



WOMEN AT THE WELL.

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This picture represents a scene which we have often witnessed in Palestine. I remember one fountain especially, the fountain of the Virgin at Nazareth, which is very much like this. We were there on Easter Sunday and the Syrian women in their bright Easter dresses came to the fountain carrying great jars on their heads just as shown in the picture. This is undoubtedly the very fountain to which the Virgin Mary must have come with the child Jesus for water. It is the only one for a great distance. Fountains and wells in the East are a very precious possession and often the possession of a good fountain causes a town to spring up near it, as has doubtless been this case with the ancient fountain of Nazareth.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF PAUL.

A.D. 58.] LESSON VI. [Aug. 6.

PAUL AT MILETUS.

Acts 20. 22-35.] [Memory verses, 31, 32.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God.—Heb. 13. 7.

OUTLINE.

1. A look Forward, v. 22-30.
2. A look Backward, v. 31-35.

PLACE.—Miletus.

CONNECTING LINKS.

The Gospel was asserted in Ephesus with unparalleled power. Public opinion seemed for a while to be radically changed. The sorcerers deserted their wicked studies and burned their books. But as one of the results, the sale of silver shrines of Diana was lessened, and the mechanics who made them stirred up a riot. With difficulty this riot was quieted by the tact of the town-clerk; and Paul, for peace's sake, left at once for Macedonia and Greece; thence starting back to Asia. The details of his journey are given in the first part of Acts 20. From Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and "called the elders of the church." To them he made the address which is our present lesson.

EXPLANATIONS.

"Bound in the spirit"—That is, "compelled and urged in my spirit." "The Holy Ghost witnesseth"—By the messages of prophets. "My life dear unto myself"—I have no personal interest, but live for the Gospel. "Pure from the blood"—Paul declares him-

self guiltless if any, through unbelief, suffer the second death. "Take heed, therefore"—Since I am innocent, let not the blame be chargeable to you. "Overseers"—Superintendents. "Wolves"—False teachers. "Word of his grace"—The promise of the Gospel. "These hands"—Doubtless presenting his hands, hardened by toil. "So labouring"—As I have done. "More blessed"—Bliss-giving. This saying is not preserved in the gospels.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where does this lesson show—

1. That God's service requires humility?
2. That God's service demands faithfulness?
3. That God's service necessitates watchfulness?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What awaited Paul in every city? "Bonds and afflictions." 2. What did Paul say concerning this fact? "None of these things move me." 3. What had not Paul shunned to declare? "The counsel of God." 4. What did Paul charge the elders and their flock to do? "To feed the Church of God." 5. What saying of Christ's did Paul press upon the elders? "It is more blessed to give than to receive." 6. What does the Golden Text teach us to do? "Remember them which have," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The personality of the Holy Ghost. Verse 23.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What is meant by saying that God is gracious and merciful?

That he is full of compassion, slow to punish sin, and ready to forgive.

In what manner, then, ought you to think and speak of God?

I ought to think of God with fear and love, and speak of him with reverence and praise.

THE FROGS IN WANT OF A KING.

The frogs were free in each lake, pond, ditch and stream. They had a right to all the bogs and fens in the land. They had no chief. Each frog did what he or she thought fit to do.

"How dull it is," said one of the frogs, "to have no king! How grand we should be if we had a king to rule us. He could have a fine court, and some of us could be great lords in it. Let us ask the chief of the gods to give us a king."

They did ask for a king, and the god threw down a big log to them, and said:

"There is a king for you."
The log made such a splash as it fell into the pool, that the frogs were in great danger and fear, and for a long time they would not go near it. But by-and-bye, when they found that the log did not move or

make any noise, they came close to it, some were so bold as to get on it, and some so rude as to croak at it and to laugh at it.

The chief frogs said: "That will not do. A king like that is of no use to us; we must have a good, sharp one, who will not let a lot of low frogs make so free with him."

They went to the god and said:

"We do not like King Log; send us a king that can rule and make frogs fear him."

