The Family.

THE THREE LITTLE CHAIRS.

They sat by the bright wood fire,
The grey-haired dame and the aged sire,
Dreaming of days gone by;
The tear drops fell on each wrinkled cheek,
They both had thoughts they could not speak,
And each heart uttered a sigh—

For their sad and tearful eyes descried
Three little chairs placed side by side
Against the sitting-room wall;
Old-fashioned enough as there they stood,
Their seats of flag and their frames of wood,
With their backs so straight and tall.

Then the sire shook his silvery head,
And with trembling voice he gently said;
"Mother, these empty chairs!
They bring us such sad, sad thoughts to-night,
We'll put them forever out of sight,
In the little dark room up stairs."

But she answered: "Father, no not yet.
For I look at them and I forget
That the children are away;
The boys come back, and our Mary too,
With her apron on of checkered blue,
And sit there every day.

"Johnny still whittles a ship's tall masts,
And Willie his leaden bullet casts,
While Mary her patch-work sews;
At evening the three sweet childish prayers.
Go up to God from those little chairs,
So softly that no one knows.

"So let them stand there, though empty now,
And every time when alone we bow
At the Father's throne to pray,
We'll ask to meet the children above,
In our Saviour's home of rest and love,
Where no child goeth away."

BEREAN NOTES.

BY REV. G. H. WHITNEY, D. D.

LESSON X. THE DENIAL. Mark 14. 66–72. *Topic:* The Mournful Fall of a Disciple. *Golden Text:* "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth," etc. 1 Cor. 10. 12.

III. OUTLINES.

See 'Berean Leaf,' page 274. Or, 1. Peter's *Pledge*, (Mark 14. 31;) 2. Peter's *Perjury*, (Matt. 26. 74;) 3. Peter's *Penitence*, (Luke 22. 62.)

IV. NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

1. THE ORDER OF EVENTS IN THIS NARRATIVE. 1. The two disciples following Jesus, John 18. 15; 2. Peter stood at the door 'without,' John 18. 16; 3. Admitted, John 18. 16; 4. Peter sitting with the servants in the hall by the fire, Mark 14. 54; Luke 22. 55; 5. Jesus examined by the Sanhedrim, Mark 14. 55–64; 6. The buffeting and spitting upon him, ver. 65.

7. *First Denial:* 'A damsel,' Matt. 26. 69; 'a certain maid,' Mark 14. 66; 'one of the maids of high-priest, Luke 22. 56; 'the damsel that kept the door,' John 18. 17—came to Peter. She 'earnestly looked upon him,' Luke 22. 56, saying 'Thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth, Mark 14. 67. He denied, verse 68. 'And the cock crew,' v. 68.

8. *Second Denial:* 'Out into the porch,' Matt. 26. 71; 'another maid,' Matt. 26. 71; 'a maid,' Mark 14. 69; 'another,' Luke 22. 58; 'They said,' John 18. 25; 'He denied it again,' Mark 14. 70; 'denied with an oath,' Matt. 26. 72; 'Man I am not,' Luke 22. 58.

9. *Third Denial:* 'After awhile,' Matt.; 'A little after,' Mark; 'About the space of one hour after,' Luke; 'Thou art one of them;' 'Speech;' 'Galilean;' 'Did not I see thee in the garden with him?' John; 'He began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man.' Mark 14. 71; 'Immediately, while he yet spake, the cock crew;' 'The second time.' 10. The look of the Lord. Luke 22. 61. *Turned and looked.'* 11. 'And Peter remembered,' Matt. and Luke; 'Called to mind the word,' Mark 12. 'He went out and wept bitterly,' Matt. and Luke; 'When he thought thereon he wept,' Mark.

....*Mr. Wesley's Harmony:* The maid that let him in (John 18. 15-16) afterward seeing him at the fire, (John 18 17) first put the question to him (John 18. 17) and then positively affirmed that he was with Christ, (Mark 14 67). 2. Another maid (Matt 26 71) accused him to the bystanders, (Mark 14. 69), and gave occasion to the man here mentioned (Luke 22. 58) to renew the charge against him, which caused the *second* denial. (Mark 14. 70.) 3. Others of the company (Mark 14. 70) took notice of his being a Galilean, (Matt. 26. 73, Mark 14 70), and were seconded by the kinsman of Malchus, (John 18 10,) who affirmed he had seen him in the garden. (John 18. 26.) And this drew on the *third* denial, (Mark 14 71.)

