

Grandma's Angel.

MAMMA said, "Little one, go and see
If grandmother's ready to come to tea."
I knew I musn't disturb her; so
I stepped as gently along tiptoe,
And stood there a moment to take a peep;
And there was grandmother fast asleep!

I knew it was time for her to wake;
I thought I'd give her a little shake,
Or tap at her door, or gently call;
But I hadn't the heart for that at all—
She looked so sweet and quiet there,
Lying back in her high arm-chair,
With her dear white hair, and a little smile,
That means she's loving you all the while.
I didn't make a speck of noise;
I knew she was dreaming of little boys
And girls who lived with her long ago,
And then went to heaven—she told me so.

I went up close, and I didn't speak
One word, but I gave her on her cheek
The softest bit of a little kiss,
And just in a whisper then said this:
"Grandmother dear, it's time for tea."

She opened her eyes and looked at me,
And said, "Why, pet, I have just now
dreamed

Of a little angel who came, and seemed
To kiss me lovingly on my face."
She pointed right at the very place!

I never told her 'twas only me;
I took her hand, and we went to tea.

—Sydney Dayre.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1400] **LESSON X.** [SEPT. 2

THE SPIES SENT INTO CANAAN.

Num. 13. 17-33. Memory verse, 30-32

GOLDEN TEXT.

Let us go up at once, and possess it; for
we are well able to overcome it. Num.
13. 30.

OUTLINE.

1. The Spies.
2. Their Report.

TIME.—1490 B.C.

PLACE.—The wilderness of Paran.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The giving of the law has been finished. All the instructions for the varied offices of daily life have been delivered. The time to begin the advance to Canaan had come. On the twentieth day of the second month in the second year of the Exodus the mysterious cloud lifted and the people passed away from Sinai. Five weeks had passed, much of it in camp, and after various trials of the patience and wisdom of their leader, he at last had given the order for a reconnoitering party to enter Canaan. The commission, the expedition, and the report, form the subject of our lesson.

EXPLANATIONS.—*This way southward.*—This means not to travel toward the south, but into the south country, a name by which the border land of Canaan was well known. *Into the mountain.*—This was the hill country of our Lord's time; the mountainous central ridge from Hebron to Esdraelon. *The land . . . fat or lean.*—That is, whether productive and fertile, or sterile and bare. *Time of the first-ripe grapes.*—About July or August. *Floweth with milk and honey.*—A poetic way for expressing the wonderful fertility of the land. *Land that eateth up the inhabitants.*—Perhaps it means a land of an unhealthy and malarial climate; or a land subject to incessant invasions, and consequent destructions of the people.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The Spies.*
Who were the spies?
How came they to be sent?
Out of the whole number, whose names only have remained familiar to men?
Why have these men been remembered and the others been forgotten?
What is generally the character of the men who have been longest remembered?
How extensive was the journey of the spies?

How far had Moses told them to go?
What were they to find out?
How long were they absent?
What is meant by the phrase "the south," so often used in this narrative?
What interest centers about the place called Zoan here mentioned?

2. Their Report.

What did the spies agree in reporting?
In what did they disagree?
What was the minority report?
What proof did they bring of the fertility of the new country?
What was the effect of the report upon the people?
What was the basis of the report of the ten spies?
What was the hope that Caleb and Joshua expressed?
How have these two men been ever since regarded?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

See how little past mercies affect present judgment of God's willingness. The memory of the Red Sea ought to have made them ready to trust for anything. It is just so to-day.

The spies did their duty well. They reported as instructed by Moses. Their error lay in giving advice and passing judgment upon what they saw. They exceeded their instructions in that.

Trembling, afraid, and in a frenzy of wrath, all the people—in the centre of the camp "the pillar of cloud;" God near; God forgotten. It is just so to-day.

Here was a turning-point in the history of a generation. They turned the wrong way and perished. The crisis of our lives may come any day. How will we turn?

