

THE BIRD'S CONUNDRUM.

BY EDWARD CARSWELL

"You were a naughty bird to-day;  
It shocked me, do you know,  
To see you fly from Brother Frank  
And pick at Cousin Joe.  
Now, tell me why you acted so?  
There! don't begin to sing,  
But tell me why you were so rude,  
You saucy little thing!"

THE BIRD'S REPLY.

"I had to fly your Brother Frank,  
Or else stay and choke;  
He had a nasty cigarette;  
I could not stand the smoke.  
And with your Cousin Joe 'twas worse;  
He put his mouth to mine,  
And oh! I thought I'd faint away,  
For he'd been drinking wine.  
Now, birds they never do such things;  
No crow or parouquet  
Or other birds would swallow wine  
Or smoke a cigarette.  
We drink but from the rippling brook,  
Or sparkling drops of dew.  
Now, I've a question, Minnie dear,  
I'd like to put to you—  
Please, tell me why does man alone  
Drink of the drunkard's cup?"  
Then Minnie hung her head and said  
She'd "have to give it up."

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 585.] LESSON X. [June 5.

THE FIERY FURNACE.

Dan 3. 13-25. Memory verses, 16-18.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"When thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."—Isa. 43. 2.

What did King Nebuchadnezzar make?  
An image of gold ninety feet high.  
What did he command everybody to do?  
To bow down and worship this image.  
What was to be done to those who refused? They were to be thrown into a furnace of fire.  
Who dared to refuse? Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.  
What had God said? "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven images," and "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them."

Can you repeat the first and second commandments?

How did King Nebuchadnezzar feel? He was very angry.

What did he say to Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? That they should surely be thrown into the fiery furnace if they did not bow down to the image.

How did they answer the king? "Our God . . . is able to deliver us."

Did they know God would deliver them? No, but they meant to do right anyway.

What was done with them? They were bound, and thrown into the furnace.

What shows that the fire was very hot? The men who throw them in were burned to death.

What did the king see in the furnace? Four men, walking about unharmed.

Can you tell me the rest of the story?

Does the Golden Text mean that God will always keep our bodies from harm? No, but he will be with us and make every pain and trouble work for our good.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who was Herod the king? The king of Judea, who killed the young children in Bethlehem, hoping to kill the Christ.

Who was John the Baptist? The prophet who told the Jews that Christ was come.

B.C. 588.] LESSON XI [June 12.

THE DEN, OF LIONS

Dan. 6. 16-28. Memory verses, 19-22.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"No manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God."—Dan. 6. 23

Who was the king of Babylon now? Darius.

Whom did he choose to be first among his princes? Daniel.

What did the other princes try to do? They tried to find some fault in Daniel, but they could not.

What plan did they think of at last? They asked King Darius to make a new law.

What was the law? That whoever should ask anything of either God or man, for thirty days, except of the king, should be cast into the lions' den.

Did Daniel stop praying because of the law? No; he kept on praying three times a day, just as he had always done.

Why did he not pray in his heart and not let any one know it? Because he wanted to serve God openly, and let all

the people know that he loved God more than he feared the king

How did Darius feel when the princes told him what Daniel had done? He felt sorry, but he could not break his own law, so he commanded Daniel to be cast into the den of lions.

What did he say to Daniel? "Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee."

What did King Darius do very early in the morning? He went to the den of lions and called to Daniel.

What did Daniel answer? "My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths."

What does the Golden Text say about Daniel?

What did King Darius command all people to do? To fear the God of Daniel, the living God

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who was Herod the tetrarch? The ruler of Galilee, who cut off John the Baptist's head.

Who were the disciples of Jesus Christ? All who learned of him as their Master

"IF I COULD ONLY SEE MY MOTHER."

"If I could only see my mother!" Again was that yearning cry repeated, "If I could only see my mother!" The vessel rocked, and the waters, chased by a fresh wind, played musically against the side of the ship. The sailor, a second mate, quite youthful, lay in his narrow bed, his eyes glazing, his limbs stiffening, his breath failing. It was not pleasant to die thus in this shaking, plunging ship, but he seemed not to mind bodily discomfort. His eyes looked far away, and ever and anon broke forth that grieving cry: "If I could only see my mother!"

An old sailor sat by, a Bible in his hand, from which he was reading. He bent above the young man and asked him why he was so anxious to see his mother, whom he had wilfully left.

"O that's the reason!" he cried in anguish. "I've nearly broken her heart, and I can't die in peace. She was a good mother to me—O so good a mother! She bore everything from her wild boy, and once she said to me: 'My son, when you come to die, you will remember this: O if I could see mother!'"

He never saw his mother. He died with the yearning upon his lips, as many a one has died who slighted the mother who loved him. Boys, be good to your mother.