

LITTLE CRUSADERS.

Who are these, a singing band,
Marching through the listening land
In the tender dew of youth,
In their armour, white as truth,
In the name of Him who calls them
In the morning?

O, the children march away,
In the dawning of their day,
To the battle field that lies
Just beyond their trustful eyes;
And they march away with singing
In the morning.

What is this they singing bear,
Through the dewy morning air,
Shining like a cross of gold
Which the stars and stripes enfold,
And it leads the children onward
Through the morning?

O, that holy sign, half furled,
Means redemption for the world,
And borne on from hand to hand
"For our God—our home—our land,"
They will plant it on the uplands
In the morning.

LESSON NOTES.

B.C. 440.] LESSON XII. March 21.

MESSIAH'S MESSENGER.

Mal. 3. 1-6, & 4. 1-6. Commit to memory vs. 5. 1-5.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me. Mal. 3. 1.

OUTLINE.

1. The Coming Messenger, 3. 1; 4. 5, 6.
2. The Refining Fire, 3. 2-6; 4. 1.
3. The Sun of Righteousness, 4. 2-4.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

Who was the last of the Old Testament prophets that foretold the coming of Christ? Malachi.

Whom did he say should prepare the way for his coming? His messenger. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

Who was this messenger? John the Baptist.

To whom is he compared? To Elijah.

In what was he like him? In his teaching and way of living.

What would the Messiah bring with him? Punishment for the wicked and blessing for the good.

What is Jesus called? The Sun of righteousness.

What does his light drive out of our hearts? Sin and darkness.

How does he come to us? With healing.

Healing for what? For soul and body.
Who only can cure us of sin? Jesus.
What will his light do for us if we let it shine into our hearts? Make us strong and happy.

What is the life of the earth? Its sun.
What would the earth be without it? Cold and dark and dead.

What is our life? The Sun of righteousness.

What are we without him? Cold and sinful and unhappy.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

God showed the prophet Malachi that John the Baptist was coming to make the way ready for Jesus four hundred years before it happened. [See the GOLDEN TEXT.]

If you tell to all around what a Saviour you have found, and then, by what you do and say, you show your love from day to day, you will be a little messenger for him, too.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The way of salvation.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

Who was Cornelius? A devout Gentile soldier, to whom St. Peter was sent to preach the gospel.

Who was Lydia? A devout woman whose heart the Lord opened when St. Paul preached.

FIRST QUARTERLY REVIEW.—MARCH 28.

REVIEW QUESTIONS.

Repeat the GOLDEN TEXTS for the quarter:

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| 1. He did that— | 7. Thou art— |
| 2. The harvest— | 8. They praised— |
| 3. For unto this— | 9. Give us help— |
| 4. By the rivers— | 10. So they— |
| 5. Wherewithal shall— | 11. So I will— |
| 6. Our God whom— | 12. Behold I— |

Lesson I.—Who did right? King Josiah. What did he do in the twelfth year of his reign? He opened and repaired the house of the Lord. With what did God bless him? With peace and prosperity.

Lesson II.—Why were the people not saved? Because they refused to turn to the Lord. What did Jeremiah declare unto them? The desolation of Jerusalem and the captivity of the people.

Lesson III.—Who obeyed their father's commandment? The Rechabites. For what did the Lord reward them? For obedience to their father's law. For what did he punish the Israelites? For disobedience to the laws he had given them.

Lesson IV.—Who carried the Israelites as slaves to Babylon? King Nebuchadnezzar. What did he destroy? Jerusalem

and the holy temple. Why did sorrow trouble come upon them? Because they bowed down to idols.

Lesson V.—Who among the Jew captives lived in the king's palace Babylon? Daniel. What did Daniel resolve in his heart? To obey the law of God. What did he ask of the king's ruler? That he might have pulse and water to eat and drink. Why did he do this? The Jewish law forbade them to eat of meat killed by heathen. With what did God bless Daniel? With wisdom and learning.

Lesson VI. Who refused to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's golden image? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. What did they do? He had them cast into the fiery furnace. Who was with them in the fire? The Son of God. From what did he save them? From being harmed by the flames.

Lesson VII.—What king made a great feast for his lords? Belshazzar. What frightened him in the midst of the feast? A hand writing on the wall. Who interpreted the strange words? Daniel. What did they mean? That God had taken the kingdom from him.

Lesson VIII.—Who helped the Jews go back to their own land? King Cyrus. What did they rebuild? The house of the Lord. Who rejoiced when the foundations were laid? The people. Who wept? The priests and the old men. For what did they weep? For the lost glory of the temple.

Lesson IX.—What news came to Nehemiah? That the Jews were poor and despised. What was the state of Jerusalem? It was without walls or gates. What did Nehemiah do? He prayed to the Lord for help. What did he ask God to remember? His promise to Moses.

Lesson X.—Who read the law of God to the people? Ezra and the priests. Why did the people weep? Because of their sins. Why did Ezra tell them to rejoice? Because God had forgiven them.

Lesson XI.—Who condemned all Jews to be killed? The king of Persia. Who saved their lives? Esther, his queen. What did she risk in so doing? Her own life.

Lesson XII.—Who was the messenger of the Lord? John the Baptist. What is Jesus called? The Sun of righteousness. What is the life without him? Cold and dark and dead.

MIND your ears, that they listen not to tale-bearing, evil speaking, or any ill report.