

## To Our Dear Ones with God.

We do not grieve your eyes the blessed light  
Which gladdens them upon life's farther  
shore,  
Although our eyes ache hourly for the sight  
Of your dear faces, lost for evermore  
Till the old ties again are knit in one,  
In an unchanging, an immortal land,  
And the sweet links, by death's rough grasp  
undone,  
Are re-united by a master-hand.

We would not wish you in our midst again,  
For all the comfort that your love could  
give,  
We would not cause you an instant's pain,  
Whatever pleasures we might thus receive,  
And yet we miss you with a growing want  
Which seems as though it must be satisfied,  
And your dear shadows every corner haunt,  
Yet evermore beyond our vision glide

Ah, dear ones! If God's love on you bestows  
A delegation of his gracious powers,  
If, as we doubt not, he each trial shows,  
Do not your hearts beat still in tune with  
ours?

Are you not striving for us in the light,  
Whilst we struggle painfully through dark-  
ness home?

Are you not watching with love quickened  
sight  
How you can best unto our succour come?

Will you not welcome us with outstretched  
arms  
When we at last obtain the victor's crown?  
Will not God's very throne have added charms  
When we can join our worship to your  
own?

Will not God bless, with sanction all divine,  
The love which is of his dear love a part?  
Is there not thine nest in heaven's most sacred  
shrine,  
In God's own bread a sweetly human  
heart?

## LESSON NOTES.

## FIRST QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OUR LORD.

A. D. 29.] LESSON VI. [Feb. 10.

CHRIST AND THE CHILDREN.

Matt. 18. 1-14. Memory verses, 2-4.  
GOLDEN TEXT.It is not the will of your Father which is in  
heaven, that one of these little ones should  
perish.—Matt. 18. 14.

## OUTLINE.

1. The Children's Friend, v. 1-6.
2. The Sinner's Saviour, v. 7-14.

TIME.—The summer of A. D. 29.

PLACE.—Capernaum; in a house, possibly  
Peter's.RULERS.—Herod in Galilee; Pilate in  
Judea.

## HOME READINGS.

- M. Christ and the children.—Matt. 18. 1-14.  
T. In his arms.—Mark 9. 33-37.  
W. Blessing the children.—Mark 10. 13-16.  
TA. Taught of the Lord.—Isa. 54. 11-17.  
F. How to be great.—Matt. 20. 20-28.  
S. The humble spirit.—1 Peter 5. 1-7.  
Su. Christ's humility.—Phil. 2. 1-11.

## QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. *The Children's Friend*, v. 1-6.  
What did the disciples ask of Jesus?  
Whom did Jesus call to him?  
What did he say about entering the king-  
dom of heaven?  
Who will be the greatest in that kingdom?  
Who is honoured when a child is saved?  
What is said about children and millstones?
2. *The Sinner's Saviour*, v. 7-14.  
What was Jesus' answer?  
What did he say about cutting off a hand  
or foot?  
What would be worse than losing a hand?  
What did he say about an offending eye?  
Why did he give this advice?  
When was it the loss of an eye better?  
Against what does Jesus utter a warning?  
What does he say about angels?  
For what purpose did the Son of man come?  
What question is asked about a sheep?  
What says Isaiah about lost sheep? Isa.  
53. 6.  
What is said here of the shepherd's joy?  
What is the will of our Father about the  
little ones? (Golden Text.)  
What says Paul about the mission of Jesus?  
1 Thim. 1:11.

What said Jesus about forgiving men?  
Verses 21, 22.

What parable did he utter? Verses 23-35.

## TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. Who are members of the kingdom of God?
2. How to become members of the kingdom of God?
3. How to be great in the kingdom of God?

## THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What does the disciples' question show that they expected? An earthly kingdom. 2. What does Christ's answer teach concerning human ambition? That it cannot enter heaven. 3. What must every citizen of this kingdom be like? Like a simple, artless child. 4. Who does Christ declare will be the greatest in his kingdom? He who is most childlike. 5. What does Christ say is most the will of God? Golden Text: "It is not," etc.

## "I LOVE TO PINT HIM OUT"

A GENTLEMAN, while travelling, came to a river, which he must needs cross before he could reach his destination. Joe Brown, a coloured boatman, was accustomed to ferry passengers over the river, and the boat being ready, the gentleman seated himself in the bow. Joe stepped



CHRIST AND THE CHILDREN.

into his place, and taking up his oars, the two glided swiftly along. There were sloops going up and down the river, as they did every day, when the winds would carry them on their way. Suddenly Joe drew in his oars, and springing to his feet pulled off his ragged old straw hat, and with his hand shaded his eyes while he strained his sight to some object on a sloop in the distance.

