

THE REAPER.

HERE is a reaper whose name's Death,
And, with his sickle keen,
He reaps the hard and grain at a breath,
And the flowers that grow between.

"Shall I have naught that is fair?" saith he,
"Have naught but the bearded grain!
Though the breath of these flowers is sweet
to me,
I will give them all back again."

He gazed at the flowers with tearful eyes,
He kissed their drooping leaves
It was for the Lord of Paradise
He bound them in his sheaves.

"My Lord has need of these flowerets gay,"
The reaper said, and smiled:
"Dear tokens of the earth are they,
Where he was once a child."

"They shall all bloom in fields of light,
Transplanted by my care,
And saint, upon their garments white,
These sacred flowers wear."

And the mother gave, in tears and pain,
The flowers she most did love;
She knew she should find them all again
In the fields of light above.

O, not in cruelty, not in wrath,
The reaper came that day;
Twas an angel visited the green earth,
And took the flowers away.

—Longfellow.

A THOUGHTLESS BOY
PUNISHED.

"I SHALL never forget," remarked a friend of mine, "an incident of childhood, by which I was taught to be careful not to wound the feelings of the unfortunate. A number of us school children were playing by the road-side one Saturday afternoon, when the stage-coach drove up to the neighbouring tavern and the passengers alighted. As usual, we gathered around to observe them. Among the number was an elderly gentleman with a cane, who got out with much difficulty, and when on the ground he walked with the most curious contortions. His feet turned one way, his knees another, and his whole body looked as though the different members were independent of each other, and every one was making motions to suit itself."

"I unthinkingly shouted, 'Look at old Rattle Bones!' while the poor man turned his head, with an expression of pain which I can never forget. Just then, to my surprise and extreme horror, my father came around the corner, and immediately stepping up to the stranger, shook hands warmly, and assisted him to walk to our house, which was but a short distance."

"I could enjoy no more play that afternoon, and when tea-time came I would gladly have hidden myself, but I knew it would be in vain, and so tremblingly went into the sitting room. To my great relief, the stranger did not recognize me, but remarked pleasantly to my father as he introduced me:

"Such a fine boy is surely worth the saving!"

"How the words cut me to the quick! My father had often told me the story of a friend who had plunged into the river to save me, as I was drowning when an infant, and who, in consequence of a cold then taken, had been made a cripple by inflammatory rheumatism; and this was the man I had made a butt of ridicule and a laughing stock for my companions!"

"I tell you, boys and girls, I won't give many dollars to have the memory of that event taken away. If ever

you are tempted as I was, remember that while no good comes of sport whereby the feelings of others are wounded, you may be laying up for yourselves painful recollections that will not leave you for a life time."—*Selected*

BY AND BY.

"How dull and dingy you look among us!" said a young larch-tree, that had just come out in all the glory of its spring foliage, to a sombre looking yew that stood alone of its kind in a plantation of fresh green saplings. "It's a pity you're not a little farther off for your own sake, for nobody will notice you here, unless it is to say how ugly you are; and really, you'll excuse my saying so, but you quite spoil our plantation with your dusky leaves."

"May be so now, friend," said the yew—"though there may be two opinions about that—but wait awhile till November comes, and where will your glory be? When your branches are bare, and the ground strewn with your withered leaves, my bushes will be covered with glossy foliage and shining berries, and I wonder which of us will be most admired then. Remember, my time is coming!"—*Mrs Prosser.*

WRITE TO THE BOYS.

If we had the ears of mothers in the country, whose boys have gone away to the cities, and to the great city, and who are wondering how they may help them to keep pure and true among the temptations of city life, we should say this to them: Write them a mother's love-letter every week. We know, by personal experience, how mother's letters keep her before the young man's eyes and ears; in the young man's heart. We know how those letters keep on building a hedge round a young man so high and so thick that foul conversation and evil enticement cannot get through. We do not believe that the devil can get near the mother-guarded youth.—*Sunday-School Chronicle.*

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

A.D. 80.] LESSON II. [Oct. 10.

