

Lilies and Roses.

BY MRS. MARY E. BLAKE.

WHEN a child breathes a pure and honest prayer

Or cheers with gentle words another's gloom,
In heavenly gardens springs a lily fair,
Before the angels evermore to bloom.

But when he works with strong and earnest will

Some kindly act, beneath God's watchful eyes,
A fragrant rose, more rare and precious still,
Makes glad the shining fields of paradise.

So live, dear child, that each new day may see
Lilies and roses owe their life to thee!

Puzzledom.

Answers to Puzzles in last Number.

- 1.—Lin-acre.
- 2.—Belfast, Lima, Oswego.
- 3.—

**FORMULA
PSALM
ALL
A
ICY
NAHUM
MEDIATE**

4.—
**NORWAY
OCEAN
REIN
WAN
AN
Y**

NEW PUZZLES.

5.—CHARADE.

My first is a colour; my second is to prevent. Whole, a Scottish poet, who died in 1530.

6.—CHARACTERISTIC INITIALS.

American Warrior. Wise Competent Bard. British Diplomatist. Christian Warrior.

7.—HIDDEN RIVERS.

Have you done what I told you?
I put on my cape, fearing the cold.
You can't tag us.

8.—WORD-SQUARE.

An animal; a number; to obtain.

9.—RIDDLE.

'Tis black and brown, 'tis blue and grey,
'Tis changeful as an April day;
And yet, no matter what they say,
'Tis not without attraction.
It has a language all its own,
Though mortal never heard its tone;
It tells the sufferer's moan,
It tells of satisfaction.

Inclosed within a narrow cell,
It moves on hinge invisible,
Securely kept, and guarded well
From all approaching danger.
It often speaks, yet never talks;
It freely runs, but never walks;
And every passing thing remarks—
In fact, is quite a ranger.

It swims, and yet arms has it none;
And dances out of very fun
Without a leg to stand upon,
Or foot to follow after.
It has a brother—twin, they say—
And when cross-purposes they play,
They look the very oddest way;
To some they're cause for laughter.

As shining crystal it is bright,
'Tis dark or dull as winter night,
Its very nature, too, is light,
For all were dark without it.
It forms the poet's constant theme,
It haunts the lover in his dream,
And really paramount would seem,
So much is said about it.

LESSON NOTES.

FIRST QUARTER.

STUDIES IN THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES.

A. D. 30.] **LESSON IV.** [Jan. 28.

THE HEALING POWER.

Acts 3 1-11. Commit to memory verses 6 & 8.

GOLDEN TEXT.

Then shall the lame man leap as an hart,
and the tongue of the dumb sing. Isaiah 35. 6.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Christ is the healer of body and soul.

DAILY READINGS.

- M. Acts 3. 1-11.
- T. Mark 16. 15-20.
- W. John 14. 1-12.
- Th. James 5. 10-20.
- F. Isaiah 53. 1-12.
- Sa. 2 Chron 5. 24-33.
- Su. Psalms 126. 1-6.

TIME.—June, A. D. 30. Not long after the day of Pentecost, our last lesson.

PLACE.—Jerusalem. In the temple.

INTRODUCTION.—We have now an account of one of the signs and wonders mentioned in the last lesson. This one is given because it had such far-reaching results.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—2. Lame.—From his birth. Mentioned to show that the cure must have been from God. *Gate, called Beautiful*—Either (1) the gate, east of the temple, between the court of the Israelites and the court of the Gentiles, called *Nicanor's gate*. It was of Corinthian brass, plated with gold. It was eighty-seven feet high, and the doors were seventy feet high. Or (2) the outer gate, *Sausan*, east of the temple, near the market for sacrificial animals, and also near Solomon's porch. 4. *Fastening his eyes*—He saw that the man had faith. 6. *Such as I have, give I thee*—the divine power which was better than gold. Every person gives of what he has. If he has goodness, or faith, or love, or courage, he can impart these to others. A bad man imparts what is bad. Therefore be good, if you would do good. 7. *Took him by the right hand*—An expression of sympathy, and aid to his faith. 9. *Praising God*—the truly healed in soul always want to praise God and to express their praise. This healing was a type of what Christ still does for the bodies and souls of men. Christianity cares for all the poor and sick in a multitude of ways. Faith can still do wonders of healing. It also gives happiness and peace to the sick, promising that all things shall work together for their good.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—The Beautiful gate of the temple.—Such as I have, give I thee.—Praising God for healing.—Does Christ heal the sick now?—What Christianity is doing for the sick and unfortunate.—This miracle as a type of the cure of the soul.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—What general statement was made in our last lesson? (v. 43.) Why was this wonder mentioned? (Acts 4: 1, 2, 13-17.) How long after the last lesson was this miracle wrought?

