

**What a Jug Did.**

"Why is my house so shabby and old,  
At every cravice letting in cold,  
And the kitchen walls all covered with  
mould?"  
If you'll allow me to be so bold—  
Go ask your jug!

"Why are my eyes so swollen and red?  
Whence this dreadful pain in my head?  
Where in the world is our nice feather-  
bed,  
And the wood that was piled in the  
shed?"  
Go ask your jug!

"Where is my wife broken-hearted and  
sad?  
Why are my children never now glad?  
Why did my business run down so bad?  
Why at my thoughts am I well-nigh  
mad?"  
Go ask your jug!

"Oh! why do I pass the old church-door,  
Weary of heart and sadly foot-sore,  
Every moment sinking down lower,  
A pitiable outcast evermore?"  
Go ask your jug!

**With the Whale Fishers.**

BY M. R. WARD

CHAPTER II.

LAST LEAVE-TAKINGS.

If we had been among the group of ages, and thus bridge over a difficulty, we should doubtless have noticed the deep lines of sorrow on the face of the widow lady, the young surgeon's mother; but they were not hard or bitter lines, such as unsanctified sorrow often imprints. A look of touching patience dwelt on the pale countenance as she struggled to repress all signs of grief; and among the wives of the rough sailors who watched the vessel depart, we might have heard such remarks as these: "Ay, it's hard for her, poor lady, an' a widdler, too. Likely enough he's her only 'un, except the daughter."

It was quite true. Arthur Pennant was the one son of his widowed mother, and the light and joy of the home, upon which reverses had lately fallen. It was to meet these that he had courageously resolved to brave one or two Arctic voyages, and thus bridge over a difficulty, until his medical course could be completed. That Christian mother was reaping the reward of early training in his exemplary life; and all three, mother, son and daughter, were bound together in the bonds of Christian hope as well as family love. Nevertheless, this separation, with its inevitable peril, was an intensely bitter trial to the mother's heart—almost a second bereavement. Nor was it without pain that the young man decided to take a step involving so much anxiety, although to his mother and sister he would only allow himself to dwell on its hopeful aspect.

"Oh! if only these losses had not come before you were through your course, Arthur, then you need not have risked this voyage," had been his sister's regretful exclamation on first hearing of the plan.

"And if they had not, Lella, do you think they would have been less unwelcome if they had come later? Just as I was ready for action and beginning life, to have an arrest put upon all my plans—would not that have been worse? Depend upon it, that would probably have been far more grievous. No, no; let us believe that all is for the best. We trust in something better than chance, and here let us hold fast."

"Besides this, Lella," he continued, "I want you to look hopefully at the matter for our mother's sake. Don't you see that I shall get into an independent practice at once, with scope for energy, and be fighting my way uphill while gaining medical experience? and as for the hardships of the undertaking, never fear, Lella! The cold will consolidate and invigorate me, so that you will hardly know your slim brother when he returns!"

Thus hopefully did Arthur dispose of all objections; and when he returned from his first interview with the owners, it was to say—

"Well, I have seen my captain, and a fine old 'tar' he is, as one could wish to see. A Christian too, as I find, and anxious for a fellow-traveller on the same road; so now the last objection is removed, and, Lella, we must have no more grieving."

The last evening worship in the family circle before they parted was a time

to be remembered. The words of that grand old 121st Psalm were read:—

"He will not suffer thy foot to be moved. He that keepeth thee will not slumber."

"Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep."

"The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand."

"The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night."

"The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: He shall preserve thy soul."

"The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in, from this time forth, and even for evermore."

What more could be wanted than such all-inclusive promises supplied? Truly every spirit then present drew fresh strength from these gracious words. It was hopeful going forth, even to danger and difficulty, with such a stronghold to fall back upon.

The light slumbers of Arthur Pennant, that first night on board the Walrus, were early disturbed by the noise of the sailors weighing anchor, and the captain's cheery voice was soon heard at his cabin door.—

"Now then, doctor! heave up pretty quick, if you want another peep at them on shore; for the wind blows fair, and we're soon off."

Arthur was quickly on deck and, handing him a telescope, the captain said:—"I believe you'll find some one there looking for you."

In a moment he descried the flutter of Lella's blue dress, and was quickly exchanging signals with her.

"What is there like a woman's heart, eh, doctor?" said the old sailor, as he brushed away something like a tear, and then directed Arthur's attention to his own wife, one of the little group thus early risen to send their last greetings after the voyagers.

"She with the red float, doctor. This many a year it has been my last signal from shore. Bless her dear old heart!"

"Now then, mate, pipe all hands up," said the captain, as the anchor reached the bows.

In another moment all hands were assembled on deck, and every head uncovered, as the captain in a few reverent words asked the blessing of the Almighty God upon the voyage. A moment's silent pause was given.

"Now then, my hearties! three cheers for old England, and God for us all!" and a cheer went up that faintly reached those on the shore, and was answered back by fresh waving of signals.

"We should not think we had begun straight, without our 'christening,' as we call it," said the captain in explanation.

"Would that every ship's company thought the same," was the young doctor's hearty response, as much surprised as he was delighted with this public recognition of the God of Providence.