JESUS BEFORE PILATE.

John 18. 28-40. Commit to mem. vs 36-38.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I find in him no fault at all. John 18. 38.

OUTLINE

1. The Accusers, v. 28-32
2. The King, v. 33-37
3. The Robber, v. 38-40.

TIME.—Early in the morning of Friday, the day of the crucifixion.

PLACE.—The Roman pretorium, called judgment-hall, was probably Pilate's residence when in Jerusalem, and was also probably in the castle of Antonia.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Should be defiled*—To enter the house of a Gentile was to be ceremonially defiled. But they did not hesitate to secure the punishment of death for Jesus. *The Passover*—the great commemorative feast in honor of Israel's deliverance from Egypt. *Malefactor*—He is a criminal by our law. We do not ask you to try him. We have tried him. We want too sentence of death. *Thou sayest*—This was the common form of assent, exactly equivalent to our shorter word, yes. *A robber*—Not simply a thief, but a violent murderer and highway robber.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

- Where, in this lesson, are we shown—
1. The cruel hatred of wicked men!
 2. The indifference of worldly men!
 3. The living witness for the truth!

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Before whom did the Jewish ruler bring Jesus? Before Pilate the Roman governor.
2. What did Pilate ask Jesus? "Art thou the King of the Jews?"
3. What did Jesus tell Pilate about his kingdom? "My kingdom is not of this world."
4. For what purpose did Jesus say that he had come? To bear witness of the truth. What was Pilate's testimony concerning Jesus, as given in the GOLDEN TEXT? "I find," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The truth.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

50. In what part of man is the image of God? In his spirit or soul, which was breathed into him by the Creator. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.—Genesis ii. 7.

A.D. 30.] LESSON III. [Oct. 17.

JESUS DELIVERED TO BE CRUCIFIED.

John 19. 1-16. Commit to mem. vs. 14-16.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. John 19. 16.

OUTLINE.

1. The Kingly Man, v. 1-7.
2. The Cautious Governor, v. 8-12.
3. The Murderous Crowd, v. 13-16.

TIME.—A. in Les on II.

PLACE.—The judgment-hall, as in Lesson II, and the paved court without Pilate's hall, where was the judgment-seat, on which he was seated when he officially delivered up Jesus.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Scourged him*—The Roman scourge was a short club with lashes attached with hooks at the end of the lashes. These not only beat, but also tore and lacerated the flesh. *A crown . . . a purple robe*—Insignia of royalty. The soldiers wished more to insult the Jews by this denial of Jesus than to insult him, and Pilate countenanced it. *Crucify him*—A Roman punishment, not a Jewish. It was the most terrible death, and the most humiliating Rome could inflict. *We have a law*—The law was a Jewish law against blasphemy, and did not come within the province of Roman justice. *The preparation of the passover*—Jesus and his disciples evidently ate the passover on the night before the regular time for the feast.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

- Where, in this lesson, are we taught—
1. The feeble character of Jesus!
 2. The fulfilment of prophecy!
 3. The wickedness of yielding to popular clamour!

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did Jesus suffer from his enemies during his trial? He was mocked and scourged.
 2. What did the soldiers place upon his head? A crown of thorns.
 3. What did Pilate say when he brought him forth to the Jews? "Behold the man!"
 4. What did the priests and rulers cry out when they saw him? "Crucify him!"
 5. What does the GOLDEN TEXT say that Pilate did? "Then delivered," etc.
- DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The wages of sin.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

51. Is then the soul of man created to live forever? It is immortal and will not die as the body dies. [Ecclesiastes xii. 7.]
52. What is the other part of man? His body, which is flesh and blood, and will die. [Matthew x. 28.]

THE boaster fights his battles with his tongue while the enemy is absent; the quiet one, with hands, head and heart. The one wins, the other runs.

THE power of drudging at disagreeable tasks is necessary to any worthy work. This power is never attained by one who always chooses and refuses in accordance with his inclination.

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