



LESSON,—SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1908.

Golden Text for the Quarter.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men.—John i., 14.

Home Readings.

- Monday, March 16.—John i., 1-14.
- Tuesday, March 17.—John i., 35-51.
- Wednesday, March 18.—John iii., 5-21.
- Thursday, March 19.—John iv., 19-29.
- Friday, March 20.—John v., 1-15.
- Saturday, March 21.—John vi., 27-51.
- Sunday, March 22.—John ix., 24-41.

FOR THE JUNIOR CLASSES.

There has been much in the series of this quarter's lessons from the first nine chapters of John that is food for the deepest theological discussion, and it may be wiser with the younger children not to take the lessons up and consider them hurriedly in their regular order, but rather to see what incidents have most strongly impressed them, to correct any faulty impressions these may have made, and to give them their proper setting. Children are so apt to seize on one detail of a story and weave their thoughts about it until it assumes a quite unintentional value. There are two stories that ought to especially interest the children, those of the little boy whom Jesus helped, Lesson vii., and of the little boy who helped Jesus, Lesson ix. These could be used to help explain the quarter's golden text, by showing how Jesus had power over life, as the verse says, 'In him was life,' and just as he cured the little boy who was so ill with fever, he can cure our hearts and cleanse them from sin. Not only will he cure and start us right again, but he will be our guide to show us just as 'light' does the way we should go. This stands for Christ's care for us, of which lesson ix. was an example while he was on earth. Now he is in heaven, however, and just as the little boy was able to help Jesus by giving up his lunch, so we are able in many ways to help Christ to-day. In fact we have to do a great deal more, as Christ has made us his representatives on earth. Christ said 'I am the light of the world' (John viii., 12), but he also said, 'Ye are the light of the world' (Matt. v., 14).

Jesus bids us shine first of all for him
 Well he sees and knows it if our light is dim.
 He looks down from heaven to see us shine
 You in your small corner and I in mine.'

FOR THE SENIORS.

It may be well, bearing in mind the purpose which God had in the writing of this gospel (John xxi., 31), to take up each lesson and using the golden text as an introduction see what witness these lessons have borne to the divinity of Christ,—why John chose to relate these incidents 'that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.' The first golden text, then, is John i., 1—offering the witness of Christ's human life and history, a witness whose undoubted authenticity induces even those who deny the divinity of Christ to admit he was the best man who ever lived. The second golden text, John i., 29, offers the witness of John the Baptist, more forcible perhaps in John's day, as the Baptist was held in the highest honor (Luke xx., 4-6), but as history has brought his name down to our day, a powerful witness still. John i., 45, cites the witness of the Jewish scriptures in prophecy; Psalm 93, 5, the witness of his evident zeal for God; John iii., 16, the witness of God's care and love for the world which must prompt him to find some adequate means for its salvation; John vii., 37, the witness of Christ's power to satisfy, borne to-day by all those who have put their trust in him: John iv., 50,

the witness of answered prayer, again a modern experience; Matt. viii., 17, the witness of his gracious deeds, invoked by Christ himself (John v., 36; x., 25, 32, 37, 38; xiv., 10; Matt. xi., 2-6) and recognized in their deep significance by others (John iii., 2; ix., 30-33); along the same line in the ninth golden text, Isa. xl., 11, instancing Christ's power over nature, and John vi., 35, his power to give life; the last is John ix., 5, and thus offers the overwhelming witness of the power of Christ in the world for good. All that Christianity has done for the world goes to prove the supernatural power of its founder. Another interesting line of review is in considering Christ's various ways of dealing with the people whom he wished to influence,—by invitation (John i., 3-9), by command (John i., 43), by gracious praise (John i., 4-7), by stern denunciation (John ii., 13-17), by earnest talk on deeper matters (John iii., 3-15), by illustration of every-day matters (John iv., 7-19), by exercising the faith that was strong (John iv., 50; v., 8), or by aiding it where it was weak (John ix., 6). In all we have evidence of Christ's power to understand the needs of varied humanity and his gracious tact in his dealings with men.

Junior C. E. Topic.

Sunday, March 22.—Topic—The wise use of influences. Eccl. iv., 9, 10; Prov. xxvii., 6, 9, 10, 17, 19.

C. E. Topic.

- Monday, March 16.—Healing on the Sabbath. John v., 9.
- Tuesday, March 17.—What the Jews said. John v., 10-13.
- Wednesday, March 18.—What Jesus said. John v., 14.
- Thursday, March 19.—What the Jews did. John v., 15-18.
- Friday, March 20.—What Jesus taught. John v., 19-23.
- Saturday, March 21.—Christ's word to us. John v., 24.
- Sunday, March 22.—Topic—Jesus at Bethesda. John v., 1-19.

How to Understand.