SUBJECT: THE HEALING POWER OF CHRIST IN HIS DISCIPLES.

1. THE LAME MAN (vs. 1-3).—What two disciples are mentioned together here? How could two such different men work together successfully? At what time of the day did they go to the temple? Why at this hour? Whom did they see there? Where was the gate called *Beautiful*? Describe it. Why was the lame man placed there? Why is it mentioned that he was born lame? What did he ask? What is "an alms?"

2. HIS CURE (vs. 4-11).—Why did Peter fasten his eyes on the man? Did Peter mean to say that he had no money? Why could he not have given some out of the common fund? (Acts 2: 45; 4: 37.) What did Peter have to give? How is it true of us all that we give to others only such as we ourselves have? What motive in this for being good? In whose name was the man healed? Why did Peter thus point him to Christ? Did the man have faith? Why did Peter take him by the hand? What did he do as soon as he was healed? Why should all who receive good from God praise him? Why express the praise before others? What was the effect on the people? Why could there be no doubt as to the reality of the cure?

3. AN OUTCAST LAMEN.—In what respects are all sinners like this lame man? Why

should they, like him, go to church? By whom only can they be healed? What should they do when healed? Are there now many conversions that prove the divine power of Christianity as really as did this cure? Does Christ still heal the bodies of men? (James 5: 14-16.) What help and comfort is brought to the sick and unfortunate by Christ? (1 Peter 1: 7. Romans 8: 28. John 16: 33.) Does Christianity relieve the wants of the needy more than any other religion? Can you see how the promise in John 14: 12 is fulfilled?

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. There are many things of more value than money.
2. We can give to others only such things as we have.
3. Jesus Christ is the source of the Christian's power for good. He must do everything in the name of Jesus.
4. The first impulse of the saved is to praise God.
5. Christianity shows its power in the changes it works in man.
6. Here is a parable of Redemption, (1) the need, (2) the seeking help, (3) the aid of friends in bringing them to Christ, (4) faith, (5) cured, (6) praising God, (7) declaring God's goodness to others.
7. The material blessings and benevolence of Christianity a proof of its spiritual blessings.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in Concert.)

15. What was one of the signs and wonders wrought by the apostles? *Ans.* A beggar was cured of a forty years' lameness. 16. At what place? *Ans.* Near the Beautiful gate of the temple. 17. In what way? *Ans.* Peter took him by the hand, and said, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." 18. What did the lame man do? *Ans.* He arose, and went into the temple, walking, leaping, and praising God.

A. D. 30.] **LESSON V.** [Feb. 4.

THE PRINCE OF LIFE.

Acts 3. 12-21. Commit to memory vs. 13-16.

GOLDEN TEXT.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. John 1. 4.

CENTRAL TRUTH.

Christ is the Redeemer and Restorer of the world.

DAILY READINGS.

- M. Acts 3. 12-26
- T. Phil. 2. 1-16.
- W. 1 Tim. 1. 12-20.
- Th. Isaiah 1. 1-20.
- F. Isaiah 63. 1-19.
- Sa. Ezek. 34. 23-31.
- Su. 1 Thes. 1. 13-18.

TIME.—June, A. D. 30. Between three and six o'clock of the afternoon the lame man was healed.

PLACE.—Jerusalem. In Solomon's Portico of the temple. This was a corridor whose roof was sustained by a double row of marble pillars. It extended five or six hundred feet along the east side of the temple area, and was about twenty-six feet wide.

CIRCUMSTANCES.—The crowds of people who had seen and heard of the healing of the lame man near the gate Beautiful soon gathered in Solomon's Portico. Here Peter preached to them Jesus the Messiah.

