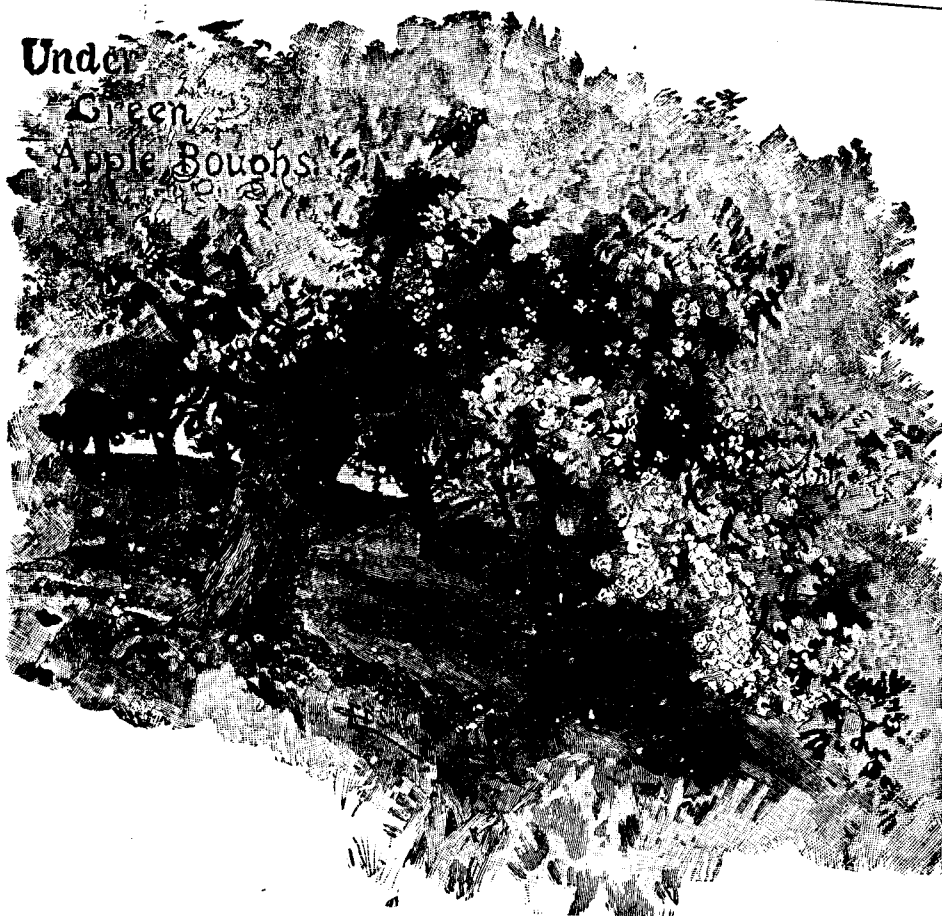


Under Green Apple Boughs



UNDER GREEN APPLE BOUGHS.

THERE is not a more beautiful sight on earth than an apple orchard in full blossom. Who cannot recall such a vision as he looks at our illustration? Why, you can almost smell the fragrance of the sweet pink and white blossoms. Do you not remember how often you used to steal away with your favourite book and curl yourself up in that notch or on that old gnarled, crooked trunk, away from all disturbing influences? I can remember many such delightful hours.

I know an old apple-tree that has lived over half a century. What stories it could tell if it could speak! It once stood in the middle of an orchard; now it stands alone. All its companions have either died or have been cut down to make room for improvements, so-called. The orchard is gone. It was gone before my recollection, but this one old tree still stands and bears fruit, good fruit; not so much as it formerly did, of course, when it was young and vigorous, but every spring it is covered with blossoms.

I remember many, old and young, who oftentimes rested beneath its friendly shade, who have passed away from earth, but whose lives have left a fragrance as sweet as the old tree's blossoms.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

OLD TESTAMENT TEACHINGS.

B.C. 977.] LESSON X. [June 4.

REVERENCE AND FIDELITY.

Eccles. 5. 1-12.] [Memory verses, 1, 2.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.—Rom. 12. 11.

OUTLINE.

1. The Fear of God, v. 1-7.
2. Doing Justice, v. 8-12.

TIME AND PLACE.—Perhaps about B.C. 977, but very doubtful.

EXPLANATIONS.

"Keep thy foot"—In the East, shoes or sandals were taken off when entering the temple. "Be more ready to hear," etc.—An attentive, teachable heart is better than formal worship without sincerity. "Be not rash with thy mouth"—Wise counsel in any case, but it here specially refers to inconsiderate prayers and vows to God. "A dream . . . and a fool's voice"—Dreams mean nothing,

and they come most frequently when the mind is more than full with taxing, ill-arranged business. So a fool's voice means nothing. No one depends upon it for guidance, and its utterances are characterized not by good sense, but by a multitude of ill-arranged words. The Hebrews rightly judged that the men who disregarded God were fools. "Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin"—That is, Don't make rash promises which cannot be kept. "Before the angel"—God's representative. "Matter"—Purpose. "The king himself is served by the field"—Dependent upon its cultivation.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where does this lesson teach that it is foolish and wicked—

1. To be irreverent in worship?
2. To utter prayer or testimony or ritual without sincerity?
3. To make vows of reform without consideration?
4. To become discouraged by the wrong-doings of others?
5. To seek permanent happiness in transient wealth?
6. To expect luxury to minister to health?

