



INNOCENCE AND GUILT.

INNOCENCE AND GUILT.

Do you think that the innocent babe in her sister's arms could ever become such a looking man as this is? See the old drunkard giving the baby some of the horrid stuff that makes him a sot.

An artist once looked around for the finest face he could find for a picture. He saw a little boy, so beautiful and innocent, that he thought he could not find a prettier face anywhere. He took the boy's picture and painted it. When he had finished it, he thought he would like to have a picture of the worst looking person he ever saw. It was a long time before he could find one to suit him. At last he saw a drunken man lying in a gutter. He looked so wretched that the artist said, "That is the picture I want." He went to work, and when the picture was finished he placed it beside that of the little boy. A gentleman, who had known the little boy and the man, one day said to the artist: "Do you know that the man in the gutter was once that little boy whose picture is so beautiful? I have known him ever since he was a child."

Now, look at the picture again, and resolve never to drink anything that can make you drunk.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE PSALMS AND DANIEL.

B.C. 602.] LESSON IX. [May 29.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S DREAM.

Dan. 2. 36-49. Memory verse, 44.

GOLDEN TEXT.

All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.—Heb. 4. 13.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

God proves his Word divine by foretelling future events.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

A strange vision was sent to Nebuchadnezzar, which passed from his mind on awakening. He tested the reality of the wisdom of his wise men by commanding them to tell the dream as well as its meaning. When they could not do it he ordered them all to be

slain. Then Daniel offered to do it. He and his four companions prayed, and God revealed the answer. The dream is given in the verses previous to the lesson. *Thou art a king of kings*—He ruled over nearly all the then known world. *Power . . . and glory*—Babylon was the richest and most beautiful city then existing. Few have ever surpassed it. *Thou art this head of gold*—He represented the world kingdom of Babylonia, which existed but a short time after his death. It lasted from B.C. 606 or 605 to 538—69 years. The second kingdom, of silver, the breast and arms of the image, was the Medo-Persian, beginning with Cyrus, B.C. 538, and lasting about 200 years, till 333. *The fourth kingdom*—The body and thighs of brass, was the Macedonian empire, begun by Alexander the Great. He reigned ten years, but the kingdom lasted till about B.C. 65. Or it was the Roman empire. *Mingle themselves*—Ally themselves by marriage. *In the days of these kings*—Of the fourth kingdom. *God . . . set up a kingdom*—That brought by Jesus Christ. *Never to be destroyed*—Its principles are right, and shall never fail. That kingdom has been growing ever since, and already holds away over more than one-quarter of the world, and three quarters of its power and glory. *Cut out . . . without hands*—Not of human, but of divine and mysterious origin. *Sat in the gate*—Where the court was held. He remained in the city, the king's chief counsellor.

Find in this lesson—

- That God knows all things.
- That what he says will always come true.
- That Jesus will be King over all the world.
- That great things grow from small beginnings.
- That Christ will destroy everything that is opposed to him.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. What did Nebuchadnezzar see in a dream? "A great image, with its different parts of gold, silver, brass, iron, and clay."
2. Who revealed to him his dream and its meaning? "God, through Daniel and his three friends."
3. What was its meaning? "It was a picture of the history of the ages."
4. What promise in it? "That the kingdom of God should extend over the world."

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

23. What is sanctification?
It is the work of grace which purifies the soul from the defilement of sin, and consecrates it to God.

24. When does sanctification begin?
When our sins are pardoned, and we are born again, we are at the same time sanctified.

LITTLE BOB STOOD THE TEST.

THE "blue line" street car stopped at the corner, says a writer in the *Youth's Companion*, and an anxious young woman put a small boy inside.

"Now, Bob," she said, as she hurried out to the platform again, "don't lose that note I gave you, don't take it out of your pocket at all."

"No'm," said the little man, looking wistfully after his mother as the conductor pulled the strap, the driver unscrewed his brake, and the horses, shaking their bells, trotted off with the car.

"What's your name, Bub?" asked a mischievous looking young man sitting beside him.

"Robert Cullen Deems," he answered politely.

"Where are you going?"

"To my grandpa's."

"Let me see that note in your pocket."

The look of innocent surprise in the round face ought to have shamed the boy's tormentor, but he only said again, "Let me see it."

"I tan't," said Robert Cullen Deems.

"See here, if you don't, I'll scare the horses and make them run away."

The little boy cast an apprehensive look at the belled horse, but shook his head.

"Here, Bub, I'll give you this peach if you'll pull that note half way out of your pocket."

The boy did not reply, but some of the older people looked angry.

