

At Easter Dawn.

Sweetly the birds are singing
At Easter dawn;
Sweetly the bells are ringing.
On Easter Day.
And the words that they say,
On this glad Easter Day,
Are, "Christ the Lord is risen."

Birds! forget not your singing,
At Easter dawn;
Bells! be ye ever ringing
On Easter morn.
In the spring of the year,
When Easter is here,
Sing, "Christ the Lord is risen."

Buds! ye will soon be flowers,
Cheery and white.
Snow-storms are changing to showers,
Darkness to light.
With the awakening of spring,
O sweetly sing,
"Lo! Christ the Lord is risen."

Easter buds were growing,
Ages ago!
Easter lilies were blowing,
By the water's flow.
All nature was glad,
Not a creature was sad,
For Christ the Lord is risen.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

LESSON III—APRIL 18.

GENTILES CONVERTED AT ANTIOCH.

Acts 11. 19-26. Memory verses, 21-24.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Then hath God also to the Gentiles
granted repentance unto life - Acts 11. 18.

OUTLINE.

1. The Church Growing, v. 19-21.
 2. The Church Organized, v. 22-26.
- Time.—A.D. 40-44.
Place.—Antioch in Syria

HOME READINGS.

- M. Life for the Gentiles.—Acts 11. 1-18.
Tu. Gentiles converted at Antioch—Acts 11. 19-26.
W. Promise for the Gentiles.—Isa. 60. 1-7.
Th. A minister to the Gentiles.—Rom. 15. 13-21.
F. Joy of the Gospel.—Luke 10. 17-24.
S. Fellow-citizens.—Eph. 2. 11-22.
Su. From all nations.—Rev. 7. 9-17.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Church Growing, v. 19-21.
Why did the disciples leave Judea?
How far did they go in their travels?
To whom only did they at first preach?
To whom did some afterward preach?
Who were these latter preachers?
What results followed their work?
Golden Text Why?
2. The Church Organized, v. 22-26.
Who heard of this good work in Antioch?
Who were sent to inspect the work?
How did Barnabas feel?
What did he urge them to do?
How is Barnabas described?
In character whom did he resemble?
Chapter 6. 5.
From Antioch where did Barnabas go,
and for whom?
Where had he known Saul? Chapter 9. 27.
How long did these two remain at Antioch?
What new name there came into use?
By what names had they been called before?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson are we shown—
1. That God's enemies sometimes help the truth?
 2. How we should feel when God's cause prospers?
 3. How we can "fulfil the law of Christ?" Gal. 6. 2.

THE EASTER FESTIVAL.

On this happy Easter morning, it is perhaps not amiss that we should tell our young readers something of the history of this great Christian festival. It is held in commemoration of the resurrection of our Saviour, and is called Pascha by the Roman and Greek Churches. It is a movable feast, occurring at any date between March 21 and April 25; and by it the other movable feasts throughout the ecclesiastical year are regulated. It is held about the same time as the Jewish Passover, or Paschal Feast, although it very seldom happens that the Christian and Jewish festivals are ob-

served on the same day. In the early Church this festival lasted several days, and catechumens were then usually admitted to the rite of baptism. At present its celebration is confined in the Church of England to Easter Eve, Easter Sunday, and the Monday and Tuesday in Easter week. In the Roman Catholic Church it is a time of enjoyment, because the restrictions imposed during the preceding period of Lent are no longer to be observed.

Some ascribe the institution of the Easter festival to the apostles, but the more general opinion is that it was first observed by their immediate successors, about A.D. 68. The Council of Arles, in 314, decreed that the day for keeping this festival should be the 14th day of the March moon, but by the alteration of the calendar by Gregory XIII. in 1582, the first Sunday after the full moon immediately following the 21st of March was fixed as Easter-day.

sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him and fled.—St. Matthew 26. 47-56.

HOW THE OYSTER BUILDS HIS SHELL.

The body of an oyster is a poor, weak thing, apparently incapable of doing anything at all, yet what a marvellous house an oyster builds around his delicate frame! When the oyster is first born he is a very simple, delicate dot, as it were, and yet he is born with his two shells upon him. For some unknown reason he always fixes himself on his round shell, never on his flat shell, and, being once fixed, he begins to grow, but he grows only in summer.

Inspect an oyster-shell closely, and it



CHRIST'S BETRAYAL.

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This picture of the betrayal of our Lord is after a famous painting by the nounced Dooray). The following are celebrated French artist, Dore (prophetic words in which St. Matthew describes this greatest crime of all the ages.

And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him. And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priests, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the Scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be? In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I

will be seen that it is marked with distinct lines. As the rings we observe in the section of the trunk of a tree denote years of growth, so does the marking of an oyster tell us how many years he has passed in his "bed" at the bottom of the sea. Suppose an oyster was born June 15, he would go on growing up to the first line we see well marked; he would then stop for the winter. In the next summer he would more than double his size. In the next he would add to this house. In the next two years he would again go on building till he was dredged up in the middle of his work in the following year, when he would be five and a half years old.

The way in which an oyster builds his shell is a pretty sight. I have watched it frequently. The beard or fringe of an oyster is not only his breathing organ—that is, his lungs—but his feeling organ, by which he conveys the food to his complicated mouth with his four lips. When the warm, calm days of June come, the oyster opens his shell, and by means of this fringe begins building an additional story to his house. This he does by depositing very fine particles of carbonate of lime, till they at last form a substance as thin as silver paper and exceedingly fragile; then he adds more and more, till at last the new shell is at least as hard as the old shell. When oysters are growing in their shells they must be handled very carefully, as the new growth of shell will cut like broken

glass, and a wound on a finger from an oyster-shell is often very troublesome.—Frank Buckland.

A THOUGHTFUL BOY.

Much of the so-called "cruelty to animals" arises from pure thoughtlessness. Every boy and man should constitute himself a committee of one to undo careless work of this sort. The following story comes from New York:

A short time ago, as I was crossing Market Street, near Twenty-Second Street, a boy, not over ten years old, who had been walking just before me, ran into the street and picked up a broken glass pitcher. I supposed he intended the pieces as missiles, since the desire to throw something seems instinct in every boy. Consequently, I was much surprised when he tossed the pieces into a vacant lot at the corner and walked quietly on. As he passed me, whistling, I said:

"Why did you pick up that pitcher?"
"I was afraid it might cut some horse's foot," he replied.
My next question was a natural one:
"Are you a Band of Mercy boy?"
He smiled as he said: "Oh, yes; that's why I did it."

The bands of mercy were drawn very closely around the dear little fellow's heart, I am sure.

"Hush!" whispered a little girl to her classmates, who were laughing during prayer, "we should be polite to God." Dear children, do you ever think how wickedly rude it is to laugh and whisper in your class, or while the superintendent is engaged in prayer? Be careful how you laugh during God's service. Iest some time he laugh at you and "mock when your fear cometh."

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