

## "THE LOST CHORD,"

SEATED one day at the organ,  
I was weary and ill at ease,  
And my fingers wander'd idly  
Over the noisy keys;

I know not what I was playing,  
Or what I was dreaming then,  
But I struck one chord of music,  
Like the sound of a great Amen.

It flooded the crimson-tinted light,  
Like the close of an Angel's Psalm,  
And it lay on my fever'd spirit,  
With a touch of infinite calm.

It quieted pain and sorrow,  
Like love overcoming strife;  
It seemed the harmonious echo  
From our discordant life.

It link'd all perplexed meanings,  
Into one perfect peace,  
And trembled away in silence,  
As if it were loth to cease:

I have sought, but I seek it vainly,  
That one lost chord divine  
Which came from the soul of the organ,  
And enter'd into mine.

It may be that death's bright angel,  
Will peep in that chord again;  
It may be that only in heav'n  
I shall hear that grand Amen.

## DARE TO DO RIGHT.

A GROUP of boys stood on the walk before a fine drug store, pelting one another with snow balls. In an unlucky moment the youngest sent a ball spinning through the frosty air against the druggist's window. The crash terrified them all, but none of them so much as the little fellow who stood pale and trembling with startled eyes, looking at the mischief he had done. "Won't old Kendrick be mad? Run, Ned! we won't toll. Run quick!" "I can't be gashed. Run I tell you, he's coming, coward! why don't you run? I guess he wouldn't catch me!" "How stupid, he'll be caught! Not spunk enough to run away! Well, done all I can for him," muttered the boy.

The door opened and an angry face appeared. "Who did this?" came in fierce tones from the owner's lips. "Who did this I say" he shouted. No one answered. The trembling, shrinking boy drew near. The delicate-looking culprit faced the angry man, and in tones of truth replied, "I did it, sir." "And you dare tell me of it?" he said, as he caught Ned by the collar. "I dare not deny it sir, I dare not tell a lie." The reply was unexpected. The stern man paused, he saw the pale cheeks, the frightened eyes; within the soul of truth shone, and his heart was touched. "Come here, sir," he commanded. "What is your name?" "Edward Howe, sir. Oh what can I do to pay you? I'll do anything"—his eyes filled with tears—"only don't make my mother pay for it, sir?" "Will you shovel my walk when the next snow falls?" Ned's face was radiant as he answered—"All winter, sir, I'll do it every time it snows." "All right, see that you are on hand immediately after the next snow." "Thank you, sir, I will be on hand for certain."

One morning about a week after this, when Ned awoke, he found the ground covered with a deep snow. Hastily dressing himself, and without waiting for his breakfast, he hurried off to the drug store. Mr. Kendrick, seeing him coming, went to the door to see what he was saying. "Well, Ned, I see you have kept your promise." "Yes

sir, I always try to do that." "Well" said he "I am just in need of a trusty boy in the store, I guess I will not ask you to shovel the snow; but will give you constant employment in the store if you are willing to stay." Years have rolled by, and Ned has become a partner in this store. And in all these years he has found it pays to "do right."

## READY BEFOREHAND.

WHAT are you doing now? I never saw a girl that was so always finding something to do!"

"I'm only going to sew a button on my glove."

"Why, you're not going out, are you?"

"Oh! no. I only like to get things ready beforehand, that's all."

And this little thing, that had been persisted in by Grace Hammond until it had become a fixed habit, saved her more trouble than she herself ever had any idea of; more time, too. In fact, it was of almost incalculable value to her. Ready beforehand—try it. As surely as you do faithfully, you will never relinquish it for the slipshod, time-enough-when-it's-wanted way of doing.

## LESSON NOTES.

## SECOND QUARTER.

## STUDIES IN THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES.

A. D. 37.] LESSON I. April 1.

## SIMON THE SORCERER

Acts 8. 14-25. Commit to memory vs. 20-23.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Acts 8. 21.

## OUTLINE.

1. The Spirit Received. v. 14-17.
2. The Sorcerer Rebuked. v. 18-25.

TIME.—A. D. 37, a few months after the death of Stephen.

