

ASHAMED OF THEIR DEEDS.

The keeper of a meat-market does not hide from public view his well fattened choice meats. Often a splendid quarter of beef hangs over the sidewalk. And not only in the meat market, but also in the grocery and clothing store articles to be sold are amply placed on exhibition. But the saloon makes use of screens, and does its work in the dark as much as possible. Why? Some people regarded respectable, when within the saloon, because of the screens can be kept from exposure, and some boys just commencing to drink can thereby conceal their mischievous beginnings from the public. These veils well indicate that drinkers and sellers of liquors are ashamed of their deeds of darkness. And why are they ashamed of drinking and selling even in moderate quantities? They know, or ought to know, that for the past several years the best life insurance companies of England have insured moderate drinkers and total abstainers in separate sections, and that they have given a bonus to the section of total abstainers of seven, thirteen, seventeen, and even twenty two per cent over that paid to the section of moderate drinkers.



The Catacombs.

BY THE LATE MISS WILKINS, OF HAMILTON.
 "Miles after miles of graves and not one word or sign of the gloominess of death."—Extract from Professor Jules De Launay's Lecture.

Miles after miles of graves,
 League after league of tombs,
 And not one sign of spectro Death,
 Waving his shadowy plumes;
 Hope, beautiful and bright,
 Spanning the arch above—
 Faith, gentle overcoming faith,
 And love, God's best gift, love.

For early Christians left
 Their darlings to their rest,
 As mothers leave their little ones
 When the sun glids the West;
 No mourning robes of black,
 No crape upon the doors,
 For the victorious palm-bearers,
 Who tread the golden floors.

Arrayed in garments white,
 No mournful dirges pealing,
 Bearing green branches in their hands,
 Around the tomb they're kneeling;
 This was their marching song,
 "By death we are not holden,"
 And this their golden funeral hymn,
 "Jerusalem the golden."

Beautiful girls sleep there,
 Waiting the Bridegroom's call.
 Each lamp is burning brilliantly,
 While the bright shadows fall;
 And baby martyrs passed
 Straight to the great I AM,
 While sturdier soldiers carved o'er each,
 "Victor, God's little lamb."

Miles after miles of graves,
 League after league of tombs,
 The Cross upon each conqueror's brow,
 Lights up the Catacombs;
 "Tis in this sign we conquer,"
 Sounds on the blood-stained track,
 "Tis in this sign we conquer,"
 We gladly answer back.

THE HOLLANDER AND HIS PIPE.

The custom of smoking is so prevalent in Holland that a genuine Dutch boor, instead of describing distances between places by miles or hours, will say a town or house is so many pipes away. Thus a man may reach Delft from Rotterdam in four pipes, but if he go to The Hague, he will consume seven pipes during the journey. All Dutchmen of the lower class, and not a few in the higher walks of life, carry in their pockets all requisites for smoking—an enormous box holding at least half a pound of tobacco, a pipe of clay or ivory (according to inclination or means), instruments to cleanse it, a pricker to remove obstructions from the stem, a cover of brass to prevent the sparks or ashes from flying about, and a bountiful supply of matches. A Dutchman in Holland without a pipe would be a rara avis—and such pipes! Some of them are of an antiquity which entitles them to veneration, but certainly not to respect, and so monstrous in size that as weapons of offence or defence they would certainly prove formidable.—New York Times.

*The above cut and poem are taken from the new edition of "Valeria: The Martyr of the Catacombs," by W. H. Withrow, D.D., F.R.S.C. Methodist Book-Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax. Price, 75 cents. This story will throw much light on the Sunday-school lessons for 1897.

THE CHAMOIS.

Every one has seen the soft yellow skin called shammy-skin, but few children have seen the chamois from which such a skin is taken. He lives far up among the crags and peaks of the Alpine lands, has a grayish-brown coat, sharp eyes and a keen sense of smell. The chamois feed in herds of fifteen or twenty in number, and one of the chamois always acts as watchman for the rest. If a chamois scents a hunter a mile away, he stamps with his forefeet, gives a shrill, whistling sort of cry, and off fly the herd. They make great leaps down twenty or thirty feet by striking their feet against the face of rocks as they descend, or they dart up toward the snow-covered peaks. They live to be twenty-five or thirty years old, and if they escape the hunter, they must have a free, and, for an animal, a happy life. Perhaps they may not think of the blue skies, the roses that grow so little but bright, and the other curious Alpine flowers or the magnificent views, but no doubt they like the clear air, the sweet grass and the wild races among the rocks and streams. Hunters say their flesh is much like venison, and they seek them for their skins and horns. To capture them it is necessary to surround them on all sides before they are aware of the hunter's approach, and then hem them in. When caught they can be partially tamed, and then act much like goats. They feed on herbs, flowers and young shoots of the fir and pine trees.



THE CHAMOIS.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

**LESSON VI.—FEBRUARY 7.
 TRUE AND FALSE GIVING.**

Acts 4. 32, to 5. 11. Memory verses, 32, 33.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.—1 Sam. 16. 7.

OUTLINE.

- 1. True Giving, v. 32-37.
 - 2. False Giving, v. 1-11.
- Time.—A. D. 30.
 Place.—Jerusalem.

HOME READINGS.

