



The Wiser Plan.

BENEATH an oak a lazy croaker lay,
Long after sunrise and the dawn of day,
To fret and worry, and to whine;
To find some fault with workmanship divine.
"Why," said he glibly, "should there be
Pumpkins on vines and acorns on a tree?
The vines are tender, while the trees are
tough,
Acorns are small, but pumpkins large
enough,
If God in trees had hung these pumpkins
large
And given to the vines the lesser charge
I'm sure we all would then agree
That this a wiser plan would be."
Just then from its high perch an acorn fell
Into the croaker's face, and hit him well,
Which was reproof and argument at once,
Sufficient to convince the veriest dunce,
Though this the mercy of God's wiser plan
We were not spared the wit of such a man.
E. S. GOODHUE.

"HONEST ABE."

"I HELPED Lincoln build the first flatboat ever made in Springfield," said Mr. Ross. "It would have made you laugh to have seen him then. He worked for fifteen dollars per month. He used to wear a big hat and blue jean pantaloons. He was very tall—over six feet high—and his pantaloons were generally too short, and he strapped them to his brogans to keep them down.

"I knew there was something in him even then. Why, let me tell you. "When Lincoln first came to Salem, he used to walk twenty miles to borrow lawbooks to read. Stewart and Everett were lawyers here then. Lincoln would come up from Salem to borrow a book, and one night have seen him reading it along the way as he returned. When he got tired he would sit down on a log, and rest and study. The lawyers here liked him, and—why, the first thing I knew, Stewart & Everett had taken him

into the firm. He never would undertake a case in which he did not believe. He practised no tricks in court. You could not turn him aside from principle—'twas no use. Everybody believed what Abraham Lincoln said was the exact truth, and so he became known as "Honest Abe."

"He never spoke ill of anyone. How I have heard him abused in the courts and on the political platform! But he would never return it; he never spoke evil of any one.

"He gave me his dog when he went away, and the people here came to think so much of him at last that they used to come to my house just to see his dog.

"If ever a man was loved in his own town, it was Lincoln. It was not his genius, but his honesty of purpose and his great, good heart, that made him

what he was to his family, his neighbours, and to the great world. It does not seem strange that when a great emancipation was needed to direct national affairs, God, who sees the human heart, should have called him from the prairies to this service, and should have made him one of the imperial wonder-workers of the world, and crowned him at last as the supreme benefactor of the most prosperous nation beneath the sun."

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1491.] LESSON VIII. [May 22.
THE PASSOVER.

Exod. 12. 1-14. Commit to mem. vs. 15, 14.
GOLDEN TEXT.

Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.
1 Cor. 5. 7.

OUTLINE.

1. The Passover.
2. Our Passover.

TIME.—1491 B.C. Later in same year as last lesson.

PLACE.—In Egypt. The land of Goshen.
EXPLANATIONS.—*The beginning of months*—The first month of the first year of the new nation so soon to be. It was called Abib or Nisan, and corresponds nearly to our April. *The congregation of Israel*—Simply the people as a whole. *According to the house of their fathers*—That is, one lamb for each family. *The household be too little*—Tradition said there must be at least ten persons to make a sufficient number. *Keep it up*—That is, keep the lamb thus chosen with great care from the tenth day. *Kill it in the evening*—At some time between three o'clock and six, when the new day began. *Unleavened bread*—Simple cakes of flour, baked without the use of anything to ferment, as a symbol of haste in departing. *Solden at all with water*—Not boiled, but roasted with fire. *Let nothing of it remain*—The whole substance of the animal, except the blood, was to pass into their substance as nourishment and support. *Lams girded*. The flowing skirts tied up out of the way of the feet, ready for a hurried march.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—
1. That the shedding of blood was necessary for salvation?
2. That faith is a condition of our salvation?
3. That great mercies ought to be remembered?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did God send upon the Egyptians, before they would let the Israelites go out of Egypt? Ten plagues. 2. What was the last plague upon the Egyptians? The death of the first-born. 3. What feast kept in mind the going out of the Israelites from Egypt? The passover. 4. What was done with the blood of the slain lamb? It was sprinkled on the door posts. 5. Of what did the feast consist? Of unleavened bread and a slain lamb. 6. What was represented in the feast, as stated in the GOLDEN TEXT? "Christ," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Salvation.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

24. By what means were our first parents led to commit so great a sin against God? By the subtlety of the devil, who made use of the serpent to beguile Eve.
[Genesis iii. 13; 2 Corinthians xi. 3.]

B.C. 1491.] LESSON IX. [May 29.

THE RED SEA.

Exod. 14. 19-31. Commit to mem. vs. 19-21.

GOLDEN TEXT.

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee. Isa. 43. 2.

OUTLINE.

1. The Cloud.
2. The Sea.
3. The Foe.

TIME.—1491 B.C. Just after the pass-over.

PLACE.—Pihahiroth. The sea.

EXPLANATIONS.—*The Angel of God*—See ver. 21, 22, chap. 13. *The pillar of the cloud*—The Lord himself did for Israel what the leaders of armies were wont to do for their troops. More than a thousand years after this, Alexander led his troops by similar signals. *A strong east wind*—The account distinctly claims that God used the forces of nature to aid in this work of power. *A wall unto them*—No attack was possible on either flank, but only from the rear. *In the morning watch*—At sunrise; a little before 6 a.m., in the month of April. *Took off their chariot wheels*—The Septuagint translation says, "clogged." *The sea returned to his strength when the morning appeared*—Doubtless the wind ceased, the waters re-flowed, the tide may have been rising, and the full power of the sea would be once more felt. *The Lord overthrew*—Or shook them off from their chariots. *Not so much as one*—They perished utterly. *Psa. 136. 15, says Pharaoh also perished.*

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—
1. That God is the defence of his people?
2. That God's enemies are sure of defeat?
3. That miracles are an aid to faith?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. By what were the Israelites led out of Egypt? By a pillar of cloud and of fire. 2. Where were the Israelites led? Through the Red Sea. 3. How were they enabled to pass through the sea? The waters were divided. 4. What became of the Egyptians who pursued them? They were drowned. 5. What is the promise in the GOLDEN TEXT? "When thou," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The supernatural in religion.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

25. Who is the devil or Satan? The chief of the fallen angels, who, before man's fall, sinned against God, and were cast out of heaven.
[1 Peter v. 8; Jude 6.]

"So Mr. Blank was here to-day?"
Servant: "Yes, sir." "And you told him what I said, I suppose?" "Yes, sir." "Did he take umbrage?" "I didn't notice, sir; but if he did he'll bring it back. He's a very particular gentleman, you know."

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