



THE GARDEN.

## TEA GARDEN.

WHILE not such a gay, pleasure-loving people as the Japanese, from the fact that the conditions of life are harder, the country more crowded, and population poorer than in Japan, the Chinese have yet one great holiday, the New Year, and are fond of picnics to their tea gardens and other picturesque places. One of these is shown in our cut, a pretty pavilion, with numerous plants and flowers, and a pond in the pleasure-garden. There is this to be said in their favour, that, using the cup that cheers but not inebriates, their holidays are free from the disgraceful scenes of drunkenness and vice that characterize the holidays of many so-called Christian lands.

## LESSON NOTES.

## FIRST QUARTER REVIEW.

## LESSON XII.—March 20.

SCRIPTURE LESSON FROM ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, AND EZEKIEL.

## GOLDEN TEXT.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.—Isa. 55. 6.

## CENTRAL TRUTH.

God uses every means to save men from sin.

Drill on the titles and Golden Texts  
Look up all places on the map  
Study the chart at the beginning of the book for the kings and prophets; the chief events.

Isaiah prophesied from 760 to 697.  
Jeremiah prophesied from 622 to 586.  
Ezekiel prophesied from 593 to 571.  
The central events were the destruction of Jerusalem, B.C. 586, and the seventy years' captivity, 605-536.

The cause of the events was the idolatry and wickedness of the people.

Warnings and entreaties were sent by the prophets. They saw Samaria fall for its sins, and the sister kingdom blotted out (722). They were besieged by Sennacherib, and brought to the verge of destruction (701), and then were delivered in a marvellous manner. The final destruction came by degrees. There were three sieges by Nebuchadnezzar (605, 598, 588-586). God gave great promises through the prophets.

The end of the way was reached. Jerusalem and the temple destroyed, the kingdom depopulated. It was the only way in which there could be a spiritual temple and a true people of God. The tree was cut down to enable a fresh shoot to spring up. Visions of hope were given in almost every lesson. The prophets never despaired. The promises were first fulfilled in the return from exile. That was a proof of a larger fulfilment when Jesus Christ came; and both give the absolute assurance that the complete fulfilment will be accomplished in the redemption of the world.

Find in this quarter's lesson—

The danger of going on in sin.  
Some things God does to save us.  
Some blessed promises.

## REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. What danger was threatening the Jews? "Destruction of their city and nation." 2. On what account? "Because of their idolatry and sins." 3. What did God do for them? "He sent prophets to instruct and dangers to warn and promises to attract." 4. What was the end? "Jerusalem was destroyed and the people carried captive." 5. What promises were made to them? "Salvation from sin, a new heart, return from exile, a Redeemer for the world."

## TIRED PEOPLE.

THE world is full of tired people—merchants tired of business, farmers tired of raising crops, mechanics tired of building houses, housekeepers tired of preparing food, operatives tired of rushing wheels. Pass along the road or street and see how very tired three-fourths of the people look. How shall they get rested? Some say, "By fewer hours of work!" But some of them have no work at all. Others might prescribe easy sofas and more

arm-chairs and soft beds. But some of the people, who have the weariest look, have plenty of good furniture and luxurious upholstery. Now, we offer a pillow not curtained with Gobelin tapestry nor stuffed with the down of angels' wings. But a man who puts his head on it gets rid of his cares and aches and anxieties. It is a pillow stuffed with the promises: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest;" "Cast thy burden on the Lord, and he will sustain thee." We have friends who, because they cannot sleep well, put under their head at night a pillow of hops, but they never have tried the better pillow filled with the myrrh and frankincense from the Lord's garden. Men and women tired out with the world, try it!—*De Witt Talmage.*

## The Little Lad's Answer.

OUR little lad came in one day  
With dusty shoes and tired feet;  
His playtime had been hard and long  
Out in the summer's noontide heat.  
"I'm glad I'm home," he cried, and hung  
His torn straw hat up in the hall,  
While in the corner by the door  
He put away his bat and ball.

"I wonder why," his aunt said,  
"This little lad always comes here,  
When there are many other homes  
As nice as this, and quite as near?"  
He stood a moment deep in thought,  
Then, with the love-light in his eye,  
He pointed where his mother sat,  
And said, "She lives here—that is why!"

With beaming face the mother heard;  
Her mother-heart was very glad;  
A true, sweet answer he had given—  
That thoughtful, loving, little lad.  
And well I know that hosts of lads  
Are just as loving, true, and dear;  
That they would answer as he did—  
"Tis home, for mother's living here!"

## WHAT CAN IDOLS DO?

A MISSIONARY in India tells the following story of a little boy who, in a mission school, had been taught about the one God, and about Jesus:

"One day this boy, who lived in a house with a heathen, said to him, 'There is only one God, the one who made the earth and sky and everything. He gives us the rain and the sunshine; he knows everything we do; he can save us or kill us. But these images you pray to are only lumps of baked clay. They can't see nor hear; how can they do any good, or save you from any trouble?'

"The heathen paid no attention to him, but soon afterwards he went on a journey. While he was gone, the little boy took a stick and broke all the images except the largest, into the hands of which he put the stick.

"When the man returned he was angry at what had happened and exclaimed:

"Who has done this!"

"Perhaps the big idol has been beating his little brother," said the boy.

"Nonsense!" said the man, "don't talk such stuff as that! Do you think I am a fool? You know as well as I do that the thing cannot raise his hand. It was you, you little rascal! it was you! To pay you for your wickedness I will beat you to death with the same stick, and seizing the stick, he went towards him.

"But," said the boy quickly, "how can you worship a god like that? Do you suppose if he can't take care of himself and the other idols, he can

take care of you and the world—alone making you?"

"The heathen stopped to think, for this was a new idea. The more he thought, the more senseless the idol seemed. After a while he broke his idol, and went and knelt down to pray to the true God, and called him 'My Father.'"

## THE MERCHANT'S PROPHECY.

AS we were coming down to the office to-day we overheard a paragraph from a conversation between two gentlemen who occupied the seat in front. They were talking about a young man who had evidently entered the employ of one of them quite recently. "He'll reach the top if he keeps on this way," the gentleman remarked, "for he works as though my business were his own." We repeat the warm commendation of the business man for the benefit of the boys who may be putting in long hours in factory or store or office. Duty done in a unperfunctory manner never wins the appreciation of an employer. He likes to see an employee take vital interest in what he is doing. One who thus identifies himself with the business of the firm, and zealously pushes the work of his department, lays the foundations for promotion which is never long delayed. That is a piece of history which has repeated itself again and again. The hint may be worth something, boys. Tack it up on memory's wall.—*Epsworth Herald.*

## EASTER BOOKLETS

POSTPAID.

- Easter Blessings. 5 cents.
- Easter Hymns. 5 cents.
- Easter Joys. Monotint illustrations. 7 cents.
- Chimes for Easter-tide. Decorations in monotint. 7 cents.
- The Angels' Song. 7 cents.
- The Risen Lord. 7 cents.
- Happy may Your Easter be. 8 cents.
- Angel Voices. 10 cents.
- Happy may Your Easter be. 10 cents.
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