



HIRAM LAWRENCE, THE SAILOR BOY.

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BY MARY F. BASTIAN.

HIRAM's father died suddenly one bleak winter day, and Mrs. Lawrence was left with her four little children to fight the battle of life. Hiram was the second child. He was one of the brightest scholars at the village school. His home was by the sea side, and he was very fond of the water. He would often go down to the beach after school and play sailor with some of his companions. His uncle George, who was captain of a big ship, gave him a nice little sail-boat when Hiram was a little boy, and this he used to sail on the little creek that emptied into the sea.

One day Hiram, who knew that his mother found it hard to support her family, made up his mind to help. His uncle, Captain Hunter, was soon to sail in the *Sea Gull* on a long trip from New York to San Francisco. Hiram told his mother that he would like to sail in his uncle's ship, earn a little money and do something to help her. Mrs. Lawrence could not think of parting with any of her children, even though it was so hard to support them. When uncle George came to visit them Hiram told him how anxious he was to help his mother, and then Mrs. Lawrence told her brother of Hiram's wish to ship with him in the *Sea Gull*. Captain Hunter talked the matter all over with them, and it was agreed that Hiram should sail with the *Sea Gull*, and should perform certain duties and be paid a certain sum.

During the last few weeks that Hiram was to be at home Mrs. Lawrence was constantly thinking of her dear boy and it was with many a headache that she gathered his things together and packed them, with her own little Bible, in Hiram's sailor-bag. Hiram was a sunny, hopeful fellow, and as the day of departure approached he became somewhat excited over the novelty of the trip and the many strange things he was sure to see.

The day came when the last load was stowed away in the hold of the *Sea Gull*. The hatches were battened down, the great hawsers hauled in, and the big ship began her long journey, amid the waving of hats and handkerchiefs, the receiving and sending of parting salutations amid smiles and tears. The noble ship passed out of the

harbour into the open sea, and soon was well started on her voyage.

Hiram soon became used to the strange motion of the vessel and really enjoyed his surroundings. His kind disposition, his willingness to work, and happy face, soon made him a favourite with officers and sailors. He saw many new sights, and had many new experiences. The Southern Cross, of which he had heard his father speak, seemed entirely different from his idea, but the sight of it made a deep impression on his mind. He was very much amused at the sports of the sailors when the vessel crossed the line, although he was sorry for the rough handling some of the new sailors received at the hands of old Neptune. The run around the Cape was dangerous, but the scenery was simply grand. The run up the west coast was very pleasant, and in good season the *Sea Gull* sailed through the Golden Gate and anchored in the harbour of San Francisco. Here Hiram found some letters from home, and he lost no time in answering them and giving a full account of the voyage. He also proudly sent his mother some money—the first he had ever earned. In San Francisco he met some friends of his father, who took good care of him while the *Sea Gull* was getting ready for the return voyage. They took him about the city and showed him a great many strange sights. The return voyage was made in good time, in spite of a fearful storm which was encountered off the coast of Chili. Early one morning Hiram came on deck and Captain Hunter told him to look through the glass. He did so, and saw the land. As the vessel sailed on along the coast Hiram climbed to the top of the main-mast and let his soul drink in the sight of the old familiar places. In a few hours the *Sea Gull* entered the harbour and dropped anchor. The big anchor had hardly touched bottom before a little row boat, in which Mrs. Lawrence was sitting, put off from the shore and approached the *Sea Gull*. The widow's heart rejoiced when she saw her sailor boy waving his hat to her from the ship, and when she lovingly embraced him in the presence of the ship's company many an old tar brushed away an unbidden tear.

ARE YOU praying by name for your un-saved school-mates?

EUGENIE'S VALOUR.

THE cholera scare that has afflicted Europe to a degree has recalled an incident of the time when Napoleon III. was at the height of his power. The cholera prevailed to a frightful extent at Amiens, yet never a day passed that the Empress did not visit the hospitals to superintend, so far as she could, the noble work of allaying the sufferings of the stricken. One morning a curé rushed into the ward where the Empress was consoling a dying man.

"Oh, your majesty," cried the curé "two hours ago my vicar was breakfasting with me, and now he is dead."

Eugenie smiled placidly.

