



THE RAZOR BILL.

THE RAZOR BILL.

We are standing on the sea-side, and turning back to the waves we look up to a rocky cliff rising in front of us to the height of five or six hundred feet. Lonely is it? Oh no, it is a peopled city, or rather it is a vast house tenanted by living creatures to the very attics. Only the tenants are not men and women, but birds.

Yes, the house belongs to birds, at least there they are, and story after story, ledge above ledge, is occupied by a different race, and they keep themselves to themselves, never visiting or interfering with their fellow-lodgers above or below them.

As we look again at the towering cliff, we see a row of black spots on every tier, which we know are the heads of sitting birds. Some are called Guillemots, some Razor Bills, some by other names, but the strange thing is that not only does each species keep to the same ledge, but that each separate bird knows its own mate. To us they all look alike, but the birds are wiser than we think. The "foolish" Guillemot (as its name is) is not so very foolish after all, is it?

There is no pretence of nest building, that is left to the denizens of the woods. A slight hollow scooped out is all they want, and sometimes there is not even this, the single egg is laid simply on the shelf of rock and there the mother tends it.

In due time, if all goes well, the little downy creature appears, and then what is to be done next? Nothing but the mother's wing protects it on that rocky ledge, if she leaves it for a minute it will be over. It will not be able to fly for many a day yet; and though it could swim if only on the sea, what of that, when the sea lies five or six hundred feet below; so that now we can come back to the question with which we began. How are we to get them down?

We may ask the question, but the sea-bird does not. She has no need, for all

arrangements are made, and there's a carriage ready for the journey, soft and pillow as the most tender nestling could desire. Perhaps in her own language she has a little motherly talk, reassuring and comforting, with her offspring.

Then it mounts on her back, and down, down they go, mother and child, to the surface of the waiting deep below, nor to the surface only. The razor bill, another species, are divers, so that there is yet a deeper depth to which they can descend.

Most likely diving comes natural to these infants. They never go back to their birth-place on the rock, the waters are now their home till another season or two, when they have turned from downy chicks into full-plumaged birds, and have become in their turn parents and protectors.

On the Mount.

I REST my face upon my hands,
And lay the sacred scroll aside;
And let my wondering thoughts awhile
Rest on my Saviour crucified—
Trying to bring with love and pain
The scene of Calvary back again.

I follow through that awful day,
And scarce less awful night before,
Behold him mocked, and bruised, and torn
Till hell can add no torture more:
I see its rage loosed on him then—
His Father's wrath, the sins of men.
The worn-out lash, the clotted cloak,
The red pool in the judgment hall,
Where flowed the blood from veins laid bare,
Besprinkling pillar, step, and all;
I see the reed and thorny crown,
And mark the crimson drops flow down.

Fixed to a cross with three rough nails,
That fair and fatal town outside,
While skies are black at midnoon hour,
And from the grave pale shadows glide;
Suspended 'mid the trembling air,
They sat them down and watched him there.

The mother stands in speechless woe,
Suffering each pang with keener dart;
The thorny crown, the iron spikes,
Pierce sharper through her broken heart;
His low "I thirst," falls on her ear,
While gloating eyes still watch him near.

Oh! let me learn for Christ's dear sake
To bear in silence lesser pain,
And with my God all desolate,
To suffer meekly, nor complain;
And thou wilt teach and be my guide,
O Christ my Lord, the Crucified.

COREAN STORY ABOUT
THE CRABS AND
THE CAT.

THERE was once a colony of crabs living among the rocks in the sea. The old crab was taken very ill, and the other crabs gathered round to discuss what was to be done. At last a learned crab said that the only medicine which would do any good was a pair of cat's eyes. But how were they to be obtained? The learned one volunteered to get them, and at once went ashore and climbed a hill, where he knew he would find a cat.

He invited the cat to come and visit the colony, and enjoy the good things which those who lived on the land knew nothing about. The cat said he could not swim, but was told to shut his mouth when in the water, and all would be well.

It was not until he was in the crabs' home that he learned he was to lose his eyes; and even then he was more clever than the crabs.

"Gentlemen," he said, "you are quite welcome to have my eyes for so good a purpose. When I walk abroad I always wear glass eyes, and leave my proper eyes at home. Allow me to go and fetch them."

