

If I Were a Voice.

BY CHARLES MACKAY.

If I were a voice—a persuasive voice—
That could travel the wide world through,
I would fly on the beams of the morning's
light,
And speak to men with a gentle might,
And tell them to be true.
I'd fly, I'd fly, o'er land and sea,
Wherever a human heart might be,
Telling a tale, or singing a song,
In praise of the right, in blame of the wrong.

If I were a voice—a consoling voice—
I'd fly on the wings of air;
The homes of sorrow and guilt I'd seek,
And calm and truthful words I'd speak,
To save them from despair.
I'd fly, I'd fly, o'er the crowded town,
And drop, like the happy sunlight down
Into the suffering hearts of men,
And teach them to rejoice again.

If I were a voice—a convincing voice—
I'd travel with the wind;
And whenever I saw the nations torn
By warfare, jealousy, or scorn,
Or hatred of their kind,
I'd fly, I'd fly, on the thunder-crash,
And into their blinded bosoms flash,
And, all their evil thoughts subdued,
I'd teach them Christian brotherhood.

If I were a voice—a pervading voice—
I'd seek the kings of earth;
I'd find them alone on their beds at night,
And whisper words that would guide them
right—
Lessons of priceless worth.
I'd fly more swift than the swiftest bird,
And tell them things they never heard—
Truths which the ages for aye repeat,
Unknown to the statesmen at their feet.

If I were a voice—an immortal voice—
I'd speak in the people's ear;
And whenever they shouted "Liberty!"
Without deserving to be free,
I'd make their mission clear.
I'd fly, I'd fly, on the wing of day,
Rebuking wrong on my world-wide way,
And making all the earth rejoice—
If I were a voice—an immortal voice.

LESSON NOTES.**SECOND QUARTER.****STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK.**A.D. 30] **LESSON V.** [May 5**THE COMMAND TO WATCH.**

Mark 13. 24-37. Memory verses, 35-37.

GOLDEN TEXT.Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye
know not when the time is. Mark 13. 33.**OUTLINE.**

1. The Son Coming, v. 24-32.
2. The Servants Watching, v. 33-37.

TIME.—30 A.D.

PLACE.—Mount of Olives.

EXPLANATIONS.—*From the four winds*—That is, from every part of the earth. *The uttermost part of the earth*, etc.—That is, from the farthest part of the earth, then believed to be a great plain met everywhere by the sky. *Branch yet tender*—The new green sprout of the tree. *At the cock-crowing*—At three o'clock in the morning. These divisions mark the quarters of the night.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

What is there in this lesson which teaches—

1. That Jesus is coming again?
2. That we do not know when he will come?
3. That we ought always to be ready for his coming?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Of what day is Jesus speaking in these verses? Of his final coming. 2. By what signs will it be attended? "The powers in heaven shall be shaken." 3. With whom only did he say rested the knowledge of these things? Only with God the Father.

4. What duty did he lay upon the disciples because of this uncertainty. "Take ye heed," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Christian watchfulness.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

20. What do you mean by the Holy Spirit's inspiration?

That he put it into the minds of holy men to write, and instructed them how to write.

A.D. 30] **LESSON VI.** [May 12**THE ANOINTING AT BETHANY.**

Mark 14. 1-9. Memory verses 8, 9.

GOLDEN TEXT.

She hath done what she could. Mark 14. 8

OUTLINE.

1. A Ministry, v. 1-3.
2. A Memorial, v. 4-9.

TIME.—30 A.D.

PLACE.—Bethany, Simon's house.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Feast of the passover*—The old memorial feast of the exodus from Egypt. *Unleavened bread*—Bread made without fermentation. There were not two feasts, as would seem here. The bread was characteristic of this peculiar feast, and is therefore so mentioned. *Alabaster box*—Literally, "an alabaster." A small cruet supposed to have been shaped like a rosebud, and having a cylindrical neck. *Ointment of spikenard*—A very precious perfume of some aromatic plant. *Three hundred pence*—Or, denarii; a denarius was a small Roman silver coin equal to a few cents of our money.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

What in this lesson teaches us—

1. That no gift is too costly to be offered to Christ?
2. That love makes any offering acceptable?
3. That whatever we do for Christ is sure of reward.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Where did Jesus spend the last two days of life? At Bethany. 2. How did they honour him there? They made a supper for him. 3. What tribute of love did Mary pay to him? She anointed his head with spikenard. 4. What word of commendation did Jesus speak for her? "She hath done what she could." 5. What prophecy did he make about her? Her act should be told through the world.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—True service.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

21. How is it proved that the Holy Spirit inspired the Old Testament Scriptures?

Chiefly by the words of our Lord and his apostles.

Men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Ghost. 2 Peter i. 21. Matt. xxii. 43.

THE TRAMP.

GOOD Mrs. Lee and her little family were just sitting down to tea one evening in the early winter, when there came a knock at the door.

"Come in," said Mrs. Lee, thinking one of the neighbours had just "run in."

The door opened and a strange young man came in. Young man? Alas! no! it was easy to see that he was "only a tramp." What a sad story the word tells!

"Could you give me a bit of supper, ma'am?" he said; "I've tramped all day, and I'm powerful hungry."

Now, Mrs. Lee was poor, but she had a kind heart. She looked at her own Phil and Rob, and a deep pity rose in her heart. What if they should come to look like this poor lad some day?

She asked him in, and—yes, she really did! she gave him a seat at her own table. And as he ate she led him to talk. How many questions she asked him! But they were all so kindly put,

and it was so plain that the good woman looked at him with motherly eyes, that the poor fellow found himself answering her with a strange tremble in his voice.

Of course, there was strong drink in the case. He did not say so, but Mrs. Lee knew it. After supper she found a way to speak to him alone, and in her own kind, earnest voice she begged him to give up the life he was leading and go home to his mother, who she learned was still living. Then she said good-bye to him, and he went away.

Three years after a clean, well-dressed, respectable-looking man stopped at Mrs. Lee's little home.

"Do you remember me, madam?"

he said, in a manly way.

"No, I do not," Mrs. Lee replied.

"I have never seen you before, I think."

"But you have," said the smiling young man.

Then he recalled the tramp of three years before, and said: "I am that poor fellow. I could not forget your kind words. I went home to my mother, signed a temperance pledge, found work, began going to church, and have made my mother happy every day since. Now I am in a nice little business of my own, am doing well, and, best of all, have become a Christian man. I have vowed never to turn a tramp away with harsh words; for, madam, your kind words saved me."

Mrs. Lee wept and laughed together. Do you wonder?

THE ARABIC AUCTIONEER.

OUR party were standing in one of the shady tunnels which penetrate the bazars of Cairo, when our attention was attracted to a man who was running swiftly past the little shops where Mohammedan merchants "take in and do for" unsophisticated foreigners. He was flourishing a brass platter in his hand, and was shouting spasmodically as he hurried along. Now and then some merchant would stop the runner with an intelligible remark, but he apparently paid little heed and went trotting off again. A short distance behind this queer individual waddled a fat old Arab who showed a desire to keep up with the procession.

"Is that man crazy, or is he an escaping thief?" we asked our dragoon.

"Neither; he's an auctioneer. He is trying to sell the platter. He runs through all the bazars shouting the highest price bid. The merchants who speak to him are bidding. When he has traversed the bazars, he will bring it back to him who has offered most. The fat man is the owner of the platter, and follows to see fair dealing," was the answer.

This is a sensible custom. It is the old story of Mohammed and the mountain: if the people will not go to the auctioneer, the auctioneer goes to the people.—*Our Youth.*

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