

CHILDREN.

BY LONGFELLOW.

Come to me, O ye children!
For I hear you at your play,
And the questions that perplexed me
Have vanished quite away.

Ye open the eastern windows
That look towards the sun,
Where thoughts are singing swallows
And the brooks of morning run.

In your hearts are the birds and the sunshine,
In your thoughts the brooklet's flow,
But in mine is the wind of Autumn
And the first fall of the snow.

Ah! what would the world be to us
If the children were no more?
We should dread the desert behind us
Worse than the dark before.

What the leaves are to the forest,
With light and air for food,
Ere their sweet and tender juices
Have been hardened into wood—

That to the world are children;
Through them it feels the glow
Of a brighter and sunnier climate
Than reaches the trunks below.

Come to me, O ye children!
And whisper in my ear
What the birds and the winds are singing
In your sunny atmosphere.

For what are all our contrivings,
And the wisdom of our books,
When compared with your caresses,
And the gladness of your looks!

Ye are better than all the ballads
That ever were sung or said;
For ye are living poems,
And all the rest are dead.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

A.D. 51.] LESSON V. [Feb. 3.

PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY.

Act. 17: 35-41, and 16: 1-10. Commit to memory vs. 9, 10.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Come over into Macedonia and help us, Acts 16: 9.

OUTLINE.

1. The Sharp Contention. v. 35-39.
2. The Three Companions. v. 40-5.
3. The Macedonian Call. v. 6-10.

PLACES.—Antioch in Syria, Lystra in Lycania, Troas in Mysia.

EXPLANATIONS.—With many others—Some of their names are given in Acts 13: 1. Let us go again—To the places in the first missionary journey. John, whose surname was Mark—The young man who had left them on their first journey. Thought no good—Did not think it was right. Contention—Even apostles had differences and divisions. Departed under—And never worked together again. Confirming—Encouraging the Churches already founded. A certain disciple—A believer in Christ. Son of a woman—Her name was Eunice. Father was a Greek—A heathen, not a Christian. Would have—As his companion and helper. Circumcised him—The rite or form by which a Gentile became a Jew. Because of the Jews—He could not work among the Jews as a Gentile. The decree—The agreement that Gentile Christians should not be required to become Jews. Forbidden of the Holy Ghost—The Spirit kept them at that time from preaching in Asia, in order to send them to Europe. A vision—This was a dream sent by the Lord to direct Paul. To go into Macedonia—This was across the Aegean Sea in Europe.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we shown—
1. That good men may differ in their judgment?
2. That quarrels separate friends?
3. That the call of duty requires prompt obedience?

THE LESSON CATECHISM

1. What did Paul propose to Barnabas to do? To meet the brethren in every city.
2. Whom did Paul meet on his journey? Timothy. 3. In what were the Churches established? In the faith. 4. What appeared

to Paul in the night? A vision. 5. Where did Paul then go? Into Macedonia.
DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The authority of the Holy Spirit.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

7. In what other ways did He show this? By the heavenly wisdom, the authority, and the graciousness of His teaching. Luke iv. 22; John vii. 46; Luke xxiv. 32; Mark i. 22.
8. And what was the last and greatest proof?

His rising from the dead, as He Himself foretold. John ii. 18, 19, 21; Acts ii. 32.

[Matthew xvi. 21; 1 Corinthians xv. 14, 20.]

9. Have believers an internal evidence that Christ came from God? They have, according to their faith, the witness and the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their hearts. John xiv. 20; 1 John iv. 13; Galatians v. 22, 23.

[John i. 17; xvi. 14; Acts v. 32; 1 Corinthians xii. 3, Ephesians i. 13; 1 John v. 10.]

A. D. 52.] LESSON VI. [Feb. 10.

THE CONVERSION OF LYDIA.

Acts 16: 11-24. Commit to memory vs. 13-15.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. Acts 16: 14.

OUTLINE.

1. Mission Work. v. 11-13.
2. Success. v. 14, 15.
3. Opposition. v. 16-24.

TIME.—A. D. 52, directly following the events of the last lesson.

PLACE.—Philippi in Macedonia.

EXPLANATIONS.—Loosing—Sitting sail. Colony—A Roman city having the right to govern itself. River-side—The Jews worshipped by rivers when they had no synagogue. Spoke unto the women—The first Gospel sermon in Europe was preached to a little company of women. Selver of purple—Of purple dyes, or of dry-goats dyed purple. She attended—Heard with willingness to believe. Faithful to the Lord—A disciple of Christ. Constrained—Urged earnestly. Damsel—A young girl who was a slave. Spirit of divination—Having a power through an evil spirit to foretell some events. Sothis says—Falling fortunes and making predictions for pay. Cried, saying—The evil spirit was compelled to confess the power of Christ. Grieved—Paul was unwilling to receive honour from evil spirits. Hope of their gains—They could now make no more money out of her utterances. The market-place—The public square where courts and public meetings were held. Teach customs—The worship of Jesus. Not lawful—This was false, for the Gospel was not forbidden. Beat them—With heavy rods. Inner prison—The inside or lowest dungeon. Stocks—Wooden fixtures for fastening the feet.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson is it shown—
1. That God's word finds its way to praying hearts?
2. That there may be right speech and a wrong heart?
3. That self-interest unites men in hatred of the truth?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What is said of Lydia? The Lord opened her heart. 2. Whom did Paul meet on his way to prayer? A damsel possessed with an evil spirit. 3. What did Paul command the spirit? "To come out of her." 4. When the spirit came out what did her master do? Brought Paul and Silas to the magistrates. 5. What did the magistrates do to Paul and Silas for this act? Beat them and cast them into prison.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Evil spiritual agencies.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

10. What does our Lord say to those who reject Him?

He declares that they ought to believe in Him; and that they would believe in Him if they humbly and patiently listened to His words. John viii. 46, 47; John x. 25-27. [John iii. 19; xviii. 37; 1 John iv. 6.]

11. What is His warning to them? That His word shall condemn them at the last day. John xii. 48.

12. What blessing does He pronounce on believers?

To Peter He gave it thus: Matthew xvi. 17. And to Thomas He gave it thus: John xx. 29.

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