

The Children's Reply

We have heard the call from your dark-
ened land,
Our hearts have wept at your sadden-
ing tale;
And we long to lend a helping hand,
By a story of love which shall never
fall.

We should like you to come to our Bible-
land,
And share our comforts and blessings,
too;
We would take you all with a sister's
hand,
And try to teach and to gladden you.

But you're so far off that it cannot be,
And we have no wings, or to you we'd
fly;
So well try to send o'er the foaming sea
Sweet words to brighten every eye

Sweet words of Him, who was once so
poor,
That he had not where to lay his head;
But hath opened now the gleaming door
To the palace of light, where this feast
is spread.

There you may enter; he calls each one—
You're as welcome there as the greatest
king:
Come to him, then, for he casts out none,
And nothing at all do you need to
bring.

We will gladly save from our little store
Our pennies, our nickels, from day to
day,
And only wish we could do far more,
But for heathen children we'll always
pray.
—The Mission Band Portfolio.

A GREAT HEART'S TRUST.

Gen. Gordon wrote: "Why will you
keep caring for what the world says?
Try, O try to be no longer a slave to it!
You can have little idea of the comfort
of freedom from it—it is bliss! All this
caring for what people will say is from
pride. Hoist your flag and abide by it.
In an infinitely short space of time all
secrets will be divulged. Therefore if
you are misjudged, why trouble to put
yourself right? You have no idea what
a great deal of trouble it will save you.
Roll your burden on Him, and he will
make straight your mistakes. He will
set you right with those with whom you
have set yourself wrong. Here am I, a
lump of clay; thou art the potter. Mould
me as thou in thy wisdom wilt. Never
mind my cries. Cut my life off—so be
it; prolong it—so be it. Just as thou
wilt: but I rely on thy unchanging
guidance during the trial. O, the com-
fort that comes from this!"

A CHILD'S TRUST.

The beautiful trust of childhood often
affords the greatest encouragement to
older Christians. A lady who lived with
her husband on a West Indian plantation
had a daughter, a little child, who be-
came afflicted with a severe disease of
the eyes. All the doctors said she must
be taken to England, so that if neces-
sary an operation might be performed;
so the mother started for England. The
doctors there found too much time had
been lost, and nothing could be done ex-
cept to try and relieve the poor child's
intense agony. They had all given her
up, and told the mother she could only
live a few days, and yet week after week
passed and the child lingered. The doc-
tors said it was a wonderful case, a
regular fight against
death; no hope, terrible
agony, and yet, though
utterly exhausted, the
child seemed unable to
die. One night the
mother, watching be-
side her bed, heard a
wailing sob. Tenderly
leaning over her she
said, "What is it, my
precious one? Is the
pain too terrible?"
"Oh, mother," said the
child, "I heard the doc-
tors tell you I was going
to die; what is it to
die? I am afraid to
die." With a heart
bursting with grief, the
mother took the child in
her arms, and said, "My
darling, dying is only
going from mother's
arms into Jesus' arms."
"Oh," said the child,
"if that is all, I am not
afraid to die." The
mother laid her child
back in bed. All



BUDDHA.

through the night she lay in quiet sleep,
and when the daylight came, and the
mother bent over her she saw the little
face lying calm and still, with a look of
repose, on the pillow, and knew that her
darling was indeed in "Jesus' arms."

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTERLY REVIEW.
MARCH 28.
GOLDEN TEXT.

The word of God grew and multiplied.
—Acts 12. 24.

LESSON HYMN.

Lord, I am thine, entirely thine,
Purchased and saved by blood divine,
With full consent I thine would be,
And own thy sovereign right in me.

Thine would I live, thine would I die,
Be thine through all eternity;
The vow is past beyond repeal,
And now I set the solemn seal.

Do thou assist a feeble worm
The great engagement to perform;
Thy grace can full assistance lend,
And on that grace I dare depend.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The ascension.—Acts 1. 1-14.
- Tu. The lame man healed.—Acts 3. 1-16.
- W. The boldness of Peter and John.—Acts 4. 1-14.
- Th. The prison opened.—Acts 5. 17-32.
- F. The first Christian martyr.—Acts 6. 8-15; 7. 54-60.
- S. The Ethiopian convert.—Acts 8. 26-40.
- Su. Saul, the persecutor, converted.—Acts 9. 1-12; 17-20.

1. Recite the Titles and Golden Texts of the quarter's lesson.
2. State the doctrines taught in each lesson.
3. Name a duty which is enforced in each lesson.
 1. Point out a privilege which is suggested in each of these chapters in the history of the early church.
 5. What is the chief lesson to you from the quarter's study?

JEWISH SYNAGOGUE.

Entering a synagogue, you would notice at the east end, where in our churches would be the altar-piece, or chancel window, a curtain of silk against

the wall. You would know that this must be an especially sacred spot, by the semi-circular spot railed in front of it.

