

A PLEA FOR THE CHILDREN.

We plead for the little children
Who have opened their baby eyes
In the far-off lands of darkness,
Where the shadow of death yet lies;

But not to be nurtured for heaven,
Not to be taught in the way,
Not to be watched o'er and guided
Lest their tiny feet should stray.

Ah, no! It is idol-worship
Their stammering lips are taught;
To cruel false gods only
Are their gifts and offerings brought.

And what can we children offer
Who dwell in this Christian land?
Is there no work for the Master
In reach of each little hand?

Oh, surely a hundred tapers,
Which even small fingers can clasp,
May lighten as much of the darkness
As a lamp in a stronger grasp.

And then as the line grows longer,
So many tapers, though small,
May kindle a brighter shining
Than a lamp would, after all.

Small hands may gather rich treasures,
And e'en infant lips can pray;
Employ, then, the little fingers—
Let the children learn the way,

So the lights shall be quicker kindled,
And darkness the sooner shall flee;
Many "little ones" learn of the Saviour
Both here and "far over the sea."

WHY HE WAS NEVER LATE.

"How is it that you are never late at Sunday-school, Edwin?" I asked.

His Sunday-school began a quarter before nine in the morning, and I concluded that many of the children found it hard to be prompt, as they came straggling in all through the opening service; Edwin never—he was always in time.

"How is it, Edwin?"

"O! I always plan to come," said Edwin. "I put the polish on my boots overnight. I find my Bible and question-book and place them in a safe corner beforehand. I brush and put on my Sunday clothes before breakfast. So after breakfast and prayers I start in time to get there before the superintendent rings the school to order."

"And you don't lag by the way?"

"Never," said Edwin. "It is better to be five minutes too early than one minute too late."

Ah, boys, see how it helps one along to have a plan.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW.

A.D. 28.] LESSON XI. [Dec. 11.

PARABLE OF THE TARES.

Matt. 13: 24-30. *Commit to mem. vs. 27-30.*

GOLDEN TEXT.

The harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. *Matt. 13. 39.*

OUTLINE.

1. Together.
2. Separated.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

What was the second parable Jesus told the people? The story of the tares.

What did he say a man sowed in a field? Good seed.

Who came in the night and sowed bad seed? His enemy.

What grew up with the good seed? Tares, or poisonous weeds.

What did the man's servant ask to do? To pull up the tares.

What was his command? "Wait until harvest."

What were they to do then? Gather the tares and burn them.

Where were they to store the good wheat? Into the barn.

What did Jesus mean by the "field?" The world.

Who was the owner of the field and sower of the good seed? The Son of man.

Who represents the good seed sown by him? The children of God.

Who stands for the bad seed sown by the enemy? The children of Satan.

When will God separate his children from the children of Satan? At the harvest time. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

What will become of the wicked? They shall be destroyed.

What will become of the good? They shall shine as the sun in heaven.

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

Which would you rather be, wheat or tares?

A blessing or a curse to the world?

The child of God or the child of Satan?

You MUST BE one or the other.

Jesus says, "He that is not with me is against me."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The origin of evil.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

What sort of bodies will they have? They will have bodies such as can never die, made like the glorious body of Jesus Christ.

A.D. 27.] LESSON XII. [Dec. 18

OTHER PARABLES.

Matt. 13: 31-35. *Commit to mem. vs. 31-35*

GOLDEN TEXT.

So shall it be at the end of the world the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just. *Matt. 13: 41*

OUTLINE.

1. Parables of Growth.
2. Parables of Treasure.
3. A Parable of Judgment.

QUESTIONS FOR HOME STUDY.

To what did Jesus liken the kingdom of heaven? To a tiny mustard seed.

How large does the tiny seed grow? Larger than all the herbs of the field.

What did Jesus want to show them? How great and strong God's kingdom would become.

How many belonged to his kingdom then? Only the twelve disciples.

How many belong now? Thousands of disciples.

Why did he compare the kingdom of heaven to the leaven of yeast that a woman uses to make bread? To show them how little by little it would surely spread over the whole world.

What else does it explain to us? How the Holy Spirit works in our hearts, and makes us love God and hate sin.

Why does Christ compare the kingdom of heaven to a treasure hid in a field, and a pearl of great price? To make us realize the greatness of its value.

How is it like these? It is worth all other things.

What should we be willing to do to obtain it? Give all that we have.

Who belongs to the kingdom of heaven? Every one that believes in Jesus and his salvation from sin.

What does Jesus tell us? That false followers will try to enter the kingdom.

What will be done to them? They shall be cast out.

What will become of the true? They shall be saved. (Repeat the GOLDEN TEXT.)

WORDS WITH LITTLE PEOPLE.

What kind of a world would it be if everybody loved and obeyed Jesus?

Do you want Christ's kingdom to spread over the whole earth?

What are you doing to help it along?

Do you think Jesus and his salvation worth more than the treasures of the world?

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God."

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The kingdom of heaven.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

How will they be employed? In praising and serving God.