HELPS OVER HARD PLACES.—15. *Prince of life*—the source, the author of both natural and eternal life. *Witnesses*—The fact that Christ did these wonderful works, proved that he was living. 16. *Through faith*—Both of the apostles and of the man. 17. *Wot—Know.* *Through ignorance*—They did not realize that Christ was the Prince of life, and Son of God. 19. *Converted*—Turned away from sin to holiness and God. *Sin . . . blotted out*—Forgiven, the sinner treated as if the sin did not exist. *When*—Rather in order that. *Times of refreshing*—This is the second effect of conversion. It means new spiritual life, new joys and experiences, like showers after a drought. The beginning of the final restoration of the world. 20. *Send Jesus*—Both into their hearts now as on the day of Pentecost, and at his second coming. 21. *Restitution of all things*—The conversion of the whole world, the complete coming of Christ's kingdom, the promised result of Christ's coming. While this is going on, Christ remains unseen in heaven, but is working on the earth.

SUBJECTS FOR SPECIAL REPORTS.—Peter's sermon as a whole.—Prince of life.—The power of faith.—Sins of ignorance as different from sins of wilfulness.—Repentance.—Conversion.—Times of refreshing.—The restitution of all things.

QUESTIONS.

INTRODUCTORY.—What miracle had the apostles just done? In what place? Where were the people now assembled?

SUBJECT: THE PROMISED REDEEMER OF THE WORLD.

1. REJECTED OF MEN (vs. 12-15, 17).—What did Peter see? How had the people looked on him and John? To whom did they draw the attention of the people? Was this unselfish? How had they treated Jesus? What two contrasts are here noticed? Why is Jesus called the *Holy One*? Why the *Prince of Life*? What excuse did Peter make for them? How does Paul make the same excuse for his conduct? (1 Tim. 1: 13.) In what sense were they ignorant of what they did? Why can sins of ignorance be forgiven more easily than wilful sins? Do most men now know what they do when they reject Christ?

2. GLORIFIED BY GOD (vs. 13, 15-18).—How did God glorify his Son? How was raising him from the dead glorifying him? How did the wonders done in his name glorify him? Did these wonders prove that Jesus was raised from the dead, and was now living? How are all true Christians witnesses of this? By whose faith was the lame man healed? Was God disappointed in any of his plans? (v. 18.) Why was it needful that Christ should suffer? Did this fact excuse those who crucified him?

3. THE RESTORER OF THE WORLD (vs. 19-21).—What two duties did Peter entreat them to do? What is it to repent? What is to be converted? What two results would follow? What is it for our sins to be blotted out? Who only can blot them out? What is referred to by *times of refreshing*? How would being converted bring them? How may all this be called a restoring of the soul? How does each soul restored help bring on the times when the whole world shall be restored? What is referred to by his sending Jesus Christ? (John 14: 16. Matt 28: 20. Acts 1: 11.) Where is Christ in the meantime? What is meant by the *restitution of all things*? Where had this been foretold by the prophets? (Deut. 18: 15, 18, 19. Joel 3: 17, 18. Isaiah 60: 13; 62: 4, etc.)

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

1. The true teacher calls attention not to self, but to Christ.
2. The true teacher speaks plainly to the conscience.
3. The true teacher is loving and makes all possible excuses for others.
4. Sins of wilfulness are more hopeless than sins of ignorance.
5. The first duty of all is to repent and be converted.
6. The two fruits of repentance: (1) forgiveness, (2) spiritual refreshing and joy.
7. Jesus is the restorer of the soul and the world.

REVIEW EXERCISE. (For the whole School in Concert.)

1. After seeing the lame man healed, where did the people go? *Ans.* Into Solomon's porch. 2. What was done there? *Ans.* Peter preached Jesus Christ to them. 3. What kind of a sermon was it? *Ans.* It was pointed, kind, earnest, touching the conscience, and influencing the will. 4. What did he entreat them to do? *Ans.* Repent and be converted. 5. What did he promise would follow? *Ans.* Forgiveness and times of refreshing.

The Country Boy.

HAPPY the boy who spends his boyish days in some steady-going, high-toned country neighbourhood, where instead of pavements and saloons, there are squirrels and blue-jays, partridges and trout, green pastures and breezy barns, twittering swallows, chestnuts, and shagbarks, and all the glories of wood and meadow, ponds and brooks. There is a freshness and sweetness thus imparted which will lend some and fragrance to the latest days of life. —*Springfield Republican.*