2. PLACES NAMED IN THE NARRATIVE. BENEATH IN THE PALACE, Mark 14. 66. WITHOUT, Matt. 26. 69. Down in the open court a few steps below the halls and rooms which surrounded and opened into it. THE PORCH, verse 68. The vestibule or court-way leading from the court to the street.

= Peter safer if nearer to the Master.

= Palaces poor places for disciples unless they keep very near the Lord.

= Never forget that we are not our own, and never go where we cannot wear our profession.

3. INCIDENTS OF THE DENIAL. ONE OF THE MAIDS, verse 66. This damsel not like the one in Naaman's palace. 2 Kings 5. 2–3. Among the maids as an indifferent spectator rather than with the Master as a loyal disciple and defender. "Evil communications corrupt good manners." WARMING HIMSELF, verse 67. The light of the fire revealed him to the maid and at last to the Master.

....Seeking warmth for his body while his soul was chilled through and through.

....Better warmed by the stripes and buffetings, like the faithful Master, than warmed by the fire of coals like the faithless Peter.

HE DENIED, verse 68. Peter in a bad state now. Worse than when he sank in the sea. Matt. 14, 28–31. This time he completely sank into the waters of sin. But for that last look of his loving Lord he had never been saved.

= Bold Peter! a rock, was his name, but what a crumbling rock when separated from the Christ whose grace gave him him strength.

GALILEAN AND THY SPEECH, verse 70. The Galilean brogue was despised in Jerusalem. He had better have used it in defending than in denying his Galilean Master. It would have sounded well enough before the Sanhedrim if charged with the love and force which characterized it when he preached in the same city a few weeks later. Acts 2. CURSE AND SWEAR, verse 71. See the three steps, 1.) 'Following afar off;' 2.) Denying his Lord; 3.) profanity and perjury. One never knows how far Satan will take him if he but give Satan the advantage of one step in the wrong way.

= Beware of bad beginnings, for from these ensue evil endings.

= 'The further a man falls the heavier his fall.'

....Peter resolved at all hazards to hold up his head and make good his word. So he swore vehemently to support a foul lie, indorsing his first prevarication by final profanity and perjury.

= The fall of Peter, just after the Lord's Supper and his earnest vows, is a warning against pride, self-confidence, indolence and the fear of the world.

THOUGHT..WEPT, verse 72. The LOOK of the Lord (Luke 22. 61) must not be forgotten. There, is, 1.) The look of vengeance, Exodus 14. 24; 2.) The look of power, Judges 6. 14. 3.) The look of pity, Psalm 69. 20; Exodus 4. 31; Luke 22. 61.' In all the storm of vengeance visited upon Jesus by his enemies he does not forget Peter's pledge and denial. He looks upon him with a look of reproof and pity and tenderness.

....'The Lord turned and looked upon Peter.' O penetrating look! There was *purpose in it.* He 'turned' and looked. There was *power* in it, for it drove Peter out. There was *suggestion* in it, for it called to mind his words.

THOUGHT THEREON, verse 72. 1.) Thought of the Lord's words of prediction; 2.) Thought of his own proud words of purpose; 3) Thought of his own profane words of denial; 4.) Thought of the Lord's melancholy look; 5) Thought of the Lord's marvelous life; 6) Thought of his own mournful outlook. No wonder he *wept*

4. LESSONS. 1. Keep near thy Lord. Don't follow 'afar off.' Such long drawn cords are sure to snap; 2. Never sit down with the enemies of Jesus, Psalm 1. 1; 3. Peter's fall from loyalty to Jesus was probably a fall into old habits of life—lying and profanity. It was not the first time Peter swore. Our old lives are just below us, with their atmospheres of self and sin and sorrow, and into them we drop again so easily when we let go of the Lord who lifts us up and saves us from them; 4. In the story of the denial as given in the New Testament, notice 1) The candor that records the fact; 2.) The weakness that made it possible; 3.) The tender mercy that forgave it; 5.) One step in sin may lead to an overwhelming flood of bitter memories and of bitter tears; 6) The power of memory. An element in the sinner's hell.

