

THE CROWNING.

I.

Who shall be crowned with a crown? I said,
While the young year sat in his fields of clover;
And the breezes sighed and the moon rose red,
Tinging the clouds as they floated over.
The gathering youth and the eager bands
From the meadow lands
Aro coming now

To cheer the race with applauding hands,
And to put a wreath on the victor's brow;
Shall the Artist be crowned? He is swift and fair;
And his brow is flushed in the balmy air:
He hath made the bosom of bronze to sob,
And the heart of marble to thrill and throb!
So let him be crowned
While the hills resound
With loud applause and melodious song
For the artist-king in the midst of the throng!
No! said a voice from the fields of air;
Till the pencil shall lift the crouching slave,
And the marble weep for the fallen brave,
The forehead of Art no crown shall wear.

II.

Who shall be crowned? I quietly said
In the open air of the summer even
While the planets yellow and planets red
Looked back through the western gates of
heaven;

The throng will gather to-morrow day,
By the great highway
To crown their king
With the laurel wreath and the ivy spray,
As all of the singers sing.

Shall the Hero be crowned? He's a man of blood,
With a wavering plume and a burnished hood,
And a merciless eye, and an iron heel,
And a mighty arm, and a sword of steel;
He shall be crowned
Wherever he's found,

And the king of all times and all ages be
From the tropical isles to the Northern sea!
No! said a voice from the ether far,
The laurel wreath and the ivy spray
Shall be woven no more for aye and aye
For that terrible Man of War!

III.

Who shall be crowned? I doubtfully said
In the still, cold night of the pale September,
While the Milky Way hung over my head
With its stars of gold and its path of amber;
The pageant comes and the scene is set
And the crowds all fret
Around the ring,

And a fair hand holds the coronet
For the brow of the coming King.
Shall the Sago be crowned? He is very old
And his pulse is low and his breast is cold;
And the fire still shines from the altar far
And his eye darts forth like a quenchless star;
For the Stone he hath found
He shall now be crowned

As the king of all realms in the times to come,
From the wild man's tent to the fisherman's
home!

No! was the echo that fell from the air;
The Tree of Knowledge hath borne a fruit
With a pulp of ashes and core of soot
That is death to the eater, and then despair!

IV.

Who shall be crowned? I solemnly said,
For my heart was sore and my brain was sober,
As I turned through the shadows with heavy
tread

To the sombre woods of the dun October:
The crowning is here or will be soon—
By to-morrow noon
They will choose a king!
And already the ivy of Ercildowne
For his coronet is a gathering.

Shall the Poet be crowned? He was monarch
long
In the grand old days of heroic song;
And the wild winds rush through the harp-
strings still,

And the melodies sweep and the echoes thrill!
Be his hands unbound
And his brow be crowned
With a chaplet fresh, and a loud acclaim
For the harper's harp and the singer's name!

No! said a voice through the shadows dim;
Till the citadel and the towers of Wrong
Shall reel for the singer and reel for his song,
There shall be no crown for his harp or him!

V.

Who shall be crowned? I wearily said
In the glittering night of the chill December;
The fruits are gathered, the leaves are dead,
And the fire of hope but a single ember!
When the sun shall rise on the world again
By the homes of men

They will gather and bring
From the ancient walls the ivy, and then
They will crown with a crown their king.
Shall the Man be crowned? It is he, it is he,
Who has broken the chains and made us free!
He hath smitten the despot's face with a blow,
And the blood of the slave no more shall flow.
While a Man is found
To be wreathed and crowned!

And the cowering race shall rise and fling
Its manacles down at the feet of the king!
Aye! was the murmur that rose and ran
Around the rim of the solemn night;
And the morrow shall break with a holler
light
When we meet and crown the Man.
—John Clark Ridpath.

TRAPS FOR YOUR BOYS.

BY META LANDER.

After long and faithful study of the great
necromancer, Tobacco, whose attributes
are legion, and whose ways are multiform
as the shifting sands, I supposed myself
enlightened as to all his tricks and turns,
his quirks and quavers. But I was mis-
taken.

Never did general more skilfully mar-
shal his forces for conquest than does this
narcotic commander. His scent for prey
is keen as a vulture's, and he scruples at
no measure which will accomplish his ends.

Every one knows the passion of boys for
all sorts of collections—postage stamps and
pictured flags, coins, eggs and bugs. The
other day I came across a lad who, I was
told, had a fine stock of portraits of cele-
brated characters military and civic. So,
being interested in boys and all that con-
cerns them, I asked him to show me his
treasures.

