

THE MASTER AND THE BAIRNS.

BY WILLIAM THOMSON.

THE Maister sat in a wee cot hoose,  
Tae the Jordan's waters near,  
An' the fisher-folk crushed and crooded round  
The Maister's words tae hear.

An' even the bairns frae the near haun' streets  
War mixen' in wi' the thrang,  
Laddies an' lassies wi' wee bare feet,  
Jinkin' the crood amang.

An' ane o' the Twal' at the Maister's side,  
Rase up an' cry aloud—  
"Come, come, bairns, this is nae place for  
you,  
Rin awa' hame oot the crood."

But the Maister said, as they turned awa',  
"Let the wee bairns come tae Me,"  
An' He gathered them roon Him whar He sat,  
An' lifted ano up on His knee.

Ay, He gathered them roon Him whar He  
sat,  
An' straitit their curly hair,  
An' He said tae the wou'ering fisher folk,  
That croodit roon Him there,—

"Senna the weans awa' frae Me.  
But rather this lesson learn,  
That nae'll win in at heaven's gate  
That isna pure as a bairn."

An' He that wasna oor kith and kin,  
But a Prince of the Far Awa',  
Gathered the wee anes in His arms  
An' blessed them ano an' a'.

Oh, Thou, who watches the ways o' men,  
Keep our feet in the heavenly airt,  
An' bring us all tae Thy hame abune,  
As pure as bairns in hairt.

HOW TO BREATHE.

ONE of Philadelphia's leading physicians, a specialist in diseases of the lungs, says that imperfect respiration is at the bottom of much trouble. In such a case he shows the patient how to swell out the whole chest full and round by a deep inspiration, elevating and throwing back the shoulders; and then, when he has gotten into his lungs the last atom of air possible, to hold it in tightly for a little time, and then let it off slowly, blowing out every atom of it if he possibly can by forcible expiration, drawing the shoulders forward and pressing in the chest to the smallest possible compass, thus throwing out almost all of the residual air, and all this through the nose, with mouth tightly closed. "Let him take a half dozen or more such forced respirations a dozen times a day," says the doctor, "and he will soon double his vital capacity and relieve himself of most of his supposed chest trouble. Such forced respiration will compel every air cell possible to freely admit wholesome air into the little spaces and to expel it also, and some air cells that do not often perform their functions healthily will be compelled to do so."

"FEELS SO MISERABLE!"

ALICE "feels so miserable!"  
Is it any wonder? There is a poison-plant growing in her soul, one poison-stalk and five poison-branches. It is enough to make the strongest feel most miserable, send them to bed, and move their friends to send for the doctor.

The five poison-branches, let us name them: discontent, greed, mortification, dislike, disparagement. These all grow out of one parent stalk, envy.

Alice is a poor singer, and this poverty leads to discontent. Jennie is a good singer, and what a greed Alice has for that superior voice! There is mortification when her nipped

voice makes it squeak beside Jennie's rich, full tones. What a dislike Alice has for the owner of that fine voice, and what disparagement of Jennie as a singer Alice shows in her comments on that voice!

Five poison-branches out of one stalk; and if there is not strychnine enough in them, we may be able to trace another poisonous outshoot; but there is enough to vitiate any character. You may know of a singer thus poisoned. "Send for the doctor at once," do you say?

No; the best remedy is a grip of Christian love and common sense on that poisonous old plant; then, tugging at it vigorously, pull it up by the roots! If Jennie is a canary, and you are not, then be thankful that the world is richer for that one sweet voice, and that you have such resources in the love of Christ that you can be contented to be just what he has made you. No matter how destitute of gifts you may be, if the King will only let you stand in his presence and will crown you with his love. In his ears your satisfaction with him will make a music constant, even if inaudible to the world.

PEACE AGAIN.

THANK God, the dove of peace once more broods over the fair regions of our far North-West, but late ravaged by the ill-omened vulture of war. It is with a thrill of patriotic pride that we read the stirring story of our brave boys, summoned at a moment from their homes to travel two thousand miles—or three thousand miles, in the case of the Halifax volunteers—to encounter a savage and truculent foe, and marching to danger and to death with the valour of veterans. With our pride is mingled mourning for the unreturning brave, over whose prairie graves the bluebell and the wild rose already bloom. Our New Canada has had its baptism of blood. Its broad area is made sacred to liberty, to law, to justice forever, by the blood of our slain soldiers, martyrs for their country and their Queen.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

B.C. 907.] LESSON V. [Aug. 2.

