

## LESSON VI—May 10th, 1896.

### Lessons on Prayer. LUKE 18: 9-17.

I. GOLDEN TEXT: "The Publican standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me a sinner." Luke 18: 13.

II. PREVIEW THOUGHT: Prayer.

III. REVIEW: How many men came to Jesus to be healed? What was their disease? How were they cured? What is faith? What was my prayer last week? (See "Primary Quarterly for Little Folks.")

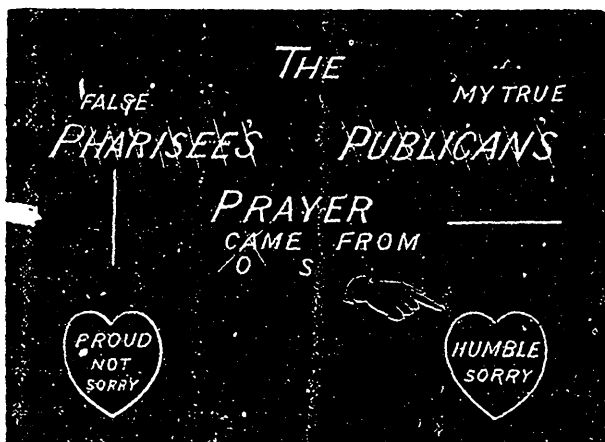
IV. INTERVENING EVENTS: Teaching concerning the kingdom of God. Parable of the importunate widow.

V. LESSON STORY: Our story to-day is one that Jesus told his disciples when he wanted to teach them the meaning of true prayer. It is about two men. One was a humble man and the other was a proud man. One had true sorrow for sin, the other was satisfied with himself. One was called a Pharisee and the other was called a Publican. They both went up to the temple to pray. The Pharisee was the proud one, and he thought he was very good. He thought he was better than other people, and much better than the Publican. He stood up to pray in a place where everybody could see him. He was not really praying; he was talking—not so much to God as to the people who were round about. This is what he said: "God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are, or even as this Publican," and then he tried to show what a great man he was by telling the good things which he did. The other man, the Publican, was very different; he truly prayed to God. He did not choose a place where everybody could see him, but bowed his head very humbly before God. He was not satisfied with himself; he did not compare himself with others, but showed how ashamed and sorry he was for his sins by smiting himself upon his breast, and saying from his heart, "God, be merciful to me a sinner." As Jesus was telling his disciples this story, mothers brought their babes to him. When the disciples saw them coming they wanted to send them away, fearing they might trouble Jesus, but he said, "Suffer little children to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of God." Jesus wanted to teach the disciples that true prayer comes from a humble, child-like heart.

#### VI. HOW TO TEACH

THE LESSON STORY—Build a representation of the temple with blocks. With two different colored pieces of wood, one for the Pharisee the other for the Publican; represent the two men as going up to the temple to pray. Tell the story as told by Jesus and get the children to repeat it to you. Or make a sketch on the board, and represent by strokes the two men praying, the one standing up, the other in a lowly attitude. Or simply make the marks

as suggested in the cut, without any sketch, and tell the story.



VII. HOW TO TEACH THE APPLICATION: We want to teach what true prayer is, and we have the story of the two men as our illustration. As the children tell the story to us, draw out from them and write upon the board that the Pharisee's prayer came from a "proud" and not a "sorry" heart, also that the publican's prayer came from a humble and a sorry heart. Show the difference between true and false prayer, and end with the thought that prayer must come from a "humble, sorry" heart, if I would have God hear it and answer it.