To this they agreed. The cat went ashore, politely said, "Good morning," and you will easily suppose he did not come back again.

Why did he think himself unworthy of the honour?

How, then, did he gain the honour?
How did he in turn honour his apostleship?
What had the apostles preached and the disciples believed?

4. *Conclusions from the Resurrection*, v. 12-14
What question does Paul ask about some teaching?

What follows, if there is no resurrection?
What, also, if Christ be not risen?
What then could be said of the apostles' Verse 15.

What about the dead? Verse 18.
What does Paul declare to be the truth? (Golden Text.)

What mystery does he declare? Verses 51, 62.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That Christ died to free us from sin?
2. That Christ rose from the dead?
3. That we also shall be raised?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What was Paul's message? That Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again.
2. Did anyone see Jesus after his resurrection? Yes; hundreds of people, on at least ten occasions.
3. How had Paul seen him? By revelation from heaven.
4. What does Paul declare to be the truth? "Now is Christ risen from the dead."
5. How does this affect the resurrection of ourselves and of our friends who are dead? He has "become the first-fruits of them that slept."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The resurrection of the dead.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What does every sin deserve?
Every sinful sin deserves God's wrath and curse, both in this life and that which is to come.

Galatians 3. 10. Cursed is every one which continueth not in all things that are written in the book of the law, to do them.
Romans 6. 23. The wages of sin is death.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OUR LORD.

A. D. 57.] LESSON II. [April 14.

EASTER LESSON.

1 Cor. 15. 3-14. Memory verses, 12-14.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept.—1 Cor. 15. 20.

OUTLINE.

1. Paul's Message, v. 3, 4.
2. Evidences of the Resurrection, v. 5-8.
3. Paul's Apostleship, v. 9-11.
4. Conclusions from the Resurrection, v. 12-14.

The resurrection of Jesus occurred exactly one week after the triumphant entry, of which we studied last Sunday. Both events took place on Sunday.

Read and study this lesson in connection with the accounts of the resurrection given by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The wicked husbandman.—Mark 12:1-12.
Tu. The unfruitful vineyard.—Jas. 5:1-7.
W. The servants unheeded.—Jer. 23:1-11.
Th. The Son rejected.—Luke 23:13-25.
F. The Son slain.—Acts 3:12-18.
S. Persecution of the prophets.—Acts 7:51-60.
Su. Resurrection of Christ (Easter).—1 Cor. 15:1-14.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Paul's Message, v. 3, 4.
What was Paul's first message about Jesus?
To what two further facts did he bear witness?
How was Paul made sure of these truths? Gal. 1:12
2. Evidences of the Resurrection, v. 5-8.
Whom does Paul cite as the first witness?
By what other name is this disciple known? Luke 24:34.
Who are the next witnesses called?
What large company saw the risen Jesus?
What that who saw him?
Who is the last witness named by Paul?
Where did Paul see Jesus? Acts 8:3-6.
3. Paul's Apostleship, v. 9-11.
What honour did Paul claim for himself?

THE HARM OF CIDER.

A SPEAKER was once addressing an audience of boys and girls, and told, among other things, that cider started the appetite for stronger drinks. At the close of the meeting a poor, besotted, brown-down man came up and said to the speaker: "You did right in warning the boys and girls against using cider. Just look at what I am! It was the cider on my father's farm that made me a drunkard!"—*Temperance Banner*.

WE THINK

that every Canadian Sunday-school library should have for the reading of the boys that entertaining book

A VETERAN OF 1812

THE LIFE OF

Lieut., Col. James FitzGibbon

BY

MARY AGNES FITZGIBBON

Cloth, with portrait and illustrations \$1.

Miss FitzGibbon did a noble work for the youth of Canada in presenting this entrancing story of the life of her grandfather, giving as it does so vivid an account of the war of 1812-14, and of the rebellion of 1837. There are lessons of sturdy pluck, manly ambition, devotion to duty, and lofty patriotism that will be a stimulus to every reader. Be sure to get it into your library.

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

MANAGER BOOK AND PUBLICATION HOUSE, TORONTO.
C. W. COATES, Montreal, Que.
S. F. HURST, Halifax, N.S.