

ONE MORE UNFORTUNATE.

THEY bore him to his mother, and he lay upon her lap till noon, unconscious yet, his little face was pale and cold as clay. His tiny hands were clenched, his eyes were set.

The agonized mother wept to see him lie as tho' his spirit from this world had fled. And many a sob-suppression, and heart-felt sigh, and laid him gently on his little bed. The feeble throbbing of his little heart alone bid hope revive within that mother's breast, and in her eyes fond expectation shone. As she with lips and hands her boy caressed. "O tell me, dearest, speak," the mother cried.

"Tell mother, darling, what befell her pet,— And languidly the "darling" thus replied— "O mamma, dear, I smoked a cigarette!"

MR. WHITTIER'S CHILDHOOD.

FEW American poets have been as widely known by the children, and as much beloved by those of all ages, as John G. Whittier.

A little girl in Oxford, Pennsylvania, wanted to know what Mr. Whittier thought about when he was a little boy (he is now over seventy years of age); so she asked him in a letter, and received this reply:

"MY DEAR YOUNG FRIEND:—I think, at the age of which thy note inquires, I found about equal satisfaction in our old rural home, with the shifting panorama of the seasons, in reading the few books within my reach, and dreaming of something wonderful and grand in the future. Neither change nor loss had then made me realize the uncertainty of all earthly things. I felt secure in my mother's love, and dreamed of losing nothing and gaining much. Looking back now, my chief satisfaction is that I loved and obeyed my parents, and tried to make them happy by seeking to be good. That I did not succeed in all respects, that I fell very far short of my good intentions, was a frequent cause of sorrow. I had at that time a very great thirst for knowledge, and little means to gratify it. The beauty of outward nature early impressed me; and the moral and spiritual beauty of the holy lives I read of in the Bible and other good books also affected me with a sense of my own falling short, and longings for a better state."

PLEASANTRIES.

A MAN advertises for "competent persons to undertake the sale of a new medicine," and adds that "it will be profitable to the undertaker." No doubt of it.

A DRINKING professor to the Rev. Rowland Hill: "Now, do you think that a glass of spirits would drive religion out of my heart?" Mr. Hill: "No, for there is none in it."

BE careful to say what you mean. They did not, evidently, who built a monument to a missionary, and put upon it an epitaph ending, "He was shot by his attendant. Well done, good and faithful servant!"

WHEN a lady living in Chelsea sent to London for a doctor, she apologized for asking him to come such a distance. "Don't speak of it," answered the M. D. "I happened to have another patient in the neighborhood, and can thus kill two birds with one stone."

"SAY, Mrs. Bunson," said a little girl to a lady visitor, "do you belong to a brass band?" "No, my dear." "I thought you did." "Why did you, my

child?" "Because mamma said you was always blowing your own horn, and I thought you must belong to the band."

"I SUPPOSE the bells are sounding an alarm of fire," sneeringly said a man, as the church-bells were calling the worshippers one Sunday morning. To which a clergyman, who was passing, replied, "Yes, my friend, but the fire is not in this world."

THAT is a good story about the aged lady on her death-bed, who was in a penitential mood. She said, "I have been a great sinner more than eighty years, and didn't know it." An old colored woman, who had lived with her a long time exclaimed, "Lors! I knowed that all the time!"

FATHER to his little son, who has just handed him the teacher's report of progress and conduct for the last month: "This report is very unsatisfactory; I'm not at all pleased with it." Little son: "I told the teacher that I thought you wouldn't be, but he wouldn't change it."

ONCE, when a certain very eccentric laird, named Hamilton, had business with the Duke of Hamilton, at Hamilton Palace, the Duke politely asked him to lunch. A liveried servant waited upon them, and was most assiduous in his attentions to the Duke and his guest. At last our eccentric friend lost patience, and looking at the servant, addressed him thus:—"What for are ye dance, dancing about the room that gait; can ye no draw in your chair and sit down? I'm sure there's plenty on the table for three."

LESSON NOTES.