"I say, chum, I'll give you this whole bag of peaches, if you will just show me the corner of your note," said the temptor.

The child turned away, as if he did not wish to hear any more, but the young man opened the bag and held it out just where he could see and smell the luscious fruit. A look of distress came into the sweet little face; I believe Bob was afraid to trust himself, and when a man left his seat on the other side to get off the car, the little boy slid quickly down, left the temptation behind, and climbed into the vacant place.

A pair of prettily gloved hands began almost unconsciously to clap, and then everybody clapped and applauded until it might have alarmed Bob, if a young lady sitting by had not slipped her arm around him and said, with a sweet glow on her face—

"Tell your mamma that we all congratulate her upon having a little man strong enough to resist temptation and wise enough to run away from it."

I doubt if that long, hard message ever reached Bob's mother; but no matter, the note got to his grandmother without ever coming out of his pocket.—*Presbyterian*.

THE FOOLISH BOY.

NELLIE came running to me the other day, her eyes big with surprise, and exclaimed: "O, auntie, what do you think? You know Bertie, who lives down the street—that little bit of a boy—well, he smokes cigarettes, and he is awful little."

"Then he will make a little man very likely, if he has begun so early," I replied.

"Yes, that is what Gertie says. He steals off by himself behind the back fence and then smokes."

"Then he must know he is doing wrong, and is ashamed to be seen. What do you suppose he does it for?"

"I guess he thinks it will make him look big. He wants to be a man, and he is always telling us girls what he'll do when he gets big," said Nellie.

He has begun the wrong way, if he wants to grow. Tobacco will hurt his heart and nerves. If he lives to be a man he will be nervous, his heart will be weak, and he will not be the strong man that he might be if he had not begun this bad habit.

A school-boy died in Brooklyn only a little while ago, because he had smoked so many cigarettes. His whole body was sick; the poison in the tobacco had gone all through him. His skin was yellow, his nerves were weak, and he was so sick he had to go to the hospital. But the doctor could not help him. He said just before he died:

"Oh, if all the boys could see me now, and see how I suffer, they would never smoke."

If you would not be a smoker, don't begin.

STELLA'S VICTORY.

STELLA VINTON had been down town alone the first time in her life to make some purchases for her mother. She had walked down and was riding home. Mrs. Vinton had told her that she might have five cents for herself if there was any change left; but she had been obliged to spend every cent and was naturally just a little disappointed. She sat down in the car with her fare in her hand, waiting for the conductor to come for it. He came along presently, and she held it out toward him, but he did not take it, and went on to the front of the car. Then he stepped off the front platform and, waiting a moment, jumped on the rear again.

"He's forgotten me. He is not coming for my fare. I shall have to give it to him when I get out," she thought.

"No, I wouldn't; it is in his place come for it," the temptor suggested.

"That would be cheating. You have your ride, and ought to pay for it," whispered conscience.

"Of course; but it is not in my place make the conductor take it."

"It is everybody's business to be honest."

"Ma promised me five cents, too."

"But she would not like you to get it this way."

"She need never know. I would not tell her."

"But you would know, and Jesus would know; and you profess to be a Christian."

"So I do; and I will be. I won't cheat."

Just then the conductor called out Baker Street, and Stella Vinton arose to leave the car. As she did so she put five cents in the conductor's hand.

"Thank you," he said, smiling.

Stella went home and told her mother her temptation. Mrs. Vinton opened her purse, and taking out a twenty-five cent piece put it in Stella's hand.

"This is for my honest little girl," said, kissing her.

So Stella had double reason to be glad that she had gained the victory.

A NEW GAME.

THE EPWORTH WHEEL OF KNOWLEDGE.

THREE GAMES IN ONE.

This new and popular game is issued on behalf of a League that desires to aid financially the Master's work.

It is a game of questions and answers. Each box contains 200 question cards, and 200 corresponding answer cards. In New Games, these are distributed among groups of persons called "wheels," and the wheel securing most answers to its questions within a given time, wins the game.

Any number of persons may play at the same time. In this the game is especially appropriate for socials and "at home." The company are kept constantly on the move, and very quickly are made acquainted and put at ease.

The questions have been selected from a great variety of common subjects—many from the Bible. They impart much useful information. A number of blank cards are enclosed with each box for local "hills."

Every League should possess itself of this delightful game. It never fails to please. It is adapted to any place or occasion, and especially good in the home. A full descriptive circular accompanies each game.

PRICE, 50 CENTS, POSTPAID.

WILLIAM BRIGGS

Methodist Book and Publishing House
Toronto.

C. W. COATES, MONTREAL, QUE.
S. F. HUESTIS, HALIFAX.