



VENETIAN GIRL.

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This is the picture of Tessa, a little Venetian girl. These little girls of Venice are very pretty with their dark brown eyes and jet black hair and bright dresses. You see, Tessa wears no hat for she is not afraid of getting sunburned although the sun is very strong where she lives, for her face is brown naturally with a lovely red tinge in her cheeks. She looks a little bit sad doesn't she? What do you suppose she is thinking about?

## LESSON NOTES.

## FIRST QUARTER.

## ISRAEL AFTER THE CAPTIVITY.

B. C. 1000.] LESSON XII. [March 19.

## TIMELY ADMONITIONS.

Prov. 23. 15-23.] [Memory verses, 19-21.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.—Eph. 5. 18.

## OUTLINE.

1. True Happiness, v. 15-19.
2. Empty Pleasure, v. 20, 21.
3. True riches, v. 22, 23.

TIME.—About B. C. 1000.

## EXPLANATIONS.

“Heart” and “reins” are in the Bible used interchangeably as the seat of the deepest emotions. “Wine-bibbers”—Persons who drink excessively. “Riotous eaters of flesh”—In Palestine, animal food did not ordinarily enter into the diet of the people. It was esteemed a great luxury, and was occasionally indulged in to great excess. The poverty prevalent among the common people in the ancient East was a strong temptation to gluttony whenever opportunity came. “Drowsiness”—Laziness. “Buy the truth”—Nobody ever got truth without paying for it. Earnest search, untiring study, and years of time are the price. “Sell it not”—Never part with it at any price.

## PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- By what words does this lesson emphasize—
1. The duty of filial reverence, of content,

of eager scholarship, of fear of the Lord, of purity and temperance?

2. The hope of genuine earthly delight and heavenly reward?
3. The horror of the drunkard's fate, the glutton's fate, the shiftless person's fate?

## HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

Find monumental cases in Bible history of—

1. Wicked ingratitude to an indulgent father.
2. The search and acquisition of wisdom.
3. The evil effect of love of wine.

## THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. How do parents and teachers feel when young people and children act wisely and worthily? “Their hearts rejoice.” 2. With whom does Solomon caution us not to associate? “Wine-bibbers and riotous eaters.” 3. What comes to the drunkard and the glutton? “Poverty.” 4. With what does drowsiness clothe a man? “With rags.” 5. What should we buy and never sell? “Truth, wisdom, instruction, and understanding.” 6. What is the Golden Text? “Be not drunk with wine,” etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The fear of the Lord.

## CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

How does the Old Testament teach Christianity?

The Scriptures of the Old Testament were written by many holy men, who prophesied that the Christ was coming, and foretold, also, what he would suffer, and do, and teach.

What has our Lord said about the Books of the Old Testament?

He calls them the Scriptures, says they testify of himself, and that they will not pass away.

## BRANDIED PIES—A TRUE STORY.

A LADY writing to the *Episcopal Recorder* vouches for the truth of the following story:

One cold winter's night a reformed man, with his wife and daughter, who lived in the country, visited some friends at a distance. After spending a pleasant evening, they arose to leave, when they were urged to take some freshly baked mince-pie. After some hesitation they consented. When they were seated in the sleigh, the man turned to his wife and said, “Wife, I

am lost; that piece of pie has aroused the demon of drink in me.” He stopped his horses at the first tavern, and insisted on getting out for a drink. Of course, the wife and daughter were helpless; the second and third taverns were reached, and again the temptation was yielded to. Remonstrance was in vain. They reached home, and instead of putting away the horses he drove to the nearest tavern, and spent the rest of the night in a drunken debauch. The next morning he was found dead by the roadside. His poor suffering wife died of a broken heart, and his daughter ended her days in an insane asylum. One piece of brandied mince pie and this the result—for these are facts.

Another case was that of a young girl who had contracted the habit of drinking, but had reformed. She was to be married at a certain time if she would keep her pledge. Her mistress insisted upon her putting brandy in the mince meat. She did so. In a short time she disappeared, and some time afterward it was ascertained that she had become drunk, and in utter despair of ever being able to stand had drowned herself.

## Nothing To Do.

BY MARGARET J. PRESTON.

I HAVE shot my arrows and spun my top,  
And bandied my last new ball,  
I trundled my hoop till I had to stop,  
And I swung till I got a fall;  
I tumbled my books all out of their shelves,  
And hunted the pictures through;  
I've flung them where they may sort themselves,  
And now I have nothing to do.

The tower of Babel I built of blocks  
Came down with a crash to the floor,  
My train of cars ran over the rocks,  
I'll warrant they'll run no more;  
I've raced with Grip till I'm out of breath,  
My slate is broken in two,  
So I can't draw monkeys—I'm tired to death,  
Because I have nothing to do.

