Christ Blessing the Children.

"THE Master has come over Jordan,"
Said Hannah, the mother, one day;
"And is healing the people who throng him,
With a touch of his finger, they say.

"And now I will go with the children—
Little Rachel, and Matthew, and John;
I will carry the baby Esther
For the Master to look upon."

So over the hills of Judah,
Along by the vine-rows green,
With Esther asleep on her bosom,
And Rachel her brothers between.

'Mong the people who hung on his teaching,
Or waited his touch and his word,
Through the row of proud Pharisees sneering,
She pressed to the feet of the Lord.

"Now, why should'st thou hinder the Master,"
Said Peter, "with children like these?
Seest not that, from morning till evening,
He teacheth and healeth disease?"

Then said Jesus, "Forbid not the children,
Permit them to come unto me;"
And he took in his arms little Esther,
And Rachel, she stood by his knee.

And the heavy heart of the mother
Was lifted all earth-care above,
As he laid his hands on her dear ones,
And blessed them with tenderest love.

LESSON NOTES.

FOURTH QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MATTHEW.

A.D. 28.] LESSON II. [Oct. 9.

THE TEMPEST STILLED.

Matt. 8. 18-27. Commit to mem. vs. 24-27.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Matt. 8. 26.

OUTLINE.

1. Faith Needed.
2. Faith Tested.

TIME.—28 A.D. About five months after the Sermon on the Mount

PLACE.—The Sea of Galilee.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Great multitudes*—Drawn by his miracles and teaching. *To depart*—For the sake of quiet and rest. *Other side*—To the shores on the eastern side of the Sea of Galilee. *Follow thee*—Desiring to be counted among the apostles. *Holes*—Dens, in which they live. *Son of man*—A name showing that Jesus was not only divine, but human. *Bury my father*—Showing a desire to delay work for Christ. *Dead bury their dead*—Let those who have only earthly matters to care for attend to them. *Tempest*—Such as frequently arise in the Sea of Galilee. *Asleep*—He had been full of labours and cares all through the day. *Little faith*—They had faith to believe that he could save, but not to believe that they were safe with him.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—
1. The necessity of self-denial in a follower of Christ?
2. The demand for singleness of purpose?
3. The sinfulness of distrust?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who came offering to following Jesus? A certain scribe. 2. What did Jesus tell him he did not possess? A place to lay his head. 3. What did Jesus command another man? "Follow me." 4. What took place while Jesus and the disciples were crossing the Sea of Galilee? A great storm. 5. What did Jesus say to the waves? "Peace, be still." 6. What did he say to the disciples in the GOLDEN TEXT? "Why are," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Following Christ.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

2. Do we know any further reason why it was needful? It was necessary, that our Saviour might offer a full satisfaction and atonement for the sin of man.

1 John ii. 2. He is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the whole world.

A.D. 28.] LESSON III. [Oct. 16.

POWER TO FORGIVE SINS.

Matt. 9. 1-8. Commit to mem. vs. 4-7.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins. Matt. 9. 6.

OUTLINE.

1. Power to Heal.
2. Power to Forgive.

TIME.—28 A.D.

PLACE.—Capernaum.

EXPLANATIONS.—*Passed over . . . into his own city*—From the east side of the Sea of Galilee he sailed back to Capernaum; he seems to have been often crossing back and forth. This one verse probably belongs, chronologically, exactly after the last lesson, and should close the eighth chapter. *Sick of the palsy*—One who had been stricken by paralysis. *Lying on a bed*—Carried upon the Oriental rug, which made the bed or couch. *Be of good cheer*—Take courage, all will be well. *Thy sins be forgiven*—As if some form of sins had brought the evil, and their forgiveness must precede cure. *Blasphemeth*—Speaks profanely, taking to himself God's power. *Knowing their thoughts*—Read John 2. 25. *Take up thy bed*—A thing easily done; much as if he had said, Roll up your rug and go.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where, in this lesson, are we taught—
1. That God sees our faith?
2. That God knows our thoughts?
3. That God rewards our obedience?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Who was let down through the roof to be healed by Jesus? A man sick of the palsy. 2. What did Jesus say to him? "Thy sins be forgiven thee." 3. What claim of Jesus is stated in the GOLDEN TEXT? "The Son," etc. 4. How did Jesus show that he possessed this power? By healing the sick man.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Omniscience.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

3. What do you mean by satisfaction and atonement? I mean that the death of Christ in our stead was so precious, that for the sake of it God the righteous Judge can forgive our sins and receive us to his favour. 1 Peter i. 18, 19; 1 Peter iii. 18; 1 John i. 9.

A TRUE STORY.

BY EMMA A. FREELAND.

NEAR a small village in Dakota lived a little girl. She was bright and active, fond of fun and frolic, but she was not a Christian. Her father and mother were Christians, but her elder brothers and sisters were not. Last August there was a tent meeting in the village; the father and mother went, taking their little girl with them. I do not doubt but that the mother's faith had said, "Ida will be saved if we take her."

Many people came to the meetings, but most of them were too proud to acknowledge their sins and come to the Saviour. At almost the first service, however, Ida went forward to the altar and tried to find Jesus. Again and again she went, but it was not at the tent but upstairs, almost alone, that she found the Saviour. I wish that you might all have seen her at the next meeting. Her face was so joyful as she told what Jesus had done for her. She was baptized and joined the Church, gladly taking the cross for Jesus' sake.

A short time after this she was taken sick. She wrote to a friend about it and told her how hard she was trying to be a Christian. "Sometimes," she wrote, "I feel angry, but I go away and pray. I am trying to live up to the rules as much as I can."

Do not think, children, that all good little girls die, when I tell you that in a few weeks the words came that Ida was dead. She died happy in Jesus. Some of you may feel afraid that if you become Christians you will not be able to keep religion. Do not think that, for Jesus loves you so much that if he saw that there were temptations too strong for you he would take you home to himself. He will not let the enemy destroy one of the little ones that trust in him.

ONE OF THOSE LITTLE ONES.

A FEW weeks ago, in a western city, a poor widow died, leaving one child, a little lame boy, to the cold charities of the world. After his mother's funeral the little fellow was taken ill from the combined results of grief and neglect, and it was then evident that he would soon be united to his only friend.

He was left alone much of the day, there being no one who could spare the time to stay with him. It was often noticed that the voices of two persons could be heard in his little room. But when those in charge entered, he would be alone and apparently asleep.

One day they listened, being quite sure that no one was with the child, and they overheard this strange monologue:

"Is you right there, mamma?"

"Yes, my little boy, I is right here."

"Was you went away yet?"

"I wented back to heaven to tell God about my little boy."

"Did you was afraid, mamma?"

"No, my own little boy, 'cause God is nicer'n peoples."

"Did you told him about me, mamma?"

"I tolded him I had a little boy named Harry,—an'—an'"—

There was a loud noise of sobbing then, and the listener without cried too. Presently the child's voice resumed, "Did you told God to let me come up there, mamma?"

"Yes, my boy; an' he said, 'Bimeby bimeby.'"

"Mamma, I'se—so—tired—an'—an'—sleepy—an' I want to come an' stay with—you—an'—God."

There was a long silence then, broken by sobs. The listeners went in, after resolving in their hearts to be thereafter very patient with the motherless one.

But the next day he went home to his mother. "Bimeby" had come.

IF Christians meet on the Rock Christ as Christians, they will be happy with each other; but if on the sands of disputation, they raise a troublesome dust.

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