

Go Fast.

BY SAM GREENWOOD.

Go fast, my friend, go fast,
For your life is short at the best,
When your labours in life are past
There's eternity to rest;
Don't wait to be something great,
Don't wait to do something grand,
But quickly and steadily, early and late,
Do your work with a resolute hand.

Go fast, my friend, go fast,
There's no room in the world for drones,
The men who are always the last
Are the men whom the world disowns;
For the ready and brave of heart
Are open a thousand ways,
Don't wait for your neighbour, but act your
part,
For you live by deeds, not days.

Go fast, my friend, go fast,
Don't drag when others advance,
In the way of the hurricane blast
You stand but the ghost of a chance;
Take your place in the front of the van,
Give your blows in the thick of the fight,
There's no room in the ranks for a lazy
man,
Though great be his courage and might.

Go fast, my friend, go fast,
The darkness is coming on,
The world's rich harvest is vast,
And the reapers will soon be gone;
Don't dally with time on the way,
For your work is waiting for you,
The hours are short of the longest day,
And your chances of life are few.

Go fast, my friend, go fast,
What work can you do in the grave?
While you loiter the chance may have
passed
For that life you had hoped to save;
Don't stop though the work be hard,
Make all diligent speed that you can,
The sloth of the sluggard will always retard
The work of a better man.

Go fast, my friend, go fast,
Your toil is not ended yet,
If you trust in God to the last
There's no need to worry and fret;
The daylight will soon be dim,
Don't leave your place in the strife
Till your soul has passed to its rest with
him,
In the peace of the better life.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN LUKE.

B.C. 5] LESSON II. [Jan. 12
THE SONG OF MARY.

Luke 1. 46-55. Memory verses, 49-51.

GOLDEN TEXT.

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my
spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
Luke 1. 46, 47.

TIME.—B.C. 5.

PLACE.—The "hill country"—possibly
the little town of Juttah.

RULERS.—Same as before.

CONNECTING LINKS.—Zacharias seems
at first to have doubted the angel's wonder-
ful promise, and in punishment Gabriel told
him that he would be unable to speak until
his son was born. When he came out of
the holy place, by gestures he told the
people that he had become dumb. Some
time after this, the same angel was sent to
the Virgin Mary, who then lived in Nazare-
th, to announce the birth of Jesus. He
said, "He shall be called great, and shall
be called the Son of the Highest"—the Son
of God. Mary arose and came to the country
home of Zacharias, to visit Elisabeth, who
was her cousin. When the two friends met,
Elisabeth greeted Mary warmly, and Mary
chanted, or sang, the hymn we study this
week. It was largely made up from Scrip-
ture passages taken from the Old Testa-
ment, the Bible of the ancient Jews.

EXPLANATIONS.—Magnify—Glorify, ex-
alt. Low estate—Poverty, insignificance.
Handmaiden—Servant. Put down the
mighty—A great many men whom the world
would have regarded as the mightiest were
put down by the birth, life, and doctrines
of Jesus, such as the Roman emperor, the
Herodian king, the Jewish priest, Holpen—
Helped. Seed—Descendants.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The Singer*, v. 46.
What was the name of the singer?
Where was her home? ver. 26.
What blessing had been pronounced on
her? ver. 45.
What had been told her from the Lord?
vers. 31-33.

2. *The Song*, vs. 46-55.
Whom did Mary praise in her song?
What was the burden of her song? (Golden
Text.)

Why had she this joy?
Who would call her blessed?
Who had done for her great things?
On whom does God's mercy rest?
How had he shown his strength?
Whom had he caused to exchange places?
What blessing had he given to the hungry?
Whom had he denied?

To what people had he been a helper?
To whom had he given promise of mercy?
What was his promise to Abraham? Gen.
12. 1-3.

How long will the Messiah rule?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who sang this song? "The Virgin
Mary." 2. About what did she rejoice?
"The coming of Jesus." 3. How did
Jesus' coming affect the lowly? "It ex-
alted them." 4. How did it affect the
mighty? "It put them down." 5. What
about the hungry? "It satisfied them." 6.
What about those who regarded them-
selves as spiritually rich? "It left them
empty."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The incarnation
of Christ.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

2. How did he come into the world?
The Son of God took our human nature,
and was born of a woman.

3. What notices were given beforehand
of his coming?

Many promises had been given in former
ages by the prophets, and more lately by
an angel.

