

A Swedish Legend.

They tell a lovely story, in lands beyond the sea,
How when the King of Glory lay on his mother's knee,
Before the prophet-princes came, bringing gifts in hand,
The dumb-beasts felt the miracle men could not understand!
The gentle, patient donkey and the ox that trod the corn
Knelt down beside the manger and knew that Christ was born,
And so they say in Sweden, at twelve each Christmas night,
The dumb-beasts kneel to worship and see the Christmas light!

This fancy makes men kinder to creatures needing care,
They give them Christmas greeting, and dainty Christmas fare;
The cat and dog sup gaily, and a sheaf of golden corn
Is raised above the roof-tree for the birds on Christmas morn!

We do not live in Sweden, but we can feed the birds,
And make dumb creatures happy by kindly deeds and words.
No animal so humble, no creeping worm so small,
But that the God who made us has made and loves them all!
If we to them are cruel, like Christ we cannot be!
And this shall be our lesson from our dear Christmas tree!

—Our Dumb Animals.



IN PERU.

What is the dove an emblem of?
What voice was heard at Christ's baptism?
On how many other occasions was this voice heard? Name them.
May we know when we please God?

IN PERU.

VERY luxuriant is the vegetation of Peru. Trees and flowers abound in wonderful variety. The strange caoutchouc, used in cleaning woollens, beautiful fern trees, the vegetable silk tree, the copal—the resin of which is used as a medicine for consumptives—the breadfruit tree, the mulberry, the date and many other useful trees and plants abound. One of the most important of the trees of Peru is the coca. The natives chew its leaves to overcome the sense of hunger, and it was long supposed to contain some nourishing elements. It is now known, however, that these leaves contain what merely deadens the irritability of the nerves that produces the sense of hunger. The juice of these leaves is called cocaine and is a valuable aid to the physician in relieving patients from acute pain. It should never be used except on the prescription of a trustworthy doctor as it is extremely dangerous. The cocaine habit is more readily formed than either the morphine or liquor habit and is even more pernicious. If used improperly it is terribly rapid in its work of destruction.

GETTING ON IN THE WORLD.

THERE are many different ways of getting on in the world; it does not always mean making a great deal of money, or being a great man, whom people look up to with wonder. Leaving off a bad habit for a good one is getting on in the world; to be clean and tidy, instead of dirty and disorderly, is getting on; to be careful and saving, instead of thoughtless and wasteful, is getting on; to be active and industrious, instead of idle and lazy, is getting on; to be kind and forbearing, instead of ill-natured and quarrelsome, is getting on; in short, when we see any one properly attentive to his duties we may be sure that he is getting on in the world.

RACING WITH ANTELOPES.

SOME months ago the passengers on the Santa Fe train from Topeka to Pueblo witnessed a rare sight. At a bend of the road they met a band of eight antelopes, which immediately began to race the train. For twelve miles the railroad and the Arkansas River ran side by side, and along this course the antelopes flew as if running for life. The engineer put on full steam, but could make no headway against the fleet deer. Many of the passengers came out on the platforms, attracted by the novel sight. The race kept up until a bend in the river was reached, when the train continued westward, while the antelopes followed the course of the stream.

COMING FROM THE FOUNTAIN.

THE women of the East are noted the world over for their erect and graceful carriage. They bear the pitcher to and from the fountain or the basket of fruit from the market-place poised on their heads like an elaborate crown. They are so erect and walk with such an easy motion that their burdens never come to grief. Some one, describing the way an



Eastern woman walked, said, "It was a perfect poem." Would not all our Canadian girls like to acquire as beautiful a carriage as their sisters of the Orient? Well, then, a better plan than calling in a dancing master will be to practise walking every day with a basket or a tin pan on your head. When it comes crashing down you will know that there is something wrong in your movements or the position of your head. When you are able to walk easily without ever losing your load you may be sure you are maintaining the proper poise.

MISS DENTON—"Bridget, what is wrong with the sponge cake? It is very tough." Bridget (just over); "Shure, Miss, perhaps the sponge I used was pretty owld."

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE.

A. D. 27-28.] LESSON III. [Jan. 19.

THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST.

Luke 3. 16, 22. Memory verses, 21, 22.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.—John 1. 29.

TIME.—A. D. 27 and 28.

PLACE.—The spot where it is thought Jesus was baptized is known as "the fords of the Jordan," five miles from Jericho.

RELIGION.—Tiberius Caesar, emperor of Rome; Pontius Pilate, governor of Judea; Herod Antipas, tetrarch of Galilee.

HOME READINGS.

M. Luke 3. 1-14.
Tu. Luke 3. 15-22.
W. John 1. 6-18.
Th. John 3. 22-30.
F. Matt. 3. 7-17.
S. Mark 6. 14-20.
Su. Mark 1. 1-11.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

1. *The Baptist*, v. 15-20.
What were the crowds who heard John expecting?
What did John answer them?
Why did he make Christ so great and himself so small?
When people were baptized by John what did they mean by that act?
What were leishets?
Whose work was it to loose them?
How would Jesus baptize people?
When did the Holy Spirit come?
What does he do for us?
What was an Eastern fan?
Tell what John meant by the wheat, the garner, and the chaff?
How are wicked people like chaff?
What Herod did John offend?
Why was John cast into prison?
Where was this prison?
In what ways was this a great sin?
Is it wise to be angry with those who tell us the truth about ourselves?

2. *The Beloved Son*, v. 31, 32.
Name some reasons why Jesus was baptized?
What was Jesus doing before the Spirit descended?
How many times does Luke tell us about Jesus praying?
What testimony was borne to Jesus at his baptism?



FRIEND.—Did you enjoy your sojourn in Europe?
Relic Hunter.—Enjoy it!—I should say so! I cut some gold fringe from the Emperor's throne in Berlin, hooked a door knob from the Vatican, broke an ear off an old statue in Italy, and chipped off a piece of Shakespeare's tomb. I wouldn't take one thousand dollars for 'em!

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