

The Quest.

BY FUDORA S. BURNSFAD.

THREE once was a restless boy
Who dwelt in a home by the sea,
Where the water danced for joy
And the wind was glad and free;
But he said, "Good mother, Oh! let me go;
For the dullest place in the world, I know,
Is this little brown house,
This old brown house,
Under the apple tree.

"I will travel east and west;
The loveliest homes I'll see;
And when I have found the best,
Dear mother, I'll come for thee,
I'll come for thee in a year and a day,
And joyfully then we'll haste away
From this little brown house,
This old brown house,
Under the apple tree."

So he travelled here and there,
But never content was he,
Though he saw in lands most fair
The costliest homes there be.
He something missed from sea or sky,
Till he turned again, with a wistful sigh,
To the little brown house,
The old brown house,
Under the apple-tree.

Then the mother saw and smiled,
While her heart grew glad and free.
"Hast thou chosen a home, my child?
Ah, where shall we dwell?" quoth she.
And he said, "Sweet mother, from east to west,
The loveliest home, and the dearest and best,
Is a little brown house,
An old brown house,
Under an apple-tree."

LESSON NOTES.
FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN LUKE.

B.C. 4] **LESSON V.** [February 2

JESUS BROUGHT INTO THE TEMPLE.

Luke 2. 25-35. Memory verses, 29-32.

GOLDEN TEXT.

A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. Luke 2. 32.

TIME.—B.C. 4.

PLACE.—Courts of the temple.

RULERS.—Same as before.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The beautiful scene which is described in to-day's lesson, follows in the sacred record immediately after the narrative of the appearing of the angels to the shepherds. Eight days after a Jewish boy was born, he was formally introduced into the Jewish Church, and it was the custom for his mother on this occasion to offer a sacrifice in the temple. A poor woman was allowed to sacrifice a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons. Richer ladies made larger and costlier sacrifices. Mary's offering is one of the evidences of the poverty of the parents of our Lord.

EXPLANATIONS.—*The Consolation of Israel*—Pious Jews often referred to the great Prince whom their prophets had led them to expect as the Consolation of Israel. So common was the phrase that it passed into an oath, so that the Jews who were not so pious swore by it—Let me see, or let me never see, the Consolation, if so and so be not true. *The Lord's Christ*—That is, the Lord's chosen one. We cannot too often remember that Christ is not a proper name, like Smith or Jones; but the phrase Jesus Christ is Jesus the Messiah, Jesus the chosen One, just as we might say, Garfield the president. *Came by the Spirit*—He was divinely led. *The custom of the law*—That custom was to present the babe to the Lord, and then redeem him, or buy him back, from the Lord by paying five shekels, as well as to offer the sacrifice already mentioned. *Marvelled*—No wonder these two good people were astonished at the surprising events which followed each other in rapid succession. *Fall and rising again*—Jesus was to be the Saviour of Israel, but he must overthrow all their previous conceptions of salvation. *A sword shall pierce*—Shall strike.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *Simeon*, vs. 25-27.

In what city did Simeon live?
What is said of his character?
For what was he waiting?
What revelation was made to him?
By whom was this revelation made?
To what place was he guided, and by whom?
What promise of sure guidance have we?
Prov. 3. 6.

2. *The Child Jesus*, vs. 27-32.

Who was brought into the temple?
For what purpose was Jesus brought?
What offering did the law require?
ver. 24.
What did Simeon do with the child?
What did he say he was now willing to do?
What had he been permitted to see?
To whom could the Saviour prove a blessing? (Golden Text.)

3. *Mary, the Mother*, vs. 33-36.

How did the words of Simeon affect Mary?
What did Simeon say to her about the child?
What about sorrow to herself?
When did this great sorrow come to Mary? See John 19. 25.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who was Simeon? "A just and devout man, waiting for Christ's coming." 2. Under what influence did he speak? "The Holy Ghost was upon him." 3. What reason did Simeon give for his readiness to depart? "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation." 4. How did Simeon describe Jesus? "A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." 5. What did Simeon prophesy to Mary? "That a sword should pierce her soul."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The universality of redemption.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

8. How did the angels bear witness to him?

By singing praises to God at his birth, and by sending the shepherds to find the child Jesus in a manger at Bethlehem.

