



THE FOUNTAIN AT NAZARETH.

THE BOY JESUS.

BY BISHOP J. W. HOTT.

THE writer shall never forget his sitting beside the Virgin's Fountain, just below Nazareth, the only spring for the town, and looking upon the mothers and their children coming down at eventide for water, which these women and children carried away in large earthen jars upon their shoulders and heads. How the very heart toyed with fancies and images of the child life of Jesus! Did he tread these streets a barefooted boy? Did he come down this street to this same fountain at eventide, barefooted, beside his mother, and with her carry the water from this gurgling fountain to their humble home? What conflicts the mind had, not to believe the story of the youth-life of Christ, but to have a realization, a conviction, that such a life was lived here at Nazareth! Once fully grasped by the heart, the child life of Jesus is a precious truth. This child-life sanctified and hallowed motherhood. It fitted his arms to receive and his hands to bless those who were carried to him. To day, as then, he gathers the children to his bosom; and receiving them he also takes our hearts.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF OUR LORD.

A. D. 8.] LESSON V. [July 29.

THE YOUTH OF JESUS.

Luke 2. 40-52. Memory verses, 46-49.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.—Luke 2. 52.

OUTLINE.

1. To the Temple, v. 40-42.
2. In the Temple, v. 43-50.
3. In the Home, v. 51, 52.

TIME.—A. D. 8, when Jesus was twelve years old.

PLACES.—Nazareth in Galilee, and Jerusalem.

RULERS.—Augustus, Emperor of Rome; Herod Antipas, ruler of Galilee and Perea; Coponias, procurator of Judea.

CONNECTING LINKS.—The infancy of Jesus was spent in Nazareth. As soon as he was old enough he was taken by his parents to participate in the great passover feast at Jerusalem.

EXPLANATIONS.

40. "The child grew"—Like other children. "Strong in Spirit"—His mind grew with his body. "Grace of God"—The favour and blessing of God.

41. "Went to Jerusalem"—The capital of the country. "Feast of the passover"—It lasted a week, during which time the people ate unleavened bread. See Lesson X. Second Quarter.

42. "After the custom"—According to the usual manner of the feast.

43. "Tried behind"—In his interest in the temple, no doubt, forgetting to return home. "Knew not of it"—The children generally travelled together in the caravans of Galilean pilgrims, and it is not strange that Joseph and Mary lost sight of Jesus for three or four hours.

45. "Found him not"—Probably at evening, when the family gathered.

46. "Three days"—One day returning, one day searching the city, and one day coming to the temple. "In the temple"—Probably in that part of the temple called the court of the women. "Doctors"—Teachers of the laws of God. "Asking them questions"—All present were probably allowed to ask questions of the teachers.

47. "Astonished at his understanding"—Not only at his good sense and intellectual acuteness, but his knowledge of the law.

48. "Why hast thou thus dealt?"—Why have you treated us so?

49. "Wist ye not?"—Did ye not know? "About my Father's business"—Or, "at my Father's house." The words may have either meaning. Already he regarded himself as "the Son of God," and was committed of the work of saving men.

51. "Went down with them"—Giving an example of obedience to parents.

52. "Favour with . . . man"—Loved by all about him.

HOME READINGS.

M. The youth of Jesus.—Luke 2. 40-52.

Tu. Feast of the passover.—Deut. 16. 1-8.

W. Astonished at Christ's wisdom.—Matt. 13. 53-58.

Th. Obedience to parents.—Col. 3. 12-20.

F. Wisdom the principal thing.—Prov. 4. 1-9.

S. The Lord giveth wisdom.—Prov. 2. 1-9.

Sa. Favour with God and men.—Prov. 3. 1-6.

PRACTICAL TEACHINGS.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. The duty of religious worship?
2. The duty of seeking knowledge?
3. The duty of filial obedience.