"As I'm a libbing man," he exclaimed, "dat am de Captain!"

The gentleman started out of his musings, followed the eyes of Joe, but could distinguish nothing but the forams of three or four men on a sloop in the distance.

"See him, Mister?" exclaimed Joe. "Don't you see that strong, kind-looking man again the mast?" urged Joe.

"Perhaps I shall see him when the vessel gets nearer."

"I wish you could see the Captain," said Joe, in a tone which seemed to imply that he might if he would but look.

"Who is the Captain?" he asked.

"Do Captin?" said Joe, turning upon him a look of surprise, as if he should have known. "Ho an do man dat sated me." But quickly turning his eyes again to the sloop, he said, "I can't miss seeing him while he am in sight," and gazed with an intense earnestness.

The sloop did not come very near, and passed by with no apparent signal to Joe, who stood as steady as a mast in a ship, with his hat in his hand and his eyes still shaded. As the sloop sailed on, the figures of the men became hidden, and Joe sat down again to his oars.

"I telt you, ear," said he, "dat he am de man which sated me."

"How did he save you, Joe?"

"He strip off his coat and jumped into de ribber and cutch hole of dis chile wid his strong arm, just as he was sinking into de great depths, wid de ropes around his feet. Dat de way he sated me," said Joe, growing eloquent with emotion.

"You have not forgotten to be grateful, I see."

"Grateful! Joe Brown could breathe every bress he draw for him ef he could. I telt him I would work de rest of my days widout no pay. It would be enough and more, and I pay him just to be allowed to sarve him. But," he added rather sadly, "so I stay as close by him as I ken. He runs by hero once a month. I watches fur him allers, and I love to pint him out. It's all dis poor nigger can do."

The traveller, who was a Christian, was deeply moved by the earnestness of the poor negro, and at the depth and tenderness of his gratitude.

In a moment there flashed across him a humiliating sense of his own ingratitude toward the One whose strong arm had snatched him from the jaws of an eternal death. Why should he ever forget the high privilege of pointing out "Him, whose name is above every name," the man Christ Jesus?

Has not this little incident a voice for

to; he says it is perfectly safe to bring a green log and a lighted candle together, but get a few chips and shavings under your green log and then apply your candle, and in the blaze made by your chips and the shavings, presently your log will begin to burn.

The green log is the great wickedness the lighted candle is Satan's temptation, and the quickly caught chips and shavings are those doubtful things which you are daily tempted to do.

## A TASTE FOR READING.

TIME should be devoted by every young man and young woman entering life, were it only half-an-hour a day, to the development of their mind, to the gaining of useful information, to the culture of some ennobling taste. A taste for reading is worth more than any sum we can name. A rich man, without this or some similar taste, does not know and is not to enjoy his money. His only resource is to keep on making and hoarding money, unless he prefers to spend it; and a mind that is not well developed does not know how to spend wisely.

A well-known millionaire used to say, that he would gladly give all his money if he could only have himself the education which his lazy, stupid boy refused to acquire.

Be advised, make it a rule never to be broken, to devote at least half-an-hour a day to the reading of some useful and instructive book. Every man needs a knowledge of history, the elements of science, and other useful subjects; and if only half-an-hour a day is given to reading, he will find the advantage of it.

Be hungry and thirsty after knowledge of all kinds, and you will be none the worse, but all the better, as business men and women. Beware of novels, they are ensnaring and pernicious.

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## DOUBTFUL THINGS THE MOST DANGEROUS.

YOUNG people get unnumbered warnings against doing that which is evil; unnumbered appeals to do justly and live righteous lives. Ever since Solomon's day wise people have understood that the hope of the world lay in guiding young people into paths of virtue and holiness; and all along the centuries danger signals have been set up against this and that form of wickedness.

Yet, after all, if you consult your own experience, it is not to wickedness that you are greatly tempted, certainly not you children of the Church; certainly not many of you. But it is the doubtful things that ensnare you; the things which you may do and keep your respectability; which you may do and be eminently stylish; for which you can find no "Thou shalt not" laid down in the word, and yet which make against your holiness.

John Newton's illustration is a perfect picture of what we are calling your doubtful