

Nobody Knows but Mother.

BY MARY HARRISON

How many buttons are missing to-day?
 Nobody knows but mother
 How many playthings are strewn in her way?
 Nobody knows but mother
 How many thimbles and spools has she missed?
 How many burns on each fat little flat?
 How many bumps to be cuddled and kissed?
 Nobody knows but mother

How many hats has she hunted to-day?
 Nobody knows but mother.
 Carelessly hiding themselves in the hay?
 Nobody knows but mother.
 How many handkerchiefs willfully strayed?
 How many ribbons for each little maid?
 How for her care can a mother be paid?
 Nobody knows but mother.

How many cares does a mother's heart know?
 Nobody knows but mother.
 How many joys from her mother-love flow?
 Nobody knows but mother.
 How many prayers by each little white bed?
 How many tears for her babes has she shed?
 How many kisses for each curly head?
 Nobody knows but mother.
 —Housekeeper

the lucky day for the proposed destruction.

8 "A certain people scattered"—Scattered by the hand of war and conquest. Their laws are diverse from all people. Perfectly true; and that fact shows the glory of the Jews, whose laws came from God. Other races were idolatrous. Not for the king's profit. This is a falsehood or a mistake. The Jews added wealth to the empire. Notice that Haman spoke, not from patriotism, but from offended pride.

9 "I will pay"—A bribe, or else to show the king that he would make up the loss to the revenue.

10 "His ring"—Symbol of royal authority, delegated when the ring was given to another. The decree was to be sealed with the ring.

11 "As it seemeth good to thee"—A dangerous gift of power to a dangerous man.

HOME READINGS.

M Esther made queen—Esth. 2. 15-23.
 Tu. Haman's plot against the Jews.—Esth. 3. 1-11.

In what superstitious way did he try to find out the best time for his plot?
 2. Revenge, v. 8-11.
 What did Haman say to the king about the Jews?
 Were they in all the provinces?
 Were their laws diverse from all people?
 Was it unprofitable to have them prosper in the kingdom?
 What did Haman ask?
 What did he offer to pay for the privilege?
 What did the king give to Haman?
 What did that mean?
 What did the king say to Haman?
 What comfort is there in the Golden Text?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where in this lesson are we taught—
 1. That the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel?
 2. That prejudice against race is wicked?
 3. That there never is a time so dark that we are justified in losing our hope in God?

Turning a kind and pitiful look on the man, who expected nothing else than that his punishment would be increased with the repetition of the offence, the colonel addressed him, saying, "Well, we have tried everything with you, and now we have resolved to—forgive you!" The soldier was struck dumb with amazement; the tears started in his eyes, and he wept like a child. He was humbled to the dust, and, thanking his officer, he retired—to be the old, refractory, incorrigible man. No! from that day forward he was a new man. He who told the story had him for years under his eye, and a better conducted man never wore the Queen's colours.—The Standard.

THE CRIMEAN HEROINE.

You have all heard of Florence Nightingale, who nursed the sick soldiers in the Crimean war, but you may not know this fact relative to her, told by an exchange: After the close of the Crimean war a dinner was given to the military and naval officers who had served in the campaign, and it was suggested that each guest write on a slip of paper the name of the person whose services during the Crimea would be longest remembered by posterity. Hundreds of slips were handed in, but only one name was mentioned, Florence Nightingale. She is now seventy-eight years old, and lives at the home of her nephews in England. She was named Florence after the Italian city, in which she was born while her parents were staying there.—Our Sunday Afternoon.

Teacher—"What happens when a man's temperature goes down as far as it can go?" Smart Scholar—"He has cold feet, ma'am."

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT.

LESSON II.—OCTOBER 8.

HAMAN'S PLOT AGAINST THE JEWS.

Esth. 3. 1-11. Memory verses, 5, 6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

If God be for us, who can be against us?—Rom. 8. 31.

OUTLINE.

- 1. Hatred, v. 1-7.
- 2. Revenge, v. 8-11.