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Study this lesson with a good map in order to learn the location of the places mentioned.
2. Find the time of year when this occurred.
3. Note all the traces of civilization to be found in the report.
4. Study particularly the difficult expressions, such as are in ver. 32.
5. Find, if you can, geographical confirmation for ver. 29.
6. See if you can find, from sources external to the Bible, anything about the age of Zoan.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Why did Moses send forth twelve spies? To learn concerning the land. 2. How far did they travel? Through the whole land. 3. What did they find? A very fertile land? 4. What was the effect upon ten of the spies? They were filled with fear. 5. How did they express their fear and faithlessness? "They are stronger than we." 6. What was the voice of courage and faith? "Let us go up at once," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Forgetfulness of God.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

10. Did God create you? Yes; he made me, both body and soul.
Psalm c. 3. Know ye that the Lord he is God; it is he that hath made us.
Job x. 11; Numbers xvi. 22; Hebrews xii. 9.

B.C. 1490.] **LESSON XI.** [SEPT. 9

THE UNBELIEF OF THE PEOPLE.

Num. 14. 1-10. Memory verses, 2-4.

GOLDEN TEXT.

So we see that they could not enter it because of unbelief. Heb. 3. 19.

OUTLINE.

1. Unbelief.
2. Faith.

TIME AND PLACE.—The same as in the previous lesson.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The story goes straight on to its sequel. The very next thing after the return and report of the spies is our lesson.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Fell on their faces.*—The attitude of solemn prayer to God. *They rent their clothes.*—A common custom to express grief; it was done by tearing the skirt downward a hand-breadth toward the feet. *Floweth with milk.*—An exceedingly fertile and beautiful land. *They are bread for us.*—That is, they will become our servants, and minister to our support; or, on their land which God will give us we shall live. *Their defence is departed.*—"Their shadow," says the margin; probably the favour and protection of God is gone from among them.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Unbelief.

What was the effect of the report and advice of the spies?

What was the first sign of their entire want of faith?

How did this soon appear in a form?

Did they carry their rebellion as far as they proposed? Neh. 9. 17.

On whom did they lay this time charge the danger into which they had come?

What words of great smugness did they utter in their night of watching?

What was the culmination of this scene of violent despondency?

How were Caleb and Joshua saved from death?

2. Faith.

What was the action of Moses at this crisis?

What did Caleb and Joshua do?

How did they show faith in God?

What one statement that was all-sufficient did they make?

How did God reward their fidelity in this crisis?

What became of the ten who gave the faithless advice? Vers. 30, 37.

What great evil came upon the people in return for this rebellion? Ver. 42.

What was the effect upon the nation of their folly? Vers. 29-34.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Unbelief wept all the night. Faith said, "It is a good land."

Unbelief said, "Would God we had died in Egypt!" Faith said, "The Lord will bring us into this land."

Unbelief said, "Let us return." Faith said, "Rebel not against the Lord." How like present human nature all this seems!

See how the faithful servant seeks God in trouble. Moses was wiser than Caleb and Joshua? They tried to persuade men, he went to God.

See how gracious God is. A whole nation in rebellion; one servant praying, and God appears in glory. Joshua ought to have been very thankful to the two men on their faces before the whole assembly. How many a man has been saved by another man's prayer!

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Make for yourself a mental picture of this whole scene: the howling mob; more than a million of them; the ten spies helping on the tumult with constant comment; Moses and Aaron on the ground on their faces; Caleb and Joshua vainly trying to arrest their wildness; the choice of a new leader; the mob with stones in their hands, etc.

2. Read the whole chapter through very carefully to get the whole story. See God's wonderful promises; see Moses' wonderful prayer.

3. Find from the previous story what the ten temptations are to which God refers in his words to Moses. See ver. 22.

4. Search out all the references in these ten verses. There are many, and they will be very helpful.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What was the effect of the spies' report? The people wept all the night. 2. What did they say in their frenzy and fear? "Would God we had died in Egypt!" 3. What did they do? They chose a new leader. 4. What did Moses and Aaron do? Fell on their faces in prayer. 5. What was the result to the people of this night of rebellion? "So we see that they could not enter," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The sin of unbelief.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

11. Does God care for you? I know that he cares for me, and watches over me always by his providence.

A TEACHER having asked his class to write an essay on "The results of laziness," a certain bright youth handed in, as his composition, a blank sheet of paper.

A CHINESE convert recently baptized at Kinwha pays the workmen in his employ the wages of seven days for the work of six, rather than desecrate the Lord's Day by labour.

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