The god heard all the frogs had to say, and then sent them a stork for their king. The new king was fond of frogs—that is, he thought them good to eat, and he ate them as fast as he could.

The chief frogs were in a great fright when they saw how King Stork meant to rule them; so once more they set to work to get a new king, or to be left free as they were at first.

"Oh, no," said the god. "Since it was your own choice to have a king, you must put up with the one I sent you. You should have known when you were well off. In the first place you did not need a king at all, but you thought you did; in the next, I gave you a king that did you no harm; he did not please you; now you want a third king,—which you shall not have from me."
It is well to be contented with such things as we have. We may find change no improvement.

STINGY DAVY.

DAVY was a very pretty little boy. He had light, curly hair, dark blue eyes, and rosy cheeks. But he was very stingy. He did not like to share anything with his little brothers and sisters. One day he went into the kitchen where his mother was at work, and saw on the table a saucer of jelly.

"Can I have that saucer of jelly?" asked Davy.

"Mrs. White sent it to me," said Davy's mother. "She has company for dinner and made this jelly very nice. But I don't care for it; so you may have it if you won't be stingy with it."

Davy took the saucer of jelly and went out into the yard, but he did not call his little brothers and sisters to help him to eat it.

"If I divide with them, there won't be a spoonful apiece," he thought. "It is better for one to have enough than for each to have just the least bit."

So he ran to the barn and climbed up to the loft, where he was sure no one would ever think of looking for him.

Just as he began to eat the jelly, he heard his sister Fanny calling him. But he did not answer her. He kept very still.

"They always want some of everything I have. If I have just a ginger-snap they think I ought to give them each a piece."

When the jelly was all eaten, and he had scraped the saucer clean, Davy went down into the barn-yard and played with the little white calf, and hunted for eggs in the shed where the cows were. He was ashamed to go into the house, for he knew he had been very stingy about the jelly.

"O, Davy!" said Fanny, running into the barn-yard, "where have you been this long time? We looked everywhere for you."

"What did you want?" asked Davy, thinking that of course his sister would say that she wanted him to share the jelly with her.

"Mother gave us a party," said Fanny. "We had all the doll's dishes set out on a little table under the big tree by the porch; and we had strawberries, cake and raisins.

Just as we sat down to it Mrs. White saw us from the window; and she sent a big bowl of ice-cream and some jelly left from her dinner. We had a splendid time. You ought to have been with us."
Poor Davy! how mean he felt! And he was well punished for eating the jelly alone.

The Forest Bell.

In Guiana, far away,
In the silent heat of day,
When the beasts are all asleep
Far into the forest deep,
And the birds have ceased to sing—

Then a tolling, bell-like sound;
Echoes far the lones resound,
Then is seen a large, white bird;
'Tis his bell-voice that was heard,
Slowly tolling loud and long.

Bell-bird tolls the passing hour
In this forest temple bower,
Then, his pealing voice is stilled,
And the shimmering air is filled
With the hum of insect wings.

From his palm-tree belfry tall,
Longer sees its shadow fall,
Countless birds in happy throngs,
Shower the air with vesper songs,
As the cool breeze bears them on.

Blooming vines your incense raise,
All his works the Lord now praise,
Fireflies bless by giving light
In these templed woods at night,
Wake, ye beasts, and bless the Lord!

CHILD LIFE IN BRAZIL.

MR. H. H. SMITH gives the following account of child life in the villages of Brazil:

"The children get few caresses, and give none. There is nothing of that overflow of tenderness, that constant watchful care, that sheds such a halo around our homes. The babes vegetate in their steady, brown fashion, seldom crying or laughing, but lying all day in their hammock cradles, and with keen eyes watching everything around them. As soon as the little boys and girls can toddle about they are left pretty much to themselves, tumbling up the back-stairs of life on a diet of mandioca meal and fish. The parents seldom punish the children; for they are very docile. When they do, the little ones pucker up their mouths and look sullen. Pleasure is expressed by a smile, among the girls often by a broad grin, with an abundant show of teeth; but a hearty laugh is a rarity."

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