The moment I began to examine them a
great surprise fell on me, and exclamations
escaped my lips. Verily, I had stumbled
upon a new craze, or rather, "fad," to use
a popular and elegant term.

I am moved to copy some of the things
I found on the back of these various cards,
the front being reserved for the advertise-
ment:

"This is the most complete and correct
collection of all military and naval uni-
forms throughout the world."

"We will pack in the celebrated
Chewing Tobacco the portraits of all the
leading base-ball players in the country in
full uniform."

"Flags of all the states and territories
in the Union."

"Portraits of our leading actors and
actresses in the costumes of all nations
from 600 B. C. to the present time."

On some of these cards important state-
ments are made:

"Figures never lie. The following
statistics of our sales since 1882, showing
the important increase from year to year,
will convince you of the great and general
appreciation of our cigarettes by the public."

Having given these statistics, the com-
pany continues:

"Think of it! Four hundred and sixty-
six millions of cigarettes sold in one year!"

Yes, think of it, fathers and mothers!

"Over three hundred millions of them
have been sold within the last six months,
or an average of two millions for each
working day; three thousand three hun-
dred and twenty-two per minute, allowing
ten hours per day!"

The exclamations are mine.

Now behold the great unravelling! With
every package of tobacco, in whatever
shape, comes a slip or ticket, the card be-
ing regarded as a ticket, of which twenty-
five, seventy-five or one hundred, as the
case may be, are returned in exchange for
some such premium as I have indicated.

That is, to the lad who smokes or chews
the required number of packages, or col-
lects the slips or tickets from some smoker
or chewer, is held out an attractive reward.

In one case, the picture of a man on
horseback, the name of the man and the
horse and the advertisement are all mixed
up together. Opposite is found:

"Return 25 of these cards and we will
send a large picture 8x10 inches, on heavy
plate paper, of any horse in the series you
may select."

Or it is:
"On receipt of 100 of these cards, we
will deliver a beautiful illustrated Album
of 'The Champions of the World,' or of
'The World's Beauties.'"

I am obliged, moreover, to add that
some of these cards should be turned over
to the vigilant Comstock. So sickeningly
suggestive are many of them of their ante-
cedents that it has required not a little
sacrifice to examine them, as I have done
in the interests of mothers and their boys.

Would that I could reach the hearts of
these tobacco-traders! How earnestly
would I entreat them to stay their hands

from laying such snares for unwary feet,
from casting forth such nets into the great
sea of human life! Can they realize what
they are doing? Do they know that the
tobacco appetite, once kindled, becomes a
tyrant that binds its victims, hand and foot,
that many a disease of body and mind fol-
lows in its train; that it tends toward in-
consideration, discourtesy, selfishness and
barbarism; and that it often awakens a
thirst for strong drink which leads to the
saloon and to ruin?

Do they know all this? And will they
not forbear? Alas, no! for the greed of
gain overcomes every scruple of conscience.

So I must beseech the mothers and the
sisters that they be vigilant in foreseeing
and forewarning and preventing.

And I make an appeal to you, dear boys
—that young army which will soon control
our land. Will you not give an abso-
lute and persistent No to every temptation,
however attractive, held out by this relen-
tless Tobacco-despot? To yield is to enter
the pathway of an ignoble slavery. And
how can you maintain the freedom of your
country unless you yourselves are free
men?—N. Y. Independent.

SCHOLAR'S NOTES.

(From Westminster Question Book.)

LESSON II.—JANUARY 12.

THE SONG OF MARY.—Luke 1:46-55.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my
spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."—Luke
1:46, 47.

HOME READINGS.

M. Luke 1:46-55.—Mary's Song.
T. 1 Sam. 2:1-10.—Hannah's Song.
W. 2 Sam. 7:1-17.—David's Royal Son.
Th. 2 Sam. 7:18-23.—David's Thanksgiving.
F. Isa. 9:1-8.—The Messiah's Birth Foretold.
S. Isa. 11:1-10.—The Messiah's Reign of Peace.
S. Psalm 72:1-20.—The Messiah's Kingdom.

LESSON PLAN.

I. Praise for Favor, vs. 46-49.
II. Praise for Goodness, vs. 50-53.
III. Praise for Faithfulness, 54, 55.

TIME.—B. C. 5. April, six months after the last
lesson; Augustus Cæsar emperor of Rome;
Herod the Great king of Judea, about a year
before his death.