B.C. 5] LESSON III. [Jan. 19

THE SONG OF ZACHARIAS.

Luke 1. 67-80. Memory verses, 76-79.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Thou shalt go before the face of the Lord
to prepare his way. Luke 1. 76.

TIME.—B.C. 5.

PLACE.—Same as before.

RULERS.—Same as before.

CONNECTING LINKS.—When John was
born, a little party of relatives and friends
assembled at the family home to go through
the form of naming him. They thought it
would be well to call him after his father,
Zacharias; his mother, however, insisted on
having her baby named John. His dumb
father, on being appealed to, asked for a
writing-table, and wrote, "His name is
John," and immediately he was able to
speak. This is his song of triumph.

EXPLANATIONS.—Horn of salvation.—The
word "horn" was used by the old Jews
very much as the word "shield" is now
used. It was an allusion to the horns of a
bull, and was the emblem of strength.
Saved from our enemies.—It is impossible to
tell how far Zacharias understood the king-
dom of God which was now about to be set
up. The oath which he swore.—That same
covenant which God made with his patri-
archs he is keeping, in a deep spiritual
sense, with us to-day. Go before the face
of the Lord.—Like a herald before the pres-
ence of the king, making the way ready.
Dayspring from on high.—That is, sun-burst
from the heavens. The sun is poetically al-
luded to as the spring of day. Waxed strong
in spirit.—Every allusion to the childhood
of John refers to the growth of austerity
and strength; every allusion to the child-
hood of Jesus refers to the growth of ten-
derness and gentleness. In the deserts.—The
rough, rocky, half-populated wilderness
which sloped far away from the heights of
Jerusalem.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The Promise*, vs. 67-75.

Who recited this promise?
What spirit was upon him?
To whom did he offer praise?
For what did he praise the Lord?
Through whom had God given his pro-
mise?

What is the real spirit of all prophecy?
Rev. 19. 10.

What salvation was promised?
To whom had this mercy been promised?
To whom had the promise first been given?
What was then promised?

2. *The Prophet*, vs. 76-80.

What was the child John to be called?
What great honour was predicted for
him? (Golden Text.)

What knowledge would he give the
people?
Through whose mercy would this blessing
come?

What proof of mercy had come to the
people?

To whom would this gift bring light?
What is said of the child's growth?
Where did he live until he was grown?

[THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who sang this song? "Zacharias,
father of John the Baptist." 2. What made
him so happy? "The birth of John, and
the coming of Christ." 3. What was John
to be? "The herald of the Lord." 4.
What was he to do? "To give knowledge
of salvation." 5. What is Christ here
called? "The dayspring from on high."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The divine
fidelity.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

4. How did an angel give notice of his
coming?

The angel Gabriel first foretold the birth
of John the Baptist, his forerunner, and
then announced to the mother of Jesus that
she should bring forth the Son of God.

5. Who was the mother of Jesus?
Mary, a virgin of the house of David.

An Extraordinary Memory.

In the newspapers of January, 1820,
there are accounts of an extraordinary
man who was known as "Memory-
corner Thompson." This man, although
he could hardly remember anything
he heard, could yet retain perfectly
the names and descriptions of large
collections of objects that met his eye.
He could take an inventory of the
contents of a house from cellar to
attic merely by surveying them and
could afterward write it out from
memory. He could draw from recol-
lection accurate plans of many London
parishes and districts, with every
street, alley, public building, public
house, etc., duly noted, down to the
minutest topographical details, such as
pumps, trees, bow-windows and posts,
all correctly marked.

Conspicuous instances of this me-
chanical kind of memory are to be
found among the famous mental cal-
culators. Jedediah Buxton was a
celebrity of this kind about the middle
of the last century. He had but little
education and, indeed, was not able to
write his own name. But in arith-
metic and in abstruse calculations
his powers were wonderful. The fol-
lowing is a specimen of the problems
which, when put to the test, he solved
mentally in a few minutes: Find how
many cubical eighths of an inch there
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