EGOTISM.

BY AUNT FANNY.

What a long word! What does it mean? Perhaps the little story will tell you.

Once upon a time Fred was arranging his library in a dear little book case—his last Christmas present.

"How nice they look!" he exclaimed. "I'm the boy to fix things up tip-top! On the first shelf *Robinson Crusoe, Nightcaps, Popguns,* and *William Henry's Letters to His Grandmother*; on the second, *The Rollo Books, Socks, Jack Hazard,* and *Doing His Best,* and on the last all my *St. Nicholas* magazines. Aha!" he chuckled, 'that looks jolly, I declare!' and, standing on one foot, he whirled round and round until he tumbled against the wall.

'Lend me your *Robinson Crusoe,*' said his little brother Charlie, who stood near, smiling at Fred's antics.

'No, sir! I will not lend it to you.'

'Oh! do, Fred. I will take the greatest care of it. I won't hurt it the least bit.'

'No, I tell you!'

'Why not?'

'Because you can't read, and your hands are always dirty, and—and—you shan't have it, there!' and Fred began to shut the doors of the bookcase.

'Just let me look at the pictures,' begged the little fellow.

'No, get your own *Nonesense Book,* and look at the pictures in that.'

'Why, brother,' said Charlie, with trembling lips, 'how cross you are to me.'

'Well, it's because you are such a plague and a bother! *You* are nothing but a little troublesome boy and I am almost a man.'

Then Fred sat down before his bookcase, and began to whistle, and teeter backwards and forwards in his chair. Presently he took a card out of his pocket with a funny picture on it, and began to read this ridiculous stuff:

'Benny Bowbell bothered and bantered a little bumpkin or booby. This little bumpkin or booby bore his bothering and bantering without bobbing or blinking. But, by and by, the little bumpkin or booby began to be belligerently bouncible."

"Am I a little bumpkin and booby?" asked Charley, with quivering lips.

'Yes, you are,' said Fred.

'I lent you my big hoop this morning, and I did not call you a bumpkin and booby.'

'Oh, you are going to stick that in my face, are you?'

'No, Fred, I didn't mean that; I——'

'Well, I'll never borrow anything of *you* again, and don't you ever ask me for anything, because I won't lend it to you. Do get away, I can't bear the sight of you!'

At this cruel speech poor little Charley burst into tears. Then Fred mocked him, saying, 'boo-hoo, boo-hoo,' stooping over and dancing round him with his hands on his knees; then he pulled out his handkerchief and wiped his eyes, and pretended to ring the tears out of his handkerchief—at which last insult Charley fairly howled, and his mother, who was entertaining company in the parlor, thinking that bumped heads or cut fingers must be the matter, excused herself and rushed up stairs into the room.

The moment she appeared Charley stopped crying, for the generous little fellow did not wish to have his brother reproved: but Fred was too full of *egotistical selfishness* to notice any one but himself, or to stop talking. He did not see his mother, but kept on dancing before Charley, saying: 'Cry, baby, cry, stick your finger in your eye, and tell your mother it was I.'

'Stop, Fred,! What is the meaning of this?' asked his mother, very much displeased.

Charley did not answer, but Fred began to tell what a bother his brother was—'wanting his books just as he had put his library in such splendid order.'

'Oh; so Charley began to quarrel, did he?'

'Oh no, mamma, I did not say that; he did not want to quarrel, he was only a bother and a plague.'

'Did you call him so?'

'Well,' said Fred, standing on one leg, and turning red, 'I did.'

Just at this moment the sister of the boys, a pretty young lady, stood at the open door and called out, 'Charley, you dear little curly-wig, come here; here are two golden bananas, and I must have a kiss apiece for them.'

Charley ran and curled his arms round her neck, crying, 'Oh, thank you, Sister Kate,' and kissed her so hard that he made a deep rosy spot on her cheek. Then what do you think he did? Why, he flew to Fred and *gave him the biggest banana.*

Fred took it eagerly, and was just about to strip off the golden skin, when his mother said, 'Stop, Fred, you have your books *all* to yourself; Charley can easily eat both the bananas; I am surprised that you would accept one—the biggest one, too—from such 'a plague and a bother'!'

