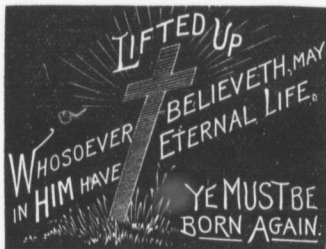


the guest-chamber, or down in the leafy court near the musically splashing fountain, or up on the house-roof watching the far-off stars set like shore-lights along deep, bottomless seas of azure. Hark! A step is heard. Some one seeks the presence of Jesus. It is Nicodemus, the Jewish ruler, and he bows before the wonderful Teacher. As they sit there in the shadows, you hear the earnest tones of their conversation. "How can a man be born again?" Nicodemus is asking. As Christ speaks of the Spirit you almost expect to hear the mysterious whirl of that wind blowing "where it listeth." And then as that talk by night goes on you look afar and behold a rough, weary land. Fiery serpents dart among a rebellious people, and they writhe in agony. Suddenly, up, up, rises a pole bearing a serpent of brass, and O what release from pain comes to these who turn helpless eyes of appeal toward it! That was a look into the past as Jesus talked with Nicodemus. He still speaks, and now there is a glance into the future when amid darkness and disgrace the Son of God lifted on a cross, bows his tired head and dies for those who look to him with faith in the mercy of God.

Blackboard.

BY J. B. PHIPPS, ESQ.



The diagram illustrates so plain a teaching of the lesson that it needs no explanation. A review may be made on the other side of the board. First, write "THE SEEKER," and in answer to questions the following: Nic. Ru. at Nl. Then write "THE WAY." YE MUST B. A. of W. and S. "THE MESSAGE." God Loved. God Gave. Whosoever. Ev. Life. These catch-words and letters are to be written as the answers are made by the school in response to questions from the desk.

Primary and Intermediate.

LESSON THOUGHT. *The New Heart.* Print "Nicodemus, Ruler of the Jews, Pharisee," on the board. Explain that Nicodemus was a man of learning and high position, or he could not have been a ruler of the Jews. Tell that most of the Pharisees were proud, and thought themselves too good to need a Saviour; so they did not want Jesus, and would not listen to him. Nicodemus was not like these. He had heard of the miracles Jesus worked, and thought he must be a man sent by God, so he wanted to talk with him. He did not know that Jesus could see right into his heart. Impress the thought that all hearts are alike, and that just what Nicodemus needed a little child needs—a new, clean heart. Call for Golden Text, and teach that Jesus says that to each one of us.

The Old Heart. Tell that Nicodemus did not know what Jesus meant by being born again. He was trying to do right and please God, but often finding that he

wanted to do wrong. That is the way with the old heart. It wants its own way. A little girl once said to her mother, "I know I could do right all the time if I pleased. I will show you that I can be good all my own self for a whole week." Her mother said, "Very well." Before the week was over the little girl came to her mother and said, "Mamma, I see I can't do right with my old heart. I must have a new one." The old heart loves sin. Jesus looked into the heart of Nicodemus and saw that it was a proud, self-loving heart, full of sin. He looks into our hearts. What does he see there?



The New Heart. Teach that Nicodemus did the wise and right thing to come to Jesus to inquire about these things. Jesus sends his Holy Spirit into the heart that asks, and some way—we do not know how—the Holy Spirit makes the heart new and clean, so that it no longer loves sin. Talk about

light, what it is good for, etc., and teach that the Spirit is a light to show sin, and also to show Jesus the Saviour from sin. Read verse 16 slowly, letting class repeat it clause by clause, and tell the story of the Israelites who were cured by looking at the brazen serpent. Show the cross, and teach that sin will kill us if we are not cured. God tells us to look at Jesus, lifted up on the cross, to show God's love for the world, and we shall be cured. If we look at Jesus we shall want to be like him, and so we shall be glad to let our sins go, and have the new heart that loves to please Jesus. Teach, "Create in me a clean heart, O God?"

LESSONS FOR MAY, 1886.

- MAY 2. Jesus at the Well. John 4. 5-26.
 MAY 9. Sowing and Reaping. John 4. 27-42.
 MAY 16. The Nobleman's Son. John 4. 43-54.
 MAY 23. Jesus at Bethsaida. John 5. 5-18.
 MAY 30. Jesus Feeding Five Thousand. John 6. 1-21.

Book Notices.

Social Studies in England. By Sarah K. Bolton. Boston: D. Lothrop & Co. The "Social Studies" in this volume are limited to the opportunities afforded to English women for higher education and for remunerative employment. The book is filled with facts of the most interesting and important character, and will be found of great value to all who are interested in the questions discussed.

An Aid to English Grammar. By Asher Starkweather, A.B. Syracuse, N. Y.: C. W. Bardeen. This book is prepared not for the use of the scholar, but of the teacher. It presents in alphabetical order the principal words in the language, shows how one word in various uses may be either a noun, an adjective, or a verb, and gives sentences illustrative of each use.

Epochs of Ancient History: The Spartan and Theban Supremacies. By Charles Sankey, M.A. *Epochs of Modern History: The Early Hanoverians.* By Edward E. Morris. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. In this age the reading public prefers a series of small books, each on one topic, to an elaborate work on the general subject. The plan has its advantages of convenience in handling, of thoroughness in treatment, and of variety in style. We know of no better course of historical hand-books than the two Epoch Series, ancient and modern, to which these compact and well-written books belong.