

EASTER LETTERS.

LILIES pure and white,
Born fresh for Easter morning,
Tell me whence ye came:
Who gave you such adorning?
Did the golden sun,
With his magic fingers,
Paint the creamy glow
That o'er your chalice lingers?

In the ground below
When winter's bands were tightest,
Did you dream of flowers
The sweetest and whitest?
Answer, lilies white;
No longer silent be!
Tell my soul its hope
Of immortality.

Long I listened for an answer
From the lily white,
Slowly swaying to and fro
In the fading light.
Faint its perfume, o'er me stealing,
Soothed me into sleep,
While the shadows o'er me settled
Into darkness deep.

I was buried without lying,
And beneath the grass,
Cold and still I now was lying,
Waiting time to pass.
"Death and silence! No; 'twas life—
Life in everything:
Even worms in wonder talked
Of a gauzy wing.

BE KIND TO-DAY.

A LITTLE child may brighten scores of lives every day. There is not one of us who may not gladden and strengthen many a heart between every rising and setting sun. Why should we not live to bless the living, to cheer the disheartened, to sweeten cups that are bitter, to hold up the hands that hang down, to comfort those who mourn, to bear joy into joyless homes? Kind words will not spoil a man. If a sermon helps you, it will do the preacher no harm to tell him so. If the editor writes an article that does you good, he may write a still better one if you send him a word of thanks. If a book blesses you, do you not owe it to the author to write a grateful acknowledgment? If you know a weary neglected one, would it not be Christ-like work to seek an opportunity to brighten and bless that life? Do not wait till the eyes are closed, the ears deaf, and the heart still. Do it now. *Post-mortem* kindness does not cheer. Flowers on the coffin cast no fragrance backward over the weary days.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1706.] LESSON III. [April 17.

JOSEPH MAKES HIMSELF KNOWN.

Gen. 45. 1-15. Commit to memory vs. 13-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Overcome evil with good. Rom. 12, 21.

OUTLINE.

1. A Brother.
2. The Son.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who came from Canaan to buy corn of Joseph? His brothers.

What did Joseph do? He made himself known to them.

Why did he make himself known? Because he loved them.

Why did he say to them? "I am Joseph, whom ye sold into Egypt."

How did they feel when they heard it? They were afraid.

Why were they afraid? Because of their sin.

Of what did Joseph immediately assure them? Of his love and forgiveness.

What did he tell them? "God did send me before you to save your lives."

What did he command them? "Haste, and bring down my father hither."

What message must they bring him? "Joseph is alive, and Lord of all Egypt."

What was Joseph anxious to do for his father? Care for him and all his family during the years of the famine.

What finally convinced the brothers of Joseph's love? His tears and caresses.

Why did Joseph love his brothers after they were cruel to him? Because he loved God.

What command of the New Testament did Joseph keep? (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Joseph "paid back" his enemies with love and costly presents.

Jesus "paid back" his enemies with love and the gift of eternal life.

How do you "pay back" when any one injures you?

"Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION. — Human responsibility.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What has God made? God made everything in heaven and earth; and, last of all, he made man.

B.C. 1706.] LESSON IV. [April 24.

JOSEPH AND HIS FATHER.

Gen. 47. 1-12.

Commit to memory vs. 10-12.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise. Eph. 6. 2.

OUTLINE.

1. The King.
2. The Father.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What did Joseph tell Pharaoh? That his father had come to Egypt with all his family.

Whom did he present before the king? Five of his brothers.

How did Pharaoh receive them? With great favour and kindness.

Why did he so receive them? Because they were Joseph's friends.

What did he give them? The best of the land to dwell in.

What did he tell Joseph to make them? Rulers over his cattle.

What honour did Joseph show his father? He brought him to see Pharaoh. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

What did Jacob do? He gave the king his blessing.

What was the king's first word to Jacob? "How old art thou?"

What did Jacob answer? "The years of my pilgrimage are a hundred and thirty."

How did he describe his life? As full of trouble and sorrow.

To what did Jacob compare it? To a journey.

What kind of a journey should it be for all of us? A journey from earth to heaven.

Where did Jacob make a home for his father? In the land of Goshen.

What more did Joseph do? He cared for them all during the years of the famine.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Will children who love God neglect and dishonour their parents?

Will they be disobedient and impolite at school?

Will they be cross and impatient at home?

"I will love thee, O Lord, my strength."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION. — The better land.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

How did God make man? God made the body of man out of the dust of the earth.