

Timidity—A Hindoo Fable.

A SILLY mouse, thinking each thing a cat,
Fell into a helpless worriment thereat;

But, noticed by a wizard living near,
Was turned into a cat to end its fear.

No sooner was the transformation done,
Than dreadful terror of a dog begun.

Now, when the wizard saw this latest throe,
"Here, be a dog," said he, "and end your woe."

But, though a dog, its soul had no release,
For fear some tiger might disturb its peace.

Into a tiger next the beast was made,
And still 'twas pitiful and sore afraid.

Because the huntsman might, some ill
starred day,
Happen along and take its life away.

"Then," said the wizard, turning towards
his house,
"You have a mouse's heart—now be a mouse."

'Tis so with men; no earthly help or dower
Can add one atom to their earthly power;

Them from their smallness nothing can
arouse—
No art can make a lion from a mouse.

—New York Mercury.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

B.C. 1921.] **LESSON V.** [Jan. 30.

THE CALL OF ABRAHAM.

Gen. 12. 1-9. Commit to mem. vs. 1-3.

GOLDEN TEXT.

I will bless thee, and make thy name
great; and thou shalt be a blessing.
Gen. 12. 2.

OUTLINE.

1. Abram.
2. The call.

TIME.—1921 B.C. Population widely spread. Chedorlaomer king of Chaldean Empire. No authentic history of European commerce begun by Phoenicians. Greece in shadow. Egypt well advanced in civilization under her Pharaohs.

PLACES.—Haran. Land of Mesopotamia. Sichern. Plain of Moreh. Bethel. Hai.

EXPLANATIONS.—*The Lord had said*—How, we cannot tell, but Abram knew and obeyed. *Thou shalt be a blessing*—That is, a cause of blessing to others besides thyself. *All families of the earth*—We know that this refers to Jesus, the world's greatest blessing, who descended from Abram. *All their substance*—Their property in flocks and herds and camels. *The souls that they had gotten*—Rather, the slaves and dependants who belonged to them. *The Lord appeared*—The first recorded appearance of God to man; doubtless by the angel of his presence, the Eternal Word. *This land—Canaan*. He removed—Literally, he pulled up his tent-pins. That shows the kind of life they were leading.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—

1. That God's calls to duty means blessedness?
2. That God's plan is to bless man by man?
3. That God's promises never fail?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. For what purpose was Abram called? To serve God in a strange land. 2. What was God's promise to Abram in the GOLDEN TEXT? "I will," etc. 3. From what place did God call him? From Ur of the Chaldees. 4. To what place did Abram and his family first journey at God's call? To Haran in Mesopotamia. 5. To what place did he go after his father died? To the land of Canaan. 6. In what should we try to be like Abram? In trusting God's care.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The divine call.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

5. In what part of man is the image of God? In his spirit or soul, which was breathed into him by the Creator.

Genesis ii. 7. And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

B.C. 1918.] **LESSON VI.** [Feb. 6.

LOT'S CHOICE.

Gen. 13. 1-13. Commit to mem. vs. 8-11.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness. Matt. 6. 33.

OUTLINE.

1. Abram's Offer.
2. Lot's Choice.

TIME.—1918 B.C. Doubtless an assumed date to represent the fact that it was long enough after the settlement in Canaan for the increase of possessions to make the difference described in our lesson.

PLACES.—Egypt. Bethel. Hai. Plain of Jordan. Sodom. Gomorrah. Zoar.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Into the south*—The southern extremity of Canaan, called now a-days "The Negeb," is very often mentioned in Scripture narrative. *Went on his journeys*—Went by marches from station to station, perhaps in the places where he had stopped as he went down. *Land was not able to bear*—Their flocks had greatly increased since they were first at Bethel; the land was just recovering from drought; besides, it was already occupied by other peoples; it could not support them. *Lifted up his eyes*—Simply looked from the high

mountain side where they were encamped. *The garden of the Lord*—Figurative language to show how rich and fertile and beautiful it looked as compared with the rough mountain of their habitation. *Pitched his tent toward Sodom*—Day by day drew near as his flocks fed and he followed.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

What teaching do we here find concerning—

1. The duty of devotion?
2. The wise way to settle quarrels?
3. The danger of great riches?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. To what land was Abram driven by a famine? To the land of Egypt. 2. Where did he return from Egypt? To the land of Canaan. 3. What did Abram give to his nephew Lot? The choice of the land. 4. What did this show? A noble, generous nature. 5. What choice are we bidden in the GOLDEN TEXT to make? "Seek ye," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Brotherly love.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

6. Is then the soul of man created to live for ever? It is immortal, and will not die as the body dies.

Ecclesiastes xii. 7. Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

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