



"HEAVING OVER THE DECK LOAD"

### HEAVING OVER THE DECK LOAD.

In the picture here you have a vessel being pitched about in a storm at sea. So great has the danger become that the crew—to save their own lives and bring the vessel to the harbour—are compelled to lighten the ship's load, and are throwing overboard that part of the cargo which is on deck. It may be precious, and worth much to the owners, but it is not worth so much as the lives of the brave men who are in such danger.

There is a striking lesson here: the whole thing—the sea, the storm, the danger, and the deck-load, are so much like the Christian life. There are many, many things which we must throw overboard and lose altogether if we would save ourselves. To cling to the cargo often means the loss of all.

### LESSON NOTES.

#### SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE PSALMS AND DAVID.

B.C. 1055.] LESSON IV. [April 24.]

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.

Psalms 23. 1-6. Memory verses, 1-6.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Lord is my shepherd: I shall not want.—Psalms 23. 1.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd, restoring, feeding, guiding, protecting, and blessing all who trust in him.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

*The Lord*—Jehovah, especially revealed in Jesus Christ. *My Shepherd*—The Eastern shepherds were far more friendly with their sheep than shepherds are in this country. They knew each sheep by name. They protected them from robbers and from wild animals. They led them to the best pastures, which in the dry season were often scarce and not easily found. *Lie down*—Amid abundance, secure from want or danger. In perfect rest and peace. *Still waters*—Waters of rest, refreshing, softly flowing, not like a dangerous mountain torrent. *Restoreth*—Brings back to its home when wandering into sin and danger. Brings back to fresh life. *For his name's sake*—because he loves to, because it is his nature

to, because it shows his loving nature to the world. We are conscious of unworthiness, and dare not claim his care for our own sakes. *Valley of the shadow of death*—Any dark place in life, especially the hour of death. *Red*—Shepherd's crook, for guidance. *Staff*—Club for defence. *Prepared a table*—He is so safe in the midst of enemies that he can eat his food securely. *Anointest my head with oil*—A mark of favour and of joy. *My cup*—That holds thy favours, the good things thou givest me. *House of the Lord*—His home on earth; the place whence Divine blessings come to the soul. Also the heavenly home, where is the fulness and completion of what is foreshadowed here.

Find in this lesson—

1. Several good things God does for us.
2. Our defence in time of trouble and danger.

#### REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. Who is the Good Shepherd? "The Lord Jesus Christ." 2. Who are the sheep of his pasture? "Those who obey his voice and follow in his footsteps." 3. What does he do for them? (Repeat vers. 2, 3.) 4. From what does he defend? "From all enemies, dangers, and sins." 5. What does he promise us? (Repeat ver. 6.)

#### CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

17. But is not he who is treated as righteous made righteous also?

He is made inwardly righteous by the renewing of the Holy Spirit, who enables him to do righteousness.

Romans 8. 4; Titus 3. 5; 1 John 3. 7.

18. How are the children of God described?

As being adopted into God's family, or called children, and as being regenerated and made children.

#### SOMETHING FOR BOYS.

MANY people seem to forget that character grows; that it is not something to put on, ready made, with womanhood or manhood; but day by day, here a little and there a little, grows with the growth and strengthens with the strength, until, good or bad, it becomes almost a coat of mail. Look at a man of business—prompt, reliable, conscientious, yet clear-headed and energetic. When do you suppose he developed all these admirable qualities! When he was a boy. Let us see the way in which a boy of ten years gets up in the morning, works, plays, studies, and we will tell you just what kind of a man he will make. The boy who is late at school stands a

poor chance to be a prompt man. The boy who neglects his duties, be they ever so small, and then excuses himself by saying: "I forgot, I didn't think," will never be a reliable man. And the boy who finds pleasure in the sufferings of weaker things will never be a noble, generous, kindly man—a gentleman.

### A Pipe and a Dictionary.

BY JAMES F. BARCOCK.

This is the weed nicotine.

This is the pipe with stem of reed  
Which held the stuff that's called "the weed."

This is the match with phosphor end  
Which lighted the tube with graceful bend,  
Packed with the shrub Virginian.

This is the man bereft of hair,  
Whose sulphurous fumes defiled the air,  
As he started his meerschaum brown, flavescent,  
Filled with Raleigh's gift herbescent.

This is the smoke that rose from the clay  
In the lips of the fiend who puffed away,  
While the flame on the end of the wooden splint  
Ignited the powder which gave the tint  
To the bowl of the instrument fuliginous,  
Stuffed with America's plant indigenous.

This is the salivary stain,  
Produced by the glands of the beast inane,  
Whose work pulmonic made fumes carbonic  
Which rose with those of the fusee bright,  
Whose fiery tip had served to light  
The capsule charge with poisonous drug,  
Known by the name of "navy plug."

This is the stone which tells the fate  
Of him whose death expectorate  
Was caused by the herb of powers asthenic,  
Consumed in a process oxygenic,  
Began by the spark of stick pyrogenous,  
Applied to a briar-wood pipe exogenous,  
Of which the smoke is poison slow,  
Whose name it takes from Jean Nicot.  
—Boston Transcript.

### TRYING A WITCH.

THE time has long gone by, with its story of cruel persecution; and only that the record has passed into history we might forget that the blood of the innocent had ever been spilled. For centuries the witch-craft mania raged in different parts of Europe, being first instigated by Catholic priests, and afterward followed up by Protestant ministers. Especially in Scotland, the belief and persecution raged to excess. Finally, the British colonies became imbued with this fearful spirit, and in 1692 the awful tragedies of Salem, Massachusetts, were enacted.

As a general thing the suspected person was poor, old, and retiring, living in some remote spot, and generally living alone. If the person had some peculiarity of feature, face or form, she was sure to be thought possessed of an evil spirit. If a cow refused to give milk, or a horse became lame, or a child was taken sick, or a hay-rick burned, suspicion fell upon one of these innocent ones, who was suspected of having the "evil eye," and who, after long persecution, was brought to a so-called trial.

Such a trial was simply a farce, as the accused knew that she had been pre-doomed, and that the charges brought against her were utterly false. When a witch was about to be tried, the crowd surrounded her humble abode, dragged her forth, and with curses and abuses led her to trial.

The suspected one was generally a frail, old woman, who, if she had any

friends among the rabble, knew that they dare not attempt to defend or succour her. In the anguish of her soul she could only strive to fix her thoughts upon her Master, who was once also led out by the mob, stoned, hooted at, falsely tried, and cruelly put to death.

The death of a witch was often terrible to think of. Some were tied to a tail of a cart, and dragged about the town until life was extinct, and the form unrecognizable. Some were thrown into the river and stoned by the blood-thirsty mob, until the gray heads sank to rise no more. Some were tied to a stake and burned.

Occasionally, the victim, by some rare good chance, was allowed to escape death, but only to live a life of persecution. Is it not occasion for gratitude to God, that in this, our day, the old, the friendless, the poor, and peculiar, are objects of love and care?

### A YOUTHFUL CONNOISSEUR.

BESSIE is an original little thing, and her comments are often very amusing. Having been brought up in a family of bric-a-brac hunters, her knowledge of ceramics is quite remarkable for a child. One day her mother noticed her gazing fixedly at her great grandmother, a very old woman, whose kind old face was literally a network of fine wrinkles. "What are you looking at, Bessie?" she asked the child. "I was only thinking," she answered promptly, "What a remarkably fine specimen of old 'crackle' granny was." This was much to the old lady's delight, she being a bit of a collector herself.

### POPULAR BOOKS BY LADY WRITERS.

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