

**The Chrysanthemum.**

BY ALICE T. FERGUSON

Your ragged beauty charms my eye,  
Chrysanthemum;  
You hold your tousel'd head so high,  
Chrysanthemum;  
Have you been racing with the wind,  
And left your hair-plins all behind,  
Or do you mean to be unkind,  
Chrysanthemum?

I thought that summer's bloom had  
passed,  
Chrysanthemum;

But like good wine, she kept you last;  
Chrysanthemum;

And when November's storm clouds  
lowered;

The sun this wreath of beauty showered,  
And laughed as he the earth embowered,  
Chrysanthemum.

But yet you shake your saucy head,  
Chrysanthemum;

You, who on sunbeams bright are fed,  
Chrysanthemum,

Thou glorious link 'twixt summer skies,  
And winter's white-robed beauty lies,  
To us a glimpse of Paradise,  
Chrysanthemum.

**WESLEY'S ESCAPE FROM FIRE.**

The account given by Mrs. Wesley is as follows: "On Wednesday night, February 9th, 1709, between the hours of

eleven and twelve, some sparks fell from the roof of our house upon one of the children's (Hetty's) feet. She immediately ran to our chamber and called us. Mr. Wesley, hearing a cry of fire in the street, started up (as I was very ill) and, opening the door, found the fire was in his own house. He immediately bade me and my two eldest daughters rise quickly and shift for ourselves. Then he ran and burst open the nursery door, and called to the maid to bring out the children. The two little ones lay in the bed with her, the three others in another bed. She snatched up the youngest, and bid the rest follow, which the three elder did. When we got into the hall, we were surrounded with flames. Mr. Wesley found he had left the keys of the doors above-stairs. He ran up and recovered them, a minute before the staircase took fire. When we opened the street door, the strong north-east wind drove the flames in with such violence that none could stand against them. But some of our children got out through the windows, the rest through a little door into the garden. I was not in a condition to climb up to the windows; neither could I get to the garden door. I endeavoured three times to force my passage through the street door, but was as often beat back by the fury of the flames. In this distress I besought the blessed Saviour for help, and then waded through the fire, simply in my night-dress, which did me no further harm than a little scorching of my hands and face. When Mr. Wesley had seen the other children safe, he heard the child in the nursery cry. He attempted to go up the stairs, but they were all on fire, and would not bear his weight. Finding it impossible to give any help, he kneeled down in the hall, and commended the soul of the child to God."

Wesley himself, years afterwards, referring to the event, wrote: "I believe it was just at that time I waked, for I did not cry, as they imagined, unless it was afterwards. I remember all the circumstances as distinctly as though it were but yesterday. Seeing the room was light, I called to the maid to take me up. But none answering, I put my head out of the curtains and saw streaks of the fire on the top of the room. I got up and ran to the door, but could get no farther, all the floor beyond being in a blaze. I then climbed up on a chest which stood near the window. One in the yard saw me, and proposed running to fetch a ladder. Another answered,

"There will not be time; but I have thought of another expedient. Here, I will fix myself against the wall, lift a light man, and set him on my shoulders." They did so, and he took me out of the window. Just then the roof fell in, but it fell inward, or we had all been crushed at once." His father gave thanks to God.

**LESSON NOTES.**

**FOURTH QUARTER.**

STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF JUDAH.

**LESSON VIII.—NOVEMBER 20.**

**MANASSEH'S SIN AND REPENTANCE.**  
2 Chron. 33. 9-16. Memory verses, 12, 13.

**GOLDEN TEXT.**

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.—1 John 1. 9.

**OUTLINE.**

1. Manasseh the Sinner, v. 9-11.
  2. Manasseh the Penitent, v. 12, 13.
  3. Manasseh the Reformer, v. 14-16.
- Time.—Manasseh ascended the throne about 698. His reign was the longest in the annals of Judah and the most

What does God say to sinners? Ezek. 33. 11.

What fate came to Manasseh as the result of his sin?

Who attacked him and his people?

What did they do to Manasseh?

How did they treat him?

Where did they take him?

Where was Babylon? In Chaldea, five hundred miles east of Jerusalem.

2. Manasseh the Penitent, v. 12, 13.

What was the effect of affliction on Manasseh?

Does it always have this effect?

What did Manasseh do in the prison?

