

An Idyll of the Farm.

Oh, there's joy in every sphere of life
From the cottage unto throne,
But the sweetest smiles of nature
Beam upon the farm alone;
And in memory I go back
To the days of long ago,
When the teamster shouted, "Haw, buck!
Gee! g-glang and whoa!"

I see in the fallow field
Those heroes of our land,
With their strong and sturdy faces
And with handspikes in their hand;
With shoulders strong as Hercules,
They feared no giant foe,
As the teamster shouted, "Haw, buck!
Gee! g-glang and whoa!"

The logging-bees are over,
And the fallow lands are cleared,
The face that then was young and fair
Is silver'd o'er with beard;
The handspike now holds not the place
It did long years ago,
When the teamster shouted, "Haw, buck!
Gee! g-glang and whoa!"

On meadow land and orchard field
There rests a glory 'round,
Sweet as the memory of the dead
That haunts some holy ground;
And yet there's wanting to my heart
Some joy of long ago,
When the teamster shouted, "Haw, buck!
Gee! g-glang and whoa!"

Demosthenes had silvery tongue,
And Cicero knew Greek,
The Gracchi brothers loved old Rome
And always helped the weak;
But there's not a Grecian hero,
Nor Roman high or low,
Whose heart spake braver patriot words
Than "Gee! g-glang and whoa!"

There was no coat of armour,
The boys in twilight days—
They sang no classic music,
But the old "Come all ye" lays;
For armed with axe and handspike
Each giant tree their foe,
They rallied to the battle-cry
Of "Gee! g-glang and whoa!"

And so they smote the forest down,
And rolled the logs in heaps,
And brought our country to the front
In mighty strides and leaps;
And left upon the altar,
Of each home wherein you go,
Some fragrance of the flowers that bloom
Through "Gee! g-glang and whoa!"

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY.

LESSON V.—AUGUST 2.

DAVID'S KINDNESS.

2 Sam. 9. 1-13. Memory verse, 7.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Be kindly affectioned one to another
with brotherly love.—Rom. 12. 10.

Time.—About B.C. 1040.

Places.—Jerusalem and Lo-debar.

Connecting Links.—David's psalm of thanksgiving, his victories over the Philistines, the King of Zobah and the Syrians, his placing garrisons in Edom and dedicating the spoil to God (2 Sam. 8. 1-15).

DAY BY DAY WORK.

Monday.—Read the Lesson (2 Sam. 9. 1-13). Answer the Questions. Tell the story of the Lesson in your own words.

Tuesday.—Read of a noble friendship (1 Sam. 20. 11-17). Fix in your mind Time, Place, and Connecting Links.

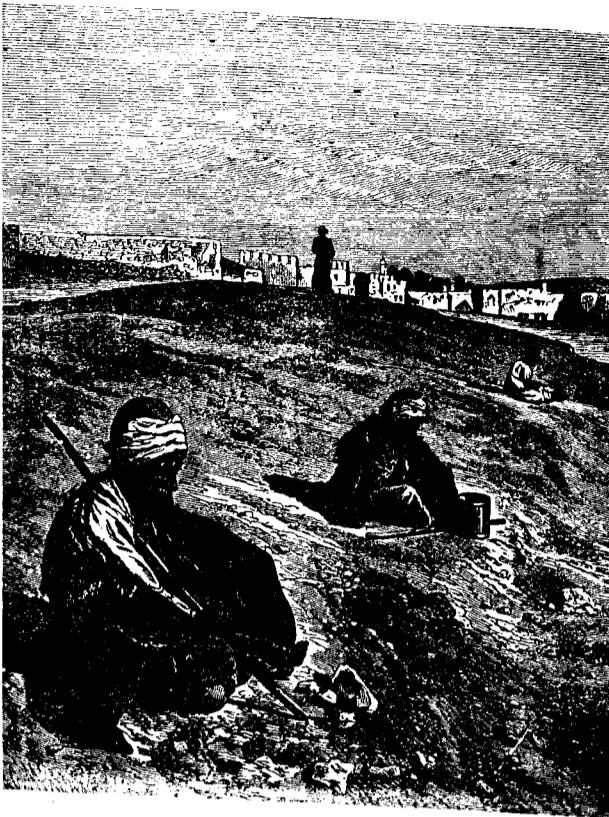
Wednesday.—Read a sorrowful parting (1 Sam. 20. 35-42). Learn the Golden Text.

Thursday.—Read a glad welcome (2 Sam. 19. 24-30). Learn the Memory Verse.

Friday.—Read a few words about constancy in friendship (Prov. 27. 1-10).

Saturday.—Read a blessed memory (Job 29. 1-16). Study Teachings of the Lesson.

Sunday.—Read the love of Christ (Eph. 3. 8-12).



BLIND MEN BY THE WAYSIDE BEGGING.

QUESTIONS.

I. Loyal Friendship, verses 1-5.
1. How long was David King of Israel before he thought of his vow? How may we account for the delay? 2. What position did Ziba hold? 3. Tell how Mephibosheth's lameness was caused? 4. What is known of Machir? Where did Mephibosheth live? 5. What made David's kindness to him remarkable?

II. Royal Grace, verses 6-13.
7. What was David's provision for him? 8. How did he show that he felt unworthy? 9. What arrangement was made for tilling the estate? 10. Why was the food mentioned in this verse necessary? 11. Was Ziba always true to his master and to his king? 12. How long did members of Saul's family survive in Israel? 13. What was Mephibosheth's after history?

