

LUCK AND LABOR.

BY MRS. CAROLINE A. SOULE.

Luck doth wait, standing idly at the gate—
Wishing, wishing all the day;
And at night, without a fire, without a light,
And before an empty tray,
Doth sadly say:
“To-morrow something may turn up;
To-night on wishes I must sup.”

Labor goes, plowing deep the fertile rows—
Singing, singing all the day;
And at night, before the fire, beside the light,
And with a well-filled tray,
Doth gladly say:
“To-morrow I’ll turn something up;
To-night on wages earned I sup.”
—St. Nicholas.

A CITY SET ON A HILL.

The highest water-mark which the cause of Froebel's kindergarten has attained in America,—indeed in the world,—is to be seen in a small village in New England, where an eminent inhabitant (who insists that his name shall not be published) has conceived the idea of educating all the children of the town under seven years of age.

In November (1875) this gentleman invited a person devoted to propagating Froebel's system to make him a week's visit, and meet the inhabitants of the place, in a town hall in which they were accustomed to assemble for enjoyment and instruction, and have an informal conference on the subject of kindergarten. There was so much interest aroused, that there grew to be five of these conferences, besides visits and conversations with individual mothers; and the gentleman said that if a thoroughly competent and interested kindergartner could be had, he would invite her into his own house, give up his largest parlor for the kindergarten, and pay her a reasonable salary. Just such a person as he desired was found, teaching what she called a Froebel nursery,—children three and four years old,—which she called a kindergarten when her daughter, who was studying with Miss Garland, should graduate and join her. Our friend invited this lady to take her whole family into his house, and made himself a boarder, reserving three rooms for himself and confidential servant. He then put forth a modest prospectus, saying that whoever could afford or wished to pay for their children might do so, determining the same without reference to what others paid, or what was the price in other places. The rest of the expense he would bear himself, and he wished all the children of three and four years old in the place to come and join his own grandchildren. The next spring he offered a salary to the daughter, who had graduated, and invited the rest of the children of the town under seven years, rich and poor, black and white, for it was found that the method refined the manners and speech of all the children at once, the kindergartner was so happy in her profound knowledge of Froebel's ideas, her motherly tenderness, and practical tact. The numbers now increased so that it was necessary to take the town hall and its ante-rooms for the two kindergartens, and to engage another trained and experienced graduate of Miss Garland's school, and subsequently still another, and he selected for the fourth a Roman Catholic, who had been trained by Mrs. Kraus-Boelte, because he wanted the Roman Catholics of the town to feel sure there would be no sectarian teaching, which, of course, would be absurd in the case of little children, whose religion must needs be of that broadest kind in which all churches agree: practical love of each other and of their elders, with recognition of the dear Father of us all. After the perfect success of last winter and spring, the blessed old man was encouraged to go further, and he erected a building of three stories (with large halls and ante-rooms, warmed all over by a furnace, and with hot and cold water in every story), on a beautiful sunshiny spot, with hills as a prospect all around, and grounds for out door play and gardening; there is every accommodation for a winter garden in the large, low, sunny window-seats, where the smallest children can take care of their plants. For after their own little fancy-work and manufactures, the plant-world affords the most suitable means for object-learning in the kindergarten.

There is one thing more. The head kindergartner, who is a fitting coadjutor with this public benefactor, has gathered to a weekly meeting all the mothers who can come, to impart to them the ideas and moral scope of Froebel's method; and these come to her baby-class to observe and assist (at least two every day). For the plan is to thoroughly convince all the people that this is the first step of all education, the indispensable preparation of heart, mind, and habit of action, for the school education, which will prove of immensely more advantage, when it is built upon this foundation. When this end is gained, this wise man will give all the property and fixtures to the town, on the condition that in

future they will pay the salaries which will be fewer if mothers assist. This they can do at the cost of but two or three weeks in the year, which will have its overpayment in their enjoyment of the work, and the high culture that it will give themselves, who thus can make the home life conform. Is there not, in nearly every town, some one who has more money than is needful to his heirs, who can make himself the benefactor of the whole coming generation, and (to use Froebel's own expression) “grow the new men” of our country's future?

One noble woman has given to one great city in the West, that knowledge of Froebel's system which only a good kindergarten can give, and in three years has gradually brought the school board to the point of ordering twenty-six kindergartens, and paying twenty-six salaries to trained teachers, while a hundred volunteers give the assistance necessary, where there are large numbers. Who will do for their cities what Miss Blow has done for St. Louis?—New England Educational Journal.

SCHOLARS' NOTES

From the International Lessons for 1877 by Edwin W. Rice, as issued by American Sunday-School Union.

LESSON XIII.

APRIL 1.]

THE OIL INCREASED. [About 895 B. C.]