Where does this lesson teach that it is wise and right—

1. To reverence God in public and in private?
2. To remember the unsatisfactoriness of earthly treasures?
3. To keep all promises made to God and man?
4. To cherish firm faith in the Judge of all the earth?
5. To take one's religion into daily life?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What is our first duty when approaching God? "Reverence." 2. By what is a fool's voice known? "By multitude of words." 3. What three duties are enjoined upon us by the Golden Text? "Not slothful in business: fervent in spirit; serving the Lord." 4. What is said about wealth? "He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver." 5. What is each of us exhorted to do? "Fear thou God."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The omnipresence of God.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What is an eternal Spirit?
One who is without beginning and without end.

What do you mean by saying that God is infinite?

I mean that his nature and attributes are high above all understanding, and without any limit.

GOOD vinegar always has a "mother" and the better the "mother" the better the vinegar. And it is generally so with a boy,



BEDFORD JAIL.

BEDFORD JAIL.

YEARS and years ago, John Bunyan was sent to prison for preaching the gospel of Christ. He was confined in Bedford jail, a picture of which is here given, for twelve years. It was while he was in this prison that he wrote a great part of that wonderful book, the Pilgrim's Progress.

His jailer proved to be kinder to him than his enemies, and sometimes allowed him to go and see his family. His enemies, suspecting this, sent a messenger overnight to question the jailer. Bunyan had gone home and to bed, but could not rest. So he rose and returned, late as it was, to the prison. The jailer blamed him for coming at so unseasonable an hour; but early in the morning the messenger came and said, "Are all the prisoners safe?" "Yes." "Is John Bunyan safe?" "Yes." "Let me see him." He was called, and appeared, and all was well. After the messenger left, the jailer said to Bunyan, "Well, you may go out again when you think fit, for you know when to return better than I can tell you."

What Will You Do?

WHAT will you do with the new year?
The question is asked to-day
To you who are travelling onward
To the land that is far away.
The old year has gone forever;
It has bid you a last adieu;
Ah, children dear! consider,
What will you do with the new?

Do you wish for a happy new year?
Without one anxious care?
Then turn to the face of Jesus,
Lift up your soul in prayer;
Trust yourself to his keeping,
Follow him as your guide,
Willingly work in his vineyard,
Closer press to his side.

Do you wish for a holy new year?
Then sit at the Master's feet,
And ask for his Holy Spirit
To guide your faltering feet;
Then resting upon his promise,
Without a doubt or fear,
You may step out with gladness
Into the fair new year.

AN EMPTY POCKET.

THE old man who had long swept the crossing at the entrance of one of the city parks, was stricken down by illness early one summer morning, and as he was taken up to be carried away to the hospital, a policeman handed his broom to Tom Jenks, a poor ragged boy who was standing by, saying, "Here is a chance to fill your empty pocket."

Tom took the broom, and leaning upon it, watched the ambulance move down the still, quiet street, with a very sad face. His pocket was empty, and his stomach also; for he had neither home nor friends.

As if reading his thoughts, the policeman said, as he came marching back over his beat, a few moments later, "One never need have an empty heart; that may be filled with love toward God and one's fellow-men."

That thought put new courage into Tom. It made him kind, thoughtful, and obliging to old people, and little children in particular; and it brought him many a dime and nickle, and many a smile and kind word.

It brought him something better even than these; for the superintendent of the park had an eye on him, and when the old sweeper came back to his crossing, Tom was given a place in the park, with good wages and a neat uniform, where his pleasant face and polite manners made him a favourite.

Tom is an earnest Christian, and never loses a chance to tell of God's love to himself, or of passing on the good news to the poor and friendless, and if one has an empty pocket, he may have a life full of kindly deeds done for our Saviour's sake.

A New Pansy Book.

Twenty-Minutes-Late.

By . . .

Mrs. Isabella M. Alden

(PANSY)

Cloth, Illustrated, 70c.

We have just placed upon the market this new story by a writer whose name is known and loved by many thousands in Canada.

The book is uniform with our well-known Canadian Copyright Edition, the previous volumes of which are

1. Eighty-Seven. A Chautauqua Story.
2. Judge Burnham's Daughters.
3. Aunt Hannah, Martha, and John.
4. Miss Dee Dunmore Bryant.
5. A Modern Exodus.
6. Her Associate Members.
7. John Remington, Martyr.

We have a complete list of Pansy's books, with portrait of the author, which we will gladly mail to any address on application.

WILLIAM BRIGGS,

Methodist Book and Publishing House,
Toronto.

C. W. COATES, MONTREAL.

S. F. HUESTIS, HALIFAX.