

ONWARD, EVER ONWARD.

BY THE REV. CANON FARRAR, D.D., F.R.S.

ONWARD, ever onward, front the noble fray.

Turn your faces sunward all the burning day; Fierce the foe around us, loud the battle's roar.

Gleams the wild waste round us, gloom the hills before.

Aye, but calm and cheery, aye, but firm and strong.

Though the way be weary, though the way be long.

Onward, ever onward, front the noble fray.

Turn your faces sunward all the burning day.

While we face the battle, while we tread the path,

'Mid the war-drums' rattle, 'mid the tempest's wrath,

Let high thoughts of duty, that no foe can tame,

Throng our minds with beauty, thrill our souls with flame.

Aye, but calm and cheery, &c.

A BETTER TIME.

BY REV. C. P. HARD, A.M.

Do we not mark the presence of the Spirit within the wheels of the great missionary movement, in that so many hearts in all parts of Christendom have been inspired at the same time? Do we not see that the Master has directed a vast simultaneous advance? Note the large gifts of individuals made within a few years.

As the mountain peaks catch the first rays from the rising sun, and shine like towers of gold, while the twilight still fills the valley, so leading men in the Churches have given their hundreds of thousands of dollars to the missionary treasuries, a promise of the interest which many others now absorbed with church building and college endowments will soon express with princely liberality.

Far down in the valley we hear the voices of the marching Sunday-school, training an army of systematic givers, coming forward to influential positions at home and missionary toil abroad.

And midway, on the mountain of vision, we listen to the councils of the women planning the recovery of woman throughout the world, and educating the household of faith in the principles of the great cause, and summoning and displaying facts which appeal to all hearts.

Meantime we are thrilled by voices from the throne of the Triune. One saying, "Go, lo I am with you always;" and another, "He shall not fail nor be discouraged till he have set righteousness in the earth and the isles shall wait for his law;" and the third, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him and given him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

A little later we hear the seraphs cry again one to another, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory."

Duty reaches down the ages in its effects, and into eternity; and when a man goes about it resolutely it seems to me now as though his footsteps were echoing beyond the stars, though only heard faintly in the atmosphere of this world.

AFTER TOIL COMES REST.

A LITTLE longer toil, poor tired hands, Then rest, sweet rest; The torn and bruised and hard the iron bands, Thy God knows best.

A little longer run, poor aching feet, Then rest, sweet rest; Tho' all is dark, and storms around thee beat, Thy God knows best.

A little longer sigh, poor fainting heart, Then rest, sweet rest; Oh, be thou strong and bear the bitter part, Thy God knows best.

A little longer here, oh, prisoned soul, Then rest, sweet rest; Even though thy woes like seething billows roll, Thy God knows best.

A little longer weary one to weep Then rest, sweet rest; There's peace beyond the cold and painless sleep, Thy God knows best.

SUPPOSE the pastor, every few Sabbaths, should fail to appear in his pulpit at the hour of service, with no substitute and no notification of his absence, leaving the elders to hold some kind of a meeting or send the people away—how long could such a pastor retain his place? Teachers who stay away from their classes and make no provision for them, can work out the meaning of this paragraph.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

A. D. 30.] LESSON VII. [Feb. 18.

CHRISTIAN COLLEGE.

Acts 4. 18-31. Commit to memory vs. 29-31.

GOLDEN TEXT.

If God be for us, who can be against us? Rom. 8. 31.

OUTLINE.

- 1. The Defeated Council. v. 18-22. 2. The Devout Company. v. 23-30. 3. The Divine Comforter. v. 31.

TIME.—A. D. 30., on the same day with the events of the last lesson.

PLACE.—Jerusalem.