READ 2 Kings iv. 1-7. RECITE vs. 3-6.

GOLDEN TEXT.—And God is able to make all grace abound toward you.—2 Cor. ix. 8.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—God gives bountifully.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—Neh. v. 1-13. T.—Lev. xxv. 35-46. W.—John ii. 1-11. Th.—Ex. xvi. 11-21. F.—Ps. xxxvii. 16-28. Sa.—Phil. iv. 4-13. S.—2 Kings iv. 1-7.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—After rebuking the youthful mockers at Bethel, Elisha went to Samaria. Meshu, king of Moab, rebelled against Israel; Jehoram, Jehoshaphat, and the king of Edom united to subdue him; they suffered greatly from the want of water; Elisha promised that the Lord would send water and also give them the victory; the Moabites were defeated.

NOTES.—Sons of the prophets, disciples of the prophets, not exclusively young men, but often fathers of families training for the ministry. Cred-it-or, bond-men. The law of Moses recognized servitude for debt, but limited it in the case of the Jews to the year of Jubilee. Foreigners were not entitled to release at that time. Lev. xxv. 38-46; compare Matt. v. 26; xviii. 30. Oil. Olive oil, in the East, is esteemed an indispensable article for the households, as well of the poor as of the rich. It is used in the preparation of food; for lights; for anointing bathers, the sick, etc.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I.) THE WIDOW'S DISTRESS. (II.) THE WIDOW'S RELIEF.

I. THE WIDOW'S DISTRESS. (1.) DID FEAR THE LORD, was well-known as pious; one of the seven thousand who had not bowed to Baal. 1 Kings xix. 18; CREDITOR IS COME, he did not come as long as the debtor lived, but now claims not merely their services, which the law allowed, but them as bondmen, which the law forbid. Lev. xxv. 39-42. (2.) POT OF OIL, or “an anointing of oil”—oil for one anointing, but none for cooking.

I. QUESTIONS.—To whom did the woman in distress go for relief? What had her husband been? Meaning of “sons of the prophets”? State what was their work? What did she say of her husband? What did Elisha know about him? Meaning of “fear the Lord”? Explain the words “creditor” and “bondmen.” State the Jewish law as to servitude for debt. See Lev. xxv. 39-42. What two questions did Elisha ask? What had the woman in the house? The meaning of “a pot of oil”? Mention some of the uses of olive oil. What does her reply show as to her destitution?

II. THE WIDOW'S RELIEF. (3.) VESSELS, JARS OR POTS; NOT A FEW, God purposed to give her a large blessing. (4.) SHUT THE DOOR, to prevent interruption from creditors or neighbors, and that they might be alone with God. Compare Luke viii. 51-54; John vii. 3, 4; Acts x. 41; POUR OUT, from the vessel of oil she had. (6.) THE OIL STAYED, stopped flowing when the vessels were full. (7.) OF THE REST, the remainder of the oil, and the money received.

II. QUESTIONS.—What did Elisha bid the woman borrow? From whom? In what condition? How many? What do you when she came in? Whom did she shut in with her? What did her sons do? What did she do? State her request when the vessels were full. Her son's reply. What is said of the oil? To whom did she tell her good fortune? What did he direct her to do with the oil? What to pay? Upon what to live? Describe a similar miracle in Elijah's time. 1 Kings xvii. 7-16. Describe another miracle of Elijah's to avoid incurring debt. 2 Kings vi. 5-7. One of Christ's. Matt. xvii. 27.

What facts in this lesson teach us—
(1.) The evil of being in debt?
(2.) The benefit of counselling with good men when in trouble?
(3.) God's care for widows and orphans?
(4.) The obligation to pay debts as soon as we have the means?

APRIL 8.]

LESSON XIV.

THE SHUNAMMITE. [About 889 B. C.]

READ 2 Kings iv. 25-37. RECITE vs. 32-36.

GOLDEN TEXT.—O woman, great is thy faith; be it unto thee even as thou wilt.—Matt. xv. 28.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—God cares for those who care for his servants.

DAILY READINGS.—M.—2 Kings iv. 8-21. T.—Luke vii. 1-15. W.—John xi. 11-44. Th.—1 Kings xvii. 17-24. F.—Acts xx. 7-12. Sa.—James v. 13-20. S.—2 Kings iv. 25-37.

CONNECTED HISTORY.—Elisha was entertained at the house of the Shunammite; promised to her a son; the child when grown fell sick and died; his mother went to Carmel for Elisha; he restored the child. [The dates in the margin of some of our Bibles are clearly wrong (895-4), as they do not allow time for the child to become “grown;” he was probably from four to six years old.]

