

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL BY MATTHEW.

LESSON VI.—FEBRUARY 6.

OUR FATHER'S CARE.

Matt. 6 24-31. Memory verses, 25, 26.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He careth for you.—1 Peter 5. 7.

OUTLINE.

- 1. Our Care, v. 24-29.
- 2. God's Care, v. 30-34

Time and Place.—This lesson is a further selection from the Sermon on the Mount, which was delivered probably in the early summer of A.D. 28, on the "Horns of Hattin."

HOME READINGS.

- M. Our Father's care.—Matt. 6. 24-34.
- Tu. Confidence in God.—Psalm 23.
- W. Testimony of experience.—Psalm 34. 1-11.
- Th. The Lord delivereth.—Psalm 34. 12-22.
- F. A sure refuge.—Psalm 91. 1-8.
- S. A safe keeper.—Psalm 91. 9-16.
- Su. God's care for sparrows.—Luke 12. 1-7.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Our Care, v. 24-29
 - What sort of service does Jesus say is impossible?
 - What masters are specially irreconcilable?
 - About what are we forbidden to be care-burdened?
 - What comparison does Jesus make between eating and living?
 - What example shows the folly of anxiety about food?
 - Who feeds the birds?
 - Are we much better than they?
 - How much can one increase his stature by care-taking?
 - Why do you think so many people are worried about food and raiment?
 - In what do the "lilies of the field" resemble the "fowls of the air"?
 - What beauty of dress surpasses that of Solomon?
2. God's Care, v. 30-34.
 - Where do the lilies get their beauty?
 - Of what is God's care of flowers a pledge?
 - What sort of questions should we cease at once to ask?
 - Who are chiefly concerned about food and clothing?
 - Why should children of God be free from anxious care-taking?
 - What reason does Peter give to cast our care upon God? Golden Text.
 - What should be the principal object of pursuit in life?
 - In what does this kingdom consist? Rom. 14. 17.
 - What blessing will come with this search?

THROUGH THE EARTH.

A new serial—a fairy-tale of science—begins in the January number of St. Nicholas. It is by Clement Fezandie.



and is called "Through the Earth." It tells of the achievement of a scientist who bored a hole through the earth, and sent through this tunnel a cigar-shaped car containing a boy. This is how the author outlines the scheme in the January number:

"What do I think of it? Why, doctor, the whole scheme is impossible from beginning to end, and I am surprised that a scientist like yourself should entertain it a single moment."

"But, James, you surely cannot understand my plan fully, or you would see that, so far from being impossible, it is most feasible, if I can only secure the necessary capital."

"Either you must be dreaming, doctor, or else I do not altogether understand you. From what you tell me, I gather that your idea is to open a rapid-transit line between Australia and the United States. You propose to bore a hole through the earth, and then drop into it baggage, people and what not, and let them fall to the other side."

"Yes," said Dr. Giles, tranquilly; "that is my plan. What objections do you find to it?"

"What objections? Only one—namely, that it is impossible," said I.

"My young friend," said the doctor, "do you know what the word 'impossible' means? It means simply something that has not yet been done. Everything is impossible until some one does it, and then it becomes, on the contrary, astonishingly easy. If we take any other definition for this word, we must admit that there is only one impossibility."

"And that is?"

"And that is, to know that anything is impossible. But, tell me, James, what is it you find difficult in the scheme?"

"Certainly, if you wish it. In the first place, how will you bore through the earth?"

"Just as I should dig a well," replied the doctor. "But, to expedite matters, I shall be obliged to devise special machinery."

"And how, pray, will you prevent the walls from caving in?"

"Simply enough. As fast as I dig, I shall have a stout metal tube cast, of the size of my well, and let it down to support the walls."

"Well, admitting that you can dig your well down through the solid portion, how will you manage as you approach the centre, where the materials are one mass of liquid fire, eh?"

"How do you know the earth is a mass of liquid fire at the centre?" inquired the doctor.

"How do I know it? Why, all the great authorities concede the fact."

"Indeed! I was not aware of it. On the contrary, I thought that our most

"I HARDLY THINK THAT HE WILL BE ABLE TO CATCH NICK."



profound thinkers all rejected this theory."

"But in mines, the deeper you go, the warmer the temperature becomes."

"True; but the increase varies considerably in different parts of the earth. Moreover, it is also true that the temperature becomes colder as we go higher in the air; but this by no means proves that the cold becomes more intense if we ascend to an infinite height."

"But does not the existence of volcanoes prove that there is a central fire?"

"It proves that there are certain incandescent masses in the interior of the earth, but not that the whole interior is incandescent. In fact, if the earth were liquid at the centre, the incandescent matter, or sea of fire, would have tides just as our oceans of water have. Consequently every active volcano would have each day two high and two low tides, whereas nothing of the sort happens. Indeed, all the manifestations accord more closely with a belief in a solid earth, than one containing a sea of molten matter."

"Well, doctor, granting that you could bore through the centre of the earth, even then your scheme seems impossible. For anything dropped into the hole, would merely fall to the centre of the earth, and stop there."

"Not a bit of it," retorted the doctor. "You forget that the speed of a falling body constantly increases. The first second of its fall it goes sixteen feet, the next second forty-eight feet, and the third second eighty feet, there being an increase of about thirty-two feet per second at the start. You will therefore see that by the time the body reached the centre of the earth, it would be going at such a frightful velocity that it could not stop, but would be carried right on past the centre, and almost up to the surface on the other side. In fact, if there were no air in the tube, the laws of physics teach us that the body dropped into the hole here in Australia, would go completely through to the United States."

"Yes," that's true enough, but when the body reached the United States, it would simply fall back again, and keep on falling backward and forward in the tube until it finally came to a complete rest at the centre of the earth."

"So it would, if we allowed it to fall back, but you must remember that before it can fall back it must come to a complete stop; and what prevents us from having suitable catches in the tube to hold it fast, and prevent its return? If it stopped short of its destination, as it probably would, it could be hauled up the last part of the tube by some electric device."

"Can he eat worms?"

"Yes, that's true enough, but when the body reached the United States, it would simply fall back again, and keep on falling backward and forward in the tube until it finally came to a complete rest at the centre of the earth."

Vanity is eating dirt with a silver spoon and calling it plum pudding.

The Lord's Prayer For Children.

BY GEORGE G. SMITH.

Thy blessed name, oh, Father dear,
Be honoured everywhere,
As angels do thy will above,
So may we do it here.

Feed us to-day, with needful bread,
Our sins, O Lord, forgive,
For we forgive as thou hast bidden,
And while on earth we live,

From all temptation shield us safe,
And while we wake and sleep,
From all the wiles of wicked ones,
Good Lord, thy children keep.

A NEW IDEA.

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