PLACE.—In the hill-country of Judea, the home
of Zacharias; probably Hebron, seventeen miles
south of Jerusalem.

OPENING WORDS.

Zacharias, unable to believe the tidings of the
angel, asked for some sign. This was given him
in the shape of a judgment on account of his un-
belief. Luke 1:20, 61. Six months after the an-
nunciation of Zacharias, the angel Gabriel was
sent to Mary to announce to her that she was to
be the mother of the Messiah. She immediately
went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. On meeting
her she uttered the song which is the subject of
this lesson.

HELP IN STUDYING THE LESSON.

V. 46.—*My soul, my spirit*—"all that is within
me." Ps. 103:1. *Doth magnify*—make great,
praise. V. 47. *God my Saviour*—who not only
had redeemed her soul, but also had honored her
with the assurance that she should be the mo-
ther of the Saviour. V. 48. *Regarded*—looked
upon with favor. *Blessed*—shall honor her as the
mother of the Saviour. But we are not to wor-
ship her or pray to her. Luke 11:28. V. 50.
Mercy—kindness to the undeserving. V. 51.
With his arm—with his strength and power.
V. 52. *Their seats*—Revised Version, "their
thrones." V. 53. *The hungry*—those who feel
their need. Matt. 5:6. *The rich*—the self-
righteous; those who do not feel their need.
V. 54. *Holpen*—helped, supported. Ps. 89:19.
In remembrance of his mercy—his covenant with
Abraham and the patriarchs, and the mercy
promised them. V. 55. *As he spake*—the pro-
mise of a Saviour, and of blessings through him.
Gen. 22:17, 18.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—What did the angel announce
to Zacharias? How did Zacharias receive this
announcement? Why was he struck dumb?
To whom was the angel sent at Nazareth?
What did the angel announce to Mary? What
did Mary do? Title of this lesson? Golden Text?
Lesson Plan? Time? Place? Memory verses?

I. PRAISE FOR FAVOR, vs. 46-49.—How did
Mary begin her song? In whom had she re-
joiced? Why? Why did she need a Saviour?
How had God regarded her low estate? Why
would all generations call her blessed? What
had God done for her? What commandment do
they break who pray to Mary?

II. PRAISE FOR GOODNESS, vs. 50-53.—What
did Mary say of God's mercy? What of the
power of God? Of what is the arm a symbol?
Who shall be overcome by him? Whom will he
put down? Whom exalt? How must we come
to God if we would be filled? Who are meant by
the hungry? Who by the rich? Why are the
rich sent empty away?

III. PRAISE FOR FAITHFULNESS, vs. 54, 55.—
What did Mary say of God's faithfulness? Whom
had God helped? How? What does the Psalmist
say of God's mercy and truth? Ps. 98:3.
What promise had God made to Abraham? Gen.
12:1-7. Where is the first promise of a Red-
eemer? Gen. 3:15. Who is the Redeemer of
God's elect?

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

1. That God's children should rejoice in their
Saviour.
2. That, like Mary, we should speak of his say-
ing love.
3. That if we humbly desire "good things" we
shall be filled with them.

4. That God regards the poor and humble, but
will not bless the proud and self-righteous.
5. That it is wrong to worship or pray to the
Virgin Mary; like her, we should put all our
trust in Jesus as our Saviour.

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW.

1. What great honor was given Mary? Ans.
She was chosen to be the mother of the Saviour.
2. How did Mary begin her song? Ans. My
soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath
rejoiced in God my Saviour.
3. With what words did she show her grati-
tude? Ans. He that is mighty hath done to me
great things.
4. What did she say about God's power? Ans.
He hath showed strength with his arm.
5. What did she say of God's grace to the
needy? Ans. He hath filled the hungry with
good things.

LESSON III.—JANUARY 19.

THE SONG OF ZACHARIAS.—Luke 1:67-80.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"Thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to
prepare his ways."—Luke 1:76.

HOME READINGS.

M. Luke 1:18-25.—The Unbelief of Zacharias.
T. Luke 1:57-66.—The Birth of John.
W. Luke 1:67-80.—The Song of Zacharias.
Th. Isa. 12:1-6.—"God is my Salvation."
F. Isa. 62:1-15.—"Redeemed without Money."
S. Isa. 62:1-12.—"Behold, thy Salvation
Cometh."
S. Psalm 103:1-22.—David's Song.

LESSON PLAN.

I. The Mission of Jesus, vs. 67-75.
II. The Mission of John, vs. 76-80.

TIME.—B. C. 5; Augustus Cæsar emperor of
Rome; Herod the Great king of Judea.
PLACE.—"The hill-country, in a city of Juda,"
the home of Zacharias, probably Hebron.

