



I Used to Kill Birds.

I used to kill birds in my boyhood,
Bluebirds and robins and wrens,
I hunted them up in the mountains,
I hunted them down in the glens,
I never thought it was sinful—
I did it only for fun—
And I had rare sport in the forest,
With the poor little birds and my gun.

But one beautiful day in the spring-time,
I spied a brown bird in a tree,
Merrily swinging and chirping,
As happy as bird could be,
And raising my gun in a twinkling,
I fired, and my aim was too true;
For a moment the little thing fluttered,
Then off to the bushes it flew.

I followed it quickly and softly,
And there to my sorrow I found,
Right close to its nest full of young ones,
The little bird dead on the ground!
Poor birdies! For food they were call-
ing;
But now they could never be fed,
For the kind mother-bird who had loved
them,
Was lying there bleeding and dead.

I picked up the bird in my anguish,
I stroked the wee motherly thing,
That could never more feed its dear
young ones,
Nor dart through the air on swift wing,
And I made a firm vow in that moment,
When my heart with such sorrow was
stirred,
That never again in my lifetime
Would I shoot a poor innocent bird!

Pastor— " Ah, Miss Smartly, things are
not what they seem."
Miss Smartly—" No, that's true. No.,
for example, your sermons are not in
reality very long, and yet they seem in-
terminable."

WHY SHE TRUSTED HIM.

The lady of the house was standing in the vestibule, casting an anxious eye down the street.

"Are there no boys in sight?" asked a voice from within.

Yes, plenty of boys on the street, but you know how particular I am about. Pet, I should like to be sure that the boys who ride her will not be rough with her.

Just then a sturdy young fellow of ten came whizzing by on a bicycle. It was not his own, but one that its owner was generous enough to lend to the boys who had none; and he was taking his turn, while the other boys lay on the grass and played jackstones, wishing, as he rode along, "My! If I only had a wheel for my trip to the farm!"

Just then he suddenly straightened himself up "Ting-a-ling-ling!" rang out the bell of the bicycle, sharply, and, as he slowed up, the other boys half rose and looked wonderingly. They could see nothing to ring for.

"What was it, Dick?" they demanded.

"Oh, nothing but a sparrow! I was afraid I'd run over it, the little thing stood so still right in front of the wheel."

"Ho, ho! Rings his bell for a sparrow!" sneered the other boys, as Dick dismounted. "Mamma's itty, witty baby!"

"I don't care how much you make fun of me," he replied good naturedly, yet not without a red flush on his brow. "I guess I wouldn't run over a sparrow even, when I could help it by ringing, or stopping."

"Come here, please, Dick," called a voice from the doorstep of one of the handsomest houses on the avenue. "You are the very boy I want to drive a pony to the country and back. It is out on the Darlington Boulevard. Would you like to go?"

"Why, yes, ma'am," quickly answered Dick. "I have an errand out there, and was just dreading the walk."

"Then I am glad you may ride. I was wondering if I could trust one of those boys to be kind to Pet, when I overheard about the sparrow. That made me willing to trust you."— Junior Christian Endeavour World.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

LESSON VI.—AUGUST 6.

THE NEW HEART.

Ezek. 36. 25-36. Memory verses, 25-27.

GOLDEN TEXT.

A new heart also will I give you.— Ezek. 36. 26.

OUTLINE.

1. The Lord's People, v. 25-32.
2. The Lord's Land, v. 33-36.

Time.—This prophecy was delivered probably about B.C. 587 or 585.

Place.—Ezekiel lived in the Euphrates valley, near the "river Chebar."

Introductory Note.—Ezekiel was one of the great Hebrew prophets. His style is poetical and abounds in imagery. He is an obscure writer, and his writings have given rise to a vast amount of controversy. He came from a priestly class. His lot was cast in evil times, and he spoke boldly against the sins of the nation. At first he warns of sorrows to come, because of prevailing idolatries. The government would be destroyed and the king would betake himself in flight. But a new vision comes in the fortieth chapter of brighter days. A new temple rises before his eyes, and a new and better people appear, and prosperity comes to the children of the covenant.

LESSON HELPS.

25. "Then"—That is, at the time of

restoration spoken of in verse 24.