ELIJAH MEETING AHAB.

1 Kings 18. 1-18. Commit to mem. vs. 15-18.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ye have forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and thou hast followed Baalim. 1 Kings 18. 18.

OUTLINE.

1. Ahab and Obadiah, v. 1-6.
2. Obadiah and Elijah, v. 7-18.
3. Elijah and Ahab, v. 17, 18.

TIME.—B.C. 907.

PLACE.—In Israel, the precise locality unknown.

EXPLANATIONS.—In the third year—The form of expression in Hebrew means after the third year, that is, some time between the third and fourth years. Show thyself unto—Appear before. The governor of his house—Literally over his house. Feared the Lord greatly—Means that he was pre-eminently godly. When Jezebel cut off—Attempted to destroy. Was in the way—Went on his journey. What have I sinned—What evil have I done? Into the hand of Ahab—In his power. The Spirit shall... carry thee—Obadiah feared that Elijah would vanish while he was seeking the king, and that Ahab would imagine, when brought to the spot, that Obadiah had trifled with him, and would, therefore, put him to death. Feared the Lord from my youth—He sought to show that he had no part in Ahab's sins. As the Lord of

hosts liveth—A strong assurance that the prophet would fulfil his word. Troubleth Israel—The king ascribes the famine to Elijah, but the prophet ascribes it to Ahab's wickedness.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. That good men sometimes shrink from duty through fear?
2. That good men will care for God's distressed servants?
3. That a people's true enemies are its wicked men?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. In what year of the drought did the Lord tell Elijah to show himself to Ahab? "In the third year." 2. What did Obadiah do when Jezebel cut off the prophets of the Lord? Hid a hundred in a cave. 3. In order to save the horses and the mules what did Ahab propose to Obadiah to do? To search the land for grass. 4. While doing this what happened to Obadiah in the way? "Elijah met him." 5. What did Elijah say Ahab and his house had done? "Forsaken the commandments of the Lord."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The trouble of sin.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

23. But might you not obtain forgiveness by repenting, and keeping the law of God in future?

I am not at all repent and obey without the grace of Christ; and if I could repent and keep the law for the future, that would not answer for my past sins. [Romans viii. 8; Psalm cxxx. 3, 4.]

B.C. 907.] LESSON VI. [Aug. 9.

THE PROPHETS OF BAAL.

1 Kings 8. 19-29. Commit to mem. vs. 19-21.

GOLDEN TEXT.

If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. 1 Kings 18. 21.

OUTLINE.

1. An Assembly, v. 19-21.
2. A Test, v. 22-25.
3. A Failure, v. 26-29.

TIME.—B.C. 907, immediately following the last lesson.

PLACE.—Mount Carmel, on the Mediterranean Sea.

EXPLANATIONS.—Gather to me all Israel—Referring to the ten tribes over which Ahab ruled. Prophets of the groves—The word here translated "groves" probably means the idol Ashtoreth or Astarte, the Syrian Venus. Which eat at Jezebel's table—At Jezebel's expense—her chaplains in heathen worship. Unto Mount Carmel—Because that there an altar had been built to the true God. How long halt ye—How long will ye be undecided? Opinions—Literally, thoughts. But if Baal—That is, if Baal be God. I only, remain a prophet—Meaning I am the only prophet among you. Answereth by fire—Burns unto sacrifice. It is well spoken—Literally, the word is good. Dress it—Prepare it for the altar. Nor any that answered—Literally, nor any that heard. Leaped upon the altar—May be otherwise translated, leaped up and down at the altar. He is talking—Hebrew, he meditated. Midday—As it is supposed that they worshipped the sun in Baal they expected the fervent heat of noon to bring the fire from heaven. Time of... evening sacrifice—At sundown.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we shown—

1. Perfect faith in God?
2. Boldness for the right?
3. Failure of a false trust?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did Elijah tell Ahab to do? To gather all Israel unto Mount Carmel. 2. How many prophets of Baal were opposed to Elijah, the one prophet of the Lord? Four hundred and fifty. 3. What did Elijah propose each party should do? Prepare a bullock for sacrifice. 4. What was each party then to do? Call upon the name of his God. 5. How long did the prophets of Baal call upon their God in vain? From the morning till the evening sacrifice.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The folly of idolatry

CATECHISM QUESTION.