THIRD QUARTER.

B. C. 1427.] LESSON VIII. [Aug. 19. ISRAEL FORSAKING GOD.

Judg 2. 6-16. Commit to memory vs. 14-16.

GOLDEN TEXT.

And they forsook the Lord God of their fathers. Judg. 2. 12.

OUTLINE.

1. Good Days in Israel. v. 6-10.
2. Evil Days in Israel. v. 11-16.

TIME.—This lesson contains a general statement of the condition of Israel from the death of Joshua, B. C. 1427, during the period of the judges, about three hundred and thirty years.

PLACE.—The land of Israel.

EXPLANATIONS.—Let the people go.—From the meeting referred to in the last lesson. Children of Israel.—the descendants of Jacob, divided into twelve tribes. To possess the land.—It had been conquered fifteen years before. All the days of Joshua.—While they were under his influence. Elders that out-lived Joshua.—Those who were young men during the conquest of Canaan. Seen all the great works. Such as the crossing of the Jordan, the taking of Jericho, and the victories over the Canaanites. They buried him.—The exact place of his burial is not known. Mount of Ephraim.—No one mountain is referred to, but the land of Ephraim, which was mountainous. Another generation.—Children or grandchildren of those who had lived during Joshua's time. Knew not the Lord.—They were not a religious, God-fearing people. Forsook the Lord.—God, who had given them their land. Followed other gods.—Idols, which were no gods. The Lord to anger.—God's anger is a wrath against sin. Not against Israel.—It was a just anger, and God's dealings with the people were righteous, for with all his anger he loved Israel. Spoilers.—Enemies who conquered, ruled over, and oppressed them. Sold them.—That is, he gave them into their power. As the Lord had said.—God had warned them of this as the sure result of their sins. Raised up judges.—These were heroes whom God called forth from time to time among the people. They led the people to turn back to God, and gave them freedom from their oppressors. Fifteen

judges are generally given, including Abimelech, "the bramble-king." They were not in direct succession; sometimes a generation passed without a judge, sometimes more than one ruled at the same time in different parts of the land.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where are we taught in this lesson—

1. How easily men forget God's mercies?
2. To what men are led when they forsake God?
3. How God shows his mercy to those who forget him?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. How long did the Israelites serve God? While Joshua lived.
2. What did they do after Joshua and the elders died? They forgot God.
3. What other sin did they commit? They followed idols.
4. How did they suffer for this? They were oppressed by their enemies.
5. How did God still show them mercy? By raising up judges.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The evil results of sin.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

33. Was he crucified immediately, or did he suffer other injuries before his death?

Christ was not crucified immediately after his condemnation, but suffered other injuries before his death: thus, he was mocked, he was spit upon, he was crowned with thorns, he was scourged, and wickedly abused.

B. C. 1249.] LESSON IX. [Aug. 26.

GIDEON'S ARMY.

Judg. 7. 1-8. Commit to memory vs. 2-5.

GOLDEN TEXT.

The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon. Judg. 7. 20.

OUTLINE.

1. The Many. v. 1-3.
2. The Few. v. 4-8.

TIME.—B. C. 1249.

PLACE.—The hill of Moreh, now known as Little Hermon, near Mount Tabur.

EXPLANATIONS.—The Midianite oppression was the hardest of all which the Israelites had yet endured. See the account of it in chap. 6. 1-10. God called Gideon, a brave warrior, to set Israel free. Read his call and how it was received in chap. 6. 11-24. He began by breaking down the altar of Baal, and rearing in its place an altar to God, on which he offered sacrifice, chap. 6. 25-27. See why Gideon was named Jerubbaal, (which means, "Let Baal plead.") in chap. 6. 28-32, and the story of Gideon's fleece in chap. 6. 36-40. He called upon the northern tribes to revolt, and a large army gathered around him near the well of Harod. But when they saw the vast host of the Midianites encamped on the side of the hill of Moreh, now called Little Hermon, they were afraid, and two-thirds of the army went to their homes. God wished to deliver Israel in a way to show that it was by his own power, and verse 5 shows the test by which he chose the men who were best fitted for his work. Gideon marched his army of ten thousand men down to the water, and all drank. Nearly all of them laid aside their weapons, knelt down by the brook and put their lips to the water, more eager for a drink than for the war. But three hundred men scarcely stopped, only caught up a handful of water in their hands while passing, thus showing themselves single-hearted in their warfare. With these three hundred Gideon made a night attack on the Midianites, and utterly destroyed their great army, so that Israel was set free from their oppressions.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where does this lesson show—

