OUT IN THE COLD.

OUT of a rum-shop on a dreary night,
Reeled a husband and father in pitiful plight;
His face was haggard, his garments were thin,
And his soul was scorched with the fires of sin;—
Weary and hungry his children sat down
To wait his return from the distant town;
In helpless silence, in grief untold,
They wait for father out in the cold,
Out in the cold.

Out of the bar-room into the cold,
Money all gone and manhood sold,
The poor man, wasted and worn with sin,
Breasted the storm with quivering chin.
Only the storm, with its spectres, was out,
And the eddying snow that went whirling about,
Thousands were happy in the home-fold,
Nor thought of the drunkard out in the cold,
Out in the cold.

The rumseller sat by his fire that night,
Smoking his pipe by his warm firelight,
And he clapped his hands in rollicking glee
"The wind and the storm are nothing to me;
I've plenty of coal in my cellar," he said,
"My children are hearty, and warm, and well fed;"
But his children were warmed by the poor man's gold—
Only the wind heard those m[illegible] in the cold,
Out in the cold.

And when the morn broke in the twilight gray,
In a white sheet of snow the poor man lay,
And this was the verdict the coroner gave:
"Frozen to death and no one to save."
The wife and the children wept alone,
But the traffic is king and sits on a throne,
And who are the young and who are the old,
That next may go forth to die in the cold?
Out in the cold.

—*Temperance Record.*

HOW COFFEE IS CULTIVATED

THE manner of cultivating the coffee plant varies but little in the several Central American States.

The coffee-beans are first planted in hot-beds, from which they sprout, and shoot up five or six inches high, when they are removed singly and taken to the fields which have been prepared to receive them. There the young sprouts are planted anew, in rows, with a space of from four to six feet between the plants. For two years they need no more care, except an occasional ploughing out of the weeds which spring up around them. The third year the plant is from three to four feet high, and commences to bear, producing about a pound of coffee fruit. Each year adds to the size and productiveness of the tree, till it reaches about ten feet in height, after which it gives a product of from twenty to thirty pounds of green fruit.

BREVITIES.

THE Bible is a window in this prison of hope, through which we look into eternity.

As the sword of the best-tempered metal is most flexible, so the truly generous are most pliant and courteous to their inferiors.

BECAUSE a girl wears a wing in each side of her hat it doesn't prove that she is an angel. Neither is it conclusive evidence that she is a goose.

DR. SOUTH, once when preaching before Charles II, observed that the monarch and several of his attendants had fallen asleep. Presently one of the latter began to snore, whereupon the bishop broke off his sermon and exclaimed: "Lord Lauderdale, I am sorry to disturb your repose, but let me entreat you not to snore so loud, lest you awaken his majesty."

"Is the howling of a dog always followed by death?" asked a little girl of her father. "Not always, my dear. Sometimes the man that shoots at the dog misses him," was the parent's reply.

"THOMAS, spell weather," said a schoolmaster to one of his pupils. "W-i-e-o-t-h-i-o-u-r, weather." "[illegible], Thomas, you may sit down," said the teacher; "I think that is the worst spell of weather we have had since Christmas."

A RECENT writer on the subject of common school education declares his opposition to prize giving. It is very certain that the system is quite as likely to develop an unworthy cunning on the part of students as it is to excite a creditable spirit of emulation.

"WIFE, I wish you could make pies that would taste as good as my mother's used to." "Well, my dear, you run out and bring in a pailful of water and a hodful of coal and an armful of wood, just as you used to for your mother, and may be you will like my pies as well."

A YOUNG mother proposed to visit, with her little children, the grave of a little one, who had been but recently laid away; and when she spoke of the matter her young daughter asked to be dressed altogether in white to go there. A beautiful thought, born of a desire to be pure when she stood on that sacred spot.

JONES and Brown were talking of a young clergyman whose preaching they had been to hear. "What do you think of him?" asked Brown. "I think, said Jones, he did much better two years ago." "Why, he did not preach then," said Brown. "True," said Jones, "that is what I mean."

THERE never was a better example of the concise form of expression common to real Western Americans than the answer of the man of the Sierras, who, when asked about the character of a neighbour, replied, "Mister, I don't know very much about him; but my impression is that he'd make a first-class stranger."

LESSON NOTES.

A.D. 58] LESSON IX [March 1.

PAUL SENT TO FELIX.

