

SUNSHINE LAND.

BY EDITH THOMAS.

They came in sight of a lovely shore,  
Yellow as gold in the morning light;  
The sun's own colour at noon it wore,  
And had faded not at the fall of night,  
Clear weather or cloudy—'twas all as one,  
The happy hills seemed bathed with the  
sun;  
Its secret the sailors could not understand,  
But they called the country Sunshine  
Land.

What was the secret? A simple thing—  
It will make you smile when once you  
know—  
Touched by the tender finger of spring,  
A million blossoms were all aglow;  
So many, so many, so small and bright,  
They covered the hills with a mantle of  
light,  
And the wild bee hummed, and the g'wl  
breeze fanned  
Through the honeyed fields of Sunshine  
Land.

If over the sea we two are bound,  
What port, dear child, would we choose  
for ours?  
We would sail and sail till at last we  
found  
This fairy gold of a million flowers.  
Yet, darling, we'd find, if at home we staid,  
Of many small joys our pleasures are  
made,  
More than we think—very close at hand  
Lie the golden fields of Sunshine Land.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS AND EPISTLES.

LESSON VII. [Aug. 15.]

ABSTAINING FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.

1 Cor. 8. 1-13. Memory verses, 12, 13.

GOLDEN TEXT.

For none of us liveth to himself.—Rom.  
14. 7.

OUTLINE.

1. Knowledge, v. 1-6.
2. Liberty, v. 7-9.
3. Self-denial, v. 10-13.

THE LESSON STORY.

You know that Paul stayed in the gay,  
wicked city of Corinth a year and a half  
preaching and teaching. Many believed  
and turned to the Lord. But after Paul  
went away they fell into sin, and when  
Paul heard of it he was very sorry and  
wrote them a long letter. He wrote it  
with many tears, for he dearly loved his

children in the Gospel, and you will like  
to know that the Corinthian Christians  
were sorry for their wrong conduct and  
were ready, after reading the letter, to do  
as Paul wanted them to do. You know  
that many of the Christians in Corinth  
had been idol worshippers. Many of their  
relatives and friends were still heathen,  
and some Christians thought it was no  
harm to eat the meats that had been  
offered in sacrifice to idols. This is as if a  
Christian should say now that he can  
drink wine because it does not harm him.  
But it may harm some one else, and so be  
a sin against Christ because it is a sin  
against the weak brother for whom Christ  
died. Paul urges the Corinthian Chris-  
tians to love one another enough to be  
willing to deny themselves for Christ's  
sake, and this is the lesson for us. Paul  
said that if meat would harm another he  
would eat no more meat. Do you think  
Paul would take a temperance pledge if  
he lived now?

LESSON HELPS FOR EVERY DAY.

- Mon. Read the lesson verses carefully.  
1 Cor. 8. 1-13.  
Tues. Read of something which makes  
trouble now. Prov. 23 29-35.  
Wed. Learn a reason why we should not  
touch wine. Golden Text.  
Thur. Learn what is better than things  
to eat and drink. Rom. 14. 17.  
Fri. Read some of Jesus's words about  
self-denial. Mark 8. 34-37.  
Sat. Learn how Paul put self behind  
him. 1 Cor. 9. 19-22.  
Sun. Learn for whose sake we must  
deny self. Matt 25 40.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON STORY

What was the result of Paul's work in  
Corinth? What happened after he went  
away? How did Paul try to help them?  
By whom did he send the letter? Did it  
do the Corinthians good? What had  
many of these Christians been? What  
was a common custom in Corinth? To  
have feasts in idol temples. What did  
some of these Corinthians do? Go to  
these feasts? What did Paul urge them  
to do? To deny themselves? Why should  
Christians now refuse to drink wine?  
Why should we deny our-selves for the  
sake of others? How can we often help  
another? By our good example.

MY PLEDGE.

"For Jesus's sake"—  
I will try to do right mys lf.  
I will try to help others to do right.  
I will remember that "I am not my  
own."

LESSON VIII. [Aug. 22.]

THE EXCELLENCE OF CHRISTIAN LOVE.

1 Cor 13. 1-13. Memory verses, 4-7

GOLDEN TEXT.

And now abideth faith, hope, charity,

these three; but the greatest of these is  
charity—1 Cor. 13. 13

OUTLINE

1. Love Essential, v. 1-3
2. Love at Work, v. 4-7
3. Love Abiding, v. 8-13

THE LESSON STORY.

Do you remember that Paul's heart was  
once the home of hate and ill-will? It  
was not so now. Love had come to live  
in his heart, and instead of wanting to  
kill believers now he wanted to teach  
them more and more about Jesus and the  
way to heaven.

In the first epistle to the Corinthians  
there is a whole chapter about love. It is  
one of the most beautiful chapters in the  
Bible. If any one studies it and really  
tries to live out its teachings, that one will  
grow to be very much like Christ.

Paul says a person may be very wise,  
and have great faith, and give all that he  
has to the poor, yet if he has not true  
love it will all count for nothing. True  
love is kind, does not feel envious, is never  
boastful, does not seek praise, is sweet-  
tempered, thinks no evil, and hopes all  
good. True love never wears out. All  
earthly things pass away, but love lives  
forever, for it is of God.

Faith, hope, and love are the three  
graces of the Spirit, which will abide, but  
the greatest of these is love. God is love,  
and where he is there is love

LESSON HELPS FOR EVERY DAY.

- Mon. Read one of the sweetest chapters  
in the Bible. 1 Cor. 13.  
Tues. Learn the beautiful Golden Text.  
Wed. Learn where love comes from. 1  
John 4. 7, 8.  
Thur. Find what love does. 1 John 4.  
20, 21.  
Fri. Learn the difference between love  
and hate. Prov. 10. 12.  
Sat. Read about a beautiful cloak. 1  
Peter 4. 8.  
Sun. Read more about this great gift.  
1 John 3. 1-3.

QUESTIONS ON THE LESSON STORY.

When was Paul's heart full of hatred.  
Why did he persecute believers? What  
did he want to do for believers now?  
What made the difference? Where is the  
lesson found to-day? What is it about?  
What does the word "charity" mean here?  
"Love." What is more than all wisdom  
and faith? What are some of the good  
things about real love? Why does it  
never fail? What are the three graces  
that will abide? Which is the greatest of  
these? Who will give us love for the  
asking?

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER.

It is God's love that never fails.  
My love is worth very little.  
God's love may be had for the asking.