



HUNCHBACK BRIDGE, CHINA.

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CHINA is intersected everywhere with a great number of canals, and as there are numerous highways crossing these canals, a great many bridges are required. Some of these take a peculiar hunchback form, as it is called—like the one shown in the cut—to permit large-sized vessels to pass. The canal traffic is of enormous extent, and these water-ways of the empire contribute greatly to its wealth and prosperity.

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ACTS.

A.D. 40.] LESSON III. [Oct. 16.

PETER'S VISION.

Acts 10. 1-20. Memory verses, 1-4.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.—Acts 10. 34.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

The way to more light is the faithful use of what we have.

CIRCUMSTANCES.

The Gospel had been preached for ten years, and many thousands of converts had been gained. But the work had not extended far among the Gentiles. These were welcomed only on condition that they should become Jews. Now a new era for the Church is dawning, widening it into a Church universal, and preparing for missionary work over the world.

PETER'S PREPARATIONS.

Peter had been led in this direction by his mission to the Samaritans, and by his residence with Simon the tanner, whose business was unclean to the Jews. Now comes another step upward.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.

Cornelius—A noble family name at Rome. *Centurion*—Captain of one hundred men. *Band*—Cohort, consisting of six centuries. He was a truly pious man, but unenlightened. *Ninth hour*—Three o'clock in the afternoon. *An angel*—In bright apparel (ver. 30), to show that he was an angel. *A memorial*—A remembrance. God had not forgotten to answer his prayers, but was waiting for the best time. *On the morrow*—They started after three o'clock, and by travelling at night, as is usual, they would reach Joppa, thirty miles away, by noon the next day. *House-top*—The most retired place. *Sixth hour*—Noon. *A great sheet knit*—Bound; tied to cords by which it was let down. *All manner*—Clean and unclean. *Never eaten anything that is common*—Unholy, such as Gentiles only could eat. *What God hath cleansed*—God had forbidden the Jews to eat that which was unclean, and only God could su-

percede that law. God would show him that the Gentiles, with whom free social intercourse had been forbidden, were to be received into the Church on an equality with the Jews. *Done thrice*—To make Peter doubly certain that the message was from God.

Find in this lesson—

What a good man does.
That God answers prayer.
How we can grow better.
How we should treat our fellow-men.

REVIEW EXERCISE.

1. Who was Cornelius? "A Roman officer at Caesarea." 2. What kind of a man was he? "He was devout, prayerful, just, and benevolent." 3. How did God answer his prayer? "By a vision bidding him to send for Peter." 4. How was Peter prepared for his message? "By a vision showing that God is no respecter of persons." 5. What did this mean? "That the Gentiles were to be welcomed into the Church with the Jews."

CATECHISM QUESTION.

How may you obtain the help of the Holy Spirit?

By prayer in the name of Jesus.
Luke 11. 13.—If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?
John 16. 23.—If ye shall ask anything of the Father, he will give it to you in my name.

Acts 2. 33; Philippians 1. 19.

TWO CLEVER BY HALF.

I READ in the *Band of Mercy* for March "A Letter from a Naughty Dog," in which he speaks of his propensity for stealing eggs from the nests and eating them, and also of some of the punishments inflicted in order to cure dogs of this bad habit.

One, he says (which was not, however, tried on him), is to put a boiled egg hot into the nest just before it is likely to be robbed, taking all the other eggs out of the nest.

Well, I must tell you that a friend of mine tried this remedy on his dog, but it did not cure him, because he was too "knowing a cur" to be caught with chaff.

As Toby continued day after day to steal the farmer's eggs, in spite of scoldings, whippings, etc., his master thought he would see for once how he liked a hot egg. Accordingly, the egg was boiled and placed in the nest, all the others being removed, and his master stood hidden at a little distance to watch the result.

Away came Toby, bounding along, but sniffing at the nest. I suppose he found the hot egg not quite agreeable to the tip of his nose, so he drew back; then, nothing daunted, he took his paw, drew the egg out of the nest, rolled it about on the grass till cool, and then ate it, no doubt enjoying it all the more for being boiled, thus proving himself too clever by half.

Song of the Seconds.

SING a song of seconds,
Tireless little elves,
Who, because they're busy,
Don't have time themselves!
They must work forever—
Then they're never done—
Work in rain and sorrow—
Work in joy and sun—
Talking to the minutes—
This their work by day—
Grains of good or evil
Folks lose by the way.

Minutes build foundations,
Feebly built or strong,
As the seconds fetch them
Deeds of right or wrong.
Hours set the rafters
Which, as years pass by,
Make for us our lovely
Homes beyond the sky.

So when seconds watch us
Through the livelong day—
Taking every action,
Every word away—
Let our deeds be noble,
Let our thoughts be just;
Let the fact of living
Fill with simple trust
Hearts that now are troubled,
Saddened, and oppressed;
Know whatever happens
Always must be best!

When we're rid of sorrow,
When we welcome mirth,
When we make our moments
Blessed upon earth,
Then the flying seconds
In their hands will hold
What will make our mansions
Rare and bright as gold!

BENNY'S THANK-YOU BOX.

THEY were going to have a thank-offering meeting at Benny's church. He knew it because his mamma was president of the "big 'ciety," and sister Gertie attended the band. He "b'longed to bote," he said; and he had a mite-box with Luther's picture on it, and he put a cent in it whenever he found a white one in papa's pocket. Benny had one of the ten-year envelopes, but it wasn't large enough to suit him, so he begged a box from Gertie, and he was happy.

That night when papa opened the door a boy and a rattling-box danced down stairs. "Do you feel very thankful, papa?"

"What for?"
"Cause you're home and I'm kissing you."

"Indeed I do," laughed papa.
"Then put a penny in my thank-you box," shouted Benny.

Mamma had to put one in because she said she was thankful the spring cleaning was done. Brother Tom put in five because his new suit came home just in time for

the party. Bridget had it presented to her for an offering when she said she was glad Monday was such a fine drying day for her washing, and Gertie gave him pennies twice for two pleasant afternoons spent in gathering wild flowers. So many things to be thankful for seemed to happen that the little box grew to be heavy—it got so full it wouldn't rattle.

But one night soon after Tom and Gertie were creeping around with pale, frightened faces, and speaking in whispers; the little "thank you boy," as Benny liked to be called, was very ill with croup. The doctor came and went and came again, "but not till daylight broke could he give the comforting assurance, "He is safe now."

In the dim light Tom dropped something in the little box as he whispered, "Thank you, dear God." Somehow everybody seemed to feel as Tom did, and when Benny was propped up in bed next day, and counted his "thank you" money, there was \$2.50 in it, which papa changed into a gold piece that very day.—*Lutheran Missionary Journal*.

NEATNESS IN GIRLS.

NEATNESS is a good thing for a girl, and if she does not learn it when she is young, she never will. It takes a great deal more neatness to make a girl look well than it does to make a boy look passable. Not because a boy, to start with, is better looking than a girl, but his clothes are of a different sort, not so many colours in them; and people don't expect a boy to look so pretty as a girl. A girl that is not neatly dressed is called a sloven, and no one likes to look at her. Her face may be pretty, and her eyes bright, but if there is a spot of dirt on her cheek, and her fingers' ends are black with ink, and her shoes are not laced or buttoned up, and her apron is dirty, and her skirt is torn, she cannot be liked. I went into a little girl's room once, and all her clothes were on the floor, and her playthings, too. Learn to be neat, and when you have learned it, it will almost take care of itself.

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