

## GOD'S LILIES.

God's lilies droop about the world,  
In sweetness everywhere;  
They are the maiden-souls who learn  
To comfort and to bear,  
And to smile upon the heavy cross  
That every one must wear.

O lilies, beautiful and meek!  
They know God's will is right,  
And so they raise their patient heads  
In dark and stormy night,  
And far above the Eastern hills  
They see the dawn of light.

They know that when their day is done,  
And deep the shadow lies,  
The cross will weary them no more;  
So lightly they arise  
To meet the angels when they call  
"Lilies of Paradise!"

## HOW A CRICKET SAVED A SHIP.

In Southey's "History of Brazil" he tells how Cabeza de Vaca was in a great ship going to South America with four hundred men and thirty horses; and after they had crossed the equator, the commander discovered that there were only three casks of water left. He gave orders to make the nearest land, and for three days they sailed for the coast. A poor, sick soldier, who had left Cadiz with them brought a grillo, or ground cricket, with him, thinking its cheerful voice would amuse him on the long, dreary voyage. But, to his great disappointment, the little insect was perfectly silent the whole way.

The fourth morning after the ship had changed her course, the cricket, who knew what she was about, set up her shrillest note. The soldier at once gave warning to the officers in charge of the vessel, and they soon saw high, jagged rocks just ahead of them. The watch had been careless, and the great ship, in a few moments would have been dashed to pieces on the ledges, if this puny creature had not scented the land and told them the danger. Then they cruised along for some days, and the cricket sang for them every night, just as cheerily as if she had been in far-off Spain, till they got to their destined port, the island of Catalina.—*Selected.*

## THE LOST SPECTACLES.

"Where are my spectacles?" said grandmother Hilligrew. She looked for them in the Bible, on the mantel, in all her drawers and boxes, but they were not to be found. Then little Emily came peeping in at the door disguised in her grandpa's hat and coat and boots. Besides, she had a beard on her chin, made out of a piece of an old muff, and a big tow-bag stuffed with newspapers on her back.

"Ole tlo' to sell?" she said in a disguised voice.

"No, no," answered grandmother Hilligrew, mistaking her for a dwarf who lived down in the hollow, and whom she had met on the road with a bag on his back, "No, no; we don't sell our old clother. We give them away."

"Will 'oo dive some to me?" asked Emily, still trying to talk like a man. But this time her grandmother knew her voice. "Why!" she exclaimed. "it is Emily! I couldn't see you without my glasses."

"But they are on 'oo nose!" laughed Emily. Then grandmother Hilligrew put up her hands astonished, and found that all the while she had been looking for her spectacles through her spectacles.

"And I had them without knowing it!" she said, and she added, softly, "and that is often the way in this world with happiness; we keep searching for it all the while it is ours! How happy I was when I was

a little girl like Emily, but I didn't know it then."

"And ain't 'oo happy now?" asked Emily, who was listening.

"Yes, yes," said grandmother Hilligrew, "as happy as an old woman can be."

"Oh! I'd be happy, if I were an old woman," said Emily. "I tood wear taps, and make take. I wis I was an old woman!" Then she made a courtesy, saying, "No old tlo'? Yen dood day."

And her grandmother, looking after her, said:—"Ah! little Emily, you are right; the old woman is happy, or happiness is near to her hand, like the lost spectacles."—*Hearth and Home.*

## PREPARATION FOR TEACHING.

The secret of good teaching is found in a right preparation. A few practical suggestions drawn from the experience of those who have been eminently successful in the great work of teaching the Bible in the Sunday School, may be of help to those who are seeking to make the best use of the limited time and opportunities they have for the study from week to week of the International lessons. Begin your preparation early. It is a good plan to lock over the lesson for the coming week during the leisure hours of Sunday. In this way you will have the subject in your mind so that you can think upon it at odd moments through the entire week. The first reading of the lesson may not open the subject very clearly; but if the mind returns again and again to it, new light and thought will be suggested until it becomes necessary to sift out and choose that which it is best to bring before the class. Teachers who carry the lesson with them from the beginning to the end of the week, are not troubled about having something to say; but rather with the difficulty of compressing into the hour all that they wish to say.

