

AN EASTER HYMN.

BY F. BOTTOME.

Rise, my soul! 'tis Easter morning!
Winter melting into spring!
Lo! the heaven and earth adorning,
Shines the glory of our King!
Christ is risen!
Let the world his triumph sing.

All creation wakes to gladness,
Grateful colors fill the air;
Songs of praise dispelling sadness,
Rise upon the breath of prayer!
Christ is risen!
Winds and waves the burden bear.

Saints, your floral tribute bringing,
Early at the altar bow.
While the joyous bells are ringing,
Lo! the grave is vacant now,
Christ is risen!
Put the crown upon his brow.

Crown him, crown him, King of glory!
Seated on the Father's throne!
First in all redemption's story,
Men and angels make it known,
Christ is risen!
God in Christ and man made one.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN.

LESSON V.—APRIL 30.

JESUS WASHING THE DISCIPLES' FEET.
John 13. 1-14. Memorize verses 12, 13.

GOLDEN TEXT.

By love serve one another.—Gal. 5. 13.

THE LESSON STORY.

It was at the last passover feast—the one that became the first holy supper of the Christian Church—that Jesus taught his disciples that wonderful lesson in humility that John has kept for us. "With desire I have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer," he said. "for I say unto you that I will not any more eat thereof until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God." "Having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end." There were the cakes of unleavened bread, the wine, the water, and the herbs, while the paschal lamb was on a side table. At the point when the master of the feast washed his hands Jesus rose from the table, laid aside his tunic, and, tying a long towel around his waist, poured water into a large basin, and, going to his disciples, knelt down to wash their feet. They had been talking to each other about their seats at table, each wishing to sit near to the Lord, and so have a seat of honor. He had heard them, and was in this way teaching them how to be humble. The washing of the feet of guests at a table was always a servant's work, but

Jesus made it divine. "He that is greatest among you," he said, "let him be as the younger, and he that is chief as he that doth serve." The disciples were astonished and distressed that their Lord should wash their feet. Peter cried, "Lord, dost thou wash my feet?" "What I do thou knowest not now," said Jesus, "but thou shalt know hereafter." Peter was loving and impulsive, and said, "Thou shalt never wash my feet!" But when Jesus said, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me," he humbly said, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands, and my head." Then he talked tenderly to them about serving one another as he had served them, adding, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Why is the passover feast held? To remember coming out of Egypt.

Who ate it together? Jesus and his disciples.

What had they talked about? About who should sit nearest to Jesus.

What would that seat mean? The greatest honor.

What did Jesus teach them? How to be humble.

How? He knelt and washed their feet.

Who always did this? Servants or slaves.

Whom did Jesus want them to serve? Others.

What should the greatest be? Servant of all.

Did Peter want Jesus to do this? No. Was he willing at last? Yes.

Who are the Lord's most humble disciples? Little children.

LESSON VI.—MAY 7.

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES.

John 15. 1-12. Memorize verses 5, 6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit.—John 15. 8.

THE LESSON STORY.

Some of you have been in the kindergarten, and you have heard your teachers tell nature stories. Perhaps on pleasant days she took you out in the garden or the fields to tell them. Jesus used to tell nature stories, and they always had a spiritual story inside them. They are sometimes called parables. The one about the vine and the branches is not a story like that of the prodigal son or the wise and foolish virgins, but it is a parable just the same. He said very plainly, "I am the true vine, and my father is the husbandman," or gardener. He said it because he wanted to show his disciples how close they were to him, and so he said again, "I am the vine, ye are the branches." He told them that the branch could not live if cut away from the vine, for all the life it has comes from the vine,

and a branch cannot bear fruit by itself alone; it must stay upon the vine.

He said these were sometimes branches that would not bear fruit, and these the gardener would prune to try to make them bear, but if they did not they were cut off and thrown away or burned. He meant by this that every disciple should bear the fruit of a good life; that if we live in him, and he in us, we are sure to bear the fruits of the Spirit, and be living branches. "Without me ye can do nothing," he said. He calls it, too, abiding in his love, and says if we do this we may ask him what we will, and it shall be done for us. He knows, of course, that if we truly love him we shall ask only those things that are for the growth of our spirit. We shall leave all our earthly wants for him to provide for. He is our life.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

What is a parable? A natural story with a spiritual story within it.

What stories did Jesus often use? Nature stories.

What is our parable to-day? The vine and the branches.

What does Jesus call himself? The true vine.

What does he call his disciples? The branches.

What does he want to teach us? That our life is from him.

Can a branch grow without the vine? No.

What should it do? Grow upon the vine and bear fruit.

What is growing upon the vine called? Abiding in the Lord's love.

What becomes of the dead branch? It is cast away.

What are the fruits of a life in Christ? (Find Gal. 5. 22, 23.)

What may we ask of him? What we will.

THE SEA-GULL.

The sea-gull is a beautiful bird? It lives by the ocean, and also on the great lakes. It is a very pretty bird, and quite large. It gets all its food out of the water. The gulls fly low, and the motion of their broad wings is quite graceful. There are many different kinds of gulls. Some of them are white, and have black wings. Others are of a gray color. Often they are seen far out at sea. They can swim on the water, but are mostly seen on the wing. Some of them live far toward the north pole, where the ice never melts away from the ocean, and some love the warmer seas.

The new invention for reducing the noise on elevated railroads is called iron felt. It is placed between the rails and sleepers, and not only deadens the sounds and reduces shocks, but materially diminishes the wear and tear.