

The Miracle at Nain.

BY REV. WILLIAM MORLEY PUNSHON, LL.D.

Forth through the solemn street,
The sad procession swept,
Pacing its mournful way with measured feet
While hily wept

One mourner, in a grief
Stern as the silent years,
Which seemed to mark the common weak relief
Of outward tears

They bore her only son,
Star of her evening, fled,
Whose better light recalled the vanished one
Now long since dead

Desert her heart, and bare,
Like lone house on a wild,
No voice to make the music on the stair
No laughing child

No solace from the past,
No hope in days to come,
She cowered, as if sorrow's second blast
Had struck her dumb.

Hut, near the city's verge,
A men silence came
The ed mourners swift forbore their dirge,
As if in shame

To mourn a lifeless clod,
With such despairing cry,
While the Redeemer "the strong Son of God"
Was passing by.

"He came and touched the bier."
They wait, in curious pause:
Has he the power and will not interfere
With Nature's laws?

He walked upon the waves
His word the thousands fed—
Is he imperial in the place of graves
Over the dead!

Then spake the royal word
And, quick with rushing throes,
The red life in the clay obedient heard
The dead arose!

The same through endless time,
Thus Jesus healeth now,
With "many crowns," for victories sublime,
Upon his brow.

Conqueror in each stern fight,
O'er mortal sin and dread;
And mighty, from corruption's foulest night,
To raise the dead.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL BY MATTHEW.

LESSON VIII—FEBRUARY 20.

THE TWELVE SENT FORTH.

Matt. 10. 2-15. Memory verses, 5-8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Freely ye have received, freely give.—
Matt. 10. 8.

OUTLINE.

1. The Twelve, v. 2-4.
2. Their Work, v. 5-15.

Time—Probably very early in the year A.D. 29.

Place.—Not known.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The twelve sent forth.—Matt. 10. 1-15.
- Tu. A dark prospect.—Matt. 10. 16-23.
- W. A great helper.—Matt. 10. 24-33.
- Th. Worthy followers.—Matt. 10. 34-42.
- F. Prepared and sent.—Jer. 1. 7-19.
- S. "Go, preach!"—Acts 8. 1-8.
- Su. Into all the world.—Mark 16. 14-20.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Twelve, v. 2-4.
Name the twelve apostles
For what duty were they called and set apart by the Lord?
What part of the Holy Land did all but one come from?
Why may we suppose that they were sent out in pairs?
What is known concerning the later history of these men?
2. Their Work, v. 5-15.
To what two classes of people were they forbidden to go?
What people were they to seek out?
What miracles were they to perform?
In what measure were they to give?
Golden Text Why?
What says Isaiah of God's free gifts?
Isa. 55. 1.



THE MIRACLE AT NAIN.

What says John of this same grace?
Rev. 22. 17.
What were they told not to provide?
Why was this command given?
What were they first to do in a city or town?
What when they came to a house?
When would their blessings abide on a house?
What were they to do if not kindly received?
What cities would fare better in judgment than those thus rejected?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—
1. That God's work needs human helpers?
 2. That God's helpers should be loved and cared for?
 3. That God's servants should be men of peace?

REJOICE.

"What shall we call her?" said mother, as she looked with fond eyes upon the baby daughter.
"I don't know," said father; "the boys are so rejoiced over their new sister, suppose we let them name her?"
"Or suppose we call her 'Rejoice'?" added mother.
And this is how it happened that the bright, sunshiny girl bore what seemed to many such a strange name, yet to those who knew and loved her the title fitted in so well that it could not have been better applied. From morning until evening it was, "Rejoice, dear mother wants you;" "Rejoice, father is waiting;" "Rejoice, the boys are calling you," until

she grew to be a great, sunny girl, the pride and comfort of the household. In her father's house the subject of missions was held especially dear. Rejoice was a thoughtful girl, and she became possessed with the desire to do something toward helping the Mission Board.
"Boys," said Rejoice one morning, "will you help me do something?"
"We are ready for anything that's good," they cried.
"Mother says that I may have a plot of ground to raise flowers, and I am going to sell them and give the money for missions."
"Why, Rejoice," cried Dick, the elder, "how could you sell flowers?"
"Mr. Dixon says he will take them to market for me, and when I told him how meant to use the money, he said: 'Get the other children at it, too.'"
"Father said he would give me ten cents a pint for all the potato-bugs I could find this summer. I'll pledge that, and if I may have a patch of ground in the corner lot I'll see what I can raise there," said Dick.
"And I'll give my popcorn crop," said Harry. "You know nobody raises such nice ears as I did last year, Rejoice. I'll get Mr. Dixon to sell it for me, and perhaps you could make some of it up into balls, couldn't you?"
"Of course I could," cried Rejoice. "Let us get the boys and girls together and give each one a chance to help us."
The children did get together and set about the work with an earnest enthusiasm. How skillful did Rejoice become in arranging flowers for sale! and father laughingly asserted that the way



OUR LORD SENDING FORTH HIS DISCIPLES.

Dick found potato-bugs was a caution; while Harry's popcorn patch became the pride of the family. The children often met to compare notes. One boy had set a hen and was raising a brood of chickens; Gertie Jones got ten cents a week for washing dishes; Maggie Brown earned five cents a week for darning stockings; and little Tottle Smith, whose widowed mother had to strive hard to make both ends meet, had the profit of all the sales-rags for her portion.

This useful band called Rejoice their president. They were to keep the proceeds for one year, and give it in "one great bulk."

"Hurrah!" cried Dick, "we'll overflow the treasury."

They thought to have surprised their dear pastor; but he knew all about the project, and watched it grow with keen delight and thankful joy. But one day his heart was surprised even beyond measure, for the children came to the parsonage in a body and presented their offering for missions, with manly Dick for spokesman. The children stood in eager excitement while the pastor counted the roll of bills: "One hundred dollars! My dear children, the Lord has indeed blessed you!"

HOW BOYS ARE SPOILED.

As a rule, the cause of the vicious or destructive habits of boys whose parents are in comfortable or affluent circumstances, is a fundamental one. The primary and painfully fruitful error is the common teaching in such families, either by precept or example, or both, that industry is discreditable. Boys are not trained or taught the necessity of usefulness; they are trained and taught only to enjoy the luxury of idleness, and vice comes as naturally as night succeeds the day. Such boys, if they happen to worry through cigarettes and other enervating indulgences, to manhood, are ever distanced in the race for honour and usefulness by the alley boys or the mountain boys, whose physical vigour is not destroyed by luxury and indulgence. They are taught, not only in theory but in practice, that "hardness ever of hardness is mother," and they bring the highest physical vigour to the development of their mental powers. They forge to the front, while the city cigarette boy must be supported by his friends or lag in the rear of the race for a livelihood if dependent upon his own efforts.—Philadelphia Times.

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