

Over Against the Treasury.

Over against the treasury this day
The Master silent sits; while, unaware,
Of that celestial presence still and fair,
The people pass or pause upon their way.
And some go laden with his treasures sweet,
And dressed in costly robes of his device,
To cover hearts of stone and souls of ice,
Which bear no token to the Master's feet.
And some pass, gayly singing, to and fro,
And cast a careless gift before his face
Amongst the treasures of the holy place,
But kneel to crave no blessing ere they go.
And some are travel-worn, their eyes are dim;
They touch his shining vesture as they pass,
But see not even darkly through a glass.
How sweet might be their trembling gifts to him.
And still the hours roll on; serene and fair
The Master keeps his watch, but who can tell
The thoughts that in his tender spirit swell,
As one by one we pass him unaware?
For this is he who, on an awful day,
Cast down for us a precious vest and drest,
That he was left for our sakes bare and dead.
Having given himself our mighty debt to pay!
O, shall unworthy gifts once more be thrown
Into his treasury—by whose death we live?
Or shall we now embrace his cross, and give
Ourselves, and all we have, to him alone?

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY.

B.C. 1141] LESSON II. [July 14
THE SORROWFUL DEATH OF ELI.
1 Sam. 1-18. Memory verses 17, 18
GOLDEN TEXT.
His sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not. 1 Sam. 3: 13.

OUTLINE.

- 1. The Ark Smitten, v. 1, 2.
2. The Ark Taken, v. 3-11.
3. The Priest Dead, v. 12-18.

TIME.—1141 B.C.

PLACES.—Ephraim. Aphek. Shiloh.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Let us rich the ark*—The ark of the covenant had been carried at the head of the army around Beth-el, and so they now send for it with hope that it will help against these foes. *Every man into his tent*—That is, into his own home, not to his tent or camp. It was an utter rout. *His clothes rent*—These were the Oriental signs of grief, the rending of the garment by tearing down in front toward the border was common.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

What is there in this lesson from which we can learn?
1. That sin brings weakness?
2. That sin brings punishment?
3. That sin brings death?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What disaster to Israel does our lesson record? Defeat by the Philistines. 2. How did the Israelites think to recover lost ground? By bringing the ark of God. 3. What was the effect of this action? The ark of God was taken. 4. Why did God allow these troubles? Because of Israel's sin. 5. What was the last effect of this calamity? The sorrowful death of Eli. 6. Why did such sorrow come upon him? "His sons made themselves vile," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Retribution.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

30. How many Persons are there in the Godhead?

In the Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God. Matt. 28: 19.

B.C. 1141] LESSON III. [July 21

SAMUEL THE REFORMER.

1 Sam. 7: 1-12. Memory verses, 3, 4
GOLDEN TEXT.

Cease to do evil; learn to do well. Isa. 1: 16, 17.

OUTLINE.

- 1. Repentance, v. 1-6.
2. Victory, v. 7-12.

TIME.—1141-1120 B.C.

PLACE.—Gibeah, in the house of Abinadab; or, as also called, Kirjath-jearim. Mizpeh. Shen.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Sanctified*—Set him apart by special consecration. *Lamented upon the Lord*—That is, longed for him to appear once more in glory. *Dear water and poured*—Probably an act of high symbolic character, indicating self-surrender and humiliation. *Went up against*—That is, to attack and destroy them. *Thundered with a great thounder*—A storm at the opportune moment, doubtless in answer to Samuel's prayer, drove back the Philistines.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

From what facts in this lesson may we learn—
1. That we ought to forsake sin?
2. That we ought to serve God?
3. That we ought to remember his mercies?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. How long a time passed before God once more showed mercy to his people? "The time was long; twenty years." 2. How did the people prove that their lamenting was sincere? "They put away Balaam and Ashteroth." 3. For what did Samuel gather the people to Mizpeh? For a service of confession. 4. What was the great lesson which in substance Samuel here taught them? "Cease to do evil; learn to do well." 5. What was the result of this new consecration? A victory for Israel. 6. In what words did Samuel recognize this divine help? "Hitherto hath the Lord," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Contrition for sin.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

31. What do you call this mystery? The mystery of the Holy Trinity.
32. What do you mean by mystery? A truth which man's reason could not discover, and which God by degrees makes known.

A SAD MOTHER.

Mrs. Lewis was a widow. Tom was her only boy, and he was twelve years old—a manly little fellow. How his mother loved him! And how she planned and worked, hoping all the time that in the future Tom would be her comfort and stay!

But now Tom was growing bad very fast. Some bad boys had gained an influence over him, and his mother talked and reasoned with him in vain. What did he do? Oh, he was learning to smoke, to break the Sabbath, to hang around street corners, and to disobey his mother!

Every one of them downward steps, you see. Poor Mrs. Lewis, how troubled she felt! One night she sat late over the fire, thinking and praying about it all. Tom was asleep upstairs. But he had had dreams, and woke in a fright.

"Mother! Mother!" he called. But his mother did not hear. Then Tom hurried downstairs. But his mother was not in the room. Now he was frightened in earnest. Where

could she be? And suddenly the thought came, "What if I should lose my mother!"

He pushed open the door of the sitting-room, and looked in. There she sat, her Bible in her lap, tears upon her white face.

"Mother! What is it?" cried Tom, in real distress. "What has happened?"

"Oh, it is my boy!" cried the sad woman. "It is my dear boy. I am losing him, and it breaks my heart!"

Tom never forgot that night. For the first time in his life he caught a glimpse of his mother's deep love, and kneeling by her side, he promised God and his mother that he would be a good son from that hour.

And he was! That was the turning point in his young life. He saw that mother's love was better than fun, he it ever so funny, and he vowed that mother's wishes should be his law from that time.

Tom is a man now, and, boys, we wish you to know what a grand man he is! And his mother—what a happy woman she is!—Selected.

ROCKS FROM THE SKIES.

METEORIC stones, in single masses and in showers, have fallen from the atmosphere at various—and in many cases uncertain periods throughout the world.

The largest of these meteoric bodies known until the past few years is in the Province of Tucuman, in South America, in the midst of an extensive plain. It weighs 30,000 pounds.

A mass in the Imperial Cabinet, in Vienna, was brought from Agram, in Civatin, where it fell, in 1751. It was seen by the inhabitants while falling from the air, and is said to have appeared like a globe of fire.

Prof. Pallas, in his travels in Siberia, found a mass in the mountains of Kemir, weighing 1,650 pounds, which the inhabitants told him fell from the sky.

About 150 miles from Bahia, in Brazil, is a mass of crystalline texture weighing 14,000 pounds.

There is a specimen in a cabinet at New Haven, Conn., weighing 3,000 pounds, which was brought from the Red River valley, in Louisiana.

The largest meteor now known descended on a farm in the township of Claysville, Pennsylvania, last summer. It required three men several days to unearth the monster. It had penetrated the earth until it came in contact with a stratum of limestone, when this sudden check of its fearful velocity caused it to break into many of all sizes and shapes; yet when the earth was removed from around it, it still preserved its original shape. Its weight was estimated at 200 tons.

I NEVER saw a dying Christian who had not dying grace; and certainly he who can help us to die can also help us to live.

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