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What is said of Jesus while he was a boy? "The grace of God was upon him." 2. At what age was he taken to the feast in Jerusalem? "At the age of twelve years." 3. What did he do at the close of the feast? "He stayed in Jerusalem." 4. How long did his parents seek for him? "Three days."

5. Where did they find him? "In the temple." 6. With whom was he found? "With the teachers of the law." 7. How did Jesus grow in young manhood? "Golden Text: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Growth in grace.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

What is entire sanctification?

Entire sanctification is the state in which the heart is cleansed from all unrighteousness, in which God is loved with all our heart and mind and soul and strength, and our neighbour as ourselves.

How are believers kept in this state of salvation?

By the power of the Holy Spirit, given through Christ, in answer to fervent prayer.

HEATHEN CHILDREN PREACHING THE GOSPEL.

A LADY missionary in India writes of the way that the heathen children in the schools carry the Gospel to their homes. She says: "One day, I called at the house of an aunt of one of my little pupils, and the woman remarked that her little niece was not learning to read so fast as she expected. On my replying that a child of four years could not be expected to make rapid progress, she said: 'But she has learned all your Jesus prayers, and is always repeating them at home.' Many of the little ones cannot only repeat prayers, hymns, and texts, but tell Bible stories in their own simple language, and, as some of the mothers express it, 'night and day' they repeat at home what they learn at school."

A CUNNING DOG.

HE had the habit of rushing out and attacking passing vehicles, and his master—thinking to cure him—attached a piece of wood by a chain to his collar. This answered admirably; for no sooner did the dog start in pursuit of anything than the clog not only checked his speed, but generally rolled him over; but, to the surprise of all, doggie was soon at his old work, nearly as bad as ever.

This is how he managed: He did not attempt to drag the clog on the ground, and allow it to check and upset; but, before starting, he caught it up in his mouth, ran before the passing horse, dropped it, and commenced the attack; and when distanced, would seize the clog in his mouth, and resume his position ahead, and thus became as great a pest as ever.

Never Say "Die!"

BY JOHN IMRIE.

WHEN misfortune attends you, let this be your cry:

Never say "Die!" Never say "Die!" Nothing comes without energy, patience, and pluck—

Do not stay in the mud, and you'll never get stuck—

Trusting more to yourself than to chance or good luck:

Never say "Die!" Never say "Die!"

Don't say "Wait a minute!" but at once say "I'll try!"

Never say "Die!" Never say "Die!"

Put your hands to the plough-shafts and do not look back,

Better wear out than rust, though you earn not a pack,

They will yet call you "Mr." who now dub you "Jack!"

Never say "Die!" Never say "Die!"

Don't imagine when sick that you'll certainly die,

Never say "Die!" Never say "Die!"

Take a rest and be still, it will do you more good,

Than dosing your stomach with physic and food,

Nature's laws are the best, and should be understood.

Never say "Die!" Never say "Die!"

Should love e'er beguile you don't give way to sigh,

Never say "Die!" Never say "Die!"

Just appear to be careless and "let well alone!"

She may mourn in your absence when chances seem gone,

And the next time you ask her all shyness be flown.

Never say "Die!" Never say "Die!"

If your life be well spent you'll be ready to die—

Ready to die! Ready to die!

It will come just as easy as going to sleep.

Those who trust in the Lord he has promised to keep.

As you live—as you sow—you shall certainly reap,

Rewards will be paid when you die!

—Innate Keeness.—Einstein: "Scho-cob, vat vas it you learned at school?" Jacob: "Reading, writing, 'rithmetic." Einstein: "'Rithmetic?" Jacob: "Yes, fader." Einstein: "Can you tell me vas two and two?" Jacob: "Six." Einstein: "Six! No, dat is not right." Jacob: "I know, but I vas afraid you would beat me down."

RESCUED IN TIME

A TEMPERANCE TALE

BY C. WILSON.

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This admirable story, which we have just placed on the market, is worthy of a large sale.

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