"Yes; some of my old hands can go deeper than the surface, and have some heart in what we try to do, while as for the others, I hope they'll soon learn the same."

"Now then, men, wear her round, and make head for our port," shouted the captain, as the sails began to fill.

"Show your last signal, doctor, for we're away to sea, and the sooner the better."

The white pennant fluttered once more, and the vessel was steadily on her course.

By aid of the glass Arthur watched until dim distance hid every object on shore, and when the last faint outline had vanished, thoughts of the widowed mother and the fair young sister, with a glimpse of perils in the distance, all crowded into view.

He had bravely faced the carrying out of his plan, though with many a secret heartache even while bracing up his young sister to courage and resolution; but now it made itself felt in good earnest, and he could only fall back upon those promises of old, upon which he had learned to stay himself. "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms" now came gloriously to mind, as he laid down the glass.

"This your first taste of salt water, doctor?" asked the captain, as he paused in his orders, now that the ship was fair under weigh. "Smooth sailing now; but we shall have livelier times by and by," he added with a mischievous twinkle in his eye.

Full well his fatherly old heart knew what was passing in the young man's mind, and he sought to create a diversion accordingly.

"Plenty of work presently, doctor, in your line; never fear, though, I'm no ill prophet in saying so; for whale fishing brings many a slip and mishap that needs a practised hand to make all go well. But until this comes, I believe you need not be short of work in another line, if you're so inclined, for

we've rough folks 'forward,' doctor, in plenty. Men that scarce think of God or their souls, though they're stout fellows for our work."

Arthur signified his willingness to try to do something among them, and the old captain responded heartily.—

"Why, you see, I reckon that I've got you as a gift from the Lord, for asking for, so I felt pretty certain we should chime together in trying to do something for our crew, and you will be able to chaplain it a bit among them many a time when I'm fast on deck."

So it was forthwith arranged that Arthur should seek his opportunities for visiting the men in their quarters, and this was the beginning of many a ministration that brought seasons of light and gladness into the dark cabins "forward."

(To be continued.)



**LESSON NOTES.**

SECOND QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL BY MATTHEW.

LESSON VIII.—MAY 22.

Matt. 25. 31-46. Memory verses 34-46.  
Read Matt. 25, and Rev. 20. 11-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

He shall reward every man according to his works. Matt. 16. 27.

OUTLINE.

1. The Judge, v. 31-33.
  2. Reward, v. 34-40.
  3. Punishment, v. 41-46.
- Time—Tuesday, April 4, A.D. 30, probably in the afternoon.  
Place—On the Mount of Olives, overlooking the splendid courts of the temple.

HOME READINGS.

- M. The reward for punishment. Matt. 25. 14-30.  
Th. The Day of Judgment. Matt. 25. 31-46.  
W. Equal judgment. Ezek. 18. 25-32.  
Th. Righteous judgment. 2 Thess. 1. 1-10.  
F. Known by fruit. Matt. 7. 13-23.  
S. Responsibility of knowledge. Heb. 10. 23-31.  
S. True judgment. Rom. 2. 1-11.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. The Judge, v. 31-33.  
Of whose glorious coming does this lesson tell?  
Who will be his attendants?  
What will be the number of these?  
Jude 14.  
How will the Son of man be enthroned?  
What will appear before him?  
What division will then occur?  
For what purpose will this division occur? Golden Text.  
Who is the "Shepherd of the sheep"? John 10. 11.
2. Reward, v. 34-40.  
What will the king say to those on his right hand?  
What six offices of mercy had they performed?  
What questions will they ask?  
What do these questions show?  
What will the king reply?  
What good works does God never forget? Heb. 6. 10.
3. Punishment, v. 41-46.  
Who will bidden to depart from the king's presence?  
Into what company will they go?  
What reason will be given for this sentence?  
What question will these ask?  
What will the king answer?  
How long will their punishment endure?  
What is said of the reward of the righteous?

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

- Where in this lesson are we taught—
1. That there is to be a judgment day?
  2. That everyone will be judged according to his deeds?
  3. That non-doing, when we have the opportunity, is wrong-doing?

**The North Pole Land.**

BY ANNIE CAMPBELL HUESTIS.

Oh, the North Pole Land! The North Pole Land!  
With its wondrous, whitened midnight and its glowing, swirling band;  
Where the snow-flake fairies dwell,  
And no human foot e'er fell;  
It is only in our dreaming  
We can see the fitful gleaming  
Of the stately, icy castles in the North Pole Land.  
Oh, the North Pole Land. The North Pole Land!  
Where, by shining stars, in heaven, a silent world is spanned;  
Till, again, the snow-flakes fall,  
Sing and whisper, sigh and call,  
And a sudden, icy laughter  
Follows clinking, tinkling after,  
And there's strange, unearthly music in the North Pole Land.  
Oh, the North Pole Land! The North Pole Land!  
Who can picture all the splendors where the crowding icebergs stand?  
Of its beauty who can tell?  
For, to feel its mighty spell  
You must see it, in the night-time—  
Down the dream-ways of the night-time—  
Oh, the shining, icy castles of the North Pole Land!

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