

DORCAS.

The following verses by George Macdonald may help to point one moral of our Dorcas Lesson. Let the teacher read them to her girls, or to the young ladies in her Bible class:

ONE day a woman gently bowed,
As with his easy yoke,
Stood on the borders of the crowd
Listening as Jesus spoke.

She saw the garment knit throughout,
Forgot the words he spake,
Thought only, "Happy hands that wrought
The honored robe to make."

Her eyes with longing tears grow dim,
She never can come nigh
To do one service for or for him,
For whom she glad would die.

Across the crowd, borne on the breeze,
Comes "Inasmuch as ye
Did it unto the least of these,
Ye did it unto me."

Home, home she went, and plied the loom,
And God's dear poor arrayed.
She died—they wept about the room,
And showed the coat she made.
S. S. Magazine.

THINGS NOT TO SAY.

DON'T say "He has drank," but "He has drunk," etc. Don't say, "The ice is froze," for "The ice is frozen," and above all, don't say "frozed," as I once heard a young lady speak of snow. Be careful how you use, "see," "saw," "seen." These are correct: "I have seen him," "I saw her yesterday," "Where did you see him?" Don't ask indirect questions. Have you heard of the man who asked, "What might your name be?" and received the reply, "It might be Jones, but it isn't." Don't say, "The scissors is dull," but "are dull," always the plural verb for scissors, snuffers, trousers, and words of that kind. Never say, "It is me." A professor in a college once rapped at a student's door at night, suspecting a forbidden supper was going on. "Who's there?" asked some within. "It's me. Professor," was the answer. "Oh, no," was returned; "Professor R. never says 'It's me.'"

Don't say, "There's the book," which means, "There is the book." Don't say "pants" or "gents." There are no such words. Dr. Holland says:

"The things called 'pants,' in certain documents, were never made for gentlemen but 'gents.'"

Don't say, "He learns me," but "He teaches me."

WHAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE READING.

A correspondent of the Buffalo Express has ascertained that there is a new ambition to read for the sake of knowing all about things which young belles and beaux find are constantly growing more indispensable to a good position and reputation in society. He says: "A leading bookseller lately told me that he had in no previous winter sold so many books requiring study and application to young people. Of course one topic leads to another, and countless scores of people who formerly never looked at anything more serious than a novel are now finding the positive pleasure obtained in reading bright, intelligent books on solid subjects. It may be said, too, that strong, thoughtful questions and investigations have never previously been presented

to the average public in such clear, happy, and attractive style as during the past five years. Matthew Arnold's plea for sweetness and light has brought forth good fruit; for our present writers on scientific and theological questions, especially, have had to give over the Dr. Dryasdust style, take nothing for granted, and dig to the very foundation of their subjects or else go to the wall."

"WILLIAM, my son," says an economical mother to her son, "for mercy's sake don't keep on tramping up and down the floor in that manner—you'll wear out your new boots." He sits down. "There you go—sitting down! Now you'll wear out your new trousers! I declare I never saw such a boy!"



Search the Scriptures.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

A. D. 39] LESSON V. [April 29.

PETER WORKING MIRACLES.

Acts 9. 32-43 Commit to memory vs. 32-35.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Jesus Christ maketh thee whole. Acts 9. 34.

OUTLINE.

1. Peter at Lydda. v. 32-35.
2. Peter at Joppa. v. 36-43.

TIME.—A. D. 39, at the close of the last lesson.

PLACES.—Lydda and Joppa, on the maritime plain of Palestine.

EXPLANATIONS.—Peter passed—He visited the Churches through Palestine to look after and direct them. To the saints—"The holy ones," the common name for Christians in the New Testament. A certain man—Nothing is known about him. Palsy—The paralysis, a disease making one entirely helpless. Jesus Christ maketh thee—Peter was careful to show that the power came from Jesus, and not from himself. Make thy bed—A mattress, spread on the floor. All turned to the Lord—Meaning that very many became disciples of Jesus. Joppa—On the sea-shore, nine miles from Lydda. Tabitha—Dorcas—One is the Hebrew, the other the Greek word for "gazelle." Full of good works—One whose life was spent in doing good. And alms-deeds—Gifts to the poor. Laid in an upper chamber—The large room of the house, best fitted for the funeral. They sent—Not sure that he could bring her to life, but with a hope that perhaps he might. The widows—The poor women whom Dorcas had helped. Showing the coats—Clothing in general, whether for men or women, is meant. Put them all forth—That he might pray alone. Opened her eyes—Her spirit came back to her body. Saw Peter—Perhaps she had never seen him before. Presented her—Showed her.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