Acts 23. 12-24. Commit to memory vs. 20-22.

GOLDEN TEXT.

If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed. 1 Peter 4. 16.

OUTLINE.

1. A Cruel Conspiracy, v. 12-22.
2. A Night Journey, v. 23, 24.

TIME.—In the spring of A.D. 58, immediately following the last lesson.

PLACES.—Jerusalem and Cesarea. See Descriptive Index.

EXPLANATIONS.—*A curse*—The herem, the curse of divine wrath and rejection. They could only be released from this vow by the rabbies. *Or ever*—Before they purposed to slay him at a distance, to prevent suspicion attaching to the Sanhedrin. *Kill him*—This proposition was not so remarkable, as the gravest Jewish writers, the Talmud, Josephus, and Philo, maintained the right of summary assassinations of apostates from God. *Paul's sister's son*—Whether this nephew dwelt at Jerusalem, or was there as a pupil, is unknown. *Would enquire*—This pretence was very plausible as the proceedings of the court had been suddenly interrupted the day before. *Make ready*—He was doubtless anxious to get rid of a prisoner who created such excitement. Then, too, if Paul were murdered, Lysias might have been charged with having accepted a bribe. *Soldiers*—So large a force was ordered in order to secure against any attempt at capture. *Third hour*—Nine o'clock in the evening. *Beasts*—The Greek word denotes any riding beasts, as horses, mules, or camels. *Felix*—The governor, to whom the chief captain was subordinate.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we shown—
1. That enmity to Christ makes men cruel?
2. That God provides for and protects his servants?
3. That great good may be done by the humblest?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did certain of the Jews do? "Banded themselves together to kill Paul." 2. Under what vow did they bind themselves to do this? Neither to eat nor to drink. 3. How many were there in this conspiracy? More than forty. 4. Who informed Paul of their plot? His sister's son. 5. When the chief captain became aware of this plot what did he do? He sent Paul to Felix.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—God's unconscious instruments.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

10. What is the Spirit's work in believers? He enlightens their minds to understand the Scriptures, bears witness with their spirits that they are the children of God, helps their prayers; purifies them from inward and outward sin; and fills their hearts and lives with perfect love and every grace.

11. Where is the Spirit said to bear this witness?

Romans viii. 16; Galatians iv. 6; 1 John iii. 24.

A.D. 58.] LESSON X. [March 8.

PAUL BEFORE FELIX.

Acts 24. 10-27. Commit to memory vs. 14-16.

GOLDEN TEXT.

A conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men. Acts 24. 16.

OUTLINE.

1. A Good Confession, v. 10-16.
2. A Plain Statement. v. 17-21.
3. A Long delay, v. 22-27.

TIME.—This lesson extends through two years, from A.D. 58-60.

PLACE.—Cesarea, the Roman capital of Palestine. See Descriptive Index.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Beckoned*—A nod from the judge permitting Paul to speak. *Many years*—Felix had resided six years in Cesarea. *Because*—Paul now answers to the first charge, namely, of sedition. *Twelve days*—Since the Pentecost. *They call*—But I do not admit. *Heresy*—The second charge was of heresy, and this Paul replies to in vers. 14-16. *God of my fathers*—As a Christian, Paul reverenced the god of the Jews, and was not therefore guilty of irreligion. *Now*—(ver. 17)—Paul now replies to the third charge, namely, sacrilege. Vers. 17-21. *Many years*—Rather, after some years more, the four years since he was last in Jerusalem. Chap. 18. 22. *Purified*—As a Nazarite. *One voice*—Exclamation that I uttered. *That way*—Because he knew more exactly what referred to Christianity. *Reasoned*—Conversed. *Trembled*—More correctly, was fearful.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we shown—
1. The boldness of a clear conscience?
2. The power of divine truth?
3. The excuses of a worldly-minded man?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Of what did Paul say he had hope? Of the resurrection of the dead. 2. Paul exercised himself to have what? "A conscience void of offence." 3. Of what did Paul reason before Felix? "Righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come." 4. What effect had this on Felix? He trembled. 5. How long did Felix keep Paul in prison? Two years.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The power of conscience.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

12. What is declared of His helping us in prayer?

Romans viii. 26

[Ephesians vi. 18; Jude 20.]

13. Where is he spoken of as teaching us to understand the Scriptures?

John xvi. 13, 14; 1 Corinthians ii. 14; 1 John ii. 20.

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