

"Harvest."

BY G. M.

The reapers sang in the shaded lane,
And the laden waggons came creaking
slow,
While the kind farm-mother her table
spread;
For the field was bare and the sun was low:
The sun was low and the day was gone—
The toil was over, and harvest done.

I looked and sighed, as the yellow store
Was borne away to the yawning mow,
And I thought of the brimming garner floor,
And the harvester's tanned and sweating
brow,
Till I sighed again in the fading light,
While the tired world slept in the lap of
Night.

I sighed for the tender plant that died
When the cold north wind untimely blew;
I sighed for the grain that never swelled,
For the blighted sheaf that never grew;
I sighed for the harvest days that seem
Like the waking mockery of a dream.

I knelt in the dim sweet summer night
And whispered a prayer of trembling
faith,
That He (who nurseth the sleeping grain
Till life comes smiling from darkest death)
Would not scorn the scant sheaves I had
won
When life was over and harvest done.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

THREE MONTHS WITH DAVID AND THE PSALMS.

LESSON XII. [Sept. 21.]

Psa. 103. 1-22. Commit to mem. vs. 1-5.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not
all His benefits.—Psa. 103. 2.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

God's numberless mercies demand per-
petual praise.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Psa. 103. 1-22. Th. Psa. 136. 1-26.
T. Psa. 105. 1-45. F. Psa. 145. 1-21.
W. Psa. 106. 1-48. Sa. Psa. 146. 1-10.
Su. Psa. 148. 1-14.

AUTHOR.—David.

TIME.—Probably written during the last
years of his life.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—1. *All that is within me*—His whole spiritual nature. 2. *Forget not all*—Remember every one; they are many, and we are liable to forget. 4. *Redeemeth*—Saveth at cost to himself. *Life from destruction*—(1) Our life in this world; (2) our eternal life through the redemption of Christ. 5. *Satisfieth thy mouth*—The soul; mouth as a type of all desires. *Renewed like the eagle's*—Made as strong, and fresh, and active, and joyous, as that of the king of birds in his prime. 8. *Slow to anger*—Does not punish any sooner than He can help, bears with His children. 9. *Neither keep His anger for ever*—He will not punish His children to their destruction as He must His enemies who will not repent. 11. *As the heaven is high*—The greatest conceivable height. 12. *As far, etc.*—The greatest imaginable distance. 14. *He knoweth our frame*—For He made us, and therefore understands all about us. 15. *Grass . . . flower*—Short-lived, easily destroyed. 17. *From everlasting to everlasting*—The greatest conceivable duration. *Them that fear Him*—This is the third time this limitation is given. Only such can claim the promise. 18. *Keep His covenant*—To bless and save if we obey His commands.

SUBJECT FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The Psalm as a whole.—The duty of praising God.—God's mercy.—Illustrations of it in this Psalm.—God's ways made known to Moses.—His acts to Israel.—God's covenant.—To whom these blessings are promised.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—Who wrote this Psalm? When? What are its characteristics?

SUBJECT: PRAISE FOR GOD'S MERCIES.

I. PRAISE FOR GOD'S MANIFOLD PERSONAL MERCIES (vs. 1-5).—What is it to bless the Lord? What is meant by "all that is within me?" What by God's "holy name?" How many "benefits" are named in these verses? How does God forgive our iniquities? How does He heal our diseases? What

is it to crown with loving-kindness? What is it for our youth to be renewed like the eagle's? Which of these benefits seem most desirable to you? Which have you already received? Why is it good to praise God? In what ways can you praise Him? What can you do to aid the public praise of God?

II. PRAISE FOR THE PAST (vs. 6, 7).—What is it to execute righteousness? Is God always against the oppressor? What ways did God make known to Moses? How did He make them known? What acts of mercy can you remember as done for the Israelites? How do God's past mercies help us to praise God to-day?

III. PRAISE FOR GOD'S FORGIVING LOVE (vs. 8-12).—What is God's character? How is He "slow to anger?" Does He punish any more than is absolutely necessary? What two illustrations are given here of the extent of God's mercy? To whom is this mercy extended? Is not God merciful to all men? (John 3. 16.) What is the difference between His mercy to the wicked and to those who fear Him?

IV. PRAISE FOR GOD'S FATHERLY LOVE (vs. 13, 14).—How does God love those who fear Him? What does Jesus say of this? (Matt. 7. 11.) What does this teach us about God's love? How does God know our frame? How does this knowledge show a reason for His pity?

V. PRAISE FOR GOD'S ENDURING LOVE (vs. 15-18).—What is man like? With what is man's life contrasted? How enduring is God's mercy? To whom is this mercy extended? What is it to keep God's covenant? Can any others claim these promises? Can all find this mercy if they will? How?