EXPLANATIONS.—They called them—The rulers called the apostles Peter and John before them again. Not to speak at all—Not to mention in public the name of Jesus Right in the sight of God—God's command is to obeyed rather than man's. Cannot but speak—cannot help speaking, for God has commanded. Seen and heard—What they knew about Jesus, his life, death, resurrection, and saving power. Believers now can testify to the same truths. Threatened them—With punishment if they disobeyed. Because of the people—They were afraid to offend the people, who were friendly to the disciples. Glorified God—Praise God for the miracle of healing the lame man. Above forty years old—Having been a cripple so long, his cure was all the more wonderful. Went to their own company—The rest of the apostles and believers in Christ. Reported—Told what had taken place. When they heard—The whole company. Lifted up their voice—Singing the praise of God. Thou art God—God had shown his power in strengthening the apostles. Mouth of thy servant David—In Psalm 2. Heathen—The people who do not worship God. Child Jesus—Here means "thy servant Jesus." Herod. Pilate—They saw in their acts against Jesus the fulfilment of the prophecy in the psalm they were singing. Whosoever... thy counsel determined—God determined that Jesus should die for the sins of men, but man slew him by their own wicked will. Their deed was none the less wicked because God made it the means of salvation. Their threatenings—Against the cause of Christ. Grant—They did not pray that persecution might stop, but that they might have power to withstand it. Signs and wonders—They prayed that God would continue to show his power. Place was shaken—By the power of God. Filled with the Holy Ghost—God's Spirit took possession of them.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where may we learn in this lesson—

- 1. Our duty to obey God? 2. Our privilege to praise God? 3. Our duty to speak God's word?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did the council command Peter and John? Not to speak in Jesus' name. 2. What did the apostles say that they must speak? What they had seen and heard. 3. What did they do when set free? Praised God. 4. What example did they show? Boldness in Christ's name.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The counsel of God.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

10. What witness did the wise men of the east bear to Jesus? The wise men of the east, having seen a strange star in the east, which led them to the house where the infant lay, came and worshipped him; and thus did they bear witness to Jesus.

A. D. 30.] LESSON VIII. [Feb. 25.

ANANIAS AND SAPPHIRA.

Acts 5. 1-11. Commit to memory verses 9-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Lying lips are abomination to the Lord. Prov. 12. 22.

OUTLINE.

- 1. Deut. v. 1-4. 2. Dooms. v. 5-11.

TIME.—A. D. 30., a few days after the events of the last lesson.

PLACE.—Jerusalem.

EXPLANATIONS.—But—This is in contrast to the liberality of Ananias, in the previous chapter. Sold a possession—A piece of property. Kept back part—Did not give all, while pretending to do so. His wife... privy to it—Acquainted with it, and sharing in the plan. Brought a certain part—This he had a right to do, provided he did not pretend to be giving all. At the apostles' feet—To be given to the poor. Peter said—Inspired with knowledge by the Holy Spirit. Satan filled thine heart—Satan could not have done this unless Ananias were willing to let him. Lie to the Holy Ghost—By lying to the Church in which the Holy Ghost was dwelling. Kept back part—Thus he told a lie by his act, without speaking. Was it not thine own—To give or to keep, as its owner chose. After it was sold—The money was still his, even after the land was sold. Conceived this thing—Planned it. He was held guilty, though Satan filled his heart. Lied... unto God—By lying to God's Church. Gave up the ghost—Died in an instant, by the stroke of God. Great fear—A fear of God, and a fear of doing wrong. Young men—The young men in the Church, who were strong, and fit to do work. Wound him up—Wrapped him around for burial. Buried him—In some place outside the city. In the East burial takes place very soon after death. Three hours after—The wife had longer time to repent, but did not. For so much—Naming the price of the land, or pointing to the money. Yea—A more open lie than her husband's. Tempt the spirit—To treat God's Spirit contemptuously by trying to deceive God's Church. At the door—Just returning from the burial. At his feet—At the feet of Peter. Fear—A reverence for God and respect for the Church.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where does this lesson teach—

- 1. That the love of money is the root of all evil? 2. That lying may be in act as well as word? 3. That secret sins are known to God?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What was the sin of Ananias and Sapphira? Lying. 2. What led them to lie? The love of money. 3. To whom did they tell the lies? To the Church. 4. Whom did Peter say they tried to deceive? God. 5. What punishment came upon them? Sudden death.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The divinity of the Holy Ghost.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

11. What honour did Simeon do him in the temple? Simeon was an old man, yet God assured him that he should see the Saviour before he died; and in the temple he honoured Jesus by taking him up in his arms, and acknowledging him to be the Christ.

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