OPENING WORDS.

The promise of the angel to Zacharias that he
should have a son (Lesson I.) was fulfilled.
When the child was to be circumcised, the re-
latives wished it named after its father; but Eliza-
beth said it should be called John. By signs
they spoke to Zacharias, and he wrote on a tablet,
"His name is John," v. 63. Then his speech was
restored, and he uttered the song which is the
subject of this lesson.

HELP IN STUDYING THE LESSON.

V. 67.—*Filled with the Holy Ghost*—so that he
was inspired to foretell future events. *Pro-
phesied*—spoke by divine inspiration. V. 68.
Hath visited—"looked upon" to deliver. *Redeemed*—made a ransom for. V. 69. *Horn of
Salvation*—the horn is an emblem of strength
and power. The expression is descriptive of the
coming Messiah, and means "a mighty Saviour."
House of his servant David—Christ was a
descendant of King David. V. 70. *His holy pro-
phets*—Jacob (Gen. 49:10), Moses (Deut. 18:15),
Isaiah (Isa. 9:6), etc. "The testimony of Jesus is
the spirit of prophecy." Rev. 19:10. All the pro-
phets testified of the coming of Jesus. V. 71.
Saved from our enemies—literal, temporal ene-
mies (Deut. 33:29; Isa. 14:2; 51:22, 23; spiritual
enemies, sin and Satan. Gen. 3:15; Matt. 1:21;
V. 72. *To perform the mercy, etc.*—Revised Ver-
sion, "To show mercy toward our fathers,—by
keeping covenant with their posterity. V. 73.
The oath—Gen. 12:3; 17:4; 22:16, 17. (Compare
Heb. 7:13, 14, 17.) V. 75. *In holiness*—toward
God. *And righteousness*—toward men. 1 Thess.
2:10; Eph. 4:24. V. 76. *Thou, child*—the infant
John the Baptist. *Before the face of the Lord*—
the Lord Jesus Christ. V. 77. *To give knowledge
of salvation*—to proclaim the Saviour's coming
and the way of salvation. V. 78. *The day-spring*
—the sun-rising, here referring to Christ. Isa.
9:2; 60:1; Mal. 4:2. V. 79. *To give light*—
this is the purpose of Christ's coming. Matt. 4:
14-17; Isa. 9:2. *The way of peace*—peace with
God—peace of conscience and eternal peace.
V. 80. *The day of his showing*—the time for the
beginning of his public ministry.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—How was the angel's promise
to Zacharias fulfilled? What name was given to
the child? What then happened to Zacharias?
How did he first use his restored speech? Title
of this lesson? Golden Text? Lesson Plan?
Time? Place? Memory verses?

I. THE MISSION OF JESUS, vs. 67-75.—With
whose presence was Zacharias filled? How did
he show that he was filled with the Holy Ghost?
How did he begin his prophecy? Meaning of
horn of salvation? Who is the Redeemer of
God's elect? By whom had God spoken of this
salvation? What had God promised? What of-
fices does Christ execute as our redeemer? To
whom had God sworn an oath? How were his
people to walk before him?

II. THE MISSION OF JOHN, vs. 76-80.—What
title did Zacharias say should be given to
his son? Why should he be thus called?
What prophet had foretold this? How was John
to prepare the way for Christ? What is the re-
mission of sins? Through whom may we ob-
tain remission? Acts 5:31. What name is given
to Christ in verse 78? To whom should the Day-
spring give light? Into what way should it be a
guide? To what end did John bear witness of
Jesus as the Light of the World? John 1:6, 7.

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED?

1. That God is faithful to us as to his people of
old.
2. That we should praise him for his faithful-
ness.
3. That Christ is a mighty Saviour, able to save
and defend us.
4. That he is the Light of the world which sin-
has made dark and dreary as a prison.
5. That if we follow him he will guide us in
paths of peace!

QUESTIONS FOR REVIEW.

1. How did Zacharias begin his song? Ans.
Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath
visited and redeemed his people.
2. What had God raised up? Ans. An horn of
salvation, a mighty Saviour.
3. By whom had he spoken of this Saviour?
Ans. By all his holy prophets.
4. In whom were all these prophecies to be ful-
filled? Ans. In Jesus the Son of Mary.
5. What did Zacharias foretell as the mission
of John? Ans. Thou shalt go before the face of
the Lord to prepare his way.