24. Sprinkle clean water.—To cleanse from sin, especially that which is most common, idolatry. The people are to be purified, and that by an act divine. The sprinkling is effective—Ye shall be clean."

26. A new heart.—That is, new affections and holy feelings, for the heart was said to be the seat of the affections. A new spirit.—The renewal of the mind.—"Stony heart . . . heart of flesh"—The heart cold and hard as stone will be changed into a human one, purified—that is, sanctified. This change can be wrought only by God himself.

27. "My Spirit within you"—The divine with the human. God dwells with men. "Walk in my statutes"—Obey my laws. God gives strength for obedience.

28. The promise of restoration. "In the land that I gave to your fathers"—The land of the patriarchs, of David, and after that, "the Lord's land"—Palestine. "My people"—Because given up to me in soul, body, and spirit. "Your God"—Yours because I save from sin and fill you with my presence.

29. "I will save you"—Not if you are passive but if you rouse to action and be willing to be saved. Man has some part in his spiritual prosperity. "From all"—Not from a few "uncleanesses." The salvation is complete. God is able and willing to complete this work he begins. His promises are sure. "No famine"—For that was ever dreaded in a land subject to heat and drought.

30. No more reproach of famine among the heathen, especially among those who dwell in countries naturally fertile, and productive like the valley of the Nile.

31. "Remember your own evil ways"—The memory of past sin is profitable, not to boast of, but to inspire humility and a turning of the soul to God in gratitude.

32. "Not for your sakes"—But for God's glory, which shines in the rays of mercy.

33. "The wastes shall be builded"—Waste places are those made so by fire and sword and plunder and the carrying of the people into slavery in distant lands.

35. "The garden of Eden"—With a nation so with the soul of man. Once desolate, yet God may make it as the garden of Eden.

36. "I will do it"—The promise is certain, for almighty strength is back of it.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The new heart.—Ezek. 36. 22-30.
- Tu. The new heart.—Ezek. 36. 31-38.
- W. The gift of God.—Ezek. 11. 14-21.
- Th. The new covenant.—Jer. 31. 31-34.
- F. A God-fearing heart.—Jer. 32. 30-44.
- S. Whole-hearted return.—Jer. 24. 1-7.
- Su. Regeneration.—Titus 3. 1-8.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Lord's People, v. 25-32.
What promise of cleansing does the Lord make?
What gift is promised to his people? Golden Text.
What help to obedience would they have?
In what land were they to dwell?
What assurance of plenty did they receive?
What would the people remember?
How then would they feel?
Why were they called to be ashamed of themselves?
For whose sake was this mercy shown? Verse 22.
2. The Lord's Land, v. 33-36.
Where would the Lord cause his people to dwell?
What would occur to the desolate land?
What would the people about them say?
What lesson would the heathen learn?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—
1. That we all need a new heart?
 2. That a new heart is God's gift?
 3. That a new heart is a source of blessedness?

We need a new heart. What is a new heart, and how shall we get it? Oh, it is so important to know! The lesson tells us. God says, "Ye shall be



clean." Sin soils. Jesus makes pure. He died that our sins might be forgiven, and even the stain taken away. Then God says, "I will put my Spirit within you." The Spirit cannot live in a sin-sold heart that holds fast the sin and loves it. If the heart is clean and the Spirit lives in it, what a happy heart it is! It won't want to be selfish and sinful. The new heart loves to please Jesus and to help others. When sin stains it, then it is quick to be sorry and to pray, "Lord, forgive me for Jesus' sake."

How shall we get a new heart? We must have it if we would be God's children. The lesson tells. Jesus said it over again in different words. It is written on our lesson shield—"Ask and receive." God gives; we ask and take.

DIVIDING HIS DINNER.

The following remarkable story is told in London Answers, and by a member of the Zoological Society:

I once had a cat which always sat up to the dinner table with me, and had his napkin round his neck and his plate and some fish. He used his paw, of course, but he was very particular, and behaved with extraordinary decorum. When he had finished his fish I sometimes gave him a piece of mine. One day he was not to be found when the dinner-bell rang, so we began without him. Just as the plates were put around puss came rushing upstairs and sprang into his chair with two mice in his mouth. Before he could be stopped he dropped a mouse on his own plate and then one on mine. He had divided his dinner with me, as I had often divided mine with him.

A man will make tools of his friends and then howl if they cut him.

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