How does this lesson teach—

1. That there is power in the name of Jesus?
2. That there is power in prayer?
3. That there is power in faith?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Whom did Peter find at Lydda? A man sick of the palsy.
2. What did he say to him? "Jesus Christ maketh thee whole."
3. What followed Peter's words? He became well at once.
4. What Christian had died at Joppa? A woman named Dorcas.
5. What is said of her? She was full of good works.
6. How was she restored to life? By the prayer of Peter.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Good works.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

19. Wherein did he show a pattern of goodness toward men?

Christ showed a pattern of goodness toward men by going about doing good to the bodies and souls of men; by being full of compassion to the miserable, and by taking children in his arms and blessing them.

A. D. 40.] LESSON VI. [May 6.

PETER PREACHING TO THE GENTILES.

Acts 10. 30-44. Commit to memory vs. 42-44.

GOLDEN TEXT.

On the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts 10. 45.

OUTLINE.

1. The story v. 30-33.
2. The Sermon v. 34-43
3. The Spirit v. 44.

TIME.—A. D. 40.

PLACE.—Cesarea Stratonis, on the coast of Palestine.

EXPLANATIONS.—Fasting until this hour—Until the same hour on that day. Ninth hour—About three o'clock. A man stood before me—An angel, in the form of a man. Thy prayer is heard—His prayer to know the truth about God and his duty. Thine alms—Gifts to the poor. Call hither—About thirty-five miles. Speak unto thee—To show the way of salvation. We are all here—Cornelius and his friends. Commanded thee—Cornelius looked upon Peter as the messenger of God. God is no respecter—Peter had always supposed that the Gospel was meant for Jews only. He now saw that God desired to give the Gospel to all men. Feareth him—Looking up to God with love and reverence, and obeying him. Worketh righteousness—Does right as far as he knows how to do it. Accepted—Looked upon with favor by God. Peace by Jesus Christ—Peace with God and in the heart. Lord of all—Peter wished all to know that Jesus is the Son of God, and over all. Began from Galilee—Where Jesus commenced preaching. God anointed Jesus—God made Jesus the Christ and Saviour of men. Went about doing good—Setting his followers an example in so doing. We are witnesses—Peter and the rest of the apostles. Hanged on a tree—The cross. Showed him openly—As living after death. Unto witnesses—Those who could speak from knowledge. Eat and drink—Thus showing that he was surely living. Quick and dead—The living and dead. Remission—Forgiveness. The Holy Ghost fell—The same spirit as at Pentecost. All them which heard—The Gentiles as well as the Jews.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson may we find—

1. That God's mercies are for all men!
2. That Christ brings forgiveness to all men!
3. That the Spirit may be given to all men!

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who was the first Christian among the Gentiles? Cornelius, a Roman centurion.
2. Who preached the Gospel to him? Peter the apostle.
3. How did Peter say that all men could receive remission of sins? By believing in Jesus.
4. What came upon those who heard while Peter was speaking? The Holy Ghost.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The conditions of salvation.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

20. What were the chief subjects of Christ's preaching to the people?

The chief subjects of Christ's preaching to the people were these six things:

1. He explained the law of God to the people, and showed them that it required holiness in their thoughts, as well as in their words and actions.
2. He reprov'd and condemned many for their sinful and foolish traditions, and taught them that God did not regard ceremonies, so much as the great duties of love to God and love to men.
3. He preached the Gospel of pardon of sin, and eternal life in heaven, to them that repent and believe in him.
4. He threatened the eternal punishment of hell to all wilful and obstinate sinners, particularly to hypocrites and unbelievers.
5. He sometimes declared and maintained his own commission, that he was sent from God to be the Saviour of men.
6. He foretold the destruction of Jerusalem, the dispersion of the Jews, and his own second coming in glory to raise the dead, and to judge the world.

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