PLACE.—The city of Samaria, in central Palestine.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Now when*—This was after Philip had been preaching at Samaria. *The apostles*—They stayed at Jerusalem when the rest of the Church was scattered during Saul's persecution. *Heard that Samaria*—The people of Samaria were not Jews, but were especially hated by the Jews. *Received the word*—The news of the Gospel. *They sent*—Peter and John went to represent the apostles and Church. *Come down*—Words used because Samaria stood on ground not so high as Jerusalem. *Receive the Holy Ghost*—The same power which had come upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost. *He was fallen upon none*—The Holy Spirit, a person in the Godhead. *Baptized*—They had been baptized as believers in Jesus. *Simon*—The sorcerer, one who claimed to have a power from God to do miracles and know the future, but was a deceiver. He had professed to believe in Jesus, and had been received into the Church. *Offered them money*—He thought that they were sorcerers, like himself, only possessing greater power. *Give me . . . this power*—He wanted to be an apostle himself, in having power. *Thy money perish with thee*—Meaning that both Simon and his money were doomed to destruction. *The gift of God*—God gives, but does not sell. *Neither part nor lot*—Not in heart one of God's people; not fit to receive the Holy Ghost. *Repent*—Turn from sin, as well as be sorry for it. *If perhaps*—If not too far gone in sin to repent. *Gall of bitterness*—In a state of sin as bitter as gall itself. *Bond of iniquity*—Fastened by wickedness as a chain. *Pray ye for me*—He did not speak of praying for himself. *Testified*—Borne witness to Jesus by preaching his word.

## TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where does this lesson teach—

1. That one may be baptized without being converted?

2. That God only can forgive sin?
3. That forgiveness can be obtained only by repentance and prayer?

## THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Where was the Gospel planted by Philip? In Samaria. 2. What followed the laying of the apostles' hands on those who had been converted? The gift of the Holy Ghost. 3. How did Simon the sorcerer seek to obtain this power? By buying it. 4. What did Peter say to him? "Thy money perish with thee." 5. What did Peter urge him to do? To repent and seek forgiveness.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The evil heart.

## CATECHISM QUESTION.

15. What honour was done to Christ at his baptism?

Christ was honoured at his baptism by the Spirit of God, like a dove, descending upon him; and by a voice coming from heaven saying, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased."

A. D. 37.] LESSON II. [April 8.

## PHILIP AND THE ETHIOPIAN.

Acts 8. 26-40. Commit to memory verses 35-38.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

And he went on his way rejoicing. Acts 8. 39.

## OUTLINE.

1. Reading. v. 26-33.
2. Receiving. v. 34-38.
3. Rejoicing. v. 39, 40.

TIME.—A. D. 37, immediately after the events of the last lesson.

PLACE.—The desert south-west of Palestine.

EXPLANATIONS.—*The angel*—A divine messenger. *Arose*—From Samaria, where he then was. *Unto the way*—The desert-road from Jerusalem south-west. *Arose and went*—Obeying the command, strange as it seemed. *An eunuch*—An officer in the court of Oriental kings. *Come to Jerusalem*—Though a foreigner, he worshipped God. *To worship*—He was going home after a journey of twelve hundred miles. *Read Esaias*—The prophet Isaiah. *The Spirit said*—By a divine impulse within his mind. *Join thyself*—Keep close to it. *Philip ran*—Showing readiness to obey God's voice. *Understandest thou*—He was reading aloud, and Philip saw that he was perplexed. *How can I*—Being a foreigner and not a Jew. *Desired Philip*—He saw that Philip was intelligent. *The place of the Scripture*—This was Isa. 53. *As a sheep*—So was Jesus led to death. *Judgment was taken away*—That is, no justice was given him. *Declare his generation*—Tell the story of his life since it was cut short. *Of whom speaketh*—This referred to Jesus Christ. *Preached unto him Jesus*—Showed that this was about Jesus. *A certain water*—A spring or stream. *Baptized*—Philip had told him that believers in Jesus were baptized in his name. *Believest with . . . heart*—True belief is resting the heart on Jesus as the Saviour. *Jesus . . . Son of God*—No one can truly believe this without trusting in Jesus as his Saviour. *Baptized him*—Thus making him a member of Christ's Church. *Caught away Philip*—He left suddenly, by a divine impulse, or by being taken away bodily. *He went on his way*—The Ethiopian rejoiced, because he had found Jesus. *Passing through*—All the cities on the sea-coast, as those of Joppa and Lydda.

## TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where does this lesson show—

1. An example of obedience to God?
2. The benefits of studying the Scriptures?
3. The way to be saved?

## THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Whom did Philip meet in the Desert? An Ethiopian nobleman. 2. What was the Ethiopian doing when Philip met him? Reading the Scriptures. 3. What did Philip say to him? "Understandest thou what thou readest?" 4. What did he ask Philip to do? To show him the meaning. 5. What did Philip then do? He preached Jesus to him. 6. How did the Ethiopian receive Philip's preaching? He believed in Jesus.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Christ the fulfillment of prophecy.

## CATECHISM QUESTION.

16. What became of Christ immediately after his baptism?

Christ, immediately after his baptism, was forty days in the wilderness, where he endured the temptations of the devil, and overcame the tempter.

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