

"The Bravest Are the Tenderest."

BY MINNIE L. UPTON.

Fiercely the battle was raging,
Thick flew the shot and shell
Where the "Johnnies" hasty earthworks
The "Yanks" were storming well.

But in the midst of the tumult—
The fearful, leaden hail—
A bronzed and war-scarred Johnnie
Heard a frightened little wail.

"Meow!" He peered for a moment
Over the breastworks low;
'Twas a little, wild-eyed kitten
Wandering to and fro.

The folk from a neighbouring farmhouse
Had fled in wild affright,
Forgetting the helpless kitten
In their bewildered flight.

Then, scorning the awful peril,
Out from the breastworks safe
Swift leaped the gallant soldier
To rescue the little wail.

Back 'mid the whistling of bullets—
Ah, what a rousing cheer
Rose from the husky, dust-parched
throats,
Of his weary comrades near!

He won no ribbon nor medal,
Yet 'twas as brave a thing
As many that win the guerdon
Of emperor or king.

So ever the best and bravest
For the helpless ones will care;
And ever the heart that is tender
Is the heart that will do and dare.

LESSON NOTES.

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE.

LESSON VI.—MAY 10.

LESSONS ON PRAYER.

Luke 18, 9-17. Memory verses, 15-17

GOLDEN TEXT.

The publican, standing afar off, would
not lift up so much as his eyes unto
heaven, but smote upon his breast, say-
ing, God be merciful to me a sinner.—
Luke 18, 13.

Time.—A.D. 30.

Place.—Valley of the Jordan.

CONNECTING LINKS.

Having healed the lepers, Jesus in re-
ply to a question told of the signs which
would precede the coming of the Son of
man. That they might be prepared for
coming trials he went on to impress on
them the importance of true prayer. For
this purpose he used two parables—the
unjust judge and that in to-day's lesson.

DAY BY DAY WORK.

Monday.—Read a lesson on prayer
(Luke 18 1-8). Prepare to tell in your
own words the last lesson and this.

Tuesday.—Read how to come to God
(Luke 18, 9-17). Fix in your mind Time,
Place, and Connecting Links.

Wednesday.—Read of the prayer God
will not hear (Isa. 1, 10-20). Learn the
Golden Text.

Thursday.—Read how a penitent man
pleaded (Neh. 1). Learn the Memory
Verses.

Friday.—Read concerning humility in
prayer (Psalm 25, 1-14). Answer the
Questions.

Saturday.—Read a beautiful prayer for
pardon (Psalm 51). Study Teachings of
the Lesson.

Sunday.—Read about coming as little
children (Matt. 18, 1-6).

QUESTIONS.

1. The Self-Righteous Spirit, verses 9-12.
9. To what class was the parable spoken?
10. What attends pride? Where did the two men pray? Why is it said they "went up"?
11. What was a Jewish posture in prayer? Why was the Pharisee's not a true prayer? How did he show his pride and contempt?
12. What was the Jewish law about fasting? What about tithes?

2. The Penitent Spirit, verses 13, 14.

13. How did the publican show his humility? Why would he not look up? What was smiting the breast a sign of?

14. In what state of mind did he go home?

3. The Childlike Spirit, verses 15-17.

15. Why were babes brought to Jesus? What made the disciples rebuke those who brought them? 16. How did Jesus show his love for children? Are children members of God's kingdom? 17. What qualities usually belong to children? How did Christ's thoughts about children differ from the disciples'?

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

To brag of our good works is not to pray. To boast how much better we are than others is no part of prayer. We should be so busy mending our own faults that we would have no time to find fault with others. All must take the

less under the ties and influences that bind them to the home and to the Sunday-school. They want to be free, failing to realize that what they call freedom is the way to destruction. They are ever shirking their obligations, or evading them or breaking them; and in the end they fall to the earth with characters torn and bleeding and blackened and broken. Then there are some who see how these cords of precious influences are real blessings, and they take them and tie them to their heartstrings, and rejoice to be led by them in the pathway of noble rectitude and integrity, of kindly helpfulness and sweet gentleness; and in the end they develop characters strong and beautiful that grow like unto that of Christ himself.

Boys and girls, young men and young women, honour the Sunday-school kite strings. They mean priceless blessings to your souls.—Herald and Presbyterian.

finite plan. We have found it well to indulge some special appetites and sudden interests occasioned by some public event or individual private happening. If it chances that our current news reminds us that there is talk about a war over the Venezuelan boundary question, we are piqued to learn more of the latter country. The quest involves the history of Spanish attempts to colonize in Central America and northern South America. It is easy to see that a reader who follows his immediate mental interest is sure to grow with quickened attention and that his memory is as sure to record the interest.

If the news from Constantinople shows that the Sultan of Turkey hesitates to allow the six powers to send a warship each to that city, we are inclined to ascertain why he hesitates, and why Russia shows signs of supporting the Sultan. That reading involves the whole question concerning the neutralization of the Bosphorus and the Black Sea, the claims of Russia arising out of the Crimean War, and the issues that may presently come through the attempt to drive the Turk out of Europe. The same search will give hints respecting the rise of Mohammedanism, and we must not be surprised if the Eastern struggle is precipitated long before our bit of side-reading is completed.

It is decidedly better to follow up our individual interest in current matters than to squander time over the sorrows or loves of some princess in fiction, whose imaginary story is trifling or contemptible when placed in the scales with that of some of the noblest men and angelic women who adorn the pages of actual human history.—Northwestern Christian Advocate.

"No, Willie dear," said mamma, "no more cakes to-night. Don't you know you cannot sleep on a full stomach?"
"Well," replied Willie, "I can sleep on my back."

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REMEMBERING WHAT ONE READS.

He who reads quite moderately presently finds that he has pored over a vast number of pages. One falls to wondering how a tithe of his reading can be remembered and made permanently profitable. How shall one escape the human habit of forgetting? The real secret of memory is attention, and the secret of attention is interest. While some general plan for reading is altogether best, there is abundant room for special reading which may not be according to any de-

sinner's place and ask for mercy. Parents when blessed by Christ wish his blessing for their children. Those who ought to help sometimes hinder.

KITE STRINGS.

I was once going down one of the inclined planes that reach from the hills of Cincinnati to the lower city, and on looking from the car-window, I saw a kite pitching and darting in the most obstreperous fashion, tugging at the string that held it as if desiring to be free. At last the string broke, and the kite fell to the ground, a jumble of broken sticks. On that same day I was crossing the canal on the bridge by the city hospital, where I noticed a boy standing with a kite string in his hand, and triumphantly gazing off into the sky. I followed that string up toward the clouds, where a magnificent kite was splendidly sailing in the heavens. Then I thought to myself that boys and girls are like those two kites. There are some who are rest-