Every teacher needs a good reference Bible, concordance and topical text book, and in connection with these, at a trifling expense, the benefit may be secured of some of the various comments and notes which are now published in nearly all the religious papers. These are all good in their place; but let your chief attention be given to the careful study of the text of the lesson. Think for yourselves until the subject before you becomes luminous with light, and the truth opens upon the heart as well as the intellect. This will follow when the truth of the Divine words is clearly apprehended. After the subject has taken possession of mind and heart, then the time has come to seek out illustrations and analogies, which will be helpful in clinching it; and the greatest good will be derived at this stage of preparation in reading the comments and suggestions of others. We believe most heartily in Conventions and appliances of all sorts, because they kindle enthusiasm, and suggest methods of work; but all of these will avail nothing if they do not lead to the systematic and every day preparation of thoughtful study.

If it is said, we cannot find time for such a preparation, we can only answer by saying, that men and women who are exceptionally crowded with business cares do find the time. A few moments each day will add into hours by the close of the week, and the result of this every day bringing of the lesson to mind, is far better than taking several hours at any single time. The mind becomes saturated with the truth; and instead of dreading the work of teaching, the hour spent with the class is anticipated with joy. It is the possession of the mind with the theme of the lesson, that makes Bible teaching interesting and effective.

But we would not forget that which above all else gives the best preparation. In all your thinking and study let the prayer go up from the soul. "Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of Thy law."

A CLERGYMAN, talking with some children, asked why, in the Lord's Prayer, we say, "Which sitteth in heaven," since God is everywhere. "Because," said a little drummer-boy, "that's headquarters."

The number of emigrants—natives of Ireland—who left that country during the first three months of the present year was 6,762, of whom 4,067 were males and 2,695 females. The total for the corresponding period of last year was 8,540. The total number of emigrants from Ireland from May 1st, 1851, to the 31st March, 1876, was 2,384,153.

No little stir has been caused in Ultramontane circles because the Pope has granted a dispensation for the marriage of a daughter of the sculptor Story, a Protestant, with Commendator Penuzzi, a Catholic, and brother of the Syndic of Florence. The grant is mentioned as a remarkable exemption to a rule never before broken during the pontificate of Pius the Ninth.

M. RENAN has in preparation a series of "Philosophical Dialogues," in which he will present (1) the certain in philosophy, the logic, methods and results of science; (2) the probable, induction, analogies, hypotheses, etc.; (3) the uncertainties of speculation, the dreams rather than the demonstrations of intellect, man's aims, aspirations, hopes, and faiths.

It is computed that there are nearly eight millions of Jews in the world. During the reign of King David they numbered about six and a quarter millions. They are to this day a peculiar people; they are in every land, and yet they preserve their national characteristics. They represent immense wealth, and control to a large extent the money markets of the world. When they are converted and restored to their own land, what a great influence they would have on the future triumphs of Christianity.

A SPECIMEN of the casuistry by which lying is justified and even inculcated by some Romish priests has recently been exposed by a "Distressed Father," in a communication to an English newspaper, the *Islington Gazette*. This gentleman states that his daughter, who is now 16 years of age, visited at a house in which two Romanists were lodging. One of these introduced her to a Romish priest, who passed her on to some nuns for instruction. The visits were continued without the knowledge of the parents until one day the young lady left her home, with the pretext, "I am going to meet brother who is coming home from business." Instead of doing so, however, she went straightway to the Romish priest, who was waiting to baptize her. The father says: "When I mentioned this lying to Father Smith, and also to the young man who has been seeking to lead my child to Rome, they both justified it." "Father Smith said that there were limits to truth, and that if he had told the truth, *she might have been prevented from coming to be baptised.*" One of our English contemporaries, in commenting on this disgraceful admission of the Romish priest, truly says: "It is the old casuistry that the 'end justifies the means,' but those who have heard the vehement denunciation with which Romanists have sometimes repudiated this as a slander, will now be able rightly to estimate the value which is to be attached to such utterances."