

The Baby's Dilemma.

My four-year-old baby sat on my lap
In the dusk of the fading day;
So helpless he seemed as he nestled there,
So dependent on father and mother's care,
That I asked, as I kissed the golden head,
"What would you do, dear, if mamma were dead?"

The eyes met mine with a steadfast look,
That showed no mother's softness nor fear;
The lips still smiled in a careless way,
As though my death were a new found play;
Not a tear crept of yours as he said,
"I would live wiv grandma if you was dead."

"But grandma is old and feeble, you know
And not able to care for you;
You couldn't stay there. The face grew grave,

One quick, scared look at my face he gave,
Then, still half-dreant, he slowly said,
"I could live wiv Auntie if you was dead."

"But Auntie has boys of her own, you know,
And she wouldn't want my more.
No, you couldn't live there." The brown eyes fell;

Life looks pretty glomy just now, But still,

With a quiver of lip and chin, he said,
"Touldn't I live wiv Uncle Tom if you was dead?"

"Uncle Tom has no wife or home, you know,
And a man couldn't care for you"
The little breast heaved with its weight of woe—

Was there nowhere, then, for a boy to go?
And he sobbed as his arms round my neck he threw,

"I would want to one and go wiv you."

**LESSON NOTES.
THIRD QUARTER.**

STUDIES IN HEBREW HISTORY.

B.C. 1062] **LESSON X.** [Sept. 8
DAVID AND JONATHAN.

1 Sam. 20 1-13. Memory vers. 3, 4
GOLDEN TEXT.

There is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother. Prov. 18 24.

OUTLINE.

1. David's Danger, v. 1-3.
2. David's Devise, v. 4-8.
3. Jonathan's Oath, v. 9-13.

TIME. 1062 B.C.
PLACE. Gibeon.

EXPLANATIONS. *The new moon.* The beginning of the Jewish month when all Israel, by law, must offer a burnt offering unto the Lord. *I should not die,* etc. The words of a loyal counsellor who wishes to do his duty and yet feared for his life. *A yearly sacrifice.* In the old age of David's father, he seems to have formed this custom of gathering his family for a great festival. *A covenant of the Lord.* That is, a covenant in the name of the Lord, made with religious ceremonies.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we shown—

1. The nature of true friendship?
2. The value of true friendship?
3. The unselfishness of true friendship?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What did David try to learn from Jonathan? The cause of Saul's wrath. 2. What did Jonathan try to persuade David? That Saul was not angry. 3. Upon what did they two agree? To stand firmly by each other. 4. What is the great lesson that is taught by these two lives in their mutual relations? The power of human love. 5. To what still greater lesson did David's son afterward give utterance? "There is a Friend," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Covenant keeping.

CATECHISM QUESTIONS.

42. How is God righteous or just? His laws and government are righteous; and he will reward and punish justly.

B.C. 1061] **LESSON XI.** [Sept. 15

DAVID SPARING SAUL.

1 Sam. 24 4-17. Memory vers. 9, 11, 12.
GOLDEN TEXT.

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Rom. 12 21.

OUTLINE.

1. David's Chance, v. 4, 5.
2. David's Grace, v. 6, 7.
3. Saul's Gratitude, v. 8-17.

TIME. 1061 B.C.

PLACE. The wilderness of Engedi.

EXPLANATIONS. *The men of David.*—There had gathered around him in his life an outflow of a band of devoted and hardy young men, who formed in after days the nucleus of his power. *The skirt of Saul's robe.*—A piece from the outer garment which was customarily laid aside when the wearer was at rest. *He cut smock him.* Or, as we say, his conscience troubled him. *My father,* etc. A reverential form of address. But Saul was really David's father-in-law. *A dead dog.*—*an unclean thing.* That is, I am too insignificant and contemptible to cause you an hour of uneasiness.

TEACHINGS OF THE LESSON.

Where in this lesson are we taught—

1. To respect those in authority?
2. To return good for evil?
3. To commit judgment to the Lord?

THE LESSON CATECHISM.

1. What test of David's character is given in our lesson? "His mercy to Saul, his foe." 2. What reason did he give for sparing him? "He is the Lord's anointed." 3. What means did he take to convince Saul of his rectitude? "He cut off his skirt." 4. What was Saul's testimony to David when he had learned of his escape? "Thou art more righteous than I." 5. What great principles of the New Testament did David exemplify? "Be not overcome," etc.

DOCTRINAL SUGGESTION.—Christian charity.

CATECHISM QUESTION.

43. How is God faithful and true? His words are always true, and his promises are never fail. Numbers 23 19.

"Take Her."

MISS SHARP, an American missionary, working in Western Africa, has told the following story about her little scholars:—

A few days ago I said to them, "A poor Congo woman wants me to take her little girl."

"Take her! Take her!" exclaimed the children in chorus.

"But I do not feel as if I could feed more than I have now," I said.

They thought awhile, and then the eldest said, "If we could work and earn something, we could help her buy her chop" they will say chop.

"Yes; but I know of no one who has any work that you could do," I said.

Another pause, and some talk in Kroom, and then one said, "Mamma, take her, and we will all give her a part off each one's plate. Cook same as now, and we take some—some from all plate till she have plenty."

"And you are willing to do this?" I asked.

"Yes," was the answer. "And," continued the one who led off, "now take her and teach book, and teach her about God."

What made it touching to me was, that they all had their meals measured out, and no more than they wanted for themselves—never as much meat at any one time in their lives as they could eat!—*Good Cheer.*

A Surprise.

A CERTAIN Dutch poet, who rose to great fame, was, as a boy, so idle in ordinary affairs, as to give great anxiety to his parents. One day his father came to him, newspaper in hand, and read an advertisement from a Society at Leyden, decreeing a valuable prize to the writer of a poem signed "An author eighteen years old."

"You ought to blush," said his father: "here is a lad only your age, who by his industry, although so young, must be the cause of great joy to his parents, whilst you—"

"Father," said the lad, "it is I!"

Henceforth the son was allowed to follow the bent of his genius, and he came an ornament in his own country, as well as the joy of his parents.

The Broken Band.

SNAP! went the India rubber band that held Charlie's papers together. He was late already, and had no time to go back for another, but ran on as fast as he could, while the broken rubber lay on the wet grass at the side of the path.

"A new sort of worm, I declare!" said a young blackbird. "It looks very delicate." And she hopped around it, not sure whether to taste it or not. While she delayed, another blackbird flew down and seized the band by one end.

"Excuse me, madam," said the first. "That is my worm; I saw it before you."

"But I caught it," said the second; "so it is mine."

"Nothing of the sort," said the first; "I was standing over it."

The second said nothing, but hopped away with the band hanging from her beak.

"You're a thief," shrieked the first, giving chase, and seizing by the other end.

Then followed a desperate struggle. Each held firmly to the end she had taken, and pulled with all her might. Snap! went the ring again, and the combatants rolled over and over.

"Bah!" said the first blackbird, when she had regained her feet and shaken her bruised wings, "What a nasty taste! One's rights are not always worth fighting for."

"You did not pay very close attention to the sermon, I fear, this morning." "Oh, yes, I did, mamma." "Well, what did the minister say?" "He said the picnic would start at ten o'clock on Thursday morning; and, Oh, ma, can I go?"

A L. girl sat in the window eating her bread and milk. Suddenly she cried out: "Oh, mamma, I'm delighted, so delighted; a sunbeam got into my spoon and I swallowed it." When I see children with shining faces I think they have "swallowed sunbeams."

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