VI. A CALL TO PRAISE (vs. 19-22).—Upon whom does the psalmist call to give praise? Why should all these praise God? Of what character is a heart of praise a sign? How may God's kingdom be said to rule over all?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. Every one should praise God with heart, voice, life, in public and in private.
2. He that has a praising spirit will always have something for which to give praise.
3. A praising spirit is a sign of a right heart.
4. It is the way to a better life.
5. It is the way to happiness, and is the precursor of greater blessings.
6. Songs in the night are a sign of the morning.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in Concert.)

17. Why should we praise God? **ANS.** Because of His many mercies to us.
18. How should we praise Him? **ANS.** With voice, and heart, and life, in public and in private.
19. For what should we praise Him? **ANS.** For His goodness and love.
20. How great is that love? **ANS.** Higher than the heavens, longer than the east is from the west, and enduring from everlasting to everlasting. Who should praise the Lord? **ANS.** All His works in all places of His dominion.

LESSON XIII. [Sept. 28.]

REVIEW.

Scripture Lesson.—The Golden Texts of the Quarter and Psalm 84.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Oh Lord of Hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee.—Psa. 84. 12.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

That life is blessed which is spent in the service and love of God.

DAILY READINGS.

M. 2 Sam. 5. 1-12; Th. 2 Sam. 24. 1-25.
6. 1-12.
T. 2 Sam. 7. 1-16; F. Psa. 51. 1-19;
9. 1-13. 40. 1-17.
W. 2 Sam. 15. 1-14; Sa. Psa. 19. 1-14.
18. 24-33.
Su. Psa. 103. 1-22.

QUESTIONS.

SUBJECT: THE LIFE AND WORKS OF A GREAT AND GOOD MAN.

I. EARLY LIFE.—When was David born? In what place, and the name of his parents? In what business was he engaged? What accomplishments did he acquire? What was his character? His appearance? What feats of strength and skill did he perform? How was he introduced into Saul's court? Where and how did he spend the rest of his life till he was thirty years old? How did all these experiences fit him to be a good king?

II. THE SOLDIER.—What qualities did David show as a soldier? Name some of his battles and victories. Was he ever defeated? How did he organize his army? (1 Chron. 27.)

III. THE KING.—When was David made king? At what age? How long was his reign? Over whom did he reign first? For how long? Where was his capital? When was he made king over all Israel? How far did his kingdom extend? Where was his capital? What was the state of the kingdom under him? What were his qualities as a king.

IV. THE POET.—What poems did David write? Was he the first great writer of hymns? For what use were many of the Psalms prepared? How did David organize the service of song? (1 Chron. 25.) Which of his Psalms is your favourite? How can hymns written so long ago be helpful to us?

V. VARIOUS EXPERIENCES.—What were some of David's great trials in his early life? Did these grow out of his own faults? How did they work out good for him? What were some of the trials of his latter life? Were these the fruit of his sins? What may be said of his prosperity? Of his sources of happiness? Was his life on the whole a happy and successful life? How old was he when he died?

VI. RELIGIOUS LIFE.—What was the general character of David's religious life? Was he faultless? Was his on the whole a good, and noble, and sincerely religious life? What does God say of him? (1 Kings 15. 5.) How could he be a man after God's own heart, and yet be guilty of those sins? What did he do when he had fallen into sin? What does this show? How does he compare with most ancient heathen monarchs as to virtue? As to faults? What do you find in him to imitate?

A Working Man at Hawarden.

ONE of the working men in Derby who presented Mr. Gladstone recently with the dessert service of Derby china, describes his visit to him:—

"I must not waste your time with any minute or extended description of the various incidents which occurred during our visit. But to us working men these incidents are fraught with the deepest interest. The charming union of dignity, simplicity, and kindness in Mr. Gladstone's manner I cannot describe. We were received by Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone not with cold politeness or mere refined courtesy, but with manifest cordality and warmth of feeling, such as parents might exhibit to upgrown sons come home after long absence to spend their Christmas holiday. The sons and daughters of the Premier were equally pleasant and attentive. Nothing was omitted that kindness could devise to make the day at Hawarden a red-letter day to us. We were highly delighted with our visit, and the entire proceedings were pronounced a success. Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone expressed themselves as greatly pleased with the present we took them, as you will have gathered from the public prints. The dessert service is to be lent to our Derby Art Gallery for exhibition for a month, and then it will be forwarded to Downing-street for the inspection of good people there. I had never seen Mr. Gladstone before; but on Saturday I was one of the common people who heard him gladly; and at luncheon I had the high honour of sitting at his right hand and being served by him; and no baron or knight of old ever entertained his trusty retainers in more knightly style."

The writer of the letter of which the above is an extract is a mechanic, earning weekly wages at the Midland locomotive Works, Derby, and he composed the address which accompanied the dessert service, writing and rewriting it until it fulfilled his ideal.

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