

A Tale of the Orient.

Sheik Hassan sat beside his door,
While three young men passed by,
The glow of youth was on each cheek,
Youth's fire flashed in each eye.

"What seekest thou?" wise Hassan asked
The first bright, ardent lad.
"I seek for pleasure," he replied,
"I only would be glad."

"What seekest thou?" the next he asked,
"For riches," came reply,
"With riches I am well assured,
Great pleasure I can buy."

"And you?" asked Hassan of the third,
"What is it you pursue?"
"With modest men he meekly said,
"I would my duty do."

In after years, now aged men,
The self-same three passed by,
And being asked how they had fared,
Each thus made his reply.

The first said, "Pleasure, phantom like,
Just when you'd seize it, disappears."
The second, "Riches have not power
To banish sorrow, pain and tears."

The third thus spoke in cheerful tone,
"While smiles lit up his happy face,
While I my duty tried to do,
With duty pleasure walked apace."

LESSON NOTES.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.
FIRST QUARTER.

LESSON IX—FEBRUARY 28.

THE DISCIPLES DISPERSED.

Acts 8. 1-17. Memory verses, 5-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

They that were scattered abroad went
everywhere preaching the word.—Acts
8. 4.

OUTLINE.

1. The Church Scattered, v. 1-4.
 2. The Church Growing, v. 5-17.
- Time.—Immediately after the events of the last lesson, probably in the summer of A.D. 37.
- Place. 1. Jerusalem. 2. "A city of Samaria," probably either ancient Samaria (Sebaste) or Sychar.
- HOME READINGS.
- M. The disciples dispersed.—Acts 8. 1-8.
Tu. The disciples dispersed.—Acts 8. 9-17.
W. The gift of God.—Acts 8. 18-25.
Th. Persecution foretold.—Matt. 10. 16-23.
F. Partakers with Christ.—1 Peter 4. 12-19.
S. Joy in the city.—Neh. 8. 5-12.
Su. Samaritans believing.—John 4. 27-30; 39-42.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Church Scattered, v. 1-4.
Who approved of Stephen's death?
What happened to the church at Jerusalem?
Where did the disciples go?
What honour was paid to the martyr Stephen?
What did Saul do?
What did the persecuted church do?
How widely were they scattered? See Acts 11. 19.
2. The Church Growing, v. 5-17.
To what city did Phillip journey?
What did he there do?
How was his message received?
What miracles did he perform?
What claims did Solomon make for himself?
What did the people say of him?
Why did they give heed to him?
What did those who believed Phillip's message do?
What did Simon do?
With whom did he keep company?
Who were sent from Jerusalem?
For what did these apostles pray?
Why did they thus pray?
What then did they do, and with what result?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson are we shown—
1. How persecution aids the truth?
 2. That a renewed heart is the secret of a renewed life?
 3. That the Holy Spirit is God's best gift to the church?

A little girl who had mastered her catechism confessed herself disappointed "because," she said, "though I obey the fifth commandment and honour my papa and mamma, yet my days are not a bit longer in the land, because I am put to bed at seven o'clock."

THE TEST OF LOVE.

"Since you gave your heart to God last spring, Jennie," said a pastor to a little girl, "you think that you have been a Christian. Can you tell us why you think so?"

"Because, sir," she said, "after thinking a moment, 'Jesus says, 'If ye love me, keep my commandments,' and I want to keep his commandments more than anything else."

"Yes, my dear child. 'By this we know that we love him when we keep his commandments.' You say, Jennie, that you feel your sins are all forgiven. Will you tell us how you know? May you not be mistaken?"

She stood a moment, and then said, "I know that Jesus surely says that if we ask him he will forgive."

"Yes; we have his own sure word. And now, Jennie, suppose some one should ask you how to be a Christian, could you answer? Suppose one of the little girls at school should ask you how she could be a Christian, could you tell her?"

"I would tell her just to trust Jesus, and obey him," she said, quickly.

BUGS TELL THE TIME.

