

When Love the Law Shall Be.

HAVE you heard of the ancient city,
Envied by gods above,
Where life is like a poem,
And the only law is love?
And how the fair Atlantis
Was condemned by the gods to be
Sunken, and hid for ever
Beneath the cruel sea?

Except when the years count seven,
The island 'neath the wave
May rise for one brief hour
Out from its ocean grave;
And then the startled sailor
Beholds, with wondering eyes,
A marvellous floating city,
Like a vision of pure life.

Rocked on the ocean's boom,
White palace, temple, and tower,
Thrilled the heart of the gazer,
With a weird, mysterious power;
And o'er the whispering waters
Steals a sweet, unearthly strain,
Now rising in dreamy rapture,
Now low, like the wail of pain.

Then follows the eager sailor
Where the witching music leads,
But over before his coming
The fairy isle recedes.
Faint and fainter the music,
Dimmer the city fair,
Until the beautiful vision
Fades into viewless air.

But spirit voices have called him,
And on the far-off shore
True hearts shall mourn the sailor,
For he comes again no more.

The story speaketh truly
Of the traveller o'er life's sea,
Who seeketh for a country
Where love the law shall be.
He leaves earth's cares behind him
As the sailor leaves the strand,
For who so sees love's vision
Behold! God's beckoning hand.

Ah! the wondrous, floating phantom,
We will reach it by and by,
For its glory's but reflected
From the changeless love on high.
It is sent to guide the sailor
Across life's ocean broad,
Till he finds the lost Atlantis
In the paradise of God.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.
STUDIES IN LUKE.

A.D. 30] LESSON X. [Dec. 7.
THE WALK TO EMMANUS.
Luke 24. 13-27. Memory verses, 25-27.
GOLDEN TEXT.

Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?—Luke 24. 20.

TIME.—A few days after his resurrection. A.D. 30.

PLACE.—Near Emmaus, in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The exact order in which the occurrences following Jesus' resurrection took place cannot be given. This conversation, however, occurred only a few days after the resurrection.

EXPLANATIONS.

Two of them.—One was named Cleopas; the other is unknown. Emmaus.—A town not yet distinctly identified. Threescore furlongs.—Six and a half miles. Talked... reasoned.—They went over the awful events which had so recently occurred, and conjectured what might come next. Eyes were holden.—They were miraculously kept from recognizing him. And are sad.—This should be another sentence. He asked what was the topic of their conversation; and when they heard his ques-

tion they stood still, looking sad. A stranger.—Cleopas wondered how even a pilgrim could be in Jerusalem during the paschal feast and not know of Jesus' death. A prophet.—This was as high as their faith had risen. Delivered him to be condemned.—Passed him over to Pilate for capital punishment. The third day.—So all our hopes are dashed. Yea, and certain women.—Their hopes and fears alternate. Such women as these could not be suspected of romancing, but their story seemed simply incredible. Which said.—The women said that the angels said. But him they saw not.—Back again they came to the sorrowful fact that, in spite of all hopes and fancies, the Master is missing. Fools.—Unintelligent ones. Slow of heart.—Most fools lack in heart rather than in head. Ought not Christ.—A title, not a name. The question is, Was this not to be expected of the chosen One of God? Is there so much to astonish you in the results, after all, if you only understand the requirements of the case? Beginning at Moses and all the prophets.—Taking all the Scriptures as his text. Moses and the prophets was an ordinary term for the sacred writings. Expounded.—What a wonderful sermon this must have been!

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. The Hidden Eyes, vers. 13-16. What journey were two disciples taking? On what day was this? What did they talk about as they went? Who joined them in their journey? Why did they not recognize Jesus?
2. The Strange Story, vers. 17-24. What question did Jesus ask the disciples? Who replied to the question? What was Cleopas' expression of surprise? About whom did he tell a strange story? What was done to this mighty prophet? What hope had his disciples cherished? How long since he was crucified? What had they heard that surprised them? By whom was this story told? What had some of the disciples found out?
3. The Opened Word, vers. 25-27. How did Jesus address them? What question did he ask? (Golden Text.) What did he explain to them from the Scriptures? With what part of the Scriptures did he begin?
- What is Peter's testimony as to the opened word? Acts 10. 43. What says John as to the burden of the Scriptures? Rev. 19. 10.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. To what village were the two disciples drawing near? "Emmaus." 2. Who approached them and expounded the Scriptures? "Jesus." 3. Why did they not recognize him? "Their eyes were holden." 4. What did these two disciples say Jesus was? "A prophet, mighty in deed and word." 5. What is the Golden Text? "Ought not Christ," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Christ in the Old Testament.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

11. What was the Spirit's work of inspiration? He moved and guided the writers of the Bible, so that they truly recorded the truth of God.