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.
Worldly greatness is short-lived. True piety will make us to love our enemies.

BLIND BEGGARS.

Blindness is a sad affliction. Persons who are blind, and have no friends to take care of them, or means of their own to fall back upon, are compelled to depend upon the charity of others. Sometimes such persons have friends to lead them about to gather alms or do a little business. But frequently they stand or sit in some conspicuous place, all alone, day after day, to appeal to the sympathies of passers-by. A person sitting or standing in such a condition, even without uttering a word, is a strong appeal to Christian benevolence. A blind person is one of the most deserving objects of charity. The custom of the blind sitting by the wayside to ask alms is very ancient. The custom has obtained in all nations, from the earliest ages, and is still continued; and let our young readers consider that a copper given to a blind person is better invested than when spent in candy or some other for them. His loving heart was moved

by their appeal to exercise his infinite compassion. He did the best that he could for them. If they had been allowed to choose, it was the blessing which they would likely have desired. Jesus gave them their sight. It is not said that they were born blind, but it is very likely they were. The blessing that Christ bestowed opened before them an entirely new life. That is what the blessing of Christ will do for us, if we come to him earnestly, believingly, and beseechingly, as did the blind men by the wayside. It is stated that not less than one in every thousand of the world's population is blind. We frequently meet blind persons, and while we cannot do for them what Jesus did, we can so far imitate him, by allowing our benevolence to do for them the best possible thing.

HOW AN APPLE TREE GROWS.

I am very nearly sure that of all the apples you have eaten one time or another, you have never troubled yourself to ask how and why that particular apple grew. You take it quite as a matter of course that an apple tree should, in the fruit season, have apples on it, and if I were to tell you how hard the tree had to work for months and months, to bring those apples to perfection, you would hardly believe me, yet such is the case. First the struggle was for food, for if the tree did not get sufficient nourishment there would be neither blossom nor fruit. So its roots absorbed water, and minerals, and ammonia from the soil, and the leaves took in carbonic gas from the air. Then this food had to be changed into sap, and this sap passing upwards through the stem, met the carbonic acid gathered by the leaves and split up into carbon and oxygen, the first being kept, and the second being given back to the atmosphere. The added carbon converted the sap into starch, and then into sugar, which was circulated all through the tree, and being once more turned into starch, nourished every part. When the blossom time came special provision had to be made for it, and likewise for the fruit. From the time winter was over, until the apples were gathered, that tree, believe me, never rested for a moment. Busily the work went on, though hidden from sight. If the tree were to be as lazy as some boys and girls I know, never an apple would there be for your teeth to crunch.

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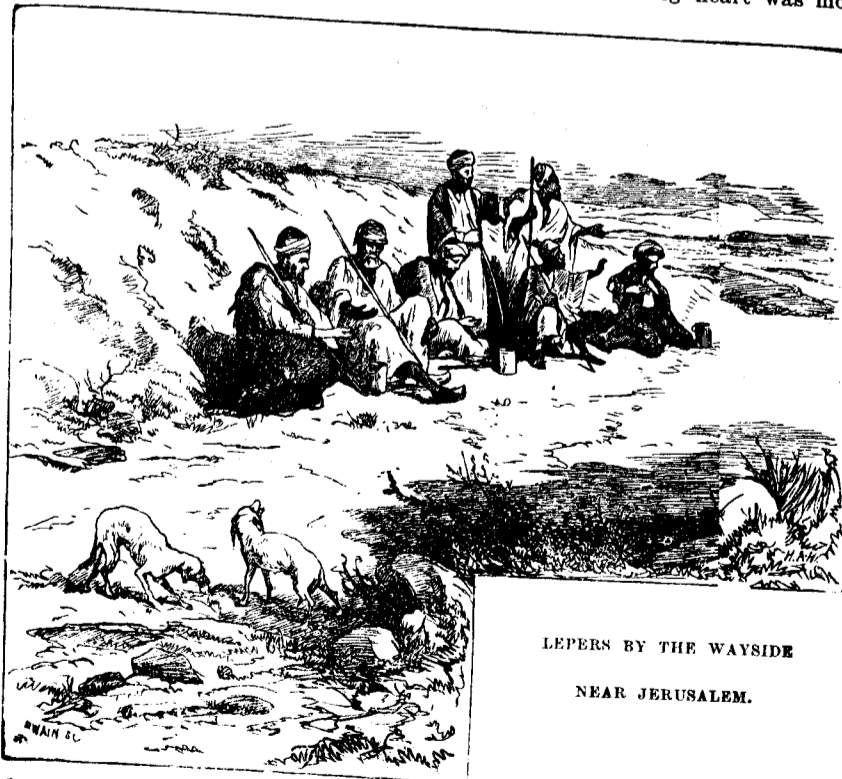
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LEPERS BY THE WAYSIDE
NEAR JERUSALEM.

God cares for the fatherless and afflicted. For Christ's sake God raises us from poverty to noble rank and royal possessions. Lameness is no bar to sonship. The best loved saints may suffer from disabilities. If we are heirs of God, however obscure or poor, we will be owned and provided for by-and-bye.

ways, which are not only useless, but positively injurious. A trifle given to the blind is a thank-offering to God for the blessing of sight.

When Jesus was going from Jericho to Jerusalem, he found two blind men by the wayside begging, and he did not pass them by without doing something