

SIR WILLIAM NAPIER AND LITTLE JOAN.

SIR WILLIAM NAPIER, one bright day,
Was walking down the glen—
A noble English soldier,
And the handsomest of men

Through fields and fragrant hedge-rows
He slowly wandered down
To quiet Freshford village,
By pleasant Bradford town.

With look and mien magnificent,
And step so grand moved he,
And from his stately front outshone
Beauty and majesty.

About his strong white forehead
The rich locks thronged and curled,
Above the splendour of his eyes,
That might command the world.

A sound of bitter weeping
Came up to his quick ear,
He paused that instant, bending
His kingly head to hear.

Among the grass and daisies
Sat wretched little Joan,
And near her lay a bowl of delf,
Broken upon a stone.

Her cheeks were red with crying,
And her blue eyes dull and dim,
And she turned her pretty, woful face,
All tear-stained, up to him.

Scarce six years old, and sobbing,
In misery so dear!
"Why, what's the matter, Posy?"
He said,— "Come, tell me, dear."

"It's Father's bowl I've broken;
'Twas for his dinner kept.
I took it safe, but coming back
It fell"—again she wept.

"But you can mend it, can't you?"
Cried the despairing child
With sudden hope, as down on her,
Like some kind god, he smiled.

"Don't cry, poor little Posy!
I can not make it whole,
But I can give you sixpence
To buy another bowl."

He sought in vain for silver
In purse and pockets, too,
And found but golden guineas.
He pondered what to do.

"This time to-morrow, Posy,"
He said, "again come here,
And I will bring you sixpence.
I promise! Never fear!"

Away went Joan, rejoicing—
A rescued child was she;
And home went good Sir William;
And to him presently

A footman brings a letter,
And low before him bends:
"Will not Sir William come and dine
To-morrow with his friends?"

The letter read: "And we've secured
The man among all men
You wish to meet. He will be here.
You will not fail us then!"

To-morrow! Could he get to Bath
And dine with dukes and earls,
And back in time? That hour was
It was the little girl's! [pledged—

He could not disappoint her,
He must his friends refuse.
So "a previous engagement"
He pleaded as excuse.

Next day when she, all eager,
Came o'er the fields so fair,
As sure as of the sunrise
That she should find him there,

He met her, and the sixpence
Laid in her little hand,
Her woe was ended, and her heart
The lightest in the land.

How would the stately company,
Who had so much desired
His presence at their splendid feast,
Have wondered and admired!

As soldier, scholar, gentleman,
His praises oft are heard,—
'Twas not the least of his great deeds
So to have kept his word!

—*Lia Baxter, in St. Nicholas, for Jan. 1882.*

THE story is told of a clergyman
that after preaching an interesting
sermon on the "recognition of friends
in heaven," he was accosted by a hearer
who said: "I like that sermon and I
now wish you would preach another on
the recognizing of people in this world.
I have been attending your church for
three years and not five persons in the
congregation have as much as bowed
to me in all that time."

THE CREED, IN EASY VERSE.

(Author unknown.)

IN God the Father, I believe,
Who made both earth and heaven:
And Jesus for our Lord receive,
By God the Holy Ghost conceived,
Through Virgin Mary given;
'Twas under Pontius Pilate's reign
He suffered and was crucified,
Was buried, and in Hell's domain
Dwelt three dark days, then rose again
To soar to Heaven, glorified;
At God's right hand to hold his seat
Till quick and dead for Judgment meet.

I own as God the Holy Ghost,
In Holy Catholic Church believe,
Communion of the sainted host,
And pardoning grace with faith receive,
I wait the rising from the tomb
And the Eternal Life to come.

HERE reformation differs as much
from regeneration as white-washing an
old rotten house differs from taking it
down and building a new one in its
room.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK.

A. D. 27.] LESSON VI. [Feb. 5.

CHRIST AND HIS DISCIPLES.

Mark 3. 6-19. Commit to memory v. 13-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit. John 15. 16.

OUTLINE.

1. The Multitude, v. 6-9.
2. The Miracles, v. 10-12.
3. The Messengers, v. 13-19.

TIME.—A. D. 27, soon after the events of the last lesson.

PLACE.—Near the Sea of Galilee

PARALLEL PASSAGES.—With verses 6-12. Matt. 12. 14-21. With verses 13-19. Matt. 10. 2-4; Luke 6. 12-19.