A.D. 30] LESSON XI. [Dec. 14
JESUS MADE KNOWN.
Luke 24. 28-43. Memory verses, 36-40.
GOLDEN TEXT.

And their eyes were opened, and they knew him.—Luke 24. 31.

TIME.—30 A.D., a few days after the resurrection.

PLACE.—Near Emmaus, in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem.

CONNECTING LINKS.—This lesson follows immediately after the preceding.

EXPLANATIONS.

The village.—Emmaus. Made as though.—He stimulated desire by temporarily concealing the truth. Abide with us.—Stop all night. They were probably about entering an inn. Sat at meat.—Rec. med. took bread.—He acted as host, and presided at the table. Their eyes were opened.—They had been "holden." They knew him.—Knew him as never before. Not simply as their old friend and Master, but as the Messiah.

Vanished.—A sudden and supernatural departure. Opened.—Explained. The same hour.—It was sunset about six o'clock. They had time to go to Jerusalem before night-fall. The seven.—They were called thus officially. That was their name. There were only ten persons there, for Judas was dead and Thomas was absent. Hath appeared to Simon.—We have no other record of his appearance. Stood in the midst.—Came as suddenly as he had gone from Emmaus. Peace be unto you.—The customary salutation, but meaning infinitely more from Jesus' lips. A spirit.—A ghost. In your hearts.—He could read their hearts as readily as he could hear their words. Behold... handle.—Use your senses. Here I am, I, myself. Test me, and see if I am not a living man. Any meat.—Any food. Broiled fish.—A staple article of diet. Honey-comb.—The richness of the honey of Canaan was proverbial. Did eat.—The apostles always regarded this as an infallible proof of the resurrection of Jesus.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

- 1. To Two Disciples, vers. 29-32. What invitation did the disciples give to Jesus? While at the table, what did he do? What change came to the disciples? (Golden Text.) What became of Jesus? What did they say to one another? Have your eyes been opened to see Jesus?
2. To Peter, vers. 33-35. What journey did the two at once make? Whom did they find together in Jerusalem? What strange thing were these talking of? Who else tells us that the Lord appeared to Simon? 1 Cor. 15. 5. What story did the two tell?
3. To Ten Disciples, vers. 36-43. What happened as the two were speaking? What did Jesus say? How were the disciples affected? What did Jesus ask them? What did he request them to do? What did he show to them? Why did they not believe? What did he ask for? What did they give him? What did Jesus do with the food?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What occurred when Jesus took bread and brake it before these two disciples? "Their eyes were opened, and they knew him." 2. What did they say? "Did not our hearts burn within us?" 3. What news did the disciples at Jerusalem give them? "The Lord is risen indeed, and hath appeared unto Simon." 4. What immediately occurred? "Jesus appeared, and blessed them." 5. How did the disciples receive him? "They were terrified." 6. How did he prove to them that he was not a bodiless spirit? "He ate before them."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The communion of saints.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

12. What was the Spirit's work as to the person of Jesus? He brought into being the human nature of our Lord, so that he was born without sin; and gave to him as the Christ—or the Anointed—wisdom and grace without measure for his redeeming work.

PRAYER is talking with God.

A VERY timid little girl went down into the collar with her mamma. "What is it that smells so?" she asked. "I don't smell anything unusual," said her mamma; "what does it smell like?" "Well," said the little one, slowly, sniffing and snuffing, "it sounds like a rat."

No man is so good but that he can wisely turn over a new leaf at the beginning of the year, and resolve to live a better life than hitherto. Vow, and then pay the vow to the Lord, who is faithful in all things, for this is right. Forgetting the past, it is for each to press forward to better things every day.

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2 Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue.

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