

THE EASTER LILY.

BY MRS. CLARA DOTY BATES.

Through all the winter chilly
There slowly grew a lily,
From fresh bud thrust above the bulb,
To soft expanding leaf;
Though scant the sunshine that it felt,
Long as the days were brief.

We knew a lovely blossom
Was hid within its bosom,
And that its one green calyx-sheath
Did tenderly enfold
A snow-white flower, upon whose breast
Would shine a dust of gold.

We watched, and, ah, we waited,
It seemed so long belated;
We gave it freely light and drink,
Though filled with fear and doubt;
Would ever that green prison burst
And let its captive out?

Behold, on Easter morning,
With no unusual warning,
Our lily stood in perfect bloom,
All gloriously white!
And thus our question had reply;
Our doubt became delight.

Out from its folded prison
We felt it had arisen
To prove to us Life's narrowing bounds
Will blossom and unclose.
Until the soul is freed and fair,
As Christ himself arose.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

LESSON III. [April 19.]

THE LAW OF LOVE (TEMPERANCE LESSON).

Rom. 13. 7-14. Memorize verses 9, 10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour;
therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.
—Rom. 13. 10.

THE LESSON STORY.

While Paul was making a three months' stay at Corinth he wrote a letter to the Christians at Rome. He had not seen them in that city, but many had gone there whom he knew, and he was making a plan to visit them. Phebe, a Christian widow who lived at Cenchrea, one of the parts of Corinth, was going to Rome on business, and Paul sent his letter by her. She was a woman of wealth, who acted as a deaconess in the church, and had been a helper to Paul and many others. Paul tells the Roman people many great truths of the Gospel, and then he touches upon that greatest thing of all—love, with-

out which there can be no church. He first tells them to be good citizens and neighbours and to "owe no man anything, but to love one another." He tells them that to love one's neighbour as one's self is to fulfil the law, because love will never do any harm to the neighbour. He had heard, perhaps, that the Romans, like the Corinthians, were given to pleasures and public games, and that wine was used too freely; so he warned them against putting any temptation in the way of a neighbour lest he be tempted and fall. "Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ," he said, the only defence from evil. To "put on" the Lord Jesus Christ is to let him live and rule in the life.

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

To whom is Paul writing? To the Roman Christians.

What was Rome? A great and wicked city.

Had Paul been there? No.

Who carried Paul's letter? Phebe, a deaconess.

What does he want them to do? To be good citizens.

How can they keep the law? By loving one another.

Where did he learn about this? From the teachings of Jesus.

How much should we love our neighbour? As ourselves.

Did Paul do this? Yes.

When was he a hater of Christians? Before he knew Jesus.

Should we tempt our neighbour? No.

What should we do? Help him to be like Jesus.

LESSON IV. [April 26.]

PAUL'S JOURNEY TO JERUSALEM.

Acts 21. 3-12. Memorize verses 11, 12.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The will of the Lord be done.—Acts 21. 14.

THE LESSON STORY.

Do you remember in the lesson of three weeks ago that Paul had a farewell meeting with his Ephesian friends? He had said, "I go bound in spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there." In our lesson to-day he is on his way, sailing now in one ship and now in another until he comes to Tyre, the city of merchants. If you look on the map you can trace the way from Troas and Miletus, where he met the Ephesian friends, to Tyre. There the ship stopped to unload its cargo, and Paul and his friends went on shore and stayed seven days with the Christians of Tyre. When they left Tyre the Christians, with their wives and children, came with them to the ship and knelt on the shore and prayed and said good-bye sadly, for they feared to have Paul go to Jerusalem. When the

ship left them near the foot of Mount Carmel they went on their way along the sea-shore on foot for thirty-five miles until they came to Caesarea. Philip, the deacon, lived there with his four daughters, who were prophetesses. While he was at Philip's house the prophet Agabus came, and binding his own hands and feet with Paul's girdle, he said, "So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owns this girdle." When they begged him not to go he said, "What mean ye to weep and break my heart?" and then he added, "I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus;" and the people said, "The will of the Lord be done."

QUESTIONS FOR THE YOUNGEST.

Where was Paul going? To Jerusalem.

To what city did he come? To Tyre.

What kind of a city was it? A city of merchants.

How long did he stay there? Seven days.

Where did they go next? To Caesarea.

Who lived there? Philip, a deacon.

What did Philip's four daughters do? They prophesied.

What man came from Judea? The prophet Agabus.

What did he prophesy? That Paul would be bound in Jerusalem.

What did Paul's friends do? Begged him not to go.

Why would he go? He thought God called him.

What did his friends say? Golden Text.

A LITTLE BOY'S DOINGS.

Perhaps the very first gospel seeds were sown, in Corea, by a converted Chinese lad who had learned in a mission school at Ningpo to love the Saviour.

When he was about nine years old his father took him with him on one of his trading expeditions to the Corean capital. While there the boy was stolen and sold to the governor, who gave him to his wife as a present. He became her page, and would often try to tell her of the Saviour he loved and trusted, but she would not listen.

One day this woman's dear little baby girl died. She felt very sorrowful and lonely. Then she remembered the words her little page had said about the love of Jesus. She called the boy to her, and asked him to tell her the story again. Day by day did this little Christian lad talk of the Saviour until his mistress came to believe in and love Jesus.

See what the little Chinese boy could do, and how he taught the rich and noble lady to love Jesus, and then ask yourself, "What can I do for my Saviour?"