



PETRIFIED TREE TRUNK.

When My Mother Tucked Me In
BY BETTY GARLAND.

Ah, the quaint and curious carving
On the post of that old bed?
There were long-beaked, queer old griffins
Wearing crowns upon their head;
And they fiercely looked down on me
With a cold, sardonic grin,
I was not afraid of griffins,
When my mother tucked me in.

What cared I for dismal shadows,
Shifting up and down the floor,
Or the bleak and grewsome wind gusts
Beating 'gainst the close-shut door,
Or the rattling of the windows,
All the outside noise and din?
I was safe and warm and happy
When my mother tucked me in.

Sweet and soft her gentle fingers,
As they touched my sunburnt face;
Sweet to me the wadded odour
That enwrapped her dainty lace;
Then a pat or two at parting,
And a good-night kiss between;
All my troubles were forgotten
When my mother tucked me in.

Now the stricken years have borne me
Far away from love and home;
Ah! no mother leans above me
In the nights that go and come.
But it gives me peace and comfort,
When my heart is sore within,
Just to lie right still and, dreaming,
Think my mother tucked me in.

O the gentle, gentle breathing
To her dear heart's softer beat,
And the quiet, quiet moving
Of her soft-shod, willing feet!
And, Time, one boon I ask thee,
Whatso'er may be my sin,
When I'm dying let me see her
As she used to tuck me in.
—The Watchman.

AN AGATE FOREST.

Some wonderful specimens of agate from Arizona were lately exhibited by the well-known house of Tiffany & Co., New York City. This agate is "petrified wood," but like no other petrified wood previously discovered. The colouring is brilliant and beautiful; glowing red; the delicate blending and tinting of grays, blues, and greens, with here and there a glistering quartz crystal, make a rare combination.

Those beautiful slabs—two or three feet across—were sawn from great stone logs. The perfect likeness of the tree is there—concentric rings, the radiating lines, the rough, gnarled bark, and even every knot, has its facsimile in the stone.

Petrifications in wood have been discovered before, but they have been in neutral tints; the size and richness of the colouring are what render this recent discovery remarkable, for, previous to this, agates thirteen inches in diameter were considered large.

The finding of this agate forest, as it might properly be termed, is interesting. When the Apache chief, Geronimo, led the frontiersmen such a lively chase in Arizona, he ran better than he knew. During the pursuit of the Indians, the heart of the Apache country was penetrated. It was on one of these wild chases that a cowboy named Adams found himself in the remote and before undiscovered petrified forests of Arizona.

As soon as possible the discoverer reported his wonderful find to the Governor of Arizona. His story was laughed at. All right," said the cowboy, "if my story isn't true, I'll bear the expenses of the journey there and back."

The story was true, and there, prone in the depths of the lava desert they saw the remains of a forest, changed

into brilliant-hued, translucent agate, held in form by the petrified bark, every ridge and knot perfectly translated. For ages the water, impregnated with silica, played over and amongst these forest trees, wearing the wood away, and, cell by cell, atom by atom, replacing it by the stone.

It is assumed that powerful rivers may have burst forth, and with their heated waters covered this forest, and then, perhaps, after centuries, settled away, leaving as monuments of their work these agate petrifications. Stumps, trees, twigs, fallen logs, are all represented in the beautiful stone.

The cutting and polishing of these great agates is a work of exceeding difficulty. Thirty-five days were consumed in sawing across one of the stone logs. No steel instrument can make an impression, can even scratch the polished specimen on exhibition. Diamond dust and saws with diamond teeth alone will cut them.

Of course, much of the work must be done on the spot. Hence a fortified camp has been set up in the Arizona wilderness, and here are sawn out the blocks and slabs of agate.

BE TRUE.

Be true to your parents. You are under obligations higher and greater than you can possibly think. You must honour these obligations with the utmost fidelity, with expression of respect and loyal obedience.

Be true to yourself. You owe duties to yourself of the highest order. We do not mean that you are to consider selfishly your own interests regardless of



PETRIFIED TREE.

the rights of others. But you must make of yourself the noblest man or the noblest woman that you are capable of.

Be true to your Sunday-school and church. Here is the field in which your life-work is to be cast. Do not speak with disparagement of your church or Sunday-school, of your minister, superintendent, or teacher. If your church or school is smaller, or your house of worship less elegant, than somebody else's, remember that God has use for the smaller as well as for the larger things, for the sparrow or humming-bird as well as for the eagle, for the insect as well as for the elephant, for the little brook as well as for the great river, for the child as well as for the man. Your church and school have their mission in the world. Be true to them, and help them perform the mission best.

Be true to your God. Every commandment given by him is pure and holy. To obey them is for your best welfare, in this world and in the next. Thorough loyalty to truth, to right, to all that is pure and elevating, is the sure road to a noble character and life.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.
STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS.

LESSON XII.—MARCH 25.
REVIEW.



GOLDEN TEXT.

The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.—Mark 10. 45.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The birth of Jesus.—Luke 2. 1-16.
- Tu. The child Jesus visits Jerusalem.—Luke 2. 41-52.
- W. The baptism and temptation of Jesus.—Matt. 3. 13 to 4. 11.
- Th. The first disciples of Jesus.—John 1. 35-46.
- F. Jesus and Nicodemus.—John 3. 1-18.
- S. Jesus at Jacob's well.—John 4. 5-26.
- Su. Jesus healing in Capernaum.—Mark 1. 21-34.

Time and Places.—From B.C. 5 to A.D.

II. Draw an outline map of Palestine, and locate the following places thereon:

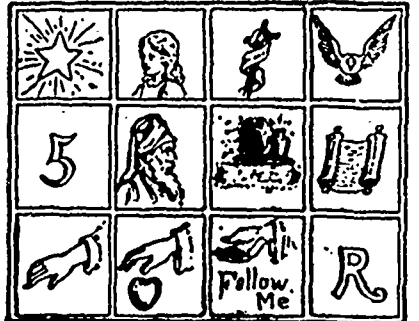
1. Judea, with Bethlehem and Jerusalem.
2. Samaria, with Jacob's well.
3. The wilderness; where John preached; where Jesus was tempted.
4. The Jordan.
5. Nazareth.
6. Capernaum.

III. State the principal teaching of each lesson.

IV. Find out how many miracles we have learned of.

V. Recall the advice given by Jesus to John's disciples:

1. To Nicodemus.
2. To the woman at the well of Samaria.
3. To the people of Nazareth, etc.



Drill on Golden Texts for Review and impress the unselfishness of Jesus' life. Draw out enough details in each lesson to make sure that the story is recalled, but fix the attention upon the special lesson truth, and make the children feel that the texts are indeed "Golden."

O to follow thee each day
In the lowly blessed way
That the holy Saviour trod,
Leading lost ones back to God!

During a temperance campaign a lawyer was discussing very learnedly the clauses of the proposed temperance law. An old farmer, who had been listening attentively, shut his knife with a snap, and said: "I don't know nuthin' about the law, but I've got seven good reasons for votin' for it." "What are they?" asked the lawyer. And the grim old farmer responded, "Four sons and three daughters."

Rev. J. Jackson Wray's

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I. Recall the Title and Golden Text of each lesson. These are the threads upon which are strung the pearls of this quarter's lesson.