TO THE SCHOLAR.—Read very carefully the verses 8 to 31, telling how the little boy, while playing in the harvest field, was taken suddenly sick, brought home to his mother, and in a little while died.

NOTES.—Ge-ha'-zi Nothing is known of his birth, or when he became Elisha's attendant. Later he was smitten with leprosy, and dismissed from the prophet's service, 2 Kings v. 20-27. Several years afterwards he obtained for the Shunammite the restoration of her property. 2 Kings viii. 1-6. Shu'-nam-mite, a woman of Shunem (now Solam), a town in Issachar (Josh. xix. 18), at the south-western foot of Little Hermon. It was about seven miles across the plain of Jezreel from Shunem to the nearest point of Carmel. Porters saw in the harvest fields at that place children playing among the sheaves, and all with bare heads in the blazing sunshine. Staff, applied to the wand or sceptre of ruler; might be used by any leader as symbol of authority; was the badge of the prophetic gift and office of Elisha; probably of wood, but cannot be described from any Bible notices.

EXPLANATIONS AND QUESTIONS.

LESSON TOPICS.—(I.) THE MOTHER'S APPEAL. (II.) GEHAZI'S FRUITLESS MISSION. (III.) ELISHA RESTORES THE DEAD CHILD.

I. THE MOTHER'S APPEAL. (25.) GEHAZI . . . SHUNAMMITE. See Note. (26.) RUN . . . TO MEET HER, showing respect to the woman; IT IS WELL—literally, “peace,” an ambiguous answer; she could not stop to explain to the servant. (27.) BY THE FEET, an eastern form of supplication, still practiced, compare Mark v. 22; John xi. 32; HATH HID IT, hath not revealed it.

I. QUESTIONS.—To whom did the afflicted mother go? Where? How far from her home? In what direction? Tell the story of her son's sickness. Of his death? Where had she left him? Who saw her coming to Mount Carmel? What did he bid Gehazi say to her? State her reply. The meaning of it? What did she do when she came to the prophet? The significance of this act? Mention some similar instances in Christ's time. What did Gehazi do? How did Elisha restrain him? Why? State her words to the prophet. To whom should we go in sorrow? How?

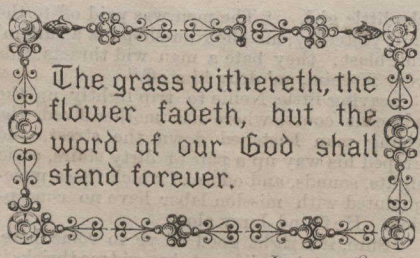
II. GEHAZI'S FRUITLESS MISSION. (29.) GIRD UP THY LOINS, the loose robes must be tightly belted for rapid travelling; TAKE MY STAFF, sign of a prophetic act; SALUTE HIM NOT, the ceremonious Oriental salutations take much time and hinder the traveller. (30.) AS THE LORD LIVETH, etc., a double oath, the same as was three times used by Elisha. 2 Kings ii. 2, 4, 6; see also 1 Sam. xx. 3; xxv. 26. (31.) NOR HEARING, literally, “nor attention;” NOT AWAKED, death is often spoken of as a sleep. 1 Kings i. 21; Matt. ix. 24; John xi. 11.

II. QUESTIONS.—State Elisha's command to Gehazi. What was he to take? What not to do? Where to lay his staff? State the mother's words to the prophet. Mention other instances of a similar oath. What did the prophet do? v. 30. State how Gehazi executed his commission. With what effect? What report did he give to his master? Mention other instances where death is spoken of as a sleep.

III. ELISHA RESTORES THE DEAD CHILD. (32.) HIS BED—i.e., Elisha's bed. (33.) THEM T'WAIN, himself and the child. (34.) MOUTH UPON HIS MOUTH, etc., doing these things successively; STRETCHED HIMSELF, “prostrated himself.” (35.) RETURNED, from the chamber; WAXED WARM, sign of returning life, dead bodies are cold. (36.) TAKE UP THY SON, compare Elijah's action (1 Kings xvii. 23) and Christ's (Luke vii. 15).

III. QUESTIONS.—Where was the dead child? What three things did Elijah do? How did he lie upon the child? How many times stretch himself upon the child? With what result the first time? The second? State the prophet's command to Gehazi. To the Shunammite. What did she do? Describe a similar miracle performed by Elijah. 1 Kings xvii. 17-24. How are the spiritually dead brought to life? Eph. ii. 1.

What facts in this lesson teach us—
(1.) Where afflicted parents should seek consolation?
(2.) The weakness of human means?
(3.) The power of God to raise the dead



The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of our God shall stand forever.

ISA. 40: 8.