How should we go to God?

Did God hear the prayer of such a sinner?

What encouragement does that give us?

How was his prayer answered?

3. Manasseh the Reformer, v. 14-16.

Do people always keep the promises made in trouble?

How did Manasseh keep his?

What did he command his people?

Is there any sin so foul that it may not be pardoned?

Can we undo the evil results of our sins?

**PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.**

Where in this lesson do we learn—

1. That God sends affliction in mercy?

2. That God hears the prayer of the afflicted?

3. That true penitence is shown by forsaking sin?

**Thanksgiving Eve.**

Hand in hand, through the city streets,  
As the chilly November twilight fell,  
Two childish figures walked up and down—  
The blackblack, Teddle, and his sister, Nell.

With wistful eyes they peer in the shops,  
Where dazzling lights from the windows shine,  
On golden products from farm and field,  
And luscious fruits from every clime.

"Oh, Teddle," said Nell, "let's play for to-morrow  
These things are ours, and let's suppose

We can choose whatever we want to eat;  
It might come true, perhaps. Who knows?"

Two pinched little faces press the pane,  
And eagerly plan for the morrow's feast,  
Of dainties their lips will never touch,  
Forgetting their hunger, awhile at least.

The pavement was cold for shoeless feet;  
Ted's jacket was thin; he shivered, and said,

"Let's go to a place and choose some clothes."

"Agreed!" said Nell, and away they sped,

To a furrier's shop ablaze with light;  
In its fancied warmth they place their hands,  
And play their scanty garments are changed  
For softest fur from far-off lands.

"A grand Thanksgiving we'll have!"  
cried Nell,  
"These make-believe things seem almost true;  
I've 'most forgot how hungry I was,  
And, Teddle, I'm almost warm, aren't you?"

O happy hearts that rejoice to-day  
In all the bounty the season brings,  
Have pity on those who vainly strive  
To be warmed and fed with imaginings!  
—The Congregationalist.

It seems as if every man has a pin ready to prick the boaster's inflation. Human nature is so constituted that it loves to bring down those who vaunt themselves. It looks with no kindly eye upon the vain and boastful man. Contrariwise, it delights to exalt the modest man who humbles himself. The world will find a thousand lips to sing the praises of the worthy man who is too modest to sing his own praises.

**Books to Interest the Children.**

Do not let them grow up without good reading.

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- Jerry and Joe. A Tale of the Two Jubilees. By Bella Sidney Woolf. Illustrated, cloth ..... 0 35
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**WALLS OF JERUSALEM.**  
Showing Style of Ancient Defences. Characteristic Cactus, or Prickly Pear, Thicket in Foreground.

**WALLS OF JERUSALEM.**

The picture above shows the walls of Jerusalem as they now are. They would not stand much of a siege from modern cannon, but it cost Titus, the Roman general, great labour to reduce them by his battering-rams. When Sennacherib attempted to capture Jerusalem its defences were very much like those shown in our picture.

If we live to ourselves and for ourselves only, our life must necessarily be a small and poor life, since it is limited by our circumstances, our situation, and our powers. But if we forget ourselves, and open our doors of work, thought and sympathy into the great overflowing life of the whole world, we step into so large and full an existence that we can never exhaust or tire of it. "No man is happy until his first object is outside of himself," and no man can be unhappy who throws himself, self-forgetfully, into any effort to share in and better the world's wide life.

calamitous. He deliberately set himself to undo his father's reformation.

Places.—Jerusalem and Babylon.

**HOME READINGS.**

- M. A wicked son.—2 Chron. 33. 1-8.
- Tu. God's judgment.—2 Kings 21. 10-17.
- W. Manasseh's sin and repentance.—2 Chron. 33. 9-16.
- Th. Anger with sin.—Jer. 15. 1-7.
- P. Promise of mercy.—Deut. 30. 1-10.
- S. A penitent's prayer.—Psalm 51.
- Su. Repentance and return. Luke 15. 11-24.

**QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.**

1. Manasseh the Sinner, v. 9-11.  
Whose son was Manasseh? 2 Chron. 32. 33.  
What kind of a son should we expect from such a father?  
What was Manasseh's character?  
What was his influence?  
To what degree did the king and his people sin against God?  
Did they receive warning from God?  
How did they treat the warnings?