

### What Seed Shall we Sow?

A WONDERFUL thing is a seed,  
The one thing deathless forever!  
The one thing changeless—utterly true,  
Forever old and forever new,  
And fickle and faithless never.

Plant blessings, blessings will bloom;  
Plant hate, hate will grow;  
You can sow to-day, to-morrow will bring  
The blossom that proves what sort of thing  
Is the seed, the seed you sow.

## LESSON NOTES.

### THIRD QUARTER.

#### STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

A. D. 45.] LESSON VII. (Nov. 13.

#### THE FIRST CHRISTIAN MISSIONARIES.

Acts 13. 1-13.] [Memory verses, 2-4.

#### GOLDEN TEXT.

That repentance and remission of sins  
should be preached in his name among all  
nations.—Luke 24. 47.

#### CENTRAL TRUTH.

It is the duty of Christians to preach the  
gospel to all the world.

#### CIRCUMSTANCES.

With chapter 13 begins the second part of  
the Acts—the history of the first missionary  
work. After the release of Peter, Paul and  
Barnabas returned from Jerusalem to Antioch,  
where they remained preaching till sent out  
as missionaries to the heathen. They brought  
John and Mark with them from Jerusalem.

#### HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

**Prophets**—Those specially inspired by the  
Holy Ghost. **Teachers**—Pastors, doing the  
regular work of training and instructing the  
converts. **Niger**—Black, dark complexioned.  
**Cyrene**—On the coast of Africa, west of  
Egypt, corresponding to modern Tripoli. **As  
they ministered**—In public worship. Probably  
in some meeting appointed to know God's  
will as to missionary work. **The Holy Ghost  
said**—Perhaps by one of the prophets, or by  
a general influence on all. **Seleucia**—The port  
of Antioch, sixteen miles distant. **Cyprus**—  
An island in the Mediterranean, one hundred  
and fifty miles long by fifty miles wide.  
**Salamis**—One of the chief cities. It was on  
the east end of the island, nearest Antioch.  
**Paphos**—The large city at the other end, one  
hundred miles from Salamis. **Sorcerer**—Ma-  
gician. **A false prophet**—Speaking false  
things and from a false motive—his own gain.  
**Thou shalt be blind**—A type of the blindness  
of his soul. **Note**—This was not cruel, for  
(1) it was brief; (2) it was to save the souls  
of men; (3) it was also as a warning to Ely-  
mas, that he might repent, as Paul did in his  
three days' blindness. **Perga, in Pamphylia**—  
Perga was the capital and seaport of Pam-  
phylia, a southern province of Asia Minor.  
**John**—John Mark, a son of Mary of Jerusa-  
lem (12. 12), and cousin of Barnabas (Col.  
4. 10). **Departing from them**—Why, is un-  
known. But Paul did not approve of his  
reason (15. 37, 38). He was young, and he  
may have dreaded the hardships and dangers  
of the journey in a semi-barbarous country.

Find in this lesson—

Our duty to the heathen.  
How to find out God's will.  
That good and evil influences are contending  
for our souls.  
The danger of opposing the gospel.

#### REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. What new era was now begun? "The  
era of foreign missions." 2. Who were the  
first missionaries to the heathen? "Paul and  
Barnabas." 3. Where did they first go?  
"To the Island of Cyprus." 4. Who opposed  
them here? "Elymas, the magician." 5.  
What befell him? "He was struck blind for  
a season." 6. What was the effect? "The  
governor was converted to Christ."

#### CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Repeat the Ten Commandments.

I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.  
II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any  
graven image, or any likeness of anything that  
is in heaven above, or that is in the earth be-  
neath, or that is in the water under the earth.  
thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor  
serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a  
jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers  
upon the children unto the third and fourth  
generation of them that hate me; and showing  
mercy unto thousands of them that love me,  
and keep my commandments.



LEAD BEATER COCKATOO, AUSTRALIA.

### COCKATOOS.

BY REV. D. V. LUCAS, D.D.

I HAVE seen thousands of these birds in  
the Australian fields, feeding. They are very  
wise. They never go down to feed with-  
out having three or four of their number  
on the tops of the highest trees to watch  
for danger so as to give warning.

When the note is given they all go. I  
think they are wiser than some men or  
boys, who think that the bar-room is not  
half so bad a place as some people say it is,  
and so they get caught in Satan's traps be-  
cause they think themselves wise.

These birds can speak. They are taught  
for a first sentence, "Cockey wants a bit of  
bread."

It is very queer that a bird should speak  
like a boy. Neither one can speak till he  
is taught, and sometimes you can teach the  
boy quicker than you can teach the bird;  
and no wonder, for when you teach the  
bird you speak all the words distinctly, but  
when you teach the boy you fill his ears  
with a lot of "baby talk" which he has to  
unlearn before he learns the right way of  
pronouncing his words. Yet the boy is  
better than the bird, for he can take all the  
words and change them about and make of  
them new sentences, which the bird can-  
not do.

The bird cannot think of God, but the  
boy can; so the boy is better than the  
bird.

I know two of these talking birds, when



YELLOW CRESTED COCKATOO, AUSTRALIA.

one of them screams the other says,  
"Polly, you ought to be ashamed of your-  
self."

They can sing several pieces. One of  
them is:

"Oh! you must be a lover of the Lord,  
Or you can't go to heaven when you die."

Polly Green always stops in one of her  
songs in the wrong place. She sings,

"Oh! that will be joyful to meet to part."

When a young man was trying to get a  
shot at some cockatoos, there was one that  
always lagged behind when the rest would  
fly on out of danger. At last he got near  
this one and raised his gun to fire when  
the bird said, "Won't your grandmother  
give it to you when you get home?"

Whether the young man was afraid of  
his grandmother, or disliked shooting birds  
that could talk, I do not know, but he took  
down his gun, and went away.

I suppose the bird had been in a cage  
and this was one of the things, it had  
learned.

I once stood by and heard a talking bird  
say to a dog, "Carlo, come here," and the  
dog came. The bird said, "Carlo, lie  
down," and the dog lay down. And the  
bird said, "Carlo, roll over," and the dog  
rolled over.

It is very queer that there should be in  
one land like Australia so many thousands  
of birds that can speak, while there is no  
bird at all that can sing like our robin or  
our thrush or cat bird.

Counting the several sorts of cockatoos  
(which are all of the great parrot family)  
there are sixty different kinds of parrots in  
Australia. They are a great trouble to  
fruit growers, for sometimes the boys have  
to sit in the gardens all day to keep the  
parrots from eating up the ripening fruit.

One of our pictures represents the Yel-  
low Crested Cockatoo. That is the meek  
looking old fellow with his crest running  
straight down over his neck. The other,  
which looks as if he wants to fight, is the  
Lead-beater Cockatoo.

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