If you should wait until the time of service this curtain would be drawn aside, and you would see, within, a great chest set into the wall; at least, that is the usual arrangement. This chest is called the ark, in remembrance of the Ark of the Covenant in the tabernacle, and afterwards in the temple at Jerusa-lem; and the curtain or veil which hangs before it may put the worshippers in mind of the veil which separated the Holy of Holies from the Holy Place. It contains the sacred books of the Law.

BUDDHA.

The word Buddha—pronounced as if it were spelled Bood-a—means "The Enlightened One," and is the name given to a teacher of one of the greatest heathen religions of the world, and who is now worshipped by a great many people in different countries.

The religion is called "Buddhism," and the people who believe in it are called "Buddhists." Some say there are more than four hundred millions of people who worship Buddha, and others say there are more than seven hundred mil- lions. There are about twenty millions in Japan.

These people believe there have been a great many worlds—more than we can number—that have come and gone, and that to these worlds have belonged Buddhas more than we can number. Their ideas about the worlds seem to be that the earth is destroyed and then re- newed again—for they believe all of the Buddhas "are born in Central India." It is very hard to understand just what they do mean. They believe that one Buddha is born, and after a time passes away, and then another one comes. They say this world has had four. Of the first three they know but little; but the fourth one, whom we have already men- tioned, was a Hindu prince, named "Guatama," who was born nearly six hundred years before Christ. He was a good man, and spent much time in ear- nestly studying how men might be saved. He thought they might save themselves, by controlling their thoughts and actions—that if they would lead pure lives they would find salvation.

But the lives of those who profess to be his followers, as well as of all man- kind, show how much they need our Jesus to help them to do this, and that without him there is no salvation. Guatama did not teach the worship of

gods, nor claim to be more than a teacher himself, and he chose to be this in order to help men to lead good lives, rather than to be heir to his father's throne. Some years after he died, how- ever, the people worshipped him as a god, and as time has gone on, many changes in Buddhism have taken place. Another Buddha is expected, and the peo- ple think that "the first male child born in any Buddhist country, with fingers and toes all uniform in length, and ears reaching to the shoulders," will be the one they are so anxiously looking for.

Da Butz is the largest of the images of Buddha. It is made of bronze, and is so large that the inside of it forms a temple, where the people worship. The city near the site on which it stands has gone to ruins, but the idol is visited by thousands of people. It is forty-five feet high, and just one of its thumbs is large enough for a man to sit on. None but the ignorant actually worship the idol, but Buddha, whom it represents. There are a great many Buddhist temples and idols, and a great many priests.

In the swampy lands of Madagascar are a great many alligators. The dogs of the island have learned that the allig- ators are their enemies, and must be watched. Dogs have great freedom in Madagascar, and roam freely about the island, on which there are many streams. In crossing these streams the dogs are sometimes caught by the alligators. The dogs have learned how to cross the streams without encountering the allig- ators. The natives say the dogs, a half-dozen or more, will assemble on the bank and begin barking. The barking attracts the attention of the alligators, who assemble, ready to catch the dogs when they attempt to cross. The dogs continue to bark until they think all the alligators have assembled, and then they break and run about three hundred yards above the alligators, and plunge into the stream, swimming quickly to the other side. The dogs, moving more quickly than the alligators, easily escape them.

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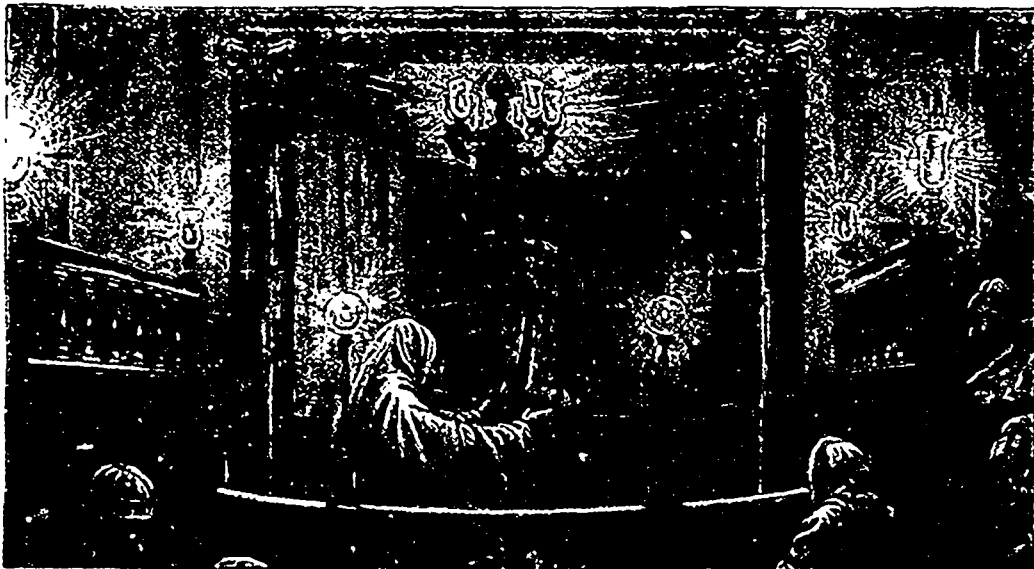
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