EXPLANATIONS.—Took Counsel—Formed a plan. Destroy him—They hated Jesus, because they were wicked and he was good, and because he would not do their will. Withdrew—For the time of his death had not yet come. To the sea—The Sea of Galilee. A small ship—A row-boat, not a sailing-vessel. Wait on him—Should be at hand to carry him from place to place. To touch him—Believing that by touching him they would be healed. Plagues—Dis-eases. Unclean spirits—Wicked spirits which had entered into men and controlled their actions. Thou art the Son of God—The evil spirits knew that he was God, and bowed down before him. Straightly charged them—Jesus did not wish a testimony which came from evil spirits. Into a mountain—Where he prayed all night before calling his apostles. Luke 6. 12, 13. Ordained—Appointed, chose. Be with him—To learn from him, and to be able to bear testimony to his life and works. Boanerges—On account of their fiery earnestness in his service.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where may we learn in this lesson—

1. That Christ's cause needs workers?
2. That Christ calls his workers?
3. That Christ's workers have power?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Whom did Jesus call to be with him? Twelve disciples. 2. What were the twelve disciples called? Apostles, or those sent. 3. For what were they sent forth? To preach his Gospel. 4. What power did he give them? Power to work miracles. 5.

Who were the three leading ones among them? Peter, James, and John. 6. Which was the disciple that betrayed Jesus? Judas Iscariot.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The visible Church.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

21. What is written concerning Jacob? Jacob obtained his father's blessing by deceit; as well as his brother a birthright by craft.

22. Why was his name called Israel?

The name of Jacob was changed to Israel, because, after he had deceived his father and brother, he became a very good man, and prevailed in obtaining a blessing from God, for which he had prayed.

A. D. 27.] LESSON VII. [Feb. 12.

CHRIST'S FOES AND FRIENDS.

Mark 3. 20-35. Commit to memory v. 31-35.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He that is not with me is against me. Matt. 12. 30.

OUTLINE.

1. Christ's Foes, v. 20-30.
2. Christ's Friends, v. 31-35.

TIME.—A. D. 27, while Jesus was on his second circuit of Galilee.

PLACE.—Capernaum.

CONNECTING LINKS.—1. The Sermon on the Mount. Matt. 5-7. 2. Healing the centurion's servant. Luke 7. 1-10. The miracle at Nain. Luke 7. 11-17. 3. Messengers from John the Baptist. Matt. 11. 2-4. 4. Anointing the feet of Jesus. Luke 7. 35-50. 5. Christ's second tour of Galilee. Luke 8. 1-3.

PARALLEL PASSAGES.—Matt. 12. 22-50; Luke 11. 14-23; 8; 19-21.

EXPLANATIONS.—Again—This was some weeks after the events of the last lesson. His friends—The relatives of Jesus, who did not fully believe in Jesus at that time, and were rather enemies than friends. Beside himself—They thought that he was crazy, or out of his head from excitement. Scribes which came down—Leaders of the people, who had come to see whether Jesus were a prophet or not. Beelzebub... Satan—They meant that Jesus was him self possessed by an evil spirit. Kingdom be divided against itself—The miracles of Jesus showed that he was stronger than Satan, not that he was joined with Satan. The strong man—Satan, the evil spirit, in the hearts of men. Blasphemies—Words of contempt against God, as profane language, swearing, etc. Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost—That is, by saying that the good works of Jesus were wrought by the power of the devil. Never forgiveness—Such a sin can find no pardon from God. Brethren—The younger sons of Mary and Joseph. Some of them afterward believed in Christ and became apostles. Calling him—Intending to call him away from the crowd and take him home. Them which sat about him—His twelve disciples. My brethren—The true brothers of Christ are they who possess his spirit and follow his teachings.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where may we see in this lesson—

1. How bitter is the hate of Christ's enemies?
2. How mighty is the power of Christ?
3. How strong is the love of Christ for his followers?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. By what power did Christ's enemies say that he cast out evil spirits? By the power of Satan. 2. What did Jesus say in answer to them? "How can Satan cast out Satan?" 3. What did Christ's miracles show? That he was stronger than Satan. 4. What did Christ say about the forgiveness of sins? That sins could be forgiven. 5. What one sin did he say could not be forgiven? Speaking evil of the Holy Spirit. 6. Who did Jesus say is dearer to him than even his mother and his brothers? Whoever does God's will.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The existence of evil spirits.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

23. How many sons had Jacob, or Israel? Jacob, or Israel, had twelve sons, who were called the twelve Patriarchs, or fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel.

24. Who was the most famous of Israel's sons?

The most famous of Israel's sons was Joseph; whom his brethren sold into Egypt, and he afterwards became the ruler of the land, under Pharaoh the king.

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