"That is well."

"Well?" replied the curé in amazement.

"Yes, it is well," she answered. "When once the cholera becomes as violent as that it ceases."

The Empress was right; from that day the plague abated. Eugenie's valour did much to fortify the people against the epidemic to which very many, I am told, fell victims through sheer fright alone.

The Last Roll-Call.

THROUGH the crowded ranks of the hospital,
Where the sick and the wounded lay,
Slowly, at nightfall, the surgeon
Made his last slow round for the day.

And he paused a moment in silence
By a bed where a boyish face,
With a death white look, said plainly
Here will soon be an empty place.

Poor boy! how fast he is going!
He thought as he turned, when a clear,
Unflinching voice, through the stillness
Ringing out like a bell, called, "Here!"

Ah, my boy, what is it you wish for?
"Nothing," faintly the answer came;
But, with eyes all alight with glory,
"I was answering to my name."

In the tranquil face of the soldier
There was never a doubt or fear—
"They were calling the roll in heaven,
I was only answering, Here!"

The soft, dim rays of the lamp-light
Fell down on the dead boy's face;
In the morning the ranks were broken,
For another had taken his place.

Far away in God's beautiful heaven,
They are calling the "roll" each day,
And some one slips into the places
Of the ones who are summoned away.
—*Christian Standard*.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

A. D. 30.] LESSON V. [July 31.

PETER AND JOHN BEFORE THE COUNCIL.

Acts 4. 1-18. Memory Verses, 8-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.—Acts 4. 12.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Christ is the Saviour and only Saviour of men.

CIRCUMSTANCES.

A well known lame man had been cured by Peter and John, in the court of the temple, and he accompanied them in their worship—walking, leaping, and praising God. This drew great crowds into Solomon's porch, where Peter was preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to them when he was interrupted by the authorities.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

Captain of the temple—The head of the band of Levite sentinels who kept guard over the temple. *Sadducees*—A sect of the Jews, whose name was derived from Sadoc, their founder. They were a small but influential sect—the unbelievers and materialists among the Jews, denying the existence of soul, angels, and a future life. Hence they were opposed to the preaching of a risen Christ. *Eventide*—It was three o'clock when the lame

man was healed. It must now have been as late as six. *Five thousand*—The whole number of male converts, including the three thousand of Pentecost. *Rulers* The whole Sanhedrim of seventy one members, composed (1) of *elders*: heads of families, leading men; (2) *scribes*: teachers of the schools, interpreters of the law; (3) *the priests*: the heads of the twenty four courses, and the leading priests, as mentioned in verse 6. *Annas*—He was the high priest elected and acknowledged by the people, while *Caiaphas* was the legal high priest appointed by the Romans. *By what power*—They wished to accuse them of magic or sorcery, which was punishable by death. (Exod. 22. 18.) Note the boldness of Peter, who, a short time before, had denied his Master. *This is the stone*, etc., quoted from Psalm 118. 22. *Salvation*—From sin, to holiness, to heaven. *None other name* The name includes all that there is in Jesus, of power, divinity, humanity. *Must be saved*—Why can we be saved only by Christ? (1) He only brings God's forgiveness. (2) The promise is only through him. (3) He has the power of the Spirit by which the heart is changed. (4) He is the sum of all goodness. To reject him is to reject goodness, and hence be unsaved. *That they had been with Jesus*—They had seen them with him, and recognized the manner and the doctrine and the same kind of good works. *We cannot deny it*—Facts are the invincible argument for Christianity. Its good works prove its divine origin.

Find in this lesson—

Two kinds of hearers of the Gospel.
Two men in whom a great change was wrought.
Who is our only Saviour.
How to grow like Jesus.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. Who now began to persecute the Christians? "The rulers of the Jews." 2. Did this put an end to their increase? "They increased to five thousand men." 3. How did Peter defend himself? "By preaching Jesus Christ, and pointing to what Christ had done." 4. What did they say about Jesus? (Repeat verse 12.) 5. What was the source of Peter's wisdom and courage? "He had been with Jesus, and was filled with the Holy Spirit."

CATECHISM QUESTION.

33. How is the Holy Spirit an agent? In the works of creation and providence, but more particularly in the work of salvation.

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