A jeweller near the Junction has a novel clock in his show window. It puzzles and amuses crowds every day. There is simply a dial a foot and a half square, apparently lying on a box an inch in depth. There are no hands and no holes in the dial. In spite of this the clock tells time perfectly. There are two little Mexican beetles of the green-bronze variety that have been more or less popular as scarf-pins, etc., and they crawl about and mark the minutes and hours accurately. One of them rests on the outer circle of the dial and moves from one figure to another each hour. The other bug marches on the dial's inner circle, and moves one-fifth of the space between the figures every minute. What tells the bugs when and how far to move is a mystery that ninety-nine out of every one hundred who look at them give up in despair.

The bugs are plainly enough alive, else how could they walk? And there are no strings on them, so why do they not walk off about their own affairs, as any ordinary bug would do in no time?

"The thing's simple enough," said a



ALSATIAN PEASANT.

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The provinces of Alsatia and Lorraine were captured by Louis XIV. from Germany about two hundred years ago. Although their language is German they became thoroughly assimilated with France during its long possession. They were recaptured by the Germans in the late Franco-German war over a score of years ago, and one of the most determined feelings of the French is that they should be again taken from the Germans. Around the Place de la Concorde, in Paris, are the statues of the great cities of France. Among them are those of Strassburg and Metz, which have been captured by the Germans. For the last score of years these have been perpetually draped in black, with funeral wreaths, as a sign of mourning, and as a sign, too, that they are destined to become French again.

The people of these provinces naturally share the desire to be restored to France, but are not allowed to say much about it. They are a simple-minded and industrious people. They wear a very peculiar costume. The women wear black caps with large bows behind, even larger than shown in our cut.

Germany holds these provinces in an iron grip, the great cities of Metz and Strassburg being heavily garrisoned with horse, foot, and artillery.

man, after glancing at the clock. "The bugs are dead as Julius Caesar. Each of them is merely a shell and has a bit of steel set into its base. The clock has hands, only they are underneath instead of above the dial, and they are magnetized. Every time the hand forges ahead its attraction carries the steel and the little green bug-shell along. Put a couple of steel pins on a sheet of paper and move a magnet around underneath, and you'll see just how it works. It's too easy."

THEY TOOK A COLLECTION.

A crowd of little street Arabs was gathered at the door of the Clark Street Mission waiting for their teacher. They were ragged and dirty, and many of them doubtless hungry; all of them familiar with hardships. There were swarthy, black-eyed girls with shawls pinned over their heads, and boys with toes peeping out of their ragged shoes. Presently a new arrival appeared, leading by the hand two children a little more forlorn in appearance than themselves. One had sore eyes, and was apparently half blind.

"See here, fellers," was the introduction of their guide, "These two kids hain't got nobody to take care of 'em. They sleep in a box, and they hain't had

nothin' to eat to-day. Can't we do sumthin' for 'em?"

"Let's take a collection," some one suggested, and there was a general murmur of approval.

A ragged cap was produced and passed around. Grimy hands plunged into the recesses of tattered garments for pennies, and the collector announced the result, "seven cents." A committee, a large one, was appointed to go to the nearest bakery, and invest the funds. Some small cakes were bought, which were thrust into the hands of the children, and they were bidden to eat. When the teacher arrived, she found the "two orphans" the centre of an admiring group, contentedly munching their cakes, and with much satisfaction the case was turned over into her hands.—Deaconess Advocate.

How to keep cool—Go to Greenland.

First Medical Student.—"You find the wheel beneficial?" Second Medical Student.—"Very! It gives you a practical knowledge of contusions and dislocations which it would be very difficult to obtain otherwise."

"Now, children," said the teacher, "what do you call the meal that you eat in the morning?" "Oatmeal," promptly replied a number of the class.

Eastern Visitor.—"How was it you did not hang that murderer? Did he establish an alibi?" Quick Drop Dan.—"That's just what he did. When the sheriff went to the gaol to hang him he wasn't there."

Mistress (greatly scandalized)—"Is it possible, Huldah, you are making bread without having washed your hands?" New Kitchen Girl—"Lor', what's the difference, mum? It's brown bread."

The New Cook.—"Shure, mum, there agoin' to be a foight in this house; Oi upsit th' whole box av salt." Mrs. Crossgrain—"Oh, pshaw! Bridget; do not be so superstitious. It only shows ignorance." The New Cook—"But, mum, Oi upsit it all in th' soup."

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