9. What witness did the wise men of the East bear?

Being led by a star to the house where the infant lay, they came and worshipped him.

A.D. 8] **LESSON VI.** [Feb. 9

CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH OF JESUS.

Luke 2. 40-52. Memory verses, 49-52.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man. Luke 2. 52.

TIME.—A. D. 8.

PLACE.—In and near Jerusalem.

RULERS.—Emperor Augustus at Rome; Herod Antipas in Galilee.

CONNECTING LINKS.—After the circumcision of Jesus and his presentation in the temple, Joseph and Mary returned with him to Nazareth. Our lesson tells how he grew for twelve years, and what then occurred.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Grew*—His body grew in vigorous health. *Waxed strong*—His will and decision of character were noticeable, and his intelligence and vigorous wisdom were marked by the neighbours. *Grace of God*—Personal excellence. The sweet grace of the spirit of God made him lovable. *Every year*—Every male Israelite was bound to go to the temple once a year, and many pious people believed women should go also. *Twelve years old*—At this age Jewish children took a new step in their religious training; something like the confirmation of the Roman Catholic Church was administered to them. *Trained behind*—It seems that the children generally travelled to gether in the caravans of Galilean pilgrims, and it is not strange that Joseph and Mary lost sight of Jesus for three or four hours. *In the midst of the doctors*—In the temple, among the wise men. *Thy father*—This was the only possible manner in which Mary could speak to her son of Joseph. Notice what a singular contrast occurs in the next phrase, when he tells her he must be about his Father's business. *Subject unto them*—The only perfect child that the world has ever seen was a model of submission to his parents. *Kept all these sayings in her heart*—No other woman ever had such wonders to brood over. *Increased in wisdom*—His beautiful development up to twelve went peacefully on, after the incidents given in this lesson, to manhood. His youth con-

tinued in a natural, normal increase of everything that is beautiful in body, mind, and soul.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *To the Temple*, vs. 10-12.

What is said of the growth of the child Jesus?
Whose favour rested on him?
To what city did his parents journey?
For what purpose did they go?
What did the pass-over recall? Exod. 12. 11-14.
Who were required to attend it? Exod. 23. 14, 15.
At what age did Jesus first go up to this feast?

2. *In the Temple*, vs. 43-50.

When did Joseph and Mary start homeward?
Who of their company was missing?
Where did they suppose Jesus to be?
How far did they go before seeking for him?
Where then did they go in search for him?
How long was it until they found him?
Where did they find him, and how engaged?
What did the doctors think of him?
What did his parents think when they saw him?
What did Mary say to him?
What answer did he make?
How well did they understand him?

3. *In the Home*, vs. 51, 52.

Where did Jesus go with his parents?
What shows that he was an obedient child?
What treasure did Mary keep, and where?
What is said of Jesus's growth? (Golden Text.)

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. How did Jesus grow in boyhood? "Strong in spirit, wisdom, and grace." 2. When he was twelve years old, where did his parents take him? "To the passover feast in Jerusalem." 3. After they had lost him, where did they find him? "In the temple, in the midst of the doctors, studying the Scriptures." 4. What did Mary say? "Thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing." 5. How did Jesus reply? "Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" 6. How did Jesus grow in young manhood? "He increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Growth in grace.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

10. What honour did Simeon do him in the temple?

Simeon was assured that he should see the Saviour before he died; and paid honour to Jesus by taking him in his arms, and acknowledging him to be the Christ.

The Mountain of Lebanon.

THE grand feature of the geography of Syria is the two parallel chains of Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon. The word Lebanon signifies "white mountain." The name is supposed to be derived from the whitish appearance of the mountain, caused by the reflection of the light from its rocky surface. In summer snow is found only in the ravines. The views of the mountain from below and above are exceedingly different. From below the vegetation of the terraces is not seen, so that the whole mountain-side appears as if composed only of immense rugged masses of naked, whitish rock, severed by deep, wide ravines. From above, the tops of the terraces are seen, all green with corn or straggling vines, or the dark foliage of the mulberry. The steeper banks and ridges have their forests of pine and oak, while far away down in the bottom of the glens, and round the villages and castellated convents, are large groves of olives. The glory of Lebanon in ancient days was its magnificent forests of cedar. These, though immensely diminished, have not yet disappeared.

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