24. What, then, is your hope for the pardon of past sins?

That, trusting in the merits of Christ, as a helpless, guilty, and undone sinner, I shall obtain the remission of all my past offences. [Acts xiii. 38, 39; Luke vii. 42.]

S. S. REWARD BOOKS.

Books at 5 cents each.

Containing 48 pages, in simple language for Children, with numerous Engravings. Coloured Paper Covers.

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Children's Stories. | A Friend's Stories. |
| Little Stories.     | Pleasant Stories.   |
| Pretty Stories.     | Simple Stories.     |
| Fresh Stories.      | True Stories.       |
| A Mother's Stories. | Useful Stories.     |
| A Sister's Stories. | Farwell Stories.    |

With Tinted Frontispieces and Ornamental Covers.

- Little Messengers and other Stories.  
The Fisherboy's Bible.  
The Doves and other Tales.  
Jenny the Watercross Girl.  
Maurice Neal and His Pony.  
Tom Thornhill and His Temptation.  
Tales of my Governness.  
Grandfather's Tales.  
Grandmother's Tales.  
Tales and Pictures of School Life.  
The Young Sapphira.  
Earnest's First Knife and other Tales.  
Children's Fruits of the Spirit.  
Trust and Try—The Father's Promise.  
Ellen's May Day and other Tales.  
The Young Fisherman of Heligoland.  
The Two Fawns and other Tales.  
My First Bible, etc., etc.  
Beauty Bonson and Her Three Mistakes.  
Children over the Sea.  
Pleasure and Profit.  
A Christmas Tale, etc., etc.  
My Aunt's Table Cover, etc., etc.  
Tales of Truth and Love.

Books at 7 cents each.

With Coloured Frontispieces. In handsome Embossed Gold Cover.

- My Little Servant-Maids.  
Will Thornton, the Crow Boy.  
Betsy Bartlett and other Tales.  
Rose and Her Trouble.  
The Threepenny Omnibus, etc., etc.  
Alice and Her Pupil.  
The Little Story-Book.  
Old Tales Newly Told.  
Patience and Her Friend.  
The Crushed Flowers.  
The White Water Lily.  
Uncle Reuben's Tales.  
A Posy of Poetry.  
The White Kitten.  
The Lighthouse Builder.  
Arthur Maitland's Holidays.  
The Lost Shilling.  
The Weaver Boys of Bruges.  
Fisherman of Flamboro' Head.  
Stories of the Great and Good.  
Old Humphrey's Dusty Packet.  
Old Humphrey and His Young Friends.  
Old Humphrey's Facts and Fancies.  
Old Humphrey's Town and Country Sketches.

Covers printed, back and front, in Colours on Silver Ground, each Book in clear type, with a Frontispiece Engraving.

- Phil Harvey's Fortune.  
His Little Betty.  
Jock, the Shrimper.  
My Master's Business.  
How Charlie was Lost and Found.  
Bessie Martin's Legacy.  
Johann's Christmas Eve.  
Johnny's Dream and What Came of It.  
Old Bagnall's Ricks.  
Widow Martin's Son.  
The Soldier's Legacy.  
The Flat Iron.

Books at 10 cents each.

Limp Cloth. Illustrated.

- Dairyman's Daughter.  
The Encourager.  
Grandfather Gregory.  
Grandmamma Gilbert.  
A Ramble in the Woods.  
Sermons to Children.  
Missionary Gleanings.  
Old Anthony's Hints.  
The Chinese.  
Scripture Quadrupeds.  
Scripture Birds.  
One Hundred Original Hymns.

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

78 & 80 KING ST. EAST, TORONTO.

C. W. COATES, Montreal. | S. F. HUESTIS, Halifax.