- M. True and false giving.—Acts 4. 32-37.
- Tu True and false giving.—Acts 5. 1-11.
- W. Sacredness of vows.—Eccles. 5. 1-6.
- Th. Warning against hypocrisy.—Matt. 6. 1-8.
- F. Lying lips.—Prov. 12. 13-22.
- S. Insincere offerings.—Mal. 1. 6-14.
- Su. Blessing on true giving.—Mal. 3. 8-12.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. True Giving, v. 32-37.
 What was laid at the apostles' feet?
 For what purpose was this done?
 In what spirit was it done?
 What was done with this money?
 What things in this action should be imitated?
 A precious record is given in verse 33; read it.
- 2. False Giving, v. 1-11.
 What sale did Ananias and his wife make?
 Of what deception were they guilty?
 What did they do with a part of the money?
 Who had prompted Ananias to his deception?
 To whom had he lied?
 What three questions did Peter ask about the land?
 How did his words affect Ananias?
 How did others who heard his words feel?
 What was done with Ananias?
 How long after did his wife come?
 What did she know of what had happened?
 What says the law about keeping vows? Deut. 23. 21.
 What question did Peter ask Sapphira?
 What was her reply?
 Of what wicked compact did Peter accuse her?
 What prediction did he utter?
 What happened to her?
 What then was done to her?
 How did these things affect the church?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—

 - 1. The folly of a lie?
 - 2. The wickedness of a lie?
 - 3. The peril of a lie?

"Do you do much climbing, Harold?" asked the newly arrived guest. "Well, in a way I do," said Harold. "Papa climbs all over the mountains, and I climb all over papa."

His Little Ones.

BY LLEWELLYN A. MORRISON.

"Suffer the little children to come unto me; of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Hail the glad message! The children may come
 Into the joy and delight of His Home;
 Know all the brightness His blessings impart,
 And dwell in the bountiful life of His Heart.

Every bright babe is a gem of His own,
 Lent from the light of His luminous Throne;
 Sent from the sources of being, above,
 A seal of Omnipotent power and love.

Germ of Divinity flashed into flame,
 Born of humanity only in name—
 Fashioned—it may be—and form'd from the clod,
 Yet bearing the Spirit and likeness of God.

They who receive them—a gift and a sign
 Of God, the Creator, supreme and divine—
 And train them His glory to know and to feel,
 Are builders, with Him, for Eternity's weal.

Growth in His growth is the measure of grace,—
 No one the limit or compass may trace;
 Wide as Immensity's realms, unsought,
 And high as the reach of the Infinite thought.

Each lily girl, by her touch and her word,
 An Angel of mercy may be for the Lord,
 Each gentle boy, by the boons he may bring,
 For the Virgin's sweet son, may be laurell'd a king.

The children are safe in His keeping and love;
 Drooping below He transplants them above;
 Born in His Kingdom, unless they depart,
 They always abide in His Home and His Heart.
 London, Can.

A Kansas girl, the daughter of a Greenwood county rancher, was sent East to school this fall. "What do you know, my child?" the head teacher asked her. "Oh, farming," the new pupil replied. "Well, tell me what is a farm?" "A farm is a body of land surrounded by a barb-wire fence," the little maid said.

**International
 S. S.
 Lesson Helps**

FOR 1897

Illustrative Notes
 A Guide to the Study of the Sunday-school Lessons, with Original and Selected Comments, Methods of Teaching, Illustrative Stories, etc., etc. By JESSE LYMAN HURLEBUR and ROBERT REMINGTON DOHERTY. Price \$1.25.

Peloubet's Select Notes
 Inductive, Suggestive, Explanatory, Illustrative, Doctrinal and Practical. With Illustrations, Maps, Pictures, etc., etc. Price \$1.25.

Monday Club Sermons
 A Series of Sermons on the Sunday-school Lessons for 1897, by eminent preachers. Price \$1.25.

Berean Lesson Books
 No. 1.—The Beginner's. No. 2.—The Intermediate. No. 3.—The Senior. Price 20c. each.

Golden Text Booklets
 Sunday-school Lessons and Daily Bible Readings, with Golden Texts and Bible Facts. Price, postpaid, each 3c., per doz. 35c.

Berean Leaf Cluster
 Large Pictures, 2 1/4 x 3 1/4 inches in size, in eight colours, illustrating the Lessons. Golden Texts printed in large letters. Per quarter, \$1.25, per year, \$5.00.

Picture Lesson Roll
 Large Coloured Pictures illustrating the International Sunday-school Lessons. Similar to Leaf Cluster, but with only four colours. Price, postpaid, per quarter, \$1.00, per year, \$3.50.

**The
 Book Mark
 Lesson List**

FOR 1897

The Lesson List embodies in the unique and convenient form of a Book Mark, the Lessons, Golden Texts, and Memory Verses of the International Series, printed neatly on coloured paper of superior quality. It is furnished in three different styles:

No. 1.—With name of Church or School, and List of Services on the last page:

50 or less	\$1.00
100	1.50
150	1.85
200	2.15
250	2.45
300	2.70
350	3.00
400	3.20
500	3.50
750	4.20
1000	5.00
2000 or over, per thousand	4.50

No. 2.—With last page blank, and No. 3.—With Bible Acrostic on last page:

Less than 500	50 cents per hundred.
500 to 1000	45 "
1000 or over	40 "

WILLIAM BRIGGS,
 Wesley Buildings, Toronto, Ont.
 G. W. COATES, Montreal. S. F. HUESTON, Halifax.