Above all, teach that to understand God's Word we must have God's spirit, and by precept and example train them to ask God's help before reading. How can you do all this? Only by faithful, prayerful study of God's Word, and by daily feeding upon it. If you go before your class with your heart aglow with love for God and his word, your children will catch, at least in some degree, your spirit. No higher testimony was ever paid a teacher than by a little girl who went home and said: 'Mamma, my teacher has seen Jesus.' 'Seeing Jesus' in his holy Word, gives point and meaning to teaching, and brings sure results.—Mrs. J. A. Terhune.

Religious Notes.

Sunday School forces with a continent-wide constituency will gather in Louisville, June 18-23, the occasion being the 12th Triennial Convention of the International Sunday School Association. It is expected that 2,500 delegates and several thousand interested visitors will attend the Convention. The delegates will be chosen by the State, Provincial and Territorial Associations of the United States and Canada, and will be entertained on the 'Harvard' plan, which provides lodging and breakfast free. Others will find ample hotel and boarding accommodations by writing Mr. W. J. Meddis, Todd Building, Louisville, Ky., chairman of the local Committee.

The Programme Committee of which Mr. W. N. Hartshorn, Boston, is chairman, promises a feast of good things for Sunday School service. The 'keynote' of the Convention will be 'Efficiency in Service,' and with that in view there will be intelligent consideration of 'The Lesson System,' 'Missions,' 'Adult Department work,' 'Temperance,' 'Elementary,' 'The Pastors and the Sunday School,' 'The Laymen in the Sunday School,' 'House to House Visitation,' 'The Home Department,' 'Teacher Training,' 'Sunday School Evangelism,' and other phases of organized Sunday

School endeavor. Prof. E. O. Excell of Chicago will be musical director for the Convention.

For all information about the Programme write Mr. W. N. Hartshorn, Chairman, 85 Broad Street, Boston, Mass. For all other Convention information, ask Marion Lawrence, General Secretary, 140 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

'Missions' will have an important place on the programme of the 12th International Sunday School Convention at Louisville, Ky., June 18-23. Several sessions will be given to the consideration of the relations of the Sunday School to Missionary work and workers, and some notable features will contribute to the interest and success of the programme.

The officers of the Young People's Missionary Movement will co-operate in the work. Saturday evening, June 20, there will be an attractive exhibition of the moving pictures secured during the past year in the Home Mission Fields and in India, China and Japan, describing actual conditions in these fields. Sunday evening Mr. Robert E. Speer and one other speaker will address a great mass meeting, and Monday morning Rev. J. F. Goucher, D.D., on 'Missionary Instruction in the Sunday School.' Monday afternoon the convention will divide into three Conferences on 'The Individual Sunday School organized for Missionary Work,' these conferences to be conducted by Mr. R. E. Diffendorfer, Mr. E. D. Soper and Rev. J. N. Moore.

The presence of several Missionaries will add interest and value to the consideration of this important subject.

Good tidings come of the organization of a Young People's Missionary Movement both in China and in Korea. At the Centenary Conference in Shanghai a committee was appointed to care for the proper development of work among young people, and this committee has resolved to ask the Mission Boards to send out missionaries specially to develop Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies in their various fields. The Korean missionaries were present in strong force at Shanghai, and they too have formed a committee which has for one of its objects to promote the study of missions in Sunday Schools and other young people's organizations, and generally to foster the interest of the world. Similar steps were taken earlier in the year at several centres in India. These results are due to the visit of Messrs. Earl Taylor and Vickery, delegates from the American Young People's Missionary Movement.

GOOD CANADIAN SPORT

The charming cover of the March 'Pictorial' will interest every boy in Canada who sees it. Not a doubt of it! And the group of eager-faced boys on the ice near the boat will make many a boy wish he had been there, too, and seen the real thing instead of merely looking at the picture. The cover alone will sell many a copy, as our young agents will find. And yet it is full of fine pictures. (See contents in full on another page.)

Already the wideawake ones have orders on file at our office, and many will have sold their first supply for March by the time this is in print. If YOUR order is not in yet, rush it along at once so that you will be promptly attended to.

The sales of the March issue will close the first competition for this year, and there is keen striving for first place. Are you in it? If not, why not?

We hope some day to introduce our boy readers to an active young salesman out in British Columbia. He is the one that said recently: 'Pictorial' sells like hot cakes. Am working for a new spring suit.'

He keeps the ball rolling in two adjacent towns and his order for March would surprise you. Yet he's only just turned twelve. His bonus stamp was made for one town address and he has just earned a stamp (on the premium basis) with the other town address on so that he can stamp the slips, etc., distributed at each place and get all the business that comes from his own pushing efforts. His parents, too, are much interested in his sales and evidently appreciate the training this is giving him.

There is lots of room yet for more boys, so why not send in your name this very day and get a package on credit to start with. We'll trust you. You need send no money with your order. And we will send full instructions, premium list, etc. DO IT NOW.

Address: JOHN DOUGALL & SON, Agents for the 'Canadian Pictorial,' 'Witness' Office, Montreal.