Time.—Perhaps between 485 and 425 B.C.

Place.—Susa.

LESSON HELPS.

The story of Haman's plot against the Jews and its complete defeat is given in the Book of Esther. The event made a deep impression on the Jews, which will never be effaced in their history. To this day is celebrated annually the fast of Esther and the feast of Purim, which is the Persian word for lots, because Haman cast lots to fix the time for the destruction. The Book of Esther is read in all the synagogues, and the cry is heard, when the name of Haman is read, "Let his memory perish."

1. "After these things"—Which are related in the preceding chapters. "King Ahasuerus"—The Roman name for the Persian king called by the Greeks Artaxerxes. "Haman"—the Agagite—Perhaps a descendant of that Agag whom Samuel destroyed, certain it is that he had Agag's spirit of hatred for the Jews.

2. "The king's servants"—Higher servants or officers, who came to the gate, around which was an open place, where the king met his officers and gave commands. "But Mordecai bowed not"—why not? It was not for lack of respect for the king, but he could not prostrate himself and offer to him that adoration which belonged to God only.

3. "Why transgresseth thou"—Because there is a limit to the commands of a ruler. Passive resistance may be a religious duty. God is above all earthly rulers. Conscience is to be consulted.

4. "They told Haman"—Because they did not like a Jew in the court. Envy works great harm. Class, race, and religious prejudice are even now a bar to higher civilization.

5. "Then was Haman full of wrath"—Too much wrath for so slight a cause. Pride is exacting. Pride takes great offence at trifles.

7. Wherefore Haman sought to destroy all the Jews?—Wounded pride prompted to cruelty. To destroy innocent multitudes because one of their number bowed not was to commit a terrible crime. That crime was not wrought out. Man proposes, God disposes.

7. In the first month"—Of the civil year of the Jews. The month Nisan, a part of March and April, as we reckon. "They cast Pur"—A Persian word. "The lot"—Cast repeatedly to find out



MUEZZIN.

One of the most frequent and curious cries heard in the East is the muezzin's call to prayer. In the very early morning it wakes the stillness with the words, "There is no god but God. Come to prayer, come to prayer. Prayer is better than sleep." And at the canonical hours for prayer devout Mussulmans—wherever they are, or whatever they are

doing—on ship or shore—in market or street—in the desert or on the housetop—prostrate themselves, and, with their faces turned toward Mecca, offer their prayers to God. Their fidelity to this duty is a lesson to many careless, so-called Christians, who neglect the sacred privilege and obligation to make their wants and requests known unto God.

W. The decree of death.—Esth. 3. 12, to 4. 3.
 Th. Sorrow in the palace.—Esth. 4. 4-17.
 F. Pride discomfited.—Esth. 6. 1-11.
 S. The enemy punished.—Esth. 7.
 Su. Danger of pride.—Prov. 16. 5-19.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. Hatred, v. 1-7.
 Whom did King Ahasuerus promote?
 What did all the king's servants do when they saw Haman?
 Why did they do this?
 What exception was there?
 What question was asked of Mordecai?
 What was told about Mordecai?
 Why were they all so interested in Mordecai's fate?
 How did Haman feel when he heard about Mordecai's conduct?
 How did he propose to revenge himself?

THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS.

A soldier was about to be brought before his commanding officer for some offence. He was an old offender, and had often been punished. "Here he is again," said the officer, on his name being mentioned, "flogging, disgrace, solitary confinement, everything has been tried on him." Whereupon the sergeant stepped forward, and, apologizing for the liberty, said, "There is one thing that has never been done with him yet, sir." "What is that?" said the officer. "Well, sir," said the sergeant, "he has never been forgiven." "Forgiven!" exclaimed the colonel, surprised at the suggestion. He reflected a few minutes, ordered the culprit to be brought in, and asked him what he had to say to the charge. "Nothing, sir," was the reply, "only I am sorry for what I have done."

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