

What is Faith?

Little Mary stood on the kitchen floor,
Gazing down at the old trapdoor
Into the cellar dark and damp.
She could only see a tiny lamp
At her papa's side; she knew he was
there,
For she saw him herself go down the
stair;
And now and then she could hear him
speak,
Though the voice seemed far away and
weak.

"Papa!" she called in her baby tone,
"Are you there, dear papa? I'm all
alone."

"Why, yes, little daughter, be sure I am
here;

Jump and I'll catch you, do not fear."

"Papa, it is dark, I cannot see;

Where are you, papa? Do come for
me."

"No, daughter, jump; I will hold you
fast,

Come now!" and Mary jumped at last.

He held her trembling in close embrace,
And pressed a kiss on her baby face,
While a simple lesson the child he
taught,

A lesson she never in life forgot:

"My dear, that's the way to obey the
Lord;

Though you cannot see him, believe in
his word;

He will say, 'Here am I,' to every call;
Trust him, he never will let you fall."

A GIRL'S SONG.

At the time of the terrible accident
a year or two ago at the coal mines near
Scranton, Pa., several men were buried
for three days, and all efforts to rescue
them proved unsuccessful. A spectator
wrote:

"The majority of the miners were
Germans. There were in a state of in-
tense excitement, caused by sympathy
for the wives and children of the buried
men, and despair at their own balked
efforts.

"A great mob of ignorant men and
women assembled at the mouth of the
mine on the evening of the third day, in
a condition of high nervous tension which
fitted them for any mad act. A sullen
murmur arose that it was folly to dig
farther, that the men were dead, and
this was followed by cries of rage at the
rich mine owners, who were in no way
responsible for the accident.

"A hasty word or gesture might have
produced an outbreak of fury. Stand-
ing near me was a little German girl,
perhaps eleven years old. Her pale face
and frightened glances from side to side
showed that she fully understood the
danger of the moment. Suddenly, with
a great effort, she began to sing in a
hoarse whisper which could not be heard.
Then she gained courage, and her sweet,
childish voice rang out in Luther's grand
old hymn, familiar to every German
from his cradle:

"A mighty fortress is our God,"

"There was silence like death. Then
one voice joined the girl's, and presently
another and another, until from the
whole great multitude rose the solemn
cry:

"With force of arms we nothing can,
Full soon are we o'er-ridden,
But for us fights the godly man,
Whom God himself hath bidden;
Ask ye his name?
Christ Jesus is his name."

"A great quiet seemed to fall upon
their hearts. They resumed their work
with fresh zeal, and before morning the
joyful cry came up from the pit that the
men were found—alive.

"Never was a word more in season
than that child's hymn."

Tommy's grandfather was a candidate
for a public office, but was defeated.
The day after election, Tommy, who al-
ways knows the news of the day, came
beaming into the kindergarten, saying:
"Good morning, Miss Brown; my grand-
pa was elected all to pieces."

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY.

LESSON XII.—SEPTEMBER 20.

DESTRUCTIVE VICICES.

Prov. 16. 22-33. Memory verses, 25-27.

GOLDEN TEXT.

There is a way that seemeth right unto
a man; but the end thereof are the ways
of death.—Prov. 16. 25.

DAY BY DAY WORK.

Monday.—Read the Lesson (Prov. 16.
22-33). Answer the Questions.

Tuesday.—Read what sin does (Prov.
6. 6-19).

Wednesday.—Read a warning from the

29. Must we answer for our influence
over others? 30. To what uses are
God's gifts frequently devoted? 31.
When are gray hairs an honour? How
may we help to prolong our lives? 32.
What is better than national victory or
public fame? 33. How did men seek
guidance in ancient times?

TEMPERANCE TRUTHS.

The Bible warns us that there is evil
in strong drink. It points out the re-
sults both in this life and in the life to
come. Men lose true happiness to get
drunk. The excitement it causes is not
pure, lasting pleasure. They lose
liberty, comfort, life, heaven. In God's
strength let us abstain altogether from
such an evil.

When we would walk with God we
must go his way.



THE FLYING FISH.

THE FLYING FISH.

We associate flying with wings, but
several animals that have no wings can
fly a little way in the air. There is the
flying squirrel, for instance; and the bat,
that flies so well in the dusk of the even-
ing, has no real wings such as a bird
has, but a thin sort of web or membrane,
with which the mouse-like little creature
can support itself well in the air.

The fish that can fly has its upper
fins like broad wings. The web of the
fin is stretched out on fine ribs of bone
that are fixed on the neck of the fish,
and extend as long as the tail. With
these flying fins, the fish can leap from
wave to wave. It has been known to
leap high enough to reach the deck of a
sailing vessel; but it either could not
fly across the deck or struck a boom or
sail, and so fell down dead.

The flying fish are plentiful in the
West Indies, and warm seas of the torrid
regions. They are much like a mackerel
in shape and colour. Their flesh is
sweet and tender, and of great use to

the people of the West India Islands for
food. Most of the eatable kinds of fish
like the cold of the north seas better
than the warmer waters near the
equator; and, on account of good fish
being somewhat scarce, the flying fish
is the more valuable in the West Indies.
The flying fish fly or leap into the air
to escape from the dolphin or other
enemies. They cannot fly for more than
a hundred yards or so. After such a
long leap, they wet their wings or fins,
and can then make another spring into
the air. But the poor flying fish has
enemies in the air as well as in the
water. Gulls, pelicans, and other sea-
birds are on the watch to seize them as
they fly over the waves.
Of course, the poor flying fish darts
into the water as quickly as it can to
escape from the birds, and darts out
again to get clear of the fierce dolphin.
The under part of this pretty fish is
white, and from a ship they may often
be seen like a little flock of swallows,
their white sides gleaming in the bright
sunlight like silver.

THE JEWISH MAID.

A little Jewish girl in Russia learned
large portions of the New Testament
from a boy who had committed them to
memory. One day upon the arrival of
her father after an absence, she ran to
meet him, and said, "I do love Jesus;
he loved little children." This angered
the father and he forbade her to speak
on the subject again. Soon the child
was stricken with scarlet fever, and the
medical attendant gave no hope of her
recovery. A Gentile woman was called
to nurse the child, as the Jews feared
the fever. The woman quoted the verse
of a hymn; and the father of little De-
borah offered the death-bed prayer of
the Jews. Then the child opened her
eyes and repeated accurately the story of
Jairus' daughter. When she finished her
head fell back, and to all appearance
she was gone. In an agony of mind the
father fell down at the feet of Jesus and
besought him, saying: "Oh, Jesus, thou
who didst raise up the daughter of
Jairus, raise up little Deborah, and I will
believe in thee as Israel's Messiah!"
That cry of agony was heard, and the
child rose from her couch of death and
the Jewish family were converted to
Christianity.

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past (1 Cor. 10. 1-13). Learn the Golden
Text.

Thursday.—Read the way of folly
(Prov. 12. 8-15). Learn the Memory
Verses.

Friday.—Read the right way (Isa. 30.
15-21).

Saturday.—Read seeking strength
(Psalm 119. 105-120). Study Teachings
of the Lesson.

Sunday.—Read a prayer for purity
(Psalm 141).

QUESTIONS.

I. Wise and Foolish Words, verses
22-28.

22. To what is understanding com-
pared? Do foolish people learn from
their mistakes? 23. From what do
speech and action flow? 24. Mention
some uses of kind-words. 25. Why do
wrong ways sometimes seem right?
What questions should we ask when we
are tempted? 26. Is there danger in
forming appetite? 27. Can a bad man
help influencing others?

II. Good and Bad Deeds, verses 29-33.