The boys have gone to the pond to fish,  
They bothered me, too, to go,  
But for fun like that I hadn't a wish,  
For I think it's mighty slow  
To sit all day at the end of a rod  
For the sake of a minnow or two,  
Or to land, at the farthest, an eel on the sod—  
I'd rather have nothing to do.

Maria has gone to the woods for flowers,  
And Lucy and Rose are away  
After berries. I'm sure they've been out for hours,  
I wonder what makes them stay?  
Ned wanted to saddle Brunette for me,  
But riding is nothing new;  
“I was thinking you would relish a canter,”  
said he,  
“Because you had nothing to do.”

I wish I was poor Jim Foster's son,  
For he seems so happy and gay,  
When his wood is chopped and his work all done,  
With his little half hour to play;  
He neither has books nor top nor ball,  
Yet he's singing the whole day through,  
But then he never is tired at all,  
Because he has something to do.

## ABOUT THE FEATHERED TRIBE.

EIGHTY thousand children in the north of England form the “Dicky-bird Society.” They are pledged to protect birds, never to destroy a nest, and to feed birds in winter.

A flock of about a hundred crows, passing over Cumminsville, Ohio, were attacked by thrice their number of English sparrows, who completely routed the big birds. Several crows were disabled, and one was found with both eyes picked out.

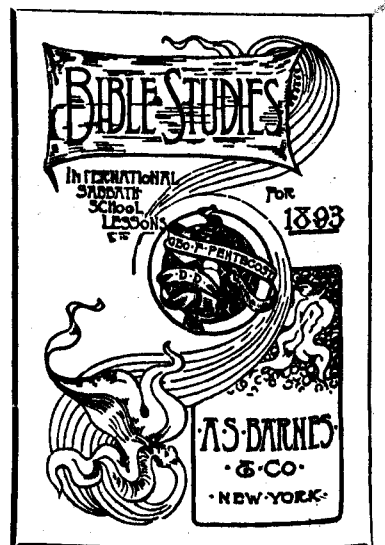
The large birds, like other large animals, are steadily going, and all may soon disappear from the earth. It is believed that the Lammergeyer, or Alpine vulture, has just become completely extinct in Switzerland, a solitary female specimen, which had dwelt on the Biotschhorn during the last twenty-five years, having at last fallen a victim to poison.

The *Boston Journal* says it is well known that birds are very sensitive to the tones of the voice, and are terrified at any loud, angry words. A lady who wished to make a bobolink stop singing, at last scolded it in a loud voice, and

then took up a scarf and shook it in rebuke at the caged bird. In a moment the bird was still, but a short time after made a fluttering about the cage. Its owner turned to the bird, and was shocked to see it fall dead. Unkind words had killed it. The *Independent* reports two similar cases to this. In one case a canary-bird, in the other a mocking-bird, died within five minutes after having been spoken to in a violent, angry tone.

Wild ducks, geese, and swans are excellent flyers as well as swimmers, and they can be recognized at a distance by their wedge-shaped flocks. In reality these birds fly in two lines, which come together in front and gradually separate toward the last of the flock, so that the general appearance of the company has the shape of a wedge. The leader flies at the point where the two lines meet; and when he becomes weary he leaves his post to his next neighbour, and falls back to the last one of the two lines. Meantime, during this change of leaders the flock keeps in perfect order. In these migrations the birds fly thousands of miles, and they build their nests in summer among the lakes and marshes of cold northern countries.

One who is in the habit of watching birds, happened one day to see an ingenious robin who was busily engaged in gathering material for a nest. At length he found an old nest fastened to a tree, and intertwined with this nest was a long string, one end of which was securely fastened, but the other floated loosely. Robin seized the string and tried to pull it out, but in vain. Again he tried, throwing his head back and giving it a vigorous jerk; still the string remained firm. After apparently thinking a minute he tried a new plan. Taking the end of the string firmly in his bill, he tumbled heavily from the limb and allowed his full weight to pull upon the coveted article. This he tried over and over again, but without avail. At last he entered the nest and diligently tugged at the fastened end of the string until he succeeded in loosening it. Was not that a lesson in perseverance worth imitating?



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## Press Opinions.

For clearness of analysis and spirituality of treatment these studies are perhaps the peer of any offered to Sunday-school teachers.—*The Assistant Pastor*.

An excellent expository volume, pervaded by the spirit of truth and light. It is intensely spiritual.—*The Canadian Methodist Quarterly*.

A careful study of these “Bible Studies” has shown that they are above the average of such works. The high literary standing of the author is itself the best guarantee as to the value of this book.—*The Evangelical*.

William Briggs, Methodist Book and Publishing House, Toronto.  
C. W. COATES, Montreal. S. P. HURST, Halifax.