EPSS'S COCOA.—Some time since, in a series of articles in these columns upon food, we spoke in terms of unqualified praise of Messrs. Epps & Co.'s “Prepared Cocoa.” The opinion we then expressed as to its purity and nutritious qualities has been fully endorsed by the public, as shown in its increased and steadily increasing consumption. We believe that Messrs. Epps's manufactories are now the largest of the kind in the three kingdoms, and the total quantity of “Prepared Cocoa” consumed at the present time approaches four millions of pounds annually. This result is not surprising. The dietetic properties of native cocoa are well-known, but in the form prepared by Messrs. Epps, Homeopathic Chemists, they are rendered additionally valuable, both on account of their increased nutritive power and digestible character. We rejoice to see the high opinion we originally held to have been so generally confirmed, and we again congratulate Messrs. Epps on the sound and valuable addition they have made to our not over lengthy list of dietetic foods.—Civil Service Gazette.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

AMERICA NEEDS a Protestant paper in the French language, and to supply that need, L'Aurore was established. It is a live paper, and is conducted on the same principles as other WITNESS publications. During the past two months, its success has been very encouraging and satisfactory. It is the size of the MESSENGER, and published weekly. The price is \$3 per year, for which it is mailed, post free, to any address in America. JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

ON THE WHOLE, the number not only sustains the reputation of the MONTHLY, but gives evidence of fresh and successful effort on the part of the editors. This periodical is now, we believe, the oldest magazine in the Dominion, having outlived the epidemics which have proved fatal to so many other literary bantlings.—Montreal GAZETTE in reference to the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY for February.

VERY MUCH ATTENTION has been directed to the subject of weather predictions by Mr. Vennor's Almanac, and in answer to his request in it, he has received letters from all sections of the country containing much valuable information which it would have been almost impossible to have obtained in any other manner. The Almanac is still selling rapidly. The price is 20 cents a copy. JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

THE FOLLOWING ARE the opinions expressed by some of our correspondents with regard to DRESS AND HEALTH. Dr. Nathan Allen, of Lowell, Mass., well-known as the author of various pamphlets and essays on the laws which govern population and similar subjects, says: “If my views on Laws of Population are correct, this Dress Reform must come up, be studied and practised. Your work is calculated to do great good. I am glad it is selling so well.”

A lady in Bristol, Conn., writes: “I wish every young lady in the land could have a copy, and heed the advice it contains; then we might hope the next generation would be healthfully, comfortably, and prettily dressed.”

A lady, who dates her letter from a town in New Brunswick, in ordering a number of copies, says: “I intend them for our Church Bazaar, where they will be to hand, at cost price, for those who, in my opinion, very much need them. I regret not having had their teaching earlier in my life.”

A lady in Brooklyn writes: “I sincerely hope its sale will meet with success. It is a book which every lady should be proud to possess.” Price, 30 cents. JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

THE BROCKVILLE “MONITOR,” after bewailing the death of so many magazines in Canada, says: “Under these circumstances, we are always glad to see the NEW DOMINION MONTHLY make its appearance, to give tangible proof that a monthly periodical can exist in Canada, when sustained by some at least of the requisite desiderata of such ventures. Its publishers, Messrs. JOHN DOUGALL & SON, have their own excellent printing establishment at their back; and therefore, produce their monthly at the lowest possible cost, and that is one secret of its success. It is very well printed, too, sold at the very moderate price of \$1.50 per annum, and supplies a large amount of pleasant, healthy gossip reading for the family circle, all which constitute the secrets of its success. A little more discriminating care in the editing of this meritorious periodical would add greatly to its value, and make it more acceptable than it is now to readers of a higher intellectual culture than it caters for at present. The English magazines do not circulate at all as largely as they used to do in Canada some years ago, that is in proportion to the increase of population, and if the NEW DOMINION were to copy an article or two from these magazines on important current topics, which largely interest the popular mind, it would certainly be a step in the right direction. But even as it stands at present, it is well worthy of support, and we heartily recommend it to the attention of those who would introduce cheap and healthy literature into their families. The January number contains several interesting papers, and those who desire to be at once instructed and amused, should provide themselves with a copy of it.”

FROM THE EASY EXPECTORATION, increased respiratory power of the lungs, and the removal of irritation, manifest from cessation of Cough and other alarming symptoms after using Fellows' Compound Syrup of Hypophosphites, it is clear that the formation of tuberculous matter is not only stopped, but that already deposited is being carried away.

THE CLUB RATES FOR THE MESSENGER are, when sent to one address, as follows:—1 copy, 30c.; 10 copies, \$2.50; 25 copies, \$6; 50 copies, \$11.50; 100 copies, \$22; 1,000 copies, \$200. J. DOUGALL & SON, Publishers, Montreal.

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CHILDREN DIE.

GOD CAN RAISE THE DEAD