1. How God helps his people?
2. Whom God chooses for his work?
3. An example of faith in God's promises?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. Whom did God call to deliver Israel from the Midianites? Gideon.
2. How many people came at his call to fight the Midianites? Thirty-two thousand.
3. What did God say of this army? "The people are too many."
4. How many did God choose out of them? Three hundred men.
5. What did God do by the three hundred? He delivered Israel.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—The sovereignty of God.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

34. In what company was he crucified? Christ was crucified in a most shameful manner, between two thieves, as if he had been the chief of sinners.

Knowledge Acquired by Electricity.

When will mankind know or realize that the utmost limits of its power have been reached? Motive force, light, communication of thought, the voice even been transmitted, all these things are now familiarized, but who would have thought that it would ever become an active and impressing method for imparting to the mind a knowledge of Scripture, Geography, History or Music but such is now actually the case.

THE ELECTRICAL INSTRUCTOR

now for sale, does all this and more. A more ingenious method of imparting knowledge and amusement simultaneously could not be devised, it is a most unique idea, and commends itself to all who have an interest in instructing and amusing children, but not only will youth appreciate them; one and all admire them.

The following subjects have been prepared: OLD TESTAMENT, NEW TESTAMENT, TEMPERANCE, GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, MUSIC.

PRICE 75 CENTS EACH.

Elegantly bound in cloth, gilt and black lettered.

The most amusing, instructive and mysterious scientific novelty of the present day.

Mailed post free on receipt of price.

Address,

WILLIAM BRIGGS,
78 AND 80 KING ST. EAST,
TORONTO.

STANDARD LIBRARY.

Previous numbers of this Library were known by the name Standard Series. A list of these 79 books can be had on application. It is proposed to issue 26 books in the year, or one every fortnight. The regular selling prices of the 26 books in this country, would aggregate from \$50 to \$100. Our prices will be from 15 cents to 25 cents each; the average will be about 20 cents; in all about \$5.40.

Any book in the list mailed post-free on receipt of price.

No. 14. WINTER IN INDIA. By the Right Hon. W. E. Baxter, M.P. Price 25 cents.

This is the last and the best of a number of most charming books of travel by the Hon. Mr. Baxter, who took many journeys in Europe, Asia, Africa and America. By the aid of this book we can accompany him through his winter tour in India. He introduces us to strange scenes, curious incidents, peculiar alone to India, and obtains for us a vast fund of information and facts concerning a country, which is likely to call upon itself more notice from the world than any other country on earth. Its great antiquity, its vast resources of wealth of various kinds, and its ancient lore, make it unrivalled. England and America, both their merchants and scholars, especially, must ever be deeply and more deeply interested in India. Mr. Baxter tells his thrilling story in such a pure, simple style that readers of all ages will alike enjoy it. His position as an English statesman is a guarantee of the reliability of its every statement.

No. 13. INDIA: WHAT CAN IT TEACH US? A course of Lectures delivered before the University of Cambridge, by F. Max Muller, K.M.L.; with an introduction and notes by Professor Alex. Wilder, M.D. Price 25 cents.

"Max Muller stands in the front rank of the noblest geniuses and best scholars of our age."

We cannot give lists of the forthcoming issues.

WILLIAM BRIGGS,
78 & 80 King St. East, Toronto, Ont.
Or, C. W. COATES, Montreal, Que.,
S. F. HURSTIS, Halifax, N. S.