

A.D. 28.] LESSON VI. [Feb. 10.

THE FIBRE DEMONIAIC.

Mark 5. 1-20. Memory verses, 18-20.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee. Mark 5. 19.

OUTLINE.

1. Bondage, v. 1-13. 2. Freedom, v. 14-20. TIME.—28 A.D.

CONNECTING LINKS—After the parable of the sower had been explained, Jesus continued to speak in parables to the throng, teaching the great truths of the kingdom. Then, wearied with labours, he left Capernaum with his disciples, and by boat crossed the sea to find rest in the solitudes on the eastern shore. While crossing, a tempest swept over the little lake, which he calmed by one word of command, and thereby greatly increased the hold which he had upon his followers. Sickness, disease, death, and now the tempestuous sea, had yielded to his power. Surely this is no man! was the astonished word of the men who witnessed. They reach the land, and our lesson begins.

EXPLANATIONS.—Other side of the sea—The east side of the Sea of Galilee. Unclean spirit—Possessed with a demon. Cutting himself with stones—The violence of these maniacs is well attested by modern travellers. Ran and worshipped—The maniac had some intensified spiritual presentiment concerning Jesus as the Christ. Legion—Possessed by all demoniacal influences. Down a steep place—Probably off from some declivity overhanging the lake with a strip of shore so narrow that the swine could not recover from the wild rush.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

- Bondage.**
Into what district did Jesus come when he entered the country of Gadara? Why should he seek this country if he wished retirement? What was the character of the insanity presented by the poor wretch from the tombs? Was this insanity like that of the present time? (If you can, consult a Bible dictionary or commentary.)

- Freedom.**
What was the result of the contest between these two great spiritual forces? (a) on the man; (b) on the swine; (c) on the people. Of what is this result also a type? Rev. 20. 1-3.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

This maniac is a picture of the sinner. Right sense of his condition, lost. Influence on all others, harmful. Beyond the reach of earthly help. His every act self-destructive. Society the worse for his life. This soul set free by Christ is a picture of the true Christian. His mind and heart right, because surrendered to God. His whole desire, to be with Christ. His acts, those of simple obedience.

HINTS FOR HOME STUDY.

- Learn all you can about Perea.
- Note the steps in this man's salvation. Learn them all. The boatmen brought Christ where he was. He recognized Christ at once as his Master. He was in the terror of conviction for his evil possession. He surrendered to Christ's claim. He went out to work for others.
- Commit to memory the Golden Text and Luke 8. 39.
- Learn what things in this story point out Jesus as the Son of God.
- Write the story of the life of Jesus as you have studied it thus far in Mark.

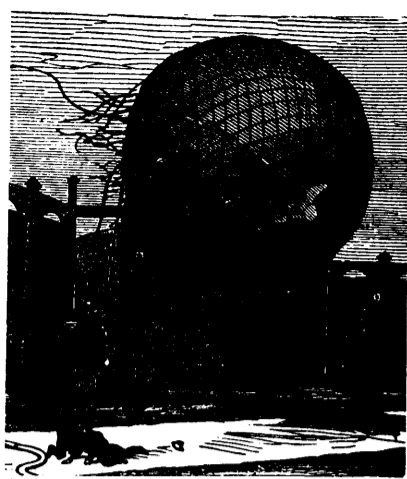
THE LESSON CATECHISM.

- Into what country did Jesus go? The country of Gadara. 2. What happened as soon as he landed? An incurable lunatic met him. 3. What was the result of the contest that followed between Jesus and the devils? The maniac was wholly cured. 4. What was the effect upon the people whose swine the devils entered? They asked Jesus to depart. 5. What was the effect on the maniac? He prayed to stay with Jesus. 6. What did Jesus command him to do? "Go home to thy friends," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Christ omnipotent.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

- And what was the last and greatest proof? His rising from the dead, as he himself foretold John ii. 18, 19, 21.



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