; an earnest question; six commandments obeyed; a new command neglected; "how hard to enter;" a camel and a needle; "Who then can be saved?"

11. Recall a seeker hindered; hindrance overcome; a call; a response; a complaint; a penitent's promise; a blessed assurance.

12. Recall how we should be in debt; the sum of all the commandments; a definition of love; what we should put off and put on; how we should walk; for what we should not provide.

CHRISTIAN CHINAMAN PREACHING.

THE great work of evangelizing China must be carried on largely by the Chinese themselves. All the churches in Christendom can scarcely hope to do more than furnish sufficient missionaries to plant the germs of the Gospel in different parts of

affected by the "whaleback" boat—the alleged invention of Alexander McDougall, of Duluth, Minn. This style of vessel, it is thought, will excel the old style freight carrying vessel in every respect. The cost of construction and operation is incomparably less. A vessel of 3,000 tons has a draught of only seventeen feet, can be managed by a crew of twenty-two men, and can be propelled with twelve tons of coal a day—about one twenty-fifth of the amount consumed on the *Tedonic*.

The first "whaleback" that has successfully crossed the Atlantic; and, indeed, the first vessel of any description built upon the great lakes that has undertaken to reach the waters of the Pacific, is the *Wetmore*, built at West Superior, opposite Duluth.

The *Wetmore* is shaped like a cigar, having both ends cut off at an equal diameter, and being flattened sufficiently on the top to form a sort of deck. Above this deck, a turret forward and a cabin aft are all that appear. Three steel turrets, together with sixteen hollow cylin-

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