It was Fred's turn to feel unhappy. He laid down the fruit, and going slowly to his bookcase, he took down *Robinson Crusoe* and said, 'Take it, Charley, and look at it long as you like.'

'Oh, thank you, brother,' cried the little boy, running to Fred and kissing him affectionately.

Big tears sprang into Fred's eyes. He was ashamed to look at his mother, as she drew him to her side, and putting her arm round him, said, 'I am sure you have found out how mean and selfish you have been; how full of egotism. You were thinking, 'What a fine library belongs to *me.* I'm not going to disturb my books for such a snip as Charley.' This is called *egotism,* and now that you know the meaning of the word, I do hope that you will never again practice the vice.'

'And may he have the *bandanner?*' asked dear, generous little Charley.

'Yes,' answered his mother, and she kissed both her boys.

My dear little readers, do pray and strive against such a selfish, mean feeling. Never boast of yourself or your possessions. Lend your books and toys to each other gladly; by doing thus, you will keep that dreadful monster with the long name—Mr. Egotism—out of your dear little hearts,

And now I am not certain whether I have preached a sermon, or told a story. Which is it?

House and Farm.

TIMELY SUGGESTIONS.

Some farmers are always behind hand in doing their work, and this month frequently finds them not all preparing for its chilling blasts.

Buildings not in good order should be repaired without delay, all foul places cleansed thoroughly, and heavily whitewashed or sprinkled with lime.

Cellars under houses should be scrupulously cleansed, and, if possible to avoid it, should never be used for storing vegetables, as they do not add to the health of the family.

Animals should be studiously protected, but only in thorough ventilated stables. Their food should be given four or five times during the twenty-four hours, so that none of it need be refused because it is "mussed" or soiled. Many farmers whose experience has been varied prefer this plan, thinking it more economical, and more serviceable to the animal than feeding only two or three times a day. For horses, and neat stock, place a lump of rock salt in the mangers. Food must be varied to suit the dind and condition of the animals. He who would prosper as a stock breeder, or dairy man, cannot learn too much of the animal economy. Comfortable stables save food, and very materially assist in maintaining animals in a good condition. Cleansing the hide and frequent rubbing will promote health. It has become quite a common practice with some farmers to curry and rub down their neat stock and we trust it may become universal.

Keep *fattening animals* fully fed, but be careful to vary the food sufficiently to cause a good appetite.

Hogs should be fed on cooked or soaked corn, or corn meal, almost entirely towards the last days of their fattening. Throw lime and ashes, in small quantities, on the floors of the pens from time to time, and occasionally feed a little sulphur.

Young animals ought not to be made tender by close housing—should be treated gently and with familarity.

Steers and Colts may thus be brought to a condition that will make it a very easy task to break them into the yoke or harness.

Sheds, at least thirty-feet wide, with low posts, and opening into a yard on the sunny side, surrounded by buildings, or a high fence, are highly approved of for sheep or young stock. They thus have an opportunity to exercise in the open air and sunlight, retiring to a well littered protection at their pleasure. Care must be used in feeding that the weaker animals may have fair play.

Manure making should be prosecuted with the utmost vigor. As long as the weather permits, occupy every spare hour in collecting muck, pond mud, leaves, sods, ditch scrapings, and organic deposits, to be thrown under cattle in the hog pen, or manure yard. Recollect that manure is the floating capital of the farmer, and it benefit is to be derived from its use, care must be taken that it does not float off literally. Devote study and thought to this part of your farming, but do not spare the *muscle* for much can be made by a proper manipulation and commingling of materials.

Top dressing may be pursued as suggested last month, and the hints there given as to *ditches, drains,* and *drainage,* should be heeded as far as possible during this month.

Heavy land may be plowed, provided it is not so wet as to be sticky, and we should prefer the lap furrows, that a greater amount of surface be exposed to the frosts of winter, and the ease of filtration increased. By all means sub-soil in this month, if practicable, and get the coarser manures under for next year's hoed crops.

