

filling conditions of receiving that blessing in the following week.]

The blessing of purity. Our Golden Text tells us what will come to the pure in heart. We will write "Purity" on our circle of blessing. This is the diamond from the jewel-casket, which is set in the Golden Text, as a precious stone is set in a ring.

To be pure is to be clean, to be white inside, to have a heart hating sin, loving goodness, keeping out bad thoughts by being full of holy and loving ones. Only Jesus can give such a heart that is so pure that it can see God here and will see him in heaven by and by. Is this blessing yours? It may be, for Jesus can and will give it.

Sub-Primary Hints.

BY JULIA E. PECK.

GOLDEN TEXT: "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." Matt. 5. 7.

In teaching the life of Christ we try to inculcate certain precepts which the children can at once appropriate and work out in daily life—precepts which they understand as soon as set forth, as giving them something to do and to think of without delay. We make a list of these topics which at some time during the year we feel that we must teach, even if we have to stretch a point to make the regular lesson fit our case. To-day, for instance, we may give a much-needed lesson on the duty of kindness to animals, using our Golden Text in this connection. We are taught that the child in its successive stages of development repeats the history of the race. At the kindergarten age he is beginning to fight. An eminent zoologist advises us to let him fight, as we dwarf him if we interfere with the processes of nature. A battle between children of equal strength is less demoralizing than their tendency to tyrannize over and torture dumb animals. Possibly this is but a following out of race instinct. We cannot change, but we can direct his tendencies, by setting him to work to defend and protect his dumb friends.

Here is our opportunity in these early spring days when all nature is waking to new life. Nothing alive and moving on the landscape escapes the clear eyes of the children. They are intensely interested in these living things, and we may turn this interest to account, using it for good.

When Jesus was a boy he noticed and

watched the living creatures around him just as you do. His Father made them all:

"Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings—
He made their glowing colors,
He made their tiny wings."

The teacher looks a little into the natural history of Nazareth to be able to tell the children what animals the boy Jesus found to play with in field, wood, and hillside. How would he treat these little playmates?

In the out-of-door sermons of Jesus, which were like picture stories, he would tell his listeners to look at the sparrows or the ravens or the sheep. While they looked they could see that the birds of the air take no thought for to-morrow, for the Father feeds and cares for them, as Jesus said. How are we to treat these little friends who get their food from the Father's hand and live by his loving care?

After we learn our Golden Text we tell the children a good deal about the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. If we also give striking incidents of their work, the children are on fire at once. The plan of organizing a primary class into a Band of Mercy has been successfully tried. Let us suggest such a plan in our class to-day. The children readily respond when they hear of the "badge" we are to wear, and of the (verbal) "reports" we are to bring in about our rescue work or our attempts to defend these dumb friends. We pledge ourselves to protect and defend all harmless living things. This means a good deal more than the care of domestic animals at home. We care for and protect wild creatures of field and wood. The child who works hardest for a whole month to protect and defend is our president. Our Golden Text is a good motto for our society. What does "merciful" mean? To have pity, gentleness, kindness.

Here are some of the sayings of Jesus about animals, which we will have as memory texts in connection with our Band of Mercy: Matt. 8. 20; 6. 26; 10. 16, 29-31; Luke 12. 24. Old Testament memory texts about animals and insects: Prov. 6. 6-8; 30. 24-28; Psa. 50. 10-11. Memory texts about sheep and shepherds: John 10. Old Testament story about animals: Gen. 6 and 7. Memory texts about our Father's care of animals: Psa. 104.

Closing thought: When "God saw everything that he had done, . . . behold, it was very good" (Gen. 1. 31).

PRECEPT

GOLDEN
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Matt. 7. 1



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