Light land, that is not wet, will be benefited by being rolled after plowing, and will be all the better if heavily mulched with coarse manure, leaves, straw, refuse hay rushes, or any material that will keep the surface from blowing away.

Fruit should be carefully culled over, and all that is sound wiped dry, and laid away on shelves, in dark, cool rooms, or dry cellars—as uniform a temperature as possible being kept up. *Cut scions* for grafting, and pack away in sawdust in a good cellar until needed. Cuttings of currants, etc., may be set as long as the ground is open and friable.

Cellars and pits for vegetables need close watching, that more protection may be given when the cold weather begins in earnest. *Plants in cold* frames should get all the sun and air they can endure. *Spinach* and other crops left out should be protected with litter thickly laid on. *All roots* should be immediately gathered and sto red in pits, except that portion of the *parsnip* crop intended for Spring use, which will be better off in the ground, if standing water is not allowed on the beds. *Grape vines* should be carefully pruned—the Concord, Isabella, and Catawba not as closely as the finer sorts. Some sorts in cold latitudes will need to be laid down and covered with earth for the Winter. This is also true of tender *raspberries. Strawberries* should be carefully covered, and no stagnant water allowed on the beds.—*Pen and Plow.*

PARASITES IN BIRD-CAGES.—Many a person has watched with anxiety and care a pet canary, goldfinch, or other tiny favorite evidently in a state of perturbation, plucking at himself continually, his feathers standing all wrong, always fidgetting about, and every way looking very seedy. In vain is his food changed, and in vain is another saucer of clean water always kept in his cage, and all that kindness can suggest for the little prisoner done; but still all is of no use, he is no better—and why? because the cause of his wretchedness has not been found out, and until it is, other attempts are but vain. If the owner of a pet in such difficulties will take down the cage and cast his or her eyes up to the roof thereof, there will most likely be seen a mass of stuff looking as much like rust as anything; and from thence comes the cause of the poor bird's uneasiness. The red rust is nothing more nor less than myriads of parasites infesting the bird, and for which water is no remedy. There is, however, a remedy, and one easily procurable in a moment—fire. By procuring a lighted candle and holding it under every particle of the top of the cage, till all chance of anything being left alive is gone, the remedy is complete. The pet will soon brighten up again after his "house-warming," and will in his cheerful and delightful way thank his master or mistress over and over again for this, though slight, to him, important assistance.—*Land and Water.*

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NOVEMBER, 1874

New Moon, 9th day, 1h. 20m. morning
First Quarter, 16th day, 9h. 39m., afternoon
Full Moon, 23rd day, 1h. 20m., afternoon
Last Quarter, 30th day, 2h. 15m., afternoon.

D. M.	Day of Wk.	SUN. Rises	SUN. Sets	MOON. Rises	MOON. South	MOON. Sets	H. Tide at Halifax
1	SU.	6 42	4 46	morn.	6 26	1 59	A. 26
2	M	6 43	4 44	0 3	7 14	2 25	1 41
3	Tu.	6 45	4 43	1 9	7 57	2 45	3 13
4	W.	6 46	4 41	2 12	8 37	3 2	4 34
5	Th.	6 47	4 40	3 13	9 16	3 19	5 41
6	Fr.	6 49	4 39	4 16	9 55	3 34	6 2
7	Sa.	6 50	4 38	5 20	10 36	3 52	6 47
8	SU.	6 51	4 36	6 24	11 17	4 10	7 18
9	M.	6 53	4 35	7 27	A. 1	4 35	7 49
10	Tu.	6 55	4 34	8 32	0 47	5 2	8 18
11	W.	6 56	4 32	9 36	1 38	5 40	8 49
12	Th	6 58	4 31	10 36	2 30	6 24	9 22
13	Fr.	6 59	4 30	11 30	3 24	7 18	9 55
14	Sa	7 0	4 29	A 13	4 18	8 23	10 29
15	SU.	7 2	4 28	0 51	5 12	9 33	11 12
16	M.	7 3	4 27	1 19	6 2	10 45	morn.
17	Tu.	7 4	4 26	1 44	6 52	morn	0 3
18	W.	7 5	4 25	2 55	7 40	0 1